

## SVSU board votes to re-name Regional Education Center as “Gilbertson Hall”

The SVSU Board of Control voted to honor Eric Gilbertson’s service to the university by re-naming SVSU’s Regional Education Center as “Eric R. Gilbertson Hall.”

The announcement occurred during the board’s regular meeting Monday, Aug. 18.

Gilbertson retired from the presidency in February after holding the position for more than 24 years.

“Our hope is that Gilbertson Hall will serve as a lasting tribute to the legacy of commitment to putting students’ needs first and of building collaboration across our region,” said Jeff Martin, chair of the SVSU Board of Control.

A formal building-naming ceremony will be held Monday, Oct. 13.

The building serves as an example of the dramatic growth

seen at SVSU during Gilbertson’s presidency. The \$28 million facility debuted with the latest technology available throughout its 130,000 square feet when it was dedicated in August 2003.

When Gilbertson arrived in 1989, SVSU’s enrollment stood at 5,915 students; it increased to 10,245 at the time he retired. The number of students living on campus rose more than fourfold, from 616 residents in 1996 to more than 2,700 in recent years.

SVSU’s physical campus saw perhaps the most dramatic transformation, tripling in size to more than 1.5 million square feet of building space.

In addition to student housing, major new construction projects during his tenure included Curtiss Hall and the Performing Arts Center in 1996, the Doan Science East building in 2001, the Student Center and

Fitness Center in 2003, and the Health and Human Services Building in 2010. In addition, Zahn Library and Pioneer Hall saw major expansions.

Under Gilbertson, the market value of SVSU’s endowment increased more than twenty-fold and stands at nearly \$77 million.

Many of the new endowments established were dedicated toward providing special opportunities for students. Examples include:

- the Roberts Fellowship, a year-long leadership development program for 12 outstanding students that culminates in a three-week trip to Asia;
- the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Student Research and Creativity Institute, which supports and promotes outstanding and innovative student work in any discipline;
- the Vitito Global Leadership

Institute, which provides business networking and international travel experiences for students in the College of Business & Management.

Gilbertson returns this fall as an executive-in-residence to teach courses in leadership and administration, and constitutional law. He also will serve as an advisor to SVSU’s moot court program.

### Briefly Speaking

- Faculty, staff and adjunct faculty may apply for a 2014-2015 reserve parking permit at [svsu.edu/universitypolice/parkinginformation](http://svsu.edu/universitypolice/parkinginformation). All 2013-2014 permits expire Sept. 15.
- Faculty and staff are eligible for two 2014-15 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.
- Full-time university faculty and staff still have time to schedule a new portrait for the printed and online directories. To request a portrait sitting, send an email to [tmi@svsu.edu](mailto:tmi@svsu.edu).

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

## Welcome Back Picnic

Thursday, Aug. 21 • 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 Don Bachand, at 4 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.



# Monika Sciba

Special Assistant, College of Health & Human Services • June Staff Member of the Month

There's rarely a dull moment in the professional life of Monika Sciba. Still, every year the sound of SVSU's marching band rehearsing in the open areas outside her office window never fails to infuse a renewed sense of enthusiasm for her work.

"Even though it means the summer is almost over, the start of fall semester gives me the feeling of excitement and anticipation for all that the new academic year will bring," she said.

Sciba, a special assistant in the College of Health & Human Services dean's office, is juggling diverse projects no matter what time of year it is. "When someone has a need, I'm often the person they come to," she said. "The day never unfolds as I envision."

The College of Health & Human Services has grown substantially in the four years since she arrived there.

Sometimes she's called on by the dean to research data needed to kickstart a new program. While much of her work is administrative in nature, she has been asked to lead impromptu tours of the college for international visitors or community partners. She's coordinated faculty volunteers to participate in student outreach activities and has been recruited by faculty to participate in health care simulations.

Sciba said she is happy to do anything that supports SVSU and helps students graduate.

The variety of work is unending. So is the energy. Sciba said

being around students provides an added push. Sciba began working with them in 1997 when she joined SVSU as an academic advisor in Wickes Hall.

"One thing that's been rewarding about moving to the Health & Human Services Building is that now I'm in the students' environment," she said. "It's a privilege to see how the faculty and staff in our college help students grow and develop their professional health and human services identities."

SVSU runs in the Sciba family now, too. Her daughter, Ellie, will be a sophomore this academic year.

Sciba considers herself a proud member of the campus community, even outside of her work duties.

She is an SVSU graduate with a master's degree in organizational leadership and administration.

She credits her participation in the Healthy U program with reversing a pre-diabetes condition. She's a member of SVSU groups such as the Student Conduct Hearing Board and the LGBT Advisory Committee.

Sciba has been trained as an inclusion advocate for search committees, too.

And she can be seen attending on-campus events such as theatre productions and athletic contests — where that comforting, familiar sound of the marching band sometimes plays.



# Cynthia Woiderski

Director of Disability Services • August Staff Member of the Month

Satisfaction is a screensaver in Cynthia Woiderski's office. For 21 years, she's overseen SVSU's Disability Services office, where she and her supporting staff have helped students remove both physical and academic obstacles that once made their educational goals more difficult to achieve. Her tenure has overlapped with substantial advances in how the world — SVSU included — supports students with disabilities.

In short, Woiderski and her office have been busy changing a lot of lives for the better.

Still, it's something as simple as a series of screensaver photos that sometimes proves to be payoff enough for Woiderski. When her computer sits idle long enough, images of students she's supported over the years begin to float across the screen. She smiles, taking a moment to watch the show, as if she's seeing it for the first time.

"That's the best part of my job," she says. "I get to work with these students." Many of the photos, she explains, were snapped during commencement ceremonies. "That's my favorite day of the year," she says. "After knowing how hard they've worked for years, you get to see them graduate. That's always a happy time for me."

Woiderski won't accept sole credit for her office's work. She's quick to thank faculty, staff and administration for their role in the campus makeovers made for students with disabilities during her tenure.

"The administration has always said that, 'Legally, [SVSU] doesn't

have to do this — but what's best for the students? Let's do that.' I like that."

Much has changed since she arrived at SVSU in 1993. For starters, her first lot of students with disabilities numbered 23. Today, that figure is 250. When she started, students would register and sometimes wait two to three weeks before receiving some of the accommodations necessary to give them equal footing with their classroom peers. Now, she says, students are accommodated "right from day one."

Some of the changes she's overseen include more handicap-accessible doorways, the inclusion of captions on campus-produced videos, and new accessibility standards on all SVSU technology purchases. In recent years, her office also has helped students with disabilities receive the benefits from a donor-funded grant that pays for assistive technology. "It's been more of a gradual change," she says of the many initiatives implemented over 21 years.

But the work has been worth it, she says, especially when some of the smiles she sees on her screensaver return to remind her of the office's impact on their lives.

"There are a few that come back [after graduation]," Woiderski says of former students.

"They want to tell me where they've been, where they've been working. I always have a big hug for them."



## Professional Profile

• **Ann Coburn-Collins**, director of academic programs support, presented “Best Practices for Supporting Adjunct Faculty” at the annual conference of the Higher Learning Commission, April 13 in Chicago.

• **Monika Dix**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled “Chusei bukkyo kenkyu to nihon bunka” at Kokugakuin University in Tokyo, Japan, May 25.

• **Poonam Kumar**, director of online learning, was co-author of an article titled “Selling Sales: Factors Influencing Undergraduate Business Students’ Decision to Pursue Sales Education” that has been published in the *Journal of Marketing Education*, Volume 36, Issue 2, page 94-104, August 2014.

• **Andrew Miller**, assistant professor of geography, and **James Bowers**, assistant professor of criminal justice, gave two poster presentations at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting April 11 in Tampa, Fla. They presented collaborative faculty-student research projects “Variation in Seasonal Shooting Hotspots of Saginaw, Michigan” with SVSU student Kevin Erb, and “Geospatial Assessment of the Cultural Causes of Violent Crime Clustering in Saginaw, Michigan” with SVSU student Emily Gennrich.

• **Kaustav Misra**, assistant professor of economics, was a co-author of “The Propensity to use Incentive Compensation for Non-family Managers in SME Family Firms.” The article was published in the *Journal of Family Business Management*, Volume 3, Issue 1. The paper uses the socio-emotional wealth perspective to explore how the level of family involvement reduces the propensity to use incentives to non-family managers in small to medium-sized enterprises. The paper was also selected as an “Outstanding Article” by the journal.

• **Mike Mosher**, professor of art/communication digital media, presented a paper titled “High School Comics: Teenage Revolutionary Ann Arbor’s Graphic Story Journal” at the International Symposium Territories of Artists’ Periodicals, held at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Mosher will teach his biennial Art 390: Comics, Cartoon Illustration and Visual Narrative in winter 2015.

• **Paul Munn**, professor of English, presented a paper titled “John Ashbery: Creative without Creation” at Great Writing 2014: The 17th Annual Great Writing International Creative Writing Conference, Imperial College, London, June 28. He also presented “Youthfulness as Critical Label and Cultural Marker: John Ashbery as Youthful Poet” at International Conference: Youth and/in Literature & Society, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, July 9.

• **Joseph Ofori-Dankwa**, Harvey Randall Wickes Chair in International Studies, and **George Puia**, Dow Chemical Company Centennial Chair in Global Business, co-authored “The Effects of National Culture and Ethno-linguistic Diversity on Innovativeness.” The article was published in the *Baltic Journal of Management*, Volume 8, Issue 3. The paper examines the relationship between culture, ethno-linguistic diversity and national innovativeness.

• **Helen Raica-Klotz**, director of the Writing Center, presented “How Tutors Learn to Tutor: The Role of Mentorship in the Writing Center” at the European Writing Centers Association Conference at Viadrina University in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, July 20.

• **David Rzeszutek**, assistant professor of theatre, participated in the Acting Focus Group at Association for Theatre in Higher Education’s National Conference titled “Dream Acts: Performance as Refuge, Resistance, and Renewal,” in Scottsdale, Ariz., July 24-27.

• **Marilyn Skrocki**, associate professor of health sciences, received the Great Lakes Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives 2014 Regent Distinguished Faculty Member Award during a Michigan Health and Hospital Association conference on Mackinac Island, June 26.

• **Stephen Taber**, professor of biology, has a manuscript titled “A New Southwestern Species of Erioptera Meigen Crane Fly (Diptera: Tipulidae)”

accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist*. The species from Utah is named for Ruth and Ted Braun, who established a fellowship program that supported the research. Also, Taber has a manuscript titled “A New Boreal Species of Boletina Staeger Fungus Gnat (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)” accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist*. In addition, Taber has a manuscript titled “Three New Nearctic Species of the Fungus Gnat Genus Tetragoneura Winnertz, 1846 (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)” accepted for publication in *Spixiana*, a journal of the Bavarian State Zoological Collection in Munich. Finally, Taber has a manuscript titled “A New Nearctic Fungus Gnat species of the genus *Ectrepesthoneura* Enderlein (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)” accepted for publication in *Studia Dipterologica*, a journal of the Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institute in Munchenberg, Germany.

• **Paul Teed**, professor of history, had an article titled “Idealism and Ambition: Joseph R. Hawley, the 7th Connecticut and the Battle of Olustee,” published in the spring issue of *Connecticut History Review*. The research for this article was funded by the Ruth and Ted Braun Fellowship Program at SVSU.

## New Cardinals

• **Bryan Crainer**, associate dean for student life & leadership, announced the birth of a son, Jonah James Crainer, July 8.

• **Jeremy Glaser**, head athletic trainer, announced the birth of a daughter, Alexis Jane Glaser (7 lbs., 5 oz., 20.5 in.), June 24.

• **Jennifer McCullough**, assistant professor of communication, announced the birth of a daughter, Hazel Ann McCullough (8 lbs., 13 oz., 20.5 in.), May 12.

• **Rajani Muraleedharan**, professor of electrical & computer engineering, announced the birth of a daughter, July 8.

• **Bill Stec**, assistant director of career services, announced the birth of a daughter, Joslyn Marie Stec (8 lbs., 5 oz., 20 in.), July 8.

• **Jason Swackhamer**, director of web communications, announced the birth of a son, Jacob Denton Swackhamer (8 lbs., 6 oz., 20.5 in.), July 22.

## Condolences

• To **Rebecca Dewald-Twarog**, coordinator of transfer student programs & services, on the loss of her mother, Winnifred Dewald, who died June 26.

• To the family of **Dan Dorion**, retired head bowling coach, who died July 29.

• To **Gary Kwaiser**, custodial specialist, whose mother, Lucille Amelia Kwaiser, died June 16.

• To **Jim Maher**, executive director of information technology services, whose father-in-law, George Headrick, died July 29.

• To **Terry Paris**, manager of the campus financial services center, whose father, Donald Albert Lewis, died May 31.

• To **Anne Ritz**, criminal justice field & professional placement coordinator, whose husband, Dennis R. Ritz, died June 12.

**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](mailto:jjboehm@svsu.edu).**