

SVSU names deans for business, education colleges

SVSU has promoted Mary Harmon to dean of the College of Education, and hired Rama Yelkur to serve as dean of the College of Business & Management.

A professor of English, Harmon joined SVSU in 1991 and twice has chaired the English department, SVSU's largest academic unit. She also has taught English education courses and has served as a co-director of the National Writing Project. Prior to SVSU, Harmon enjoyed a 23-year career in the public schools, primarily as a high school English teacher.

Harmon's appointment is for three years, which will include SVSU's next visit by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. She replaces Susie Emond, who is retiring this summer after serving SVSU's College of Education for 35 years.

Harmon completed a Ph.D. at Michigan State University,



Mary Harmon



Rama Yelkur

with concentrations in English education, composition theory, and contemporary literature. She also completed bachelor's and master's degrees at Western Michigan University.

Yelkur comes to SVSU from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where she joined the faculty in 1998 and has served as director of international business programs since 2002.

While at UW-Eau Claire, Yelkur developed an international business major and played an active role during the school's accreditation process with AACSB International. She also created the Northern Wisconsin International Trade Association

and has served as its director since its founding in 2008.

Yelkur completed a Doctor of Business Administration at Mississippi State University. She also holds two degrees from her native India: an M.B.A. from PSG College of Technology and

a bachelor's degree from Madras University.

Yelkur will begin her duties at SVSU July 1. She replaces Jill Wetmore, who is retiring this summer after more than 30 years in SVSU's College of Business & Management.

Braun Fellows named

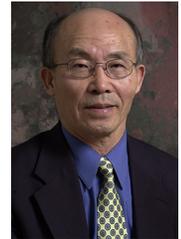
Garry Johns, professor of mathematical sciences, and Hong Park, professor of economics, have each received Braun Fellowships that over the next three years will total up to \$37,500 to further their scholarly and professional activities. Funds may be used for research expenses, equipment, travel and/or other related support.

Johns plans to study how college students learn mathematics and what teaching methods are most effective in reaching them. He will critique existing studies on the subject and then show the connections and correlations between items studied in the research, looking at teachers' methods of motivation and choice of tasks, and students' responses and level of academic success. Johns intends to find optimal solutions that should have the greatest impact on student achievement. He will share his findings within SVSU and beyond through academic journals and relevant conferences and seminars.

Park plans to examine how knowledge affects business performance in today's global economy. He has developed a questionnaire that includes questions in four major areas: organizational structures; organizational culture and environment; knowledge



Garry Johns



Hong Park

management practices; leadership; and outcomes of knowledge management. Park intends to mail the survey to 5,000 U.S. firms and analyze the data compiled from the returned surveys.

Johns joined the SVSU faculty in 1988; Park has taught at SVSU since 1975.

Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum awarded accreditation

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum has achieved accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition for a museum. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public.

Of the nation's estimated 17,500 museums, 1,005 are currently accredited. The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is one of only 25 accredited museums in Michigan.

2013 All-University Awards

FRANC A. LANDEE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD
Julie Foss

EARL L. WARRICK AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH
Steve Taber

HOUSE FAMILY AWARD FOR TEACHER IMPACT
Bob Pratt

MARY H. ANDERSON ADJUNCT FACULTY AWARD
Kristina Rouech

RUBEN DANIELS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Mike Mosher

TERRY ISHIHARA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CO-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT
Julie Keil • Sam Tilmon

ROOSEVELT RUFFIN DIVERSITY AWARD
Joseph Madison

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD
Marilyn Wheaton

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
K.P. Karunakaran, M.D. • Barb Mitchell

For details, including bios, on each award recipient, go to:
blogs.svsu.edu/newsroom/2013/04/24/

James Bowers

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

The end of the academic year can be stressful for faculty, as well as students. As a graduate student, James Bowers found running to be an effective outlet, and as he concludes his second year on the criminal justice faculty, he spent the weekend before final exams running an ultra-marathon of 50 kilometers. The race is well-timed for him; this summer, he will be among those teaching fully online courses. His juvenile justice class filled quickly.

“I’ve taught it numerous times in the traditional format, and this is the first time it will be fully online,” Bowers said. “We have great enrollment numbers.”

The course dovetails with research Bowers is conducting with Poonam Kumar, SVSU’s new director of online/hybrid learning.

“Our research question is, ‘Is there a difference between traditional and online teaching presence?’ Each instructor has a presence in the classroom, and so I’m looking at what kind of feedback I get from students in the traditional versus the online.”

During winter semester, Bowers has been teaching an upper-level course examining issues related to criminology and criminal justice.

“The students get to explore their beliefs,” he said, “and I challenge students to explore their beliefs; for example, the death penalty. I don’t care if they support the death penalty or not, what they look

at are experts in the field who provide valid arguments for the death penalty and valid arguments against the death penalty. Far too often students will seek out things that only support their viewpoint, and I want them to see both sides.”

Bowers completed his graduate work at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He finds SVSU students to have a much better grip on the careers available in criminal justice.

“Where I came from, almost every student said they were going to be an FBI agent,” he said. “Here, you poll any given classroom and you get a good number of people with realistic expectations. A certain number will say they want to work with probation or parole. A certain number will say they want to work with Child Protective Services. Usually two in any given classroom will want to pursue becoming a lawyer. These are all very real jobs, and that’s a good thing.”

Bowers enjoys life in Michigan—“lots of sunshine here compared to western Pennsylvania.” He settled on SVSU after meeting future colleagues Joe Jaksa and Carol Zimmerman at a job fair.

“I am very, very thankful that I chose SVSU over all of my job offers,” he said. “I have a great group of co-workers. Our department has grown, and the students are great.”



Katrina Friedeberg, Eltaro Hooper, Jason Schoenmeyer

Associate Directors of Student Life • April 2013

As the stress of final exams and end-of-semester projects builds, students seek frequent refuge and release to recharge and regroup. That makes the Student Life Center an especially busy place, and associate directors Katrina Friedeberg, Eltaro Hooper and Jason Schoenmeyer wouldn't have it any other way.

During the week of April 15, Program Board held a variety of events to entertain and relax students. Schoenmeyer serves as the group's adviser.

"This week, I kind of look at it as exam week for Program Board," he said. "The students have grown so much in facilitating things—seeing that growth is just awesome. I never went to school to be a teacher, but this is like teaching, in many ways. It's a lot cooler, though, because it's fun stuff."

Those growth moments are what energize the trio day after day. Schoenmeyer is the most recent arrival, having started last July. Hooper started in 2009 and Friedeberg followed in 2010.

Hooper oversees commuter student programs, Greek life, Red Pride, the consumer corner, and promotional materials. Friedeberg runs volunteer services and leadership programming, and coordinates student employees and the Student Life awards. In addition to Program Board, Schoenmeyer advises Valley Nights, the Cardinal mascot, and provides technical support.

Friedeberg says Alternative Breaks are particularly transformative.

"That's all they do for six days," she explained. "Everything is about the service and they have to embrace it. It helps them see, 'I am making a difference.' So then part of my job is saying, 'Here's some more service you can do in Saginaw. Here are some more opportunities in your hometown.'"

Student Life staff listen carefully to what students have to say.

"We have student-led RSOs," Hooper said. "We have student-led groups who are funded by the university. Their input really molds what we offer to the students."

All three are married and realize that long days, nights and weekends are an essential part of the job, something each member of the trio embraces.

"A 9-to-5 would kill me," Schoenmeyer said. "I don't think I would do well. In my last job, I traveled and would be gone for a week in hotels, so this is a gift to me. I've had breakfast with my boys every single morning this year."

Friedeberg said, "I don't think I could imagine my life any other way. I haven't stopped since college, so I don't know if I'm trained that this is what work is, but you don't feel the hours while you're here."

Hooper added, "Growth for students doesn't just happen from 8 to 4:30. It happens on their time, at 10 o'clock at night. It's an all-encompassing circle of just joy."



Professional Profile

• **James Bowers**, assistant professor of criminal justice, and **Joseph Jaksa**, associate professor of criminal justice, co-presented “Examining the Motivation of White-Collar Criminals Through the Rational Choice Theory” at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual meeting, March 2013, in Dallas, Texas.

• **Karen Brown-Fackler**, associate professor of nursing, presented “New M.S.N. and D.N.P. Educational Model” at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s 2013 Master’s Education Conference at the Buena Vista Palace in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 22.

• **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of English, presented “Video Methodologies: Researching the Tube” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Las Vegas in March, and he organized an eight-person “MLArcade” panel on the rhetoric of pinball machines at the Modern Language Association in Boston in January.

• **Adam T. Clark**, ESL specialist/CALL Coordinator, presented “Professional Podcasting for Academic Reading and Listening Success” at the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages conference March 22 in Dallas, Texas.

• **Ruth Sawyers**, assistant professor of English, and **Ruth Copp**, lecturer of English, presented a session on “Mnemonic Devices: Effective Study Strategies to Trigger Your Memory” to four groups of local middle school students and their teachers at the 18th annual Roosevelt Ruffin Symposium held at SVSU.

Also, Copp, Sawyers, and **Dan Villaire**, lecturer of English, presented “Active Reading for College Students: An Interdisciplinary Partnership” at the 24th annual Teaching Academic Survival and Success conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., March 18.

• **Monika Dix**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled “From Loved Mother to Shunned Nun: Potency of a Woman in the *Jojin Ajari no haha no shu*” at the Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 21-24, in San Diego, Calif.

Also, Dix had a book chapter titled “*Heike Nokyō* as Repertoire: Taira Kiyomori’s Devotional Practice of Copying Sutras and the Production of Buddhist Tales,” accepted for publication in Mikael Adolphson & Anne Commons, eds., *Loveable Losers: The Taira in Action and Memory* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, forthcoming Fall 2013).

• **Julie Foss**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, presented the session “Pressed to Assess? Towards Meaningful Programmatic Assessment in Foreign Languages” at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Columbus, Ohio, March 16.

• **Sara Beth Keough**, associate professor of geography, published a paper titled “Examining the Cultural Imprint of Newfoundlanders in Fort McMurray, Alberta” in *Focus on Geography* (vol. 46, no. 1).

• **Joseph Ofori-Dankwa**, Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Professor in International Business Studies/professor of management, and **George M. Puia**, associate dean for faculty research and external relations/Dow Chemical Company Centennial Chair in Global

Business, had an article titled “The Effects of National Culture and Ethno-linguistic Diversity on Innovativeness” accepted for publication in the *Baltic Journal of Management*, 8(4).

• **Hong Y. Park**, professor of economics, had two papers accepted for publication: “Economic Globalization and Income Inequality in the United States” in the *International Research Journal of Applied Finance* (Vol. 4, No. 1); and “Changes in Economic Environment, Learning and Dynamic Capabilities in Korean Firms” in the *International Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Change Management* (Vol. 12, No. 2).

Also, Park had two papers accepted for presentation at conferences: “Macro-micro Integrative Approach to Knowledge Creation and New Product Development” was presented at the 14th National Business Economic Society annual conference in Herradura, Costa Rica, March 6-9; and “Information Technology and User Knowledge-Driven Innovation” will be presented at the 13th International Conference on Knowledge, Culture and Change in Organization, in Vancouver, Canada, June 13-14.

• **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, had a manuscript titled “Two New Nearctic species of *Docosia* Winnertz Fungus Gnats (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)” accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist* magazine.

Condolences

• To **James Finzel**, director emeritus of computer services, on the loss of his wife, Sally, who passed away April 5.

• To the family of **Thomas Gillespie**, who passed away March 19. Gillespie was a physics instructor in 1964, the first year classes were offered at SVSU; he later was named an assistant dean (1969), and was a mechanical engineering faculty member from 1973 through 1995.

• To **Joyce Payne**, parking & student employment services coordinator, on the loss of her step-mother, Helen Robishaw, who passed away April 12.

Briefly Speaking

• Faculty and staff may present the diploma cover to graduating members of their immediate family during Commencement, Saturday, May 11. Call Suzette Zimmerman at ext. 4384 to make arrangements.

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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