

Study of zebra mussels, self-determination of Detroit African-Americans focus of Braun Fellowships

A civil rights historian and a Great Lakes biologist have been awarded the Braun Fellowship to pursue their research. Ken Jolly, associate professor of history, and Dave Stanton, professor of biology, will each receive research support grants totaling up to \$37,500 over the next three years to further their scholarly and professional activities. Funds may be used for research expenses, equipment, travel and/or other related support.

Jolly plans to write a series of scholarly articles exploring African-American activity in 20th century Detroit. He first will examine lynchings in Detroit during the 1930s. That article will be followed by a study of the 1943 Belle Isle "riot," looking at the insurrection in the context of the era's domestic systems and the work of the Detroit branch of the NAACP and the Detroit Civil Rights Federation during that time. Jolly's third area of research will explore local expressions of Pan-African solidarity and black cultural identity from the mid-1930s through the post-World War II period.

A scholar of the 20th century civil rights movement, Jolly has written a book, *Black Liberation in the Midwest: The Struggle in St. Louis, Missouri, 1964-1970*, two book chapters, and has given more than 10 invited scholarly presentations on the subject.

In his application, Jolly wrote, "This work also demonstrates that African-Americans in Detroit did indeed launch significant challenges to local political power while offering a Pan-African agenda for



Kenneth Jolly

liberation and empowerment which very much informed the civil rights and black power movements of the post-World War II era."

Stanton plans to study the genetic composition of zebra mussels, an invasive species that has had a dramatic impact on Great Lakes water quality. Transported in the ballast water of transoceanic freighters, the mollusks were discovered in the Great Lakes in 1988, but to date, no genetic data exists for Saginaw Bay zebra mussel populations. Currently, municipal agencies and private businesses spend millions of dollars annually



David Stanton

to clean mussels from water intake pipes, boat hulls and the like. Understanding the genetic variety of the current population is critical in developing strategies to combat the invasive species.

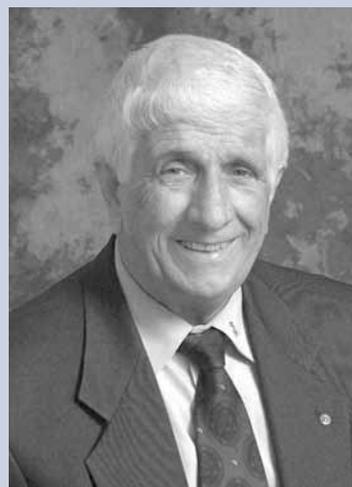
In his application, Stanton wrote, "Genetic monitoring of populations in the Saginaw Bay and the surrounding watershed will provide invaluable information for managing this problem and for evaluating the efficacy of future bioremediation efforts." Over the past six years, he and other researchers have collected samples and obtained preliminary genetic fingerprint data.

A resident of Midland,

Jolly joined the SVSU faculty in 2004. He received SVSU's Landee Award for Teaching Excellence in 2009 and the Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award in 2007. Jolly completed a Ph.D. in history at the University of Missouri, where he also earned bachelor's and master's degrees.

A resident of Saginaw, Stanton joined the SVSU faculty in 1996. He has authored or co-authored 10 journal articles and has co-presented in scholarly settings with SVSU student researchers 18 times since 2007. Stanton completed a Ph.D. at the University of Windsor (Ontario), and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University.

Established in 2005, the Braun Fellowship program 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 faculty and staff. It is named in honor of Ruth and Ted Braun of Saginaw.



Eugene Hamilton

Faculty and staff may present the alumni scroll to graduating members of their immediate family during **Commencement at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16**; call ext. 4384 to make arrangements. Faculty and staff are reminded to place orders for regalia (which is provided free of charge to faculty, adjunct faculty and staff). To order your regalia go to svsu.edu/webapps/regalia. If you have your own regalia and plan to attend, please go to the above site to confirm that you will be attending. To confirm that your regalia order was received, call the Bookstore at ext. 4277.

Eugene Hamilton, special assistant to the president for government and community relations, will deliver the commencement address. Hamilton has enjoyed a 50-year career as an educator, coach and government affairs leader. He joined SVSU in 1969 as an admissions counselor and its first head basketball coach; in the years since, he has held a number of administrative appointments. A native of Flint and longtime resident of Saginaw Township, Hamilton completed a doctorate in higher education at Wayne State University. He and his wife, Mary Pat, have two adult sons who both graduated from SVSU.

Daniel Gates

Assistant Professor of English

Daniel Gates preaches the gospel of valuing literature.

"I'm evangelical about the power of the humanities for all students, not just English majors," he said. "I believe learning how to read stories helps us to understand ourselves better and understand other people."

The opportunity to share that with students is what drew Gates to SVSU more than three years ago. "I was really enthusiastic about the opportunity to teach English majors and non-majors to appreciate literature."

Gates specializes in teaching Shakespeare and says the classic author speaks to modern audiences. "Even though Shakespeare is one of the oldest and traditionally central parts of the curriculum in English, he's also one that is renewed all the time." As evidence, Gates cites recent popular films that draw upon Shakespeare plays or characters. "There's 'Ten Things I Hate About You,' which is based on 'The Taming of the Shrew,' 'She's the Man,' which is based on 'Twelfth Night.' Shakespeare is always being restaged and set in new contexts."

The passage of time creates new and sometimes deeper understanding. "These are not museum pieces. The process of history unfolding teaches us what's in Shakespeare more and more," he said. For example, Gates references a Jewish character that Shakespeare conjures likely without ever having met a Jew himself.

"In Shylock, he created a figment of the anti-Semitic English imagination. I feel that the process of history allows us to see what's in the play better than Shakespeare's own age did. 'Merchant of Venice' means more now, after the Holocaust, than it did in the 16th century."

From childhood, people enjoy stories. "Hearing stories is one of our first primary pleasures," Gates said. Some college students have forgotten that premise.

"I find students sometimes will confess that reading is not something they see as a source of pleasure, but I aim in all of my classes for students to have at least one experience of being surprised by a story and wanting to read it twice."

Part of Gates' job involves explaining the relevance of the books he places on reading lists. "Many of our students are intellectually curious, but they want you to make a case. That creates an exciting challenge for the instructor."

Gates is thrilled when students challenge his own understanding. "That's one of the chief pleasures of my job: when students teach me to see more deeply in a text that I thought I knew already."

For Gates, literature is central to life after college.

"A vocation is finding where your passion meets the world's needs. That's really what we should be trying to help people find here. I think literature is part of that."



Renee Zumberg

Catering Director • November 2011

Renee Zumberg says she has “a sick addiction” – she enjoys working in the catering business.

“My first job ever, 30 years ago, was in catering,” she said. “Catering has been in my blood.”

Before coming to SVSU, Zumberg catered for Olympia Entertainment in Detroit at places such as Comerica Park, the Fox Theater and Joe Louis Arena, but her primary station was at the Detroit Zoo.

“I faced so many challenges there,” she said. “We didn’t have a banquet room. Everything was outside in tents, ‘building’ your rooms.”

She also didn’t have SVSU students on her catering staff. “I’ve never before been with people who work so hard,” Zumberg said.

Zumberg and her staff are busy throughout the year, but late spring is peak season. “Definitely the biggest time is April and May with the end of school and prom season. We are go, go, go. I might be at Commencement and then come back and do two proms.”

Student employees must understand the demands that come with the job. “When I interview them, I tell them ‘we’re busy when you’re busy.’”

Zumberg says her work begins weeks or months in advance.

“Our start is well before the actual event. We make sure we have wait staff coming in. We make sure we have the right menu for the

right event. We see if we have any special linen needs. We’re placing orders.”

On the day of the event, there is more work to be done: setting the room with linens and flatware, giving everyone their assignments, communicating with the kitchen, and other sundry tasks.

“You have to know at every turn what you’re doing, if you’re on schedule.”

Zumberg does not let the little things slide.

“My staff all know I’m a perfectionist,” she acknowledged. “That’s OK. That’s how I get results.”

Zumberg says the collegiality at SVSU exceeds anything she has experienced elsewhere.

“The faculty and staff here are truly amazing people. I love the size of the campus and the relationships you build with faculty and staff here.”

But the most meaningful relationships for Zumberg are those she forges with her student employees.

“To me, our department is all about the people. It’s all about these kids. I love these kids; they’re like my kids. They call me ‘Mama Bear.’ When they graduate, I have to physically and mentally prepare myself for a couple months. I get absolutely attached to each and every one of them. I expect a lot out of them, and they love to deliver it. It shows in what they do.”



Professional Profile

- **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of English, delivered a talk and film titled “Turning On and Tuning In: Expatriating Place from the Parisian Salons to the Sunset Strip” at the Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference in Tempe, Ariz.
- **Fenobia Dallas**, associate professor of rhetoric & professional writing, gave two conference presentations titled “Mentoring Ourselves: Looking Across Campus and Across Disciplines for Support & Satisfaction” and “A Nose for News: Engaging Students as Community Writers” at the Michigan Sociological Association Oct. 29 at Grand Valley State University.
- **Clifford Dorne**, associate vice president for enrollment management, and **David Callejo Perez**, Carl A. Gerstacker Endowed Chair in Education, received a six-year \$684,000 grant from the Select Student Support Services Program of the Michigan Office of Career Development’s King Chavez-Parks Initiative to improve the retention of academically and economically disadvantaged students. **Craig Aimar**, assistant vice president for retention, and **Shawn Wilson**, director of the office of multicultural services, will assist with project implementation; Perez and data analyst **Stephen Daly** will conduct statistical research.
- **Julie Foss**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, presented “Keep Them Talking: Developing Speaking Skills with Information Gap Activities” at the 2011 Michigan World Language Association Conference in Lansing. Her review of Klaus Brandl’s “Communicative Language Teaching in Action: Putting Principles to Work” will appear in the December 2011 issue of *The French Review*.
- **Morteza Marzjarani**, professor of computer science & information systems, has organized a technical session for the Joint Statistical Meeting to be held August 2012 in San Diego. The session successfully competed against some 150 proposals for six possible slots. The speakers include Sastry Pantual, director of division of mathematical sciences at the National Science Foundation, three past presidents of the American Statistical Association and Robert M. Groves, director of the Census Bureau and a cabinet member for the Obama administration. Marzjarani will also chair the session.
- **Mary Graiver**, associate professor of nursing, was recently elected the Region 10 Coordinator for The Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) at its Biennial Convention in Grapevine, Texas.
- **Gladys Hernandez**, professor of modern foreign languages, and a group of four Spanish students (Eric Becker, Stacy Bond, Zach Finta and Jamie Wendorf) presented “Cultural Extravaganza: An Afternoon of Spanish Cinema” at the Michigan World Language Association 2011 Conference Oct. 21 in Lansing.
- **James Hitt**, assistant professor of philosophy, presented a paper titled “Vegetative State as a Postulate of Medical Knowledge” as part of a two-day conference titled “Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable” Nov. 2-3 at the University of the Basque Country, San Sebastian, Spain. Hitt also presented a paper titled “Problems with Unreportable Awareness” as part of a one-day conference titled “Philosophy of Medicine” Nov. 4 at Fundación Ramón Areces, Madrid, Spain.
- **Robert Tuttle**, associate professor of mechanical engineering, had two papers, “Thermal Analysis Study of Heterogeneous Nuclei in Stainless Steel” and “Effect of Rare Earth Additions on Grain Refinement of Plain Carbon Steels,” published in the winter edition of the *International Journal of Metalcasting*. Tuttle was also asked to contribute a paper to *International Foundry Research*, which is the World Foundry Organization’s research journal based in Germany.

New Cardinals

- **Brenda Holman**, grant accountant, announced the birth of a daughter, Elena (8 lbs., 12 oz., 20.75 in.), Nov. 27.
- **Sara Martinez**, health & wellness educator, announced the birth of a son, William Clark (6 lbs., 14 oz., 20 in.), Oct. 29.
- **Joe Wojtkiewicz**, associate classroom technology support specialist, announced the birth of a son, Evan (7 lbs., 9 oz., 18.5 in.), Nov. 17.

Condolences

- To **Nick Badalamenti**, electrician/maintenance foreman, whose mother-in-law, Joan Moreau, died Nov. 2.
- To **Merry Jo Brandimore**, vice president for student affairs/dean of students, whose mother-in-law, Dolores (Dee) Brandimore, died Nov. 3.
- To **Vickie Hayes**, administrative secretary; **Kelly Nitschmann**, cashier; and **Cheryl Stokes**, administrative assistant to the provost & vice president for academic affairs; whose mother, Deborah Gerwin, died Nov. 20.
- To **Sharon Livernois**, grant coordinator of nursing workforce diversity, whose father, Martin Galecka Jr., died Nov. 20.
- To **Chris Looney**, assistant vice president for academic affairs registrar/director of institutional research, whose mother, Betty Jo Looney, died Nov. 5.
- To the family of **Joseph Matti**, retired professor of mathematics, who died Nov. 11.
- To **Jill Smith**, administrative assistant, and **Frankie Smith**, basketball coach, whose father/father-in-law, respectively, Pat Garland, died Oct. 28.

Briefly Speaking

- Six students were honored for their performances during the 22nd annual Sims Public Speaking Competition. Kaila Pantaleo, a psychology major from Canton, took top honors for her speech on gene patents. Second place was awarded to Katie Maus, a social work major from Bay City, who spoke on organ donation. Lauren Weiss, a communication major from Frankenmuth, captured third place for her speech on the negatives of business wear. Three students received finalist honors: Jacob Mojica, a mathematics major from Freeland, for “Political Apathy”; Demarcus Pringle, a communication major from Saginaw, for “Impressions”; and Heather Zywicki, a communication major from Kawkawlin, for “Romantic Comedies.” Endowed by Larry and Linda Sims and co-sponsored by the Department of Communication, the competition is open to all SVSU students who deliver an original persuasive speech of 5 to 8 minutes in length. The first place recipient receives a \$400 cash prize, second place \$200, third place \$100, and finalists \$50 each.

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.
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