

## SVSU promotes Boye-Beaman to lead Arts & Behavioral Sciences college

SVSU has selected Joni Boye-Beaman to serve as dean of the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences. She has served as associate dean of the college since 2007 and will replace Mary Hedberg, who announced plans to retire at the end of the current academic year.

“Joni is very bright, very committed and highly organized, and after a national search, she emerged as the clear choice for this position,” said Donald Bachand, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “She is very student-centered and respected within the university; that will serve her



Joni Boye-Beaman

well leading our largest and most complex college.”

As associate dean, Boye-Beaman was responsible for leadership initiatives such as strategic planning, as well as many daily administrative tasks. In addition, she has served on SVSU’s Academic Program Assessment Advisory Board since its inception in 2004, working to measure student learning in all academic departments on campus. Boye-Beaman also chairs SVSU’s General Education Committee, which is designed to ensure students receive a well-rounded and complete education.

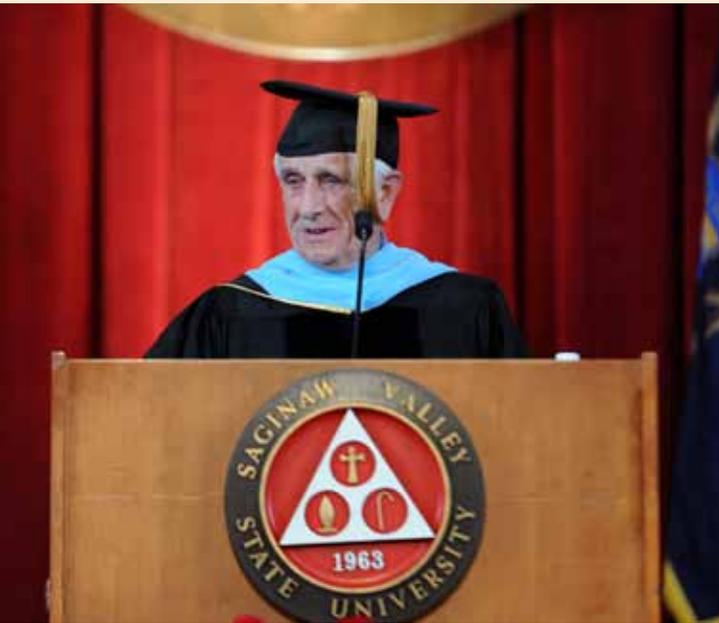
“I am excited to work with faculty on student retention

initiatives, especially in regard to the general education courses we offer in the college,” Boye-Beaman said. “I also expect there will be opportunities to make some strategic hires over the next few years as senior faculty members retire. These can be very important for building programs in our academic departments to meet students’ needs.”

Boye-Beaman’s appointment is effective July 1, 2012. She joined the sociology faculty in 2000 and has held several administrative appointments. She served as chair of the sociology department for two years and as coordinator of the master’s degree program in administrative science for five years.

A resident of Bay City, Boye-Beaman completed the Leadership Bay County program in 2007, and has served on the board for the Bay Area Women’s Center since 2005, including two terms as board president.

Boye-Beaman completed a master’s and Ph.D. at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and she earned a bachelor’s degree at SUNY-Fredonia. Prior to joining SVSU, she served on the faculty at Wayne State College in Nebraska for six years.



Gene Hamilton, SVSU’s longtime government relations representative, delivered the Commencement address Friday, Dec. 16 in O’Neill Arena. Hamilton’s career as an educator, coach and government affairs leader spans 50 years. He joined SVSU in 1969 as an admissions counselor and the university’s first basketball coach; in the years since, he has held numerous administrative appointments. A native of Flint and longtime resident of Saginaw Township, Hamilton completed a bachelor’s degree at Western Michigan University, a master’s at Eastern Michigan University, and a doctorate in higher education at Wayne State University. In all, 572 students graduated in December, including 434 who received bachelor’s degrees, and 138 who received master’s or education specialist degrees.

President Eric R. Gilbertson will deliver his annual

# State of the University Address

Thursday, Jan. 26 at 4 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.

The campus community is invited to attend. A reception will follow the address.

# Arra Ross

Assistant Professor of English

“What is the power of a word?” Arra Ross asks that question of her poetry students and examines the question through her scholarship. She often uses “apple” to illustrate the deep meaning and history of words. The common term is tied to temptation in the story of Adam and Eve, generosity through the literary character Johnny Appleseed, and the explanation of gravity through the tale of Sir Issac Newton.

“All this is inside one simple word,” Ross said, noting in poetry touches the mind and the ear. “There is something beautiful about the mingling of meaning and sound that come together in poems.”

Ross recently received a Foundation Resource grant to travel with 12 students from Cardinal Ink, a creative writing club, to Chicago for the national Associated Writing Program conference in February and March.

“They’re a very self-motivated group,” she said. “It’s a great opportunity for them. They’ll be able to see a lot of readings by very good contemporary writers.”

Ross also received a faculty research grant to travel to Scandinavia. She visited museums and grave sites and studied ancient rock carvings.

“The kind of things that draw me as a poet are that I love research and I love extended projects.”

Drawing on Old Norse material, Ross is studying Freyja, a mythical figure. “She’s a goddess in the pre-Christian pantheon. There is a lot of scholarship about her; she’s a rich and complex figure. People keep being drawn to her.

“A lot of people don’t equate research or scholarship with poetry,” Ross added. “I think as a poet, scholarship is important.”

Ross also believes it is important for her students to overcome a frequent fear of poetry.

“I tell students, ‘We are not going to kill any poems in my class.’ You would be surprised how many of them are actually terrified of poems.”

“In creative writing, so much of the work is done by the students. When they sit down and have to write, they’re sort of in deep water on their own, and it’s wonderful because they have to find out how to swim, get to dry land or build themselves a boat. It’s very scary territory for them, but they’re so hungry for it.”

Ross attributes the fear to students’ belief that there is a single “correct” interpretation.

“When you ask, ‘What does a poem mean?’ it’s almost like asking a turtle to crawl back into its shell for both the reader and the poem. I think that is often the most damaging question you can ask of a poem. If it’s created carefully and well, it has layered meanings.”



# Kathy Henris

Administrative Secretary, Housing Operations • December 2011

Kathy Henris knows what it's like to be a Saginaw Valley mom. Her daughter, Kelly, who was a jumper and pole vaulter for the Cardinals track and field team, graduates this month with a nursing degree. Kathy says that experience has proven to be invaluable in her job, talking to students.

"I'm their parents age," she explained. "I am mom on campus. I've picked up kids at hospitals. I've given them a number to get their car fixed. You do what you've got to do. A lot of them are away from home; they don't have anyone here."

Sometimes that maternal instinct involves providing comfort or counsel; on occasion, it results in scolding.

"Once in a while – they don't like it – they can get the mother's voice," Henris said.

Being a college parent helps Henris relate to other parents.

"It's a definite plus. When we talk meal plans, I can tell them what worked for my kid, and what didn't. I can sympathize with some of the things they're going through."

Henris enjoys working on the front line.

"I like the fact that every day is different. Probably 70 percent of my job, because of where I sit, is customer service, whether your customer is a parent, a student or a staff member."

While any given day can present a challenge, there is one season that stands out.

"In the summer, we are at our busiest," she said. "There is barely time to breathe. We work all year for check-in day, which is at the end of the summer."

Henris relieves summer stress through one of her favorite pastimes: golfing. The self-described "workout queen" exercises regularly throughout the year. She also delivers communion to the home-bound through her church. "One of the better things I've done in my life," she said.

Henris has worked at SVSU for 11 years, the last seven in Housing, where she has found a home.

"It's a very good fit. The staff here, you can't pick a better group of people to work with."

That extends to student employees.

"We could not do it without our student workers. That's why they become family."

Those students, and many others who come through the office, make Henris happy to come to work each day.

"You get so attached to the students, and they get attached to you. A lot of people say they love their job, but you can't love something that doesn't love you in return. I love the students, and my job is terrific."



## Professional Profile

- **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of English, published an article titled “Tubing the Future: Participatory Pedagogy and YouTube U. in 2020” in a special issue of *Computers and Composition: An International Journal*, which focused on “How the Future of the Web Could Sharpen the Teaching of Writing.”
- **Kaustav Misra**, assistant professor of economics, co-authored a paper titled “The Determinants of Venture Creation Time: A Cross Country Perspective” with **Sam Sarkar**, professor of economics, Esra Memili and Dianne Welsh that was published in the *International Research and Policy Roundtable*.
- **Hong Park**, professor of economics, **Iksu Jurn**, professor of finance, and **Wayne Mackie**, professor of finance, collaborated on a paper titled “Capital Structure and Corporate Governance of Korean Chaebol and Large U.S. Firms” that was accepted for publication in the *Journal of International Finance Studies*. The paper will also be presented at the IABE-2012 Winter Conference in Key West, Fla., March 9-11, 2012.
- **Danilo Sirias**, professor of management, conducted a workshop titled “Improving Math Education Using Problem Solving Maps” in Plock and Tarnow (two cities in Poland) in October. Also, Sirias presented a paper titled “Improving Patient Flow in Emergency Departments by Incorporating a System-wide Priority System,” co-authored with **Suzanne Savoy**, associate professor of nursing, at the national meeting of the Decision Sciences Institute, in November in Boston.

## Condolences

- To **Brian Nelson**, electrical and computer engineering lab technician, whose father, James A. Nelson, died Nov. 29.
- To **Susan Wood**, certification advisor and off-campus program coordinator, whose mother, Honorah Miller, died Nov. 22.

## Briefly Speaking

- Political commentator and economist Julianne Malveaux will speak at the third annual Great Lakes Bay Regional Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at SVSU Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts. The president of Bennett College for Women, Malveaux is recognized for her progressive and insightful observations as a labor economist, noted author and colorful commentator. She has been described by Cornel West as “the most iconoclastic public intellectual in the country.” Malveaux’s contributions to the public dialogue on issues such as race, culture, gender, and their economic impacts are shaping public opinion in twenty-first century America. The event is open to the public; admission is free of charge. Tickets are required; they are available through the SVSU Box Office at ext. 4261.

## Transitions

For complete directory information, including office numbers and telephone extensions, go to [svsu.edu/lookup](http://svsu.edu/lookup).

## New Hires

- Desmon Daniel, Charter Transition Coordinator
- Anna Marie Flores, Coordinator of KCP/Gear Up Grant Program



**FOURTH FRIDAY RECEPTIONS**  
**Jan. 27**  
**Feb. 24 • March 23 • April 27**  
Refreshments served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
President’s Reception Area & Board of Control Room –  
Third Floor Wickes Hall

- Rebecca Griffin, Coordinator of Study Abroad, OIP
- Laura Kukla, Assistant Softball Coach, Athletics
- Ian Philbrick, Resident Director, Residential Life

## Promotion

- Deborah Albrough, Administrative Secretary
- Larry Fifield, Custodian, Campus Facilities
- Kristopher Kurzer, Custodial Specialist, Campus Facilities
- Julie Marsh, Administrative Secretary, Clinical Experiences

## Reappointment

- Rebecca Clifford, Administrative Secretary, Academic Affairs
- Catherine Curtis, Reference Librarian, Zahnow Library
- Tammy Elliott, Administrative Secretary, Academic Affairs
- Melissa Ford, Archivist, MFSM
- Alan Freed, Clifford H. Spicer Endowed Chair of Mechanical Engineering
- Janna Kern, Assistant Director of Academic Advisement Center
- Sara Martinez, Health and Wellness Educator, Student Counseling Center

## Resigned

- Kelly Jo Gartland, Resident Director, Residential Life
- Amy Kline, Resident Director, Residential Life
- Yang Liu, International Student Advisor/ Chinese Language, OIP
- Megan Olpere, Police Dispatcher
- Randal Painter, Administrative Secretary, Adjunct Faculty Support Programs
- Timothy Patterson, Senior Systems Administrator, IT

## Title Change

- Stephen Hocquard, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Planning and Construction
- Robert Long, Lead Java Developer/Analyst, ITS

## Additional Appointment

- Jules, Gehrke, Special Assistant to the Provost, Academic Affairs

**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).**