

SVSU-Delta Watershed Research Project Cited as National Model

Students and faculty from SVSU and Delta College have spent the past year working together to improve the water quality of the Saginaw Bay Watershed, the largest watershed in Michigan. At The National Center for Science and Civic Engagement Symposium and Capitol Hill Poster Session in Washington, D.C., Tuesday, March 13, their joint efforts were cited as a premier example for similar partnerships throughout the Great Lakes states and nationwide.

Invited attendees included

members of Congress, as well as staff from federal departments including the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, and the National Science Foundation. They learned how Delta and SVSU students and faculty began a service learning project to test the quality of the Kawkawlin River Watershed in 2011.

“This is a collaborative project between Delta College and SVSU, with a ton of community support and partners,” said Jacob Vanhouten, associate professor of biology at

Delta. “It’s a real team effort and a great learning experience for students because they see their work having a positive impact on our local environment. They’re not just in the lab doing mock water tests. It’s hands-on learning on a serious project.”

Focused locally, the project includes field, classroom, teaching, lab and community-based research components, and aims to assess methods to restore the Kawkawlin River in a way that can be replicated elsewhere in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. Community partners

benefiting from the data include the Bay and Saginaw Area Storm Water authorities, the Bay County Health Department, the Kawkawlin River Watershed Property Owners Association, and the Midland Soil Conservation District.

The effort also is affiliated with and supported by an 8-state environmental consortium called GLISTEN, the Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship through Education Network.

“The Saginaw Bay partnership is a great example of how students and faculty from different higher education institutions can work hand-in-hand with local stakeholders to address significant environmental challenges,” said GLISTEN Director Glenn Odenbrett.

The National Center for Science and Civic Engagement at the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology received funding for GLISTEN from the Learn and Serve America program of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

David Karpovich, H.H. Dow Endowed Chair in Chemistry at SVSU, said that he hopes this project will open up doors for future collaborations.

“I’ve enjoyed every aspect of this program, especially the gracious way that faculty from Delta College and SVSU has shared time and resources for the benefit of their students,” he said. “The partnerships we’ve made with the community have enabled student opportunities that are not only hands-on but also relevant to this very important regional issue.”

Covenant and SVSU Partner Creating Innovative Approach for Patients, Physicians and Students

Covenant HealthCare and Saginaw Valley State University have started a unique partnership geared toward pre-med students. Begun last fall, this program is now believed to be the only program in the country of its kind using this approach to training and implementation.

Physician Facilitators, also known as “scribes,” are real-time medical transcriptionists. They accompany a physician during a shift and capture data into an electronic medical record. While they have no direct patient contact, they are a great asset to patients, physicians and the hospital. But the benefits do not end there. These SVSU students with plans for medical school or a physician assistant graduate program are able to experience firsthand a day in the life of a physician.

Students hired as Physician Facilitators have scheduled shifts conducive to student life. Non-traditional hours, sometimes overnight, work well with class

schedules. In addition, scribes are better able to get a sense of what lays ahead for them in the medical profession. According to Kristina Brookshire, a Lead Physician Facilitator, “being a scribe is more than volunteering or a job shadow.” Scribes are able to see firsthand the duties of a physician, and decide if it is

right for them before committing to medical school and its associated costs.

With the advancement of electronic medical records, patient health information is increasingly more accurate. With the help of scribes, the notes in the chart are entered in real-time with more detailed documentation. In addition, the scribe program is a great recruitment and retention tool. Dr. Brian Purchase states that “many physicians would never go back to working at a hospital without scribes.” In the busy Covenant Emergency Care Center, which had more than 80,000 patient visits in 2011, scribes are able to help to improve patient flow through the department.

Not only do students receive 3 credits, but upon completion they are then eligible to apply for a paid position as a Physician Facilitator at Covenant HealthCare. SVSU aims to have approximately 20-25 students go through the class each year.

SVSU Students Who Are Participating This Semester

- Daniel Garland, a pre-medicine major from Detroit
- Timothy Holden, a biology major from Saginaw
- Morgan Hughes, a biology major from Brighton
- Derrek Humphries, a health science major from Saginaw
- Kristi Lizyness, a pre-medicine major from Harrison
- Jocelyn Mullins, a biology major from Wyandotte
- Derek Munson, a biology major from Gladwin
- Carrie Neuwirth, a nursing major from Freeland
- Haley Niedzwiecki, a biology major from Freeland
- Anna Pickens, a chemistry major from St. Charles

Janice Wolff

Professor of English

“When I was a kid, I always fancied myself a writer,” Janice Wolff recalled. The English professor planned to become a fiction writer, a product of being an avid reader with sisters-in-law who were English majors, but in graduate school, she found the classroom proved to be her primary calling.

“I’ve always had teacher genes,” Wolff observed.

Public speaking is on Wolff’s mind these days, as she agreed to deliver the address at the baccalaureate degree Commencement ceremony in May. She’s already given thought to her remarks.

“I think I’ll key into writing, and I’ll try to avoid clichés. That’s been my life’s mantra: to try to avoid clichés.”

The speech will be one of Wolff’s final acts at SVSU – she is retiring at the end of the academic year. “The digitization of teaching” is the most obvious change Wolff has seen during her tenure, while aligning the English 111 (freshman composition) program has been among the most meaningful developments for students and faculty.

“That grew from a disparate, hit-or-miss program to an organized program with goals and objectives and some careful mentoring. Yet within that, there’s still a lot of freedom to develop different assignments and different approaches.”

Wolff has specific goals in mind for her English 111 students.

“I’d like them to be confident writers. I’ve seen students who are so paralyzed with fear that they defeat themselves. Their ‘inner editor’ speaks too loudly. I’d like them to know where to find information. I’d like them to know that writing is a place where they can develop an argument, but also civil discourse. They can engage in debate, but do it through appropriate citation and logic.”

Wolff joined the SVSU faculty in 1992, following an enjoyable job interview with future English colleagues Marianne Barnett, Mary Harmon and Rosalie Riegle.

“They took me to dinner, and it was wonderful. It was lively. It was like we were friends forever. We really connected.”

Wolff also chose SVSU because it is a teaching university where an Illinois native could fit in. “I felt like I could reach a Midwest audience.”

In retirement, Wolff plans to spend more time with her grandchildren, all of whom live in Illinois, and she won’t be idle. “I see myself volunteering, maybe at public libraries. They always need people to come in.”

Wolff mentions literacy programs and animal shelters as other possible volunteer opportunities. Already fairly active on the political front, she may devote more time there, too. Whatever she does, it will involve “teaching,” in a broad definition of the term.



Tammy Hafner

Administrative Secretary • March 2012

Tammy Hafner is used to working behind the scenes. As the faculty secretary for the art and music departments, her job consists of organizing different concerts and events taking place on campus, assisting students with scholarship opportunities, and various other tasks.

“The music department is where the majority of my time is spent, just reserving the different facilities we need to do a concert, organizing guest artists that are coming in and arranging recitals,” Hafner said.

Recently, Hafner helped organize the Cardinal Singers’ trip to Washington, D.C., where the group performed at the National Cathedral. Along with Kevin Simons, assistant professor of music and the leader of the group, Hafner organized the busing schedule, verified hotel rooms and created schedules for the students to follow on the trip.

“Kevin did the majority of the work, and I just kind of tried to help him out as much as I could,” Hafner said. “He had all the nerve-wracking issues, and I had the fun part. It’s just part of the job.”

But Hafner doesn’t manage things alone.

“I have good student workers that help me out a great deal,” she said. “If I need a day off, I feel comfortable leaving. They know the routine, and everyone else does too.”

Working with students is Hafner’s favorite part of the job. “I don’t have kids of my own, so working with the students is fun,” she said. “It’s kind of like having 90 nieces and nephews.”

In addition to setting up their recitals and performances, Hafner provides guidance for the students.

“I try to keep them focused,” she said. “College is hard. These kids, they’ve got a lot going and I give them a lot of credit for doing it because a lot of people wouldn’t. If I can help them out, then that feels good.”

Hafner spends much of her free time with her husband at their cabin in northern Ontario, or traveling inside and outside the United States.

“We like to go fishing, boating, four-wheeling, snowmobiling, anything outdoors,” Hafner said. “We just like to travel and spend time together.”

Hafner has been at SVSU since 2000, and with the art and music departments since 2006. She said that coming to SVSU was just the change she needed in her life.

“I was in the corporate world, and I needed something different,” she said. “I knew some people who worked here. They were trying to recruit me, telling me about different positions that were open that I should apply for, and finally one day I did, and here I am. I’m glad I did it. Working with the kids has been great.”



Professional Profile

- **James Bowers Jr.**, assistant professor of criminal justice, presented a paper titled “An Examination of the Impact of an Urban Growth Boundary on Crime in Portland, Oregon” at the Academy of Criminal Justice Science’s annual meeting in New York City, March 14.
- **Fenobia I. Dallas**, associate professor of rhetoric & professional writing, presented “The ‘Black’ World War II Victory Ships: Naming Academic Excellence in a Time of Jim Crow” and “The Apocalypse Now: On Considering Yeats’ Vision of the Early 20th Century” at the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters Conference, March 2, at Alma College.
- **Monika Dix**, assistant professor of Modern Foreign Languages, presented “Straightening the Wrinkles: Aging Ambivalence in the Jojin Ajari no haha no shu” at the American Association of Teachers of Japanese seminar in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in Toronto, March 15-18.
- **Joseph Jaska**, assistant professor of criminal justice, presented “In What Academic Discipline Should Security Education Be Placed?” at the Academy of Criminal Justice Science’s annual meeting in New York City, March 15.
- **Kaustav Misra**, assistant professor of economics, co-authored “Internationalization of Publicly Traded Family Firms: A Transaction Cost Theory Perspective and Longitudinal Analysis” that was accepted for presentation at the 2012 Family Enterprise Research Conference held at the John Molson School of Business in Montreal, May 10-12.
- **Poonam Kumar**, professor of education technology and development, co-authored “Creating Immersive Online Learning Experiences: Exploring the Potential of Second Life for Global Business Education” that was published in the *Communications of Global Information Technology* journal. Kumar also co-authored “Reengineering a Face-to-Face Course for an Online Format Using Community of Inquiry Framework” that was published in the *Journal of Business and Training Education*.
- **David Rzeszutek**, assistant professor of theatre, was presented an SVSU Professional Development award to study 16th century theatre in Italy this summer for a project titled “Commedia Dell Arte Intensive.” Rzeszutek will study the Commedia dell’Arte, a form of theatre based on sketches and characterized by masked “types,” with Master Teacher Antonio Fava.

New Cardinals

- **Brian Cramer**, coordinator of first year experience/academic advisor, announced the birth of a son, Brady Michael Cramer (8 lbs., 2 oz., 21.5 in.), Feb. 28.
- **Charles Liu**, international student advisor, announced the birth of a daughter, Joanna K. Liu (6 lbs., 2 oz., 18.5 in.), Feb. 23.

Condolences

- To **Nic Badalamenti**, electrician/maintenance foreman, whose daughter, Beth Ann Badalamenti, passed away Feb. 20.
- To **Margaret Flatt**, professor of nursing, whose sister, Mary Anderson, passed away March 5.
- To **Dorothy Kitts**, graduate student recruiter, whose husband, William Hobart Kitts, passed away March 4.
- To **Hong Park**, professor of economics, whose mother-in-law, Hee Sook (Anna) Jung, passed away in Seoul, Korea.
- To **Thomas Zantow**, head of access services, whose mother, Florence Zantow, passed away March 18.

Briefly Speaking

- Faculty and staff may present the diploma cover to graduating members of their immediate family during the baccalaureate degree ceremony at 1 p.m. and the graduate degree ceremony at 4:30 p.m., Saturday, May 5. Call Suzette Zimmerman at ext. 4384 to make arrangements.

Transitions

For complete directory information, including office numbers and telephone extensions, go to svsu.edu/lookup.

Deceased

- Donald Armstrong, Custodian, Campus Facilities
- Daniel Inscho, Groundskeeper, Campus Facilities

End of Appointment

- Peggy Krupa, Assistant Working Foreman, Campus Facilities

Newly Hired

- Angela Bauer, Editor of Academic Announcements
- Anthony Filipek, Assistant Cross Country/Track & Field Coach
- Robert Jones, Custodian
- Jaime Leyrer, Assistant Director of Career Services
- William Prince, Custodian
- James Rollin, Instructor, Sociology
- Amy Ryan, Accountant, Controller’s Office
- Aijun Sheng, International Guest Scholar
- Terry Taugher, Account Specialist, CBED
- Tony Thomson, Assistant Dean for Student Life and Leadership Programs
- Alex Tiseo, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance & Academic Services
- Jessica Treiber, Compliance & Academic Services Intern, Athletics

Promoted

- Jonathan Hughes, Systems Administrator/Desktop Specialist
- Joseph Ofori-Dankwa, Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Chair, College of Business & Management
- Gordon Wolf, Locksmith

Reappointed

- Kathy Anderson, Administrative Secretary
- Jennifer Richardson, Assistant Project Manager, Facilities Planning & Construction

Reclassified

- David Dinsmoore, Custodial Specialist
- Jessie Jones, Custodian

Resigned

- Haley Slade, Police Officer
- Brandon Smith, Support Center Technology Specialist
- Mark White, Network Administrator

Retired

- Maureen Engel, Administrative Assistant to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Turesie Genwright, Custodian
- William Portmann, Locksmith

Transferred

- Kim McDonald, Assistant Director of Academic Advisement Center
- Jean Prast, Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy
- Lyndee Zimpfer, Instructor, Kinesiology

Title Changed

- John Leonard, Laboratory Support Coordinator
- Kathleen Pelkki, Biology Laboratory Coordinator

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.
Please send items by e-mail to: jjboehm@svsu.edu.