

## SVSU makes major commitment to study and improve Saginaw Bay

SVSU is making an institutional commitment to increased study of the Saginaw Bay watershed and will establish its Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute in 2013.

“The health of Saginaw Bay and its surroundings is important to all of us who live in the Great Lakes Bay Region,” said Deborah Huntley, dean of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology. “This institute will serve as an important asset to SVSU and the region we serve. It will provide important interdisciplinary learning and research opportunities for our students and faculty, and will allow for further scientific study of this invaluable natural resource.”

The institute will build upon SVSU’s existing freshwater research activities, including partnerships with the Bay County Health Department to monitor water quality near public beaches, and the Kawkawlin River Property Owners Association to study the health of the river and associated wildlife.

In March 2012, SVSU’s work on Saginaw Bay – in collaboration with Delta College and others – was hailed as a national model at the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement Symposium and Capitol Hill Poster Session in Washington, D.C. SVSU faculty also have studied zebra mussels and other invasive species across the Great Lakes and led clean up endeavors along the Saginaw Bay shoreline. Dozens of students are involved in these associated research projects.

“In recent years, we have



SVSU faculty (counterclockwise) Dave Karpovich, Dave Stanton and Art Martin involve students in projects that increase understanding of the Saginaw Bay watershed and its ecosystem.

been very active in working with community partners to combine resources and increase our understanding of the Saginaw Bay watershed and its ecosystem,” said David Karpovich, H.H. Dow Endowed Chair in Chemistry. “This initiative will expand on these efforts to improve water quality and provide our students with exceptional hands-on research experience.”

The Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute will be located on SVSU’s campus and will consolidate these related activities. It will initially include faculty from biology, chemistry and geography, and could expand to include other disciplines.

Karpovich will serve as director of the institute at its outset.

SVSU will invest at least \$100,000 in start-up funds to purchase a boat suitable for research purposes, water sampling devices, and various laboratory equipment. To sustain the institute, SVSU has budgeted approximately \$80,000 annually for supplies, mini-grants, travel, K-12 outreach and an annual symposium.

SVSU will pursue external funding, as well. In August 2012, the State of Michigan’s Department of Environmental Quality awarded SVSU a \$26,185 grant to continue research on the Kawkawlin River.

Beyond SVSU oversight, the

Institute will have an external advisory committee comprised of professionals and scientists from the region.

SVSU expects to hold a dedication ceremony this spring and anticipates the maiden voyage of its research vessel to occur in early summer. In addition to scientific activity, the institute also will serve as a centralized source of information to improve communication between researchers and regional stakeholders through a web site, printed materials, and regular workshops.

To watch a video of SVSU’s work on the Kawkawlin River, [visitvimeo.com/100444444](http://vimeo.com/100444444).

# Kaustav Misra

Assistant Professor of Economics

Kaustav Misra knows that economics isn't called the dismal science for its thrilling course content.

"The moment you start with big words, phenomena, concepts — students will leave the class," the assistant professor in economics said. "Physically, they'll be there, but mentally, they'll have left."

"Your most important job is to keep them alive in the classroom," he added. That's why Misra brings laughter to his lectures. "You have to teach it in a way that students feel connected," he said. "Then you start bringing the concepts to the table."

It's calculated, Misra said. "We joke around, but at the same time, I convey my message through the jokes. No matter what I'm teaching them, I want to make sure they're getting it."

And from his experiences, it seems to be working. "They are alive in that classroom," Misra said. "They talk. They laugh. They argue, and they work with me."

When you meet him, it's clear the Calcutta, India, native and Mississippi State University Ph.D. is straightforward. For instance, he knows he has an accent. That's why he acknowledges it with students on their first day of class.

"I tell them, 'The accent, you've got to deal with,'" he said. "But if you think you can deal with it and get along with me, I'm sure the day you step out of this class, you will have learned something from me.' And students have liked hearing that."

Overall, though, that's what Misra wants for them: to think of themselves as investors. "I preach it to students every time I see them: Whatever you're spending, time or money, find out what you're getting out of it. Otherwise, you are spending your time and money, and it's all going to go to the water."

In fact, from Misra's teaching, students take theory outside the classroom. During his first semester at SVSU in winter 2011, Misra was teaching his international economics class about how buying and selling currencies can be incredibly lucrative. So students began doing it themselves, and asked Misra for his input.

Today, students still buy and sell currency even as they take classes. Since then, others have stepped forward, asking Misra for investment advice. (He reminds them that this isn't his expertise and that the risk is entirely theirs, but he's happy to offer help with the theory.)

But no matter which way you look at it, economics isn't an exact science. "It's between a science and an art," Misra said. "You need an imagination to understand and see it. That's why the subject is tricky."

In the end, the study is all an investment, Misra said, and if you stick around, the return is high.

"You open your tired eye and understand the world in a new way."



# Mike Holliday

Manager, Information Technology Services Support Center • January 2013

There's one message Mike Holliday wants to share with the campus.

It's this: Don't live with your problem.

"When it comes to technology, many people don't call for help," Holliday said. "For some reason, they have a perception that ITS is too busy with other things, and that their issue isn't very important. So they live with it.

"And I say, 'No: That's why we're here.'"

As a veritable 911 dispatch for virtually anything at SVSU with a screen and a power cord, Information Technology Support handles emergency response. In addition to regularly updating technology, they treat everything from mishaps to meltdowns.

In fact, to help with triage efforts, ITS will soon unveil a new tool for on-campus users. The solution, a self-service portal, will track people's requests for assistance online and help ITS respond to users in the quickest way possible. "Customer satisfaction is our No. 1 priority," Holliday said.

The solution, set to launch this spring, will also enable users to help themselves. The system will take keyword searches and reveal potential answers in FAQs and tutorials.

Not tech savvy? Not to worry — ITS won't be taking away call support. "We just want to allow users the chance for self-support," Holliday said.

As for Holliday, his passions go beyond the world of IT. For one thing, he loves teaching. He instructs a course titled Introduction to Computers. "The essential part of it is the problem solving," he said. "We learn to look at the problem and understand it."

Holliday says having both positions lets him keep a finger on the university's pulse. "Being able to teach I get a better picture from the faculty perspective and the student perspective."

And Holliday does know both sides of that coin. The Traverse City native first came to SVSU as a student, soon after he and his wife, Jeni, moved back to Michigan from Arizona. At 22, he found a job on campus as a part-time computer technician, and within a year and a half, Holliday was hired full time, studying while he focused on his wife and newborn son.

Today, he's a man led by his faith. "My church life and my family life define me," he said. Outside work, Holliday loves softball, coaching a team and playing on two with fellow members of his church. He and his wife have three children: Shelby, 13; Amber, 18; and Michael, 22 — a Cardinal who will graduate from SVSU this May with a computer information sciences degree.

Ultimately, Holliday loves his job and the satisfaction he gets from working here.

"Everything that we at SVSU do, we do as a team. It's not our department and their department — it's us."





Fourteen participants in the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute were recognized Jan. 24 at the program's graduation ceremony in Curtiss Hall. The Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute, which provides individuals with the opportunity to develop the skills and relationships necessary to become effective leaders, was developed by Monica B. Reyes, associate director of the Center for Business & Economic Development at SVSU, and Larry Rodarte, owner/editor of *Mi Gente* magazine; with assistance and support from Jimmy Greene, chamber board member; Mamie Thorns, special assistant to the president for diversity programs at SVSU; Kim Houston-Philpot, Central Michigan University; Jim Jaime, Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Business Association; Manual Gonzalez, Prudential; and Jeff Martin, The Dow Chemical Company.

## Professional Profile

- **David S. Karpovich**, H.H. Dow Endowed Chair and professor of chemistry, had a paper accepted for publication in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*.
- **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, had an article titled "Two New Nearctic Species of *Boletina* Staeger Fungus Gnat (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)" accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist* magazine.
- **Scott M. Youngstedt**, professor of sociology, presented his paper, "Public Performance, Media, and Representing Culture in African Contexts," at the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in San Francisco in November 2012. Later in November, by vote of the board of directors, Youngstedt began his three-year term as president of the West African Research Association (WARA—with an annual budget of \$1 million—is a network of scholars throughout the world and includes more than 40 universities). Also, Lexington Books published Youngstedt's book, *Surviving with Dignity: Hausa Communities of Niamey, Niger*, in December 2012. Youngstedt also presented his paper, "New Year's Eve in the Sahel," at the 55th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association in December 2012.

## New Cardinals

- **Christopher Camburn**, assistant athletic trainer, announced the birth of a daughter, Lily Kay Camburn (6 lbs., 2 oz., 24 in.), Dec. 21.
- **David and Trisha Heintskill** announced the birth of a daughter, Willow Louise Heintskill (6 lbs., 3 oz., 18.5 in.), Dec. 22. David is an administrative secretary in the Office of Admissions and Trisha is associate director of scholarships and financial aid.

- **Leon Wilson**, police officer, announced the birth of a son, Theo Thomas Wilson (7 lbs., 3 oz., 19 in.), Dec. 24.

## Condolences

- To **Cliff Dorne**, associate vice president for institutional research, whose father, Joel Dorne, passed away Jan. 11.
- To **Karen Hollenbeck**, senior AIS programmer/analyst, whose mother, Ann Mae Bohnhoff, passed away Jan. 8.
- To **Scott Maxwell**, plumber, whose father, John J. Maxwell, passed away Jan. 20.

## Briefly Speaking

- **LaDonna Young**, human resources specialist, was recognized by the Cass River chapter of the American Business Women's Association with its Woman of the Year award.
- **Mike Major**, director of career services, was selected and served for the first time on the Military Academy Screening Committee for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. The committee's next meeting is November 23, 2013.

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**J.J. Boehm** Director of Media Relations  
 jjboehm@svsu.edu • (989) 964-4055

**Tim Inman** Director of Photography, Advertising & Publishing Services  
 tmi@svsu.edu • (989) 964-4086

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