

Campus community invited to open forums for presidential finalists

The Board of Control has established interview schedules for the four finalists being considered to replace President Eric Gilbertson, who is retiring from the position. The campus community is encouraged to participate in the process.

“We want to hear from faculty, staff, students, alumni, and anyone who has a vested interest in SVSU’s continued success,” said Board chair Jeff Martin. “This will be one of the most significant decisions we will make at SVSU and receiving input from all will be critical.”

Each of the finalists will take questions during an open forum in the Curtiss Hall seminar rooms. These sessions will begin each day at 4:45 p.m. and last for approximately one hour; Board of Control members Scott Carmona and Jenee Velasquez will serve as moderators. The visit dates for the candidates are as follows:

Donald Bachand • Tuesday, Jan. 28

Gayle Ormiston • Wednesday, Jan. 29

Brad Hodson • Thursday, Jan. 30

Neal Weaver • Friday, Jan. 31

Prior to the open forums, the finalists will meet with a broad representation of the

SVSU community, including vice presidents, deans, and other members of the president’s

staff; select student leaders; the Faculty Association; and the Support Staff Association.

Each candidate also will host a 30-minute forum for administrative/professional staff at 3:15 p.m. in the Curtiss Hall seminar rooms.

Those who attend any of the sessions with the candidates will have an opportunity to submit written feedback directly to the Board of Control. An online form will be posted at svsu.edu/presidentialsearch/feedback; comments also can be emailed to the Board at boc@svsu.edu.



Donald Bachand currently serves as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at SVSU. He joined the SVSU criminal justice faculty in 1978 and previously served as dean of the College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences. Bachand completed a bachelor’s degree at Mercy College of Detroit, a master’s degree at the University of Detroit and a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan.



J. Bradford Hodson currently serves as the vice president for university advancement at Pittsburg State University in Kansas. He also serves as president and CEO of the Pittsburg State University Foundation. Hodson completed a bachelor’s degree at Missouri Southern State University, a master’s degree at Pittsburg State and a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska.



Gayle Ormiston currently serves as the senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at Marshall University in West Virginia. He previously served as associate provost, and as chair of the philosophy department at Kent State University in Ohio. Ormiston completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Kent State and a Ph.D. at Purdue University.



Neal Weaver currently serves as vice president for institutional advancement at West Texas A&M University. He previously served as vice president for university relations at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma. Weaver completed a bachelor’s degree at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, a master’s degree at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and a Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma.

The 16-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee began its work last August. A list of committee members can be found online at svsu.edu/presidentialsearch/searchcommittee.

Andrew Miller, Rhett Mohler

Assistant Professors of Geography

Andrew Miller and Rhett Mohler arrived at SVSU within a month of each other in fall 2012, when the duo brought a new push for initiatives using remote sensing and geospatial analysis.

Now, more than a year later, the two are overseeing two projects expected to shed light on trends ranging from crime to the environment.

“It’s a skill that’s been needed in this area,” Miller said of the highly-detailed data mining that considers—among many elements—location and time. “What these projects do is give students theoretical and practical knowledge while organizing with groups to do something beneficial for the community.”

Miller is helping map violent trends in Saginaw while Mohler is investigating the environmental history of a swampy stretch of the northern Kawkawlin River. Both employ the help of students to collect and interpret the data. “There are so many applications for this kind of analysis,” Mohler said.

Miller is working with the Saginaw County Crime Prevention Council and the Saginaw Police Department to chart shootings and homicides from 2005 to 2013 in Saginaw, pegged by the FBI as one of the nation’s most violent cities of its size.

The geospatial data will help analysts consider information from a number of angles, and could reveal seasonal trends and conditions that suggest violence that is retaliatory in nature.

Miller said his students—Kevin Erb and Emily Gennrich—are still collecting data. When the task is finished and the information is analyzed, the students plan to present at the Association of American Geographers conference in Tampa, Fla.

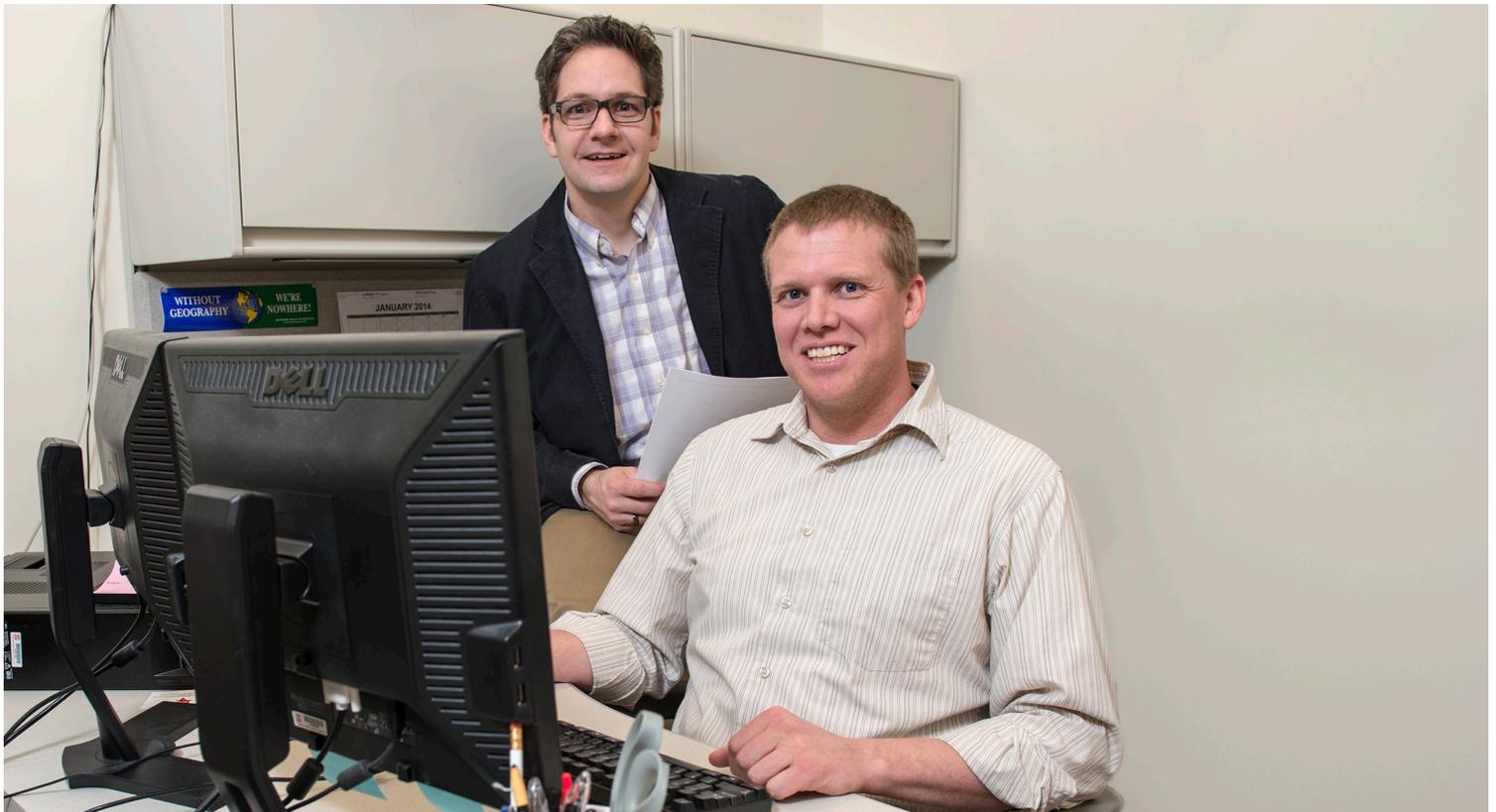
Mohler’s student assistant, Nick Ross, will present findings on the Kawkawlin River study at the same event.

Mohler and Ross are working on the project as part of the Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute, a group featuring collaborating organizations and agencies including SVSU. Mohler said he hopes both contemporary and historical data point to whether the river stretch’s swampy conditions are caused by natural or human elements.

“We’re looking back as far as the 1840s and trying to pin down a date when this started,” he said. Mohler and his student in part will examine 19th century surveyor notes and aerial photography from as early as 1938 to determine causation.

Miller and Mohler credit each other for the development of the remote sensing and geospatial analysis push, an initiative that has involved networking with community groups and applying for financial support.

“What we have done has truly been a partnership,” Miller said. “We couldn’t have made these many in-roads with this many groups without each other.”



Aaron Maturen

Developer, ITS • January Staff Member of the Month

Some people read Shakespeare. Others, Hemingway. For those with more contemporary tastes, it's King or Clancy.

Aaron Maturen reads computer code.

"Each one, you know, is written in their own way, their own dialect and their own syntax," said Maturen, whose laptop dons the sticker "Code is my poetry."

"I like to read computer code like others read poetry."

The Information Technology developer isn't kidding, and it's that love for the digital world that helped him earn January's Staff Member of the Month award.

One of Maturen's earliest memories came at the age of 3 when, while his peers perhaps were puzzled by Lego sets, he typed the words "win" on his father's computer. The keyword prompted the DOS-era operating system to boot up an early version of Windows.

"I was typing stuff in and I wanted to win," he said. "I just typed it. When Windows popped up, I was like, 'Wow, I made something work.'"

Maturen was hooked. He's been "winning" at computers ever since.

In fourth grade, he was a member of the Computer Club at Saginaw's Handley Elementary School. At Heritage High School, his Robotics Team created task-performing machines that earned the group a fourth place finish at the 2005 Intel International Science

and Engineering Fair in Indianapolis. And, even before he finished his French and computer science double major at SVSU in 2012, his know-how inspired the university to hire him full time at his current position.

"Those of us who work with him label him 'whiz kid' because he's so amazing," said Laura Peil, one of several who nominated Maturen for the staff award.

"The way his head works is incredible," said Peil, project coordinator and information specialist. "He really has a cool approach to problem solving, and he sees things at angles other people don't think about. He's also a lot of fun to work with."

There's plenty of work to do for Maturen, too.

These days, he is helping develop the Portal system that one day will replace Cardinal Direct. He's also busy collecting credits for a master's degree in communication and digital media. And don't forget the after-hours web development consultant company, Ivory Penguin, which he owns along with former colleague Dylan Swartz.

"This is Iggy, our mascot," Maturen said as he pulled out a small decal of a blue, cartoon penguin.

Computers and penguins, however, don't take up all of his time. And he's managed to "win" at things non-digital — for instance, the heart of his girlfriend, Erin Ciesielski, whom he met while she attended SVSU. They're due to marry Sept. 6.



Professional Profile

- **Jane Girdham**, professor of music, presented a paper titled “Women as Quiet Critics” at the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies annual conference in Oxford, England, Jan. 10.
- **Barbara Jean Jones**, associate professor of teacher education, was given recognition by E. Polloway, J. Patton, L. Serna, and J. Bailey, the authors of *Strategies for Teaching Learners with Special Needs* (10th edition, 2012) for her contribution and review of their latest text edition. Throughout the text, culturally responsive practices are highlighted to help students with special needs succeed in inclusive educational environments.
- **Tai-Chi Lee**, professor of computer science & information systems, had a paper titled “A Graph Computation on FPGA-Based Platform” accepted for publication in the forthcoming issue of *International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics Computing*, ISSN 13-11-8080, Academic Publications, March 2014.
- **Andrew Swihart**, professor of psychology, published a book chapter, titled “Vascular Dementia,” in *Neuropsychology Study Guide and Broad Review*, published by Oxford University Press, 2014.

New Cardinals

- **Sarah Costello**, financial services representative, announced the birth of a daughter, Anna Elizabeth (7 lbs., 9 oz.), Nov. 14.
- **Edward Meisel**, lecturer of chemistry, announced the birth of a son, Edison Nathaniel (9 lbs., 15 oz., 22 in.), Dec. 27.

Condolences

- To **Kris Kurzer**, custodial specialist, whose father, Allan “Butch” Kurzer, passed away Dec. 10.
- To **Sara Martinez**, director of student wellness programs, whose husband, Jesse Martinez, passed away Nov. 29.
- To **Kelly Nitschmann**, financial services representative, whose father-in-law, Manfred G. Nitschmann, passed away Dec. 12.
- To **Gloria Turner**, periodicals assistant, whose mother, Vergie L. Harrison, passed away in December.

Briefly Speaking

- The campus community is invited to Fourth Fridays in the president’s reception area and board room on third floor Wickes Hall, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The dates for upcoming receptions are Feb. 28, March 28 and April 25.
- **Anita Dey** has been appointed interim director of Zahn Library, following the retirement of Linda Farynk in December. Dey will serve in the interim role until the search for a permanent director has been completed.
- This edition of *The Interior* introduces a new design; it is based upon a template developed by University Communications to assist campus departments that produce their own newsletters. Having such design consistency is valuable for ensuring that SVSU presents a professional image to its audiences. For an electronic copy of the template, or to discuss newsletter questions you may have, contact University Communications at tmi@svsu.edu.

Communication major to lead national convention for service fraternity

SVSU junior Amber Swanson will serve as chairperson of the 2014 national convention for Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity with 400,000 members on 375 campuses.

Swanson said she expects 2,000 members to attend the 2014 convention from Dec. 27-30 at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare in Chicago. The group assembles every two years. “I was literally jumping for joy,” the communication major said upon learning of her appointment via e-mail last month.

“Words cannot describe how insanely excited and fortunate I feel as I embark on this new journey. I cannot wait to plan a spectacular convention, meet brothers from across the country and represent Alpha Delta Upsilon (SVSU’s chapter).”

Over the next 12 months, Swanson’s duties will include developing a theme and logo for the conference, recruiting membership involvement, developing the program lineup and serving as spokesperson for the event.

The local group in recent months has volunteered its help at the Saginaw Children’s Zoo at Celebration Square, helped organize several community BINGO games at local assembly halls and sent greeting cards that troops overseas could fill out and mail to family and friends. The fraternity plans to meet this month to determine this semester’s service project goals, Swanson said.

Solid Winter Enrollment Reported

Enrollment numbers for winter semester came in a bit better than expected with 9,729 students taking classes this term.

“The number of total credit hours declined by just 1.64 percent, compared to last year, and that is better than our budget projections,” said President Eric R. Gilbertson.

The number of returning undergraduates was strong, suggesting that SVSU’s enhanced retention efforts may be bearing fruit.

International enrollment was a particular bright spot, as 631 students—a record for winter semester—from 33 different countries are taking classes this term.



Amber Swanson

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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