

SVSU students selected for Roberts Fellows Program

Twelve remarkable students will learn what it takes to become exceptional leaders after being selected to participate in the Roberts Fellows program for the 2013-14 academic year.

The Roberts Fellowships support a select group of students who have demonstrated both scholarship and leadership potential. These students will be supported through a two-semester program of both academic course work and extracurricular activities that is designed to further develop their potential as future political, economic and civic leaders. The program culminates in a trip to Asia to provide the Fellows with an international perspective on leadership.

Students selected to be Roberts Fellows will be required to complete a three-credit "Leadership Seminar" in the fall and winter semesters within one or more academic departments. During the year, the Fellows will

The 2013-14 class of Roberts Fellows

- **Cara Cole**, a social work major from Saint Louis
- **Marissa Geyer**, a political science major from Auburn
- **Samantha Jackson**, a political science major from Goodells
- **Shaya Jewani**, an economics major from Fort Gratiot
- **Rachel Katch**, an athletic training major from St. Charles
- **Jeremy Killion**, a history major from Clio
- **Nancy Qwynne Lackey**, a biology major from Beaverton
- **Kate Nankervis**, an elementary education major from Sand Lake
- **Audrey Sayles**, a psychology major from Jackson
- **Abigail Seamon**, an elementary education major from New Lothrop
- **Kerri Vasold**, an exercise science major from Shepherd
- **Trent Varva**, a political science major from Saginaw

also meet for informal seminars and discussions with various political, business and civic leaders from throughout the Great Lakes Bay region. Andrew Swihart, professor of psychology, and Brian Thomas, associate professor of sociology, serve as the group's faculty advisors.

Established in 1999, the program is named in honor of Donna Roberts of Midland, who has demonstrated an

outstanding commitment to SVSU through her personal generosity and prior service on the Board of Control and the Board of Fellows. A respected attorney, business leader and philanthropist, Roberts retired from The Dow Chemical Company, where she was secretary and assistant general counsel. She is an honorary director of the SVSU Foundation Board.

HLC Committee makes important summer progress

While most students returned home for the summer months, the faculty and staff working on the materials to support SVSU's reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission have remained busy.

"We have not taken a break, even over the summer," said Marc Peretz, associate provost and SVSU's accreditation liaison officer.

Substantial drafts of each chapter of the self-study are complete and are being combined into a single document.

"The goal is to have this done very early in the semester," Peretz said, "so the president and senior staff can review the document, check it for accuracy and offer comments."

Mary Hedberg, retired dean of the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences, will serve as the principal writer. Peretz stressed the need to have a single voice.

"We want different perspectives; that's why we have 65 people working on this, but you can't have 65 voices and put together a cohesive document."

While Peretz is confident in the work he and his colleagues have done and he knows 50th anniversary events fill the fall, this is no time to relax.

"I won't be comfortable until after the site visit," he said. Members of the HLC accreditation review team are scheduled to visit SVSU April 7-9.

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

Back to School Picnic

Thursday, Aug. 22 • 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.



Jennifer Neitzel

Human Resources Manager • June 2013

Jennifer Neitzel isn't comfortable with this.

SVSU's human resources manager admits she would "rather be behind the scenes than out front."

Neitzel (pronounced night-zell) has been named Staff Member of the Month for the second time in eight years, and she said the recognition is just the sort of limelight she tries to dodge. "I don't do this," she says—smiling—before the interview begins, "but go ahead."

Neitzel's role organizing the All University Awards Banquet is one of her contributions that she strives to keep off the radar. The annual gala requires planning to begin seven months in advance.

The Linwood native once had a saying about the April event: Overseeing it "was like planning a wedding with no gifts."

"Now it's like second nature," she says.

Neitzel became involved in the banquet beginning the first week she was hired as SVSU's employment and compensation services coordinator in 2001. Overseeing the event—which this year attracted its largest-ever crowd of more than 500 people—was a responsibility that once kept her regularly late nights as she scrambled to send invitations, order menu items, plan decorations and purchase prizes for award recipients. "For a lot of years, I did it myself," she says.

That's changed recently. The 1992 Bay City All Saints graduate credits other colleagues with contributing, especially LaDonna

Young, the human resources specialist with a neighboring office on Wickes Hall's third floor.

"I might get a little stressed, but I know what to do with this job in my sleep," says Neitzel, who was hired for her current role in 2009.

Her efforts grabbed the attention of SVSU Special Assistant to the President Gene Hamilton, who nominated Neitzel for Staff Member of the Month.

"She's a tireless worker," Hamilton says. "She's very diligent to detail and, above all else, she is a very loyal, dedicated employee."

Neitzel receives plenty of practice coordinating complicated operations, she says.

She is, after all, a mother of three. "I'm a soccer mom," the 1996 Eastern Michigan University graduate says. "I'm a volleyball mom. I'm a baseball mom."

Neitzel celebrated her 15th wedding anniversary in August with her husband, Chris. Together, they are raising Kaelin, 13; Courtney, 10; and Bryce, 7.

"I am pretty much running my kids in every direction," she says. "There's always one of them going to practice."

Neitzel, as with work, isn't ready to take more than a "behind the scenes" credit for parenting, though. "My husband keeps me in line with what we have to do," she says. "And my Android is my calendar."



David Heintskill

Administrative Secretary • July 2013

Things may be getting more complicated at home, but David Heintskill is making life simpler for SVSU students, staff and faculty.

Heintskill and his wife Trisha (Associate Director of Scholarships & Financial Aid) are parents of their first child, 6-month-old Willow.

While that brings along with it the typical challenges of being a young parent—little Willow just started teething, for instance—he still enjoys the demands of his job in the Office of Admissions.

Heintskill, who plans to complete his bachelor's degree in business in August 2014, began working in the office two years ago after first joining the College of Education in 2008.

Since arriving in Admissions, the 28-year-old has been writing computer coding to cut down on some of the department's manual labor. "He has transformed the way we communicate with prospective students," said Jennifer Pahl, admissions director.

Heintskill developed an online program that processes applications for incoming students, sending out necessary notices and forms. Before, staff dealt with many of those transactions by hand.

"He's done remarkable things in transitioning Admissions with technology," said Jim Dwyer, vice president for enrollment management. "He's been a great addition to that office."

And Heintskill is not finished. Today, he's helping the university and Hobsons, a Cincinnati-based education solutions company, create a new online system called "Portal" that SVSU will implement campus-wide in the coming months.

"I like to be challenged and learn different things," the 2003 Bay City All Saints graduate said of working with computer programming despite no prior experience. "I've been blessed to have a job here."

Heintskill calls SVSU his "second home," in part because he met his wife here and now they work on the same floor in Wickes Hall. The two even chose Curtiss Hall's banquet room for their wedding reception.

"We go home and talk about work," he said. "We bounce a lot of ideas off each other."

When they're not talking shop, the Heintskills are busy raising baby Willow. "It's been life-changing," he said of becoming a father. "She can sit up now and roll over, and she sleeps eight to 10 hours a night. I can't complain."

Heintskill said he plans to raise her in a household kept stable by his career at SVSU. "I don't know if I'll always have this position," he said, "but I always want to be at this university."



Professional Profile

- **Cyrus Aryana**, professor of mathematics, presented a paper titled “Self-adjoint Toeplitz Operators Associated with Representing Measures on Multiply Connected Planar Regions and their Eigenvalues,” Special Session Speaker, at the Joint International meeting of the American Mathematical Society and the Romanian Mathematical Society, Alba Iulia, Romania, June 27-30.
- **Fenobia I. Dallas**, associate professor of rhetoric & professional writing, gave a presentation titled “ColorCulture, Language, and Spirituality: Border Crossers Impacting the Complexity of Life” at the College Language Association Convention, April 11 in Lexington, Ky.
- **Monika Dix**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled “Narrated Spaces, Spatial Texts: The Matrix of the Taimadera jikkai-zu byobu” at the IAJS International Conference at Hebrew University, Israel, May 27-June 1.
- **Poonam Kumar**, director of online/hybrid learning, presented a paper titled “Immersive Learning Using Virtual Worlds: Lessons from a Case Study” at the Immersive Education Conference in Boston, Mass., June 3-6.
- **Andrew Miller**, assistant professor of geography, had an article titled “Remote Sensing Proxies for Deforestation and Soil Degradation in Landslide Mapping: A Review” published in *Geography Compass* (Volume 7, Issue 7).
- **Paul Munn**, professor of English, presented a paper titled “Puissance and Jouissance in Recent Poems of John Ashbery” at the Literary Texts: The Power and the Possible Conference, Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France, May 18.
- **Sally Shepardson**, assistant professor of biology, published a paper in *Malacologia* titled “Light and Transmission Electron Microscopy of Two Spermatogenic Pathways and Unimorphic Sperm in *Venustaconcha ellipsiformis* (Conrad, 1836) (Bivalvia: Unionoida).”
- **Stephen Taber**, professor of biology, has a manuscript titled “Three New Nearctic Fungus Gnat Species (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)” accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist* magazine.
- **Robert Tuttle**, associate professor of mechanical engineering, had a paper titled “Understanding the Mechanism of Grain Refinement in Plain Carbon Steels,” accepted for publication by the *International Journal of Metalcasting*. This paper discusses new experimental evidence on the change in solidification behavior of steels through rare earth additions. It also documents the mechanical property improvements that result.
- **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, had his painting “Icarus” (2009, acrylic on canvas) displayed at the University of Michigan Penney W. Stamps School of Art & Design’s Work.Detroit gallery. This competitive art show included artists from the United States and Canada whose art works conformed to the theme “Road Trip.” It was curated by the gallery manager, Stephen Schudlich.
- **Gladys Zubulake**, professor of modern foreign languages, presented “Expresiones-dichos con ser y estar: utensilio útil para enseñar la cultura” (“Expressions and Sayings with the Verb To Be: Useful Tool to Teach Culture”) at AATSP Conference, San Antonio, Texas, July 8-11.

New Cardinals

- **David Bechard**, IT operations specialist, announced the birth of a son, Cameron James Bechard (8.8 lbs., 19.5 in.), June 24.
- **Eltaro Hooper**, associate director of student life, announced the birth of a son, Zhalen Daniel-Desha Hooper (7 lbs., 5 oz., 20 in.), June 27.
- **Doug Woodington**, IT support center technology specialist, announced the birth of a daughter, Elli Woodington (7.3 lbs., 19.6 in.), July 20.

FOURTH FRIDAY RECEPTIONS

Sept. 27 • Oct. 25 • Nov. 22

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

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

Condolences

- To **Deborah Albrough**, administrative secretary, whose mother, Sally Lou (Smith) Miller, passed away June 12.
- To **Dan Devereaux**, locksmith, whose mother-in-law, Patricia Hughes, passed away June 26.
- To **Ann Dickey**, director emerita of institutional research, whose husband, Clayton Dickey, passed away July 26.
- To **Anthony Dizon**, accountant, whose father, Melecio Lebrado Dizon, passed away June 24.
- To the family of **Louis R. Jacoby**, associate professor of accounting, who passed away July 5.
- To **David Karpovich**, H. H. Dow Endowed Chair of Chemistry, whose father, Stephen Charles Karpovich, passed away June 15.
- To **Erik R. Krag**, instructor of philosophy, whose father, N. Erik Krag, passed away May 14.
- To **Dotti Millar**, professor of teacher education, whose mother, Dorothy Ann Squatrito, passed away Aug. 4.
- To **James Muladore**, executive vice president for administration & business affairs, whose mother-in-law, Shirley Ann Buscarino, passed away July 31.
- To the family of **Janet Robinson**, professor emerita of psychology, who passed away July 20.

Briefly Speaking

- Faculty, staff and adjunct faculty may apply for a 2013-2014 reserve parking permit at svsu.edu/universitypolice/parkinginformation. All 2012-2013 permits expire Sept. 15.
- **Jaime Leyrer**, special assistant to the dean of the College of Business & Management, earned the Michigan Certified Public Manager designation (CPM®) in July.
- Faculty and staff are eligible for two 2013-14 All Sports Passes, which grant admission to all home regular season football and basketball games. Pick up your All Sports Passes from Shelly Reminder in the Ryder Center; you must sign for them and you may not pick up passes for anyone else. All Sports Passes are not distributed at any home contests. Please note that your SVSU ID card does not provide you with free admission the games; you must present your All Sports Pass to the ticket takers.

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.

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

Submission Deadline:

**Noon on Wednesday before the publication date.
Please send items by email to: jjboehm@svsu.edu.**