

Accreditation team making important strides toward 2014 review

Accreditation is vital to any university.

“If you are accredited, it ensures the transferability of

credits from one institution

to the next,” explained

Marc Peretz, associate

provost, who is leading

SVSU’s

reaccreditation preparations.

“It permits us as an accredited

institution to award federally-

backed financial aid. It also

makes us eligible for federal

research grants.”

With so much at stake, SVSU

started work two years ago in

advance of its March 2014 site

visit from the Higher Learning

Commission, the accrediting

body for Michigan and 18 other

states. Some 65 faculty and staff

from across the university have

agreed to serve on the various

committees involved with the

accreditation process, and Peretz says they have made good

progress. “I’m really pleased so far,” he said.

Prior to the site visit, SVSU

must take a critical look at itself

and complete a self-study. That

will result in a report of 150

to 200 pages, to be written by

Mary Hedberg, who recently

retired as dean of the College of

Arts and Behavioral Sciences. It

also will include around 2,000

pieces of

evidence

(documents,

files, etc.) that

will be stored

and accessible

digitally.

“We hope that by September

a year from now, the entire self-

study will be done,” Peretz said.

One of the primary tasks for

the committees this semester is

to evaluate the information they

have gathered and determine

the information that serves as

evidence that SVSU is providing

the quality education it claims to

provide.

“What does the evidence

reveal and how has it been

used to advance the institution?

Whatever we say, we have to

be able to

prove,” Peretz

explained.

Following

its last site

visit in

2003, SVSU

was reaccredited for 10 years,

the longest term available.

Two outcomes of that self-

study process were a new

general education program

and assessment program, both

of which have proven to be

effective.

“When accreditation

is done right,” Peretz said,

“it is designed to make the

institution or program better.

That’s the fundamental goal of

accreditation.”

Since the last formal review,

the accreditation criteria have

changed considerably. To

help ensure SVSU has a full

understanding, SVSU has

invited two Higher Learning

Commission vice presidents to

visit campus in October.

“They’ll meet with the

steering committee; they’ll meet

with the committee chairs.

We’re going to have a lunch so

they can meet with everyone

who’s working on the self-study

and have a Q and A,” Peretz

said.

While accreditation often

is overlooked by the general

public, Peretz says it carries an

important message.

“The seal of approval by

the accrediting agency tells the

public that the institution meets

certain standards. It is doing

what it says it intends to do. It

has the resources to support

its programs. It’s operating in

a fiscally sound manner, and

it operates in a manner that it

deals with those things

with integrity and

honesty.”

While much work

remains to be done, Peretz has

confidence in the work SVSU

has done to date.

“I think we’re in very good

shape.”



Marc Peretz

We hope that by September a year from now, the entire self-study will be done.

All SVSU faculty and staff and their families are invited to the annual

Back to School Picnic

Thursday, Aug. 23 • 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Owsley Grove

(Northwest of the Arbury Fine Arts Center)

The festivities follow the introduction of new faculty and staff, along with remarks by President Eric Gilbertson, at 4 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.



Greg Behe

Associate Director of Residential Life • June 2012

For Greg Behe, summertime is not necessarily vacation time.

“The summer isn’t really down time anymore,” Behe said. “We typically take a look at all our policies, procedures and protocols to make sure we’re keeping up to speed with what other institutions are doing, and then we prioritize those in terms of what needs review.”

Behe and the Residential Life staff are currently reviewing communicable disease protocol for students, preparing a manual for resident assistants, working with new software to streamline administrative aspects of the conduct program and preparing for residential life staff training, among other tasks.

“The other thing we’re really hammering away at right now is ways in which Residential Life can support retention initiatives on campus,” Behe said. “We’re looking at everything from the basic programming model that our RAs provide right on through to our living communities in terms of what we’re offering.”

Behe joined SVSU in July 2001. He has seen increases in student population and housing complexes, and departmental changes.

“As we’ve grown physically, we’ve also had to grow and change internally as a department to keep up with the number of students and their ever-changing needs,” he said. “I’ve seen significant growth with departmental staffing, specifically in terms of hiring in new resident directors to oversee the facilities and new RA staffs,

as well as changes in our programming model to meet the students’ needs.”

Outside Residential Life, Behe also was instrumental in helping SVSU receive “StormReady” certification.

“‘StormReady’ basically means that we have all the necessary components in place to identify, track and warn residents regarding severe weather,” he said. “It was about a year-and-a-half project from start to finish, just working closely with the National Weather Service in Detroit.”

Relationships with students – even troublemakers – are Behe’s favorite part of the job.

“I deal with students in the light of their behavior, and it’s typically negative behavior. Part of my job is to be a good listener and give them the opportunity to talk to me about the choice they made and what brought them to that choice,” Behe said. “I think they leave here and move on as an overall better individual knowing the expectations and how to make good choices in the future.”

The sense of community in Residential Life and across campus made coming to SVSU a good choice for Behe.

“For me, it’s that sense of collaborative spirit and collaborative working approach, that close-knit environment, almost like a family feel,” he said. “It allows one to really collaborate and to build some really good, strong relationships with other people.”



Aaron Mowen

Director of Campus Recreation • July 2012

Aaron Mowen has had a front row seat to watch SVSU's recreation programs grow. The Tawas native began his career in campus recreation as a front desk worker, and later as an intramural sports official while completing his bachelor's degree and eventually becoming director.

"Three years ago, when I first started in this position, there weren't a lot of opportunities for students to be involved and maintain the healthy lifestyles that they wanted to," Mowen said.

During the last three years, student demand for fitness programs, intramural sports and open recreation has increased.

"We developed personal training, the Outside SVSU program, a lot of different components a recreation program should have, and they've just been taking off," Mowen said.

The Outside SVSU program is a newer program designed to provide recreational opportunities through adventure activities such as skiing, ice climbing and rafting.

"It's one thing we've noticed that a lot of schools don't have, so that's why we've brought it here," Mowen said. "We're definitely trying to increase those opportunities and the students' awareness of what is out there, outdoors."

Campus recreation raised awareness of SVSU fitness programs last February when they sponsored an attempt to assemble the largest

number of people doing zumba, a popular latin dance workout, in one place.

"We didn't reach the 2,000 that we needed (to break the record), but still had more than 700 student participants at that event," Mowen said. "Either way, 700 people doing zumba is a huge success. This event was covered all throughout the state of Michigan and got SVSU out there on the front line for a positive, fun event."

Mowen said that two of the biggest influences in running campus recreation have been feedback from student advisory boards and his own military experience. Mowen has been in the Marine Corps for more than eight years, with one trip overseas.

"The discipline and leadership that I've learned from the Marine Corps definitely carries over to the way I run this office," Mowen said. "When you're trying to build a program to what we've done these last three years, it takes that type of attention to detail and policy-making and decision-making that you would gain from a military experience to benefit the department like it has."

Mowen said that his favorite part of the job is watching his student employees grow from freshmen to graduates.

"Our student employees come in here when they're freshmen and sophomores, and I get to watch them develop and mold to become the people they are," he said. "That's the most rewarding thing, watching our student employees graduate."



Sam Tilmon

Assistant Director of Career Services • August 2012

For Sam Tilmon, coming back to SVSU was about more than just finding a place to work.

“SVSU is kind of this quiet university that not a lot of people know about, but we’re producing some of the biggest and best leaders around the country,” Tilmon said. “That’s one of the things that makes you love this job, knowing that you’re working for this hidden gem where you really have the opportunity to be a part of something that’s going to be great.

“It’s like you’ve found this hidden oasis that no one else knows about, and it’s your secret oasis.”

Tilmon doesn’t want his alma mater to remain a secret, and that’s part of what drew him back. After receiving his bachelor’s degree in business administration, he returned home to metro Detroit before accepting a position in Career Services and working toward a master’s degree. Tilmon spends much of his time helping students find the right internship.

“When you finally get a chance to go into the actual internship and you get out there and start doing the work you’ve been learning in the classroom, you quickly find out that it’s a lot different in practice than in theory,” Tilmon said. “You get a chance to learn what it’s really like to be in the field.”

Finding the right student to fit an internship is one of the most daunting and fulfilling parts of Tilmon’s job.

“It’s definitely fun,” he said. “For me, I get to help companies gain something very valuable to them: good talent. From the student’s perspective, I get a chance to help shape their lives, to really get them focused on what they want out of life and hopefully achieving their career goals.”

With Mike Major, director of career services, serving in the U.S. Navy Reserves and deployed to Afghanistan since last August, Tilmon and his colleagues experienced unexpected career challenges, summoning extra energy to offset Major’s absence.

“We’ve been looking at what it is Career Services has done in the past, seeing what was good, what was bad and what was ugly. Our goal is to take all of our knowledge and experience and put it together to touch each individual student.”

Connecting students and employers is what Tilmon finds most rewarding.

“There aren’t too many offices that work with the counseling and advising side of students, as well as working with the public relations side of things with the community,” he said. “The ability to be that medium, where I get to affect all aspects, is probably my favorite thing.”



New Cardinals

- **Byungil Ahn**, assistant professor of history, announces the birth of a son, Colin Djapri Ahn (4 lbs., 2.5 oz., 17.5 in.), June 22.
- **Sarah Costello**, senior secretary for campus financial services, announces the birth of a son, Ethan Costello (9 lbs., 8.7 oz.), July 28.
- **Lisa Gross**, associate director of housing, announces the birth of a son, Hudson John Gross (7.7 lbs., 19.5 in.), July 3.
- **Dennis Hughes**, senior systems administrator, announces the birth of a son, Brayden Richard Hughes (8.5 lbs., 19.25 in.), July 18.
- **Sara Beth Keough**, associate professor of geography, and **Scott Youngstedt**, professor of sociology, announce the birth of a son, Reid Russell Youngstedt (7 lbs., 10 oz.), July 2.

Condolences

- To **Jane Anderson**, manager of financial reporting services, whose mother, Phyllis A. Anderson, passed away June 23.
- To **Terry Bouza**, custodian, and **Tammy Bouza**, Aramark lead associate in Starbucks, on loss of Tammy's father, Russell J. Goss, Aug. 10.
- To **Alan Freed**, Clifford H. Spicer Endowed Chair in Engineering, whose mother, Marian Helen Freed, passed away May 28.
- To **Kristen Gregory**, special assistant to the provost, whose mother, Maurine E. Cady, passed away June 27.
- To **Cynthia Holmes-Benner**, library circulation assistant, whose mother, Karen Louise Holmes, passed away July 19.
- To **Robert Lopez**, groundskeeper foreman, whose step-mother, Victoria Ann Lopez, passed away June 1.
- To the family of **Nellie Monroe**, retired associate professor of social work, who passed away Nov. 28.
- To **Carol Sajdak**, financial services representative, whose father, Donald Kramer, passed away Aug. 14.
- To **Cherie Stokes**, administrative assistant to the provost & vice president for academic affairs, whose husband, Rodney S. Stokes, passed away July 10.
- To **Joe Vogl**, director of annual giving, whose father, Joseph Frank Vogl, passed away July 20.
- To **Tom Wisniewski**, maintenance, whose mother, Susan Virginia (Rex) Roberts, passed away July 15.

• To the family of **Stephen J. Yanca**, professor of social work, who passed away June 4.

• To **Suzette Zimmerman**, whose father, Raymond Harvey, passed away July 5.

Briefly Speaking

- **Alan Freed**, Clifford H. Spicer Endowed Chair in Engineering, said, "Karen and I would like to thank our SVSU family for extending to us their sympathies since the recent passing of my Mother. They have been a comfort to us."
- The third-annual Athletics Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony takes place Friday, Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. The 2012 Class includes Dave Bertie, athletic trainer; Kathy Kinasz, softball; Jason Valenzuela, baseball; and Steve Zott, football. For more information, visit athletics.svsu.edu/hof.
- Faculty/staff may apply for a 2012-13 reserve parking permit at svsu.edu/universitypolice/parking-information.html, beginning Aug. 1. All 2011-12 permits expire Sept. 15.

Transitions

Due to the large volume of new hires, promotions, and personnel changes, the list of Transitions can be found at blogs.svsu.edu/newsroom. For complete directory information, including office numbers and telephone extensions, go to svsu.edu/lookup.

SVSU receives major grant for suicide prevention

SVSU will seek to improve the mental health of its students through a \$238,000 grant from the federal Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration to support a project aiming to raise awareness of mental and behavioral health problems.

Jennifer Ordway, director of student counseling center, said that there is a need for mental health awareness and support at SVSU.

"We have seen a consistent increase in the number of student visits to the counseling center since 2009," she said. "In fact, in 2011 we had an increase of 67 percent." The counseling center has two full-time and one part-time counselor; through grant funding, the part-time counselor will become full time to provide mental health counseling, outreach, programming and training for faculty, staff and students.

The project will take a comprehensive approach to prevent suicide among students and enhance services for students with mental and

behavioral health problems. SVSU will activate the Active Minds Chapter, a student group formed to increase awareness, decrease mental health stigma and train faculty, staff and students to recognize the warning signs of mental and behavioral health issues.

The grant took effect Wednesday, Aug. 1 and will be in effect through July 31, 2015.

FOURTH FRIDAY RECEPTIONS

Sept. 28 • Oct. 26

Nov. 16 • Jan. 25 • Feb. 22 • March 22 • April 26

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

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

Professional Profile

• **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, has an essay “Early African American Print Culture and the American West” in the new edited volume *Early African American Print Culture* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012). Also, Gardner gave an invited lecture on 19th-century African American newspapers as part of the Summer Seminar on the History of the Book program at the American Antiquarian Society, July 12.

• **Kylie Goggins**, assistant professor in economics, and **Kaustav Misra**, assistant professor in economics, will present a paper titled “Determinants of Youth Poverty: A Kentucky, County-Level Analysis” at the Southern Economic Conference in New Orleans, Nov. 16-18.

• **Brandon Haskett**, assistant professor of music, presented a paper titled “Motivations of Adult Beginners to Participate in a World Music Community Ensemble: A Study of the Desert Winds Community Steel Orchestra” at the Festival of Steel Conference in Roanoke, W. Va., July 16. At the same conference, Haskett also presented a paper titled “A Survey of U.S. Collegiate and K-12 Steel Band Directors’ Attitudes Regarding Steel Band Curriculum and Pedagogy,” July 18. Also, Haskett had an article titled “An Updated Account of K-12 and Collegiate Steel Bands in the U.S.” published in *Percussive Notes*, July 2012. In addition, Haskett had an article titled “Taking an Active Approach to Conference Participation and Professional Development” published online in *Leadingnotes*, July 2012.

• **Ling He**, associate professor of accounting, and **Mark McCartney**, professor of accounting, were among co-authors for an article titled “Double Learning: Who is Learning from Online Reviews” published in the *International Journal of Electronic Business*.

• **Mark McCartney** and **Lawrence Kickham**, professors of accounting, were among co-authors for an article titled “Mercy Hospital: A Case Analysis” in the *International Research Journal of Applied Finance*, January 2012.

• **Kaustav Misra**, assistant professor in economics, and **Kylie Goggins**, assistant professor in economics, presented their paper, “Determinants of Youth Poverty: A Zip Code Versus County Level Analysis,” at the Western Economics Association International Conference in San Francisco, June 29-July 3. Also, Misra co-authored a paper titled “Expanding the Notion That Entrepreneurship is Capital in American Countries: A Panel Data Analysis, 2002-2007” that was accepted for publication for the September 2012 issue of the *Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship*.

• **Joseph Ofori-Dankwa**, Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Chair in International Business, co-authored a paper titled “Financial Resource Availability and Corporate Social Performance Expenditures in a Sub-Saharan Economy” accepted for publication in the *Strategy Management Journal*.

• **Hong Park**, professor of economics, had a paper titled “Las Reformas de los Chaebols” published in *Vanguardia Dossier*, April-June 2012. Also, Park presented his paper, “Globalization and Income Inequality” at the Western Economic Association International Conference in San Francisco, June 29-July 3.

• **Helen Raica-Klotz**, lecturer of English, and **Diane Boehm**, director of instructional support program & university writing program, presented a workshop titled “Self-Efficacy: The Ultimate Tutoring Goal” at the European Writing Centers Association Conference in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, May 6-9.

• **Christopher Surfield**, associate professor of economics, and **Surrender Reddy**, professor of management presented their paper, “Mass Layoffs, Manufacturing and Business Climate Rankings: Does State Policy Matter?” at the Western Economics Association International Conference in San Francisco, June 29-July 3.

• **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, discovered a new species. The finding will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Southwestern Entomologist* as “A New Nearctic Species of *Docosia* Winnertz Fungus Gnat (Diptera: Mycetophilidae), Notes on *Docosia walpurga* Taber and *Docosia dichroa* Loew, and the Identity of Females of All Three Species.”

• **Paul Teed**, professor of history, presented a paper titled “Loyalty and Liturgy: Union Occupation and Religious Liberty in Wilmington, North Carolina, 1865” at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History in Arlington, Va., May 12.

• **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, was awarded a “People’s Choice” prize at the University of Michigan’s 6th Annual A & D Alumni Exhibition, “Size Matters 9 x 9 x 9,” at the closing reception, July 20. His painting, “Helter-Skelter,” 2008-2011, acrylic on canvas, was the prize winner. The “Size Matters” exhibition and reception were in the Slusser Gallery at the University of Michigan School of Art in Ann Arbor. The exhibit ran from July 2-21. Zivich has also served on the art alumni organizing committee for the alumni exhibitions for the past five years.

Briefly Speaking

• SVSU faculty and staff are eligible for two 2012-13 All Sports Passes, which allow the holder into all home, regular season football and basketball games. See Shelly Reminder in the Ryder Center to pick your All Sports Passes up; you must sign for them and you may not pick passes up for anyone else. All Sports Passes are not distributed at any home contest. Your SVSU faculty/staff ID does not get you into the games for free, you must present your All Sports Pass to the ticket takers. Hurry in – the first home football game is Saturday, Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. against Valdosta State University. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Shelly Reminder at ext. 7306.

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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