

Faculty to research the study of evil, water culture of West Africa through Braun Fellowship

Faculty in philosophy and geography will engage in focused scholarly work through the Braun Fellowship, studying concepts of evil and the importance of water to the people of West Africa.

Peter Barry, associate professor of philosophy, and Sara Beth Keough, associate professor of geography, will each receive research support grants totaling up to \$37,500 over the next three years to further their scholarly



Peter Barry



Sara Beth Keough

and professional activities. Funds may be used for research expenses, equipment, travel and/or other related support.

Both are recognized by

their SVSU colleagues for their research. Barry received the SVSU Faculty Association Outstanding Scholarship Award in 2013; Keough received the same honor this year.

Barry plans to examine the fundamental question, “What makes someone evil?” An authority in the field, he has authored a book on the subject, “Evil and Moral Psychology,” and in 2010 he was awarded a \$25,000 teaching grant from

the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop an interdisciplinary course on the topic of evil and evil people.

Barry intends to use the fellowship to write a new book, with the working title of “The Fiction of Evil.” While his first book was targeted for academic scholars, he hopes his new volume will result in material more accessible to undergraduate college students.

Keough has previously traveled to the West African country of Niger to study water consumption, storage and transportation among its people. While social scientists have studied water quality and access to water resources in Saharan countries, Keough found little attention has been paid to the tangible nature of water, the materials that allow water to be transported and stored, and the landscapes created by these materials, such as the impact of discarded plastic water bags.

Keough intends to produce multiple scholarly articles for peer-reviewed publications and give at least three academic conference presentations as a result of her research.

Established in 2005, the Braun Fellowship program was created through a \$1.5 million endowment from the Saginaw-based Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation. Administered by the Saginaw Community Foundation, the program’s purpose is to recognize the exceptional accomplishments and potential of select SVSU faculty and staff. It is named in honor of Ruth and Ted Braun of Saginaw.



President Donald Bachand (far right) and SVSU Student Association President Joey Rexford hold the “Victoria” trophy awarded annually to the school that wins the Battle of the Valleys fundraising competition. Emily VanFleteren (third from right), SVSU’s Battle of the Valleys chair, is embraced by Josh Rivard, a 2014 SVSU graduate and younger brother of the late Cory Rivard, as members of the Rivard family hold the check for \$32,294.

The student-led charity competition last week resulted in \$32,294 raised for the Cory Rivard Jr. Promise Foundation, a group based in Algonac, Mich., that educates college students on preventative measures for suicide, depression, anxiety and other mental illnesses.

SVSU now has bested Grand Valley State University in nine out of the 12 Battle of the Valleys competitions. During the past 12 years, SVSU students have raised \$306,789 for a variety of charitable causes. Begun in 2003, the annual fundraising competition pits SVSU against GVSU. GVSU students collected about \$7,000 this year for the Grand Valley Children’s Fund.

Amy Hendrickson

Assistant Professor of Law

Amy Hendrickson enjoys a good challenge.

The pursuit of testing herself has sent the Wayland native to the west coast and back again to Michigan, where she began at SVSU in fall 2013.

It didn't take long for Hendrickson, an assistant professor of law, to find her first big challenge at the institution. Within months of her arrival, she was tasked with helping coordinate what became the university's Global Business Sustainability conference. She was part of a small committee that imagined what the event could be, from its conception to conclusion.

"It was a big project that helped me get to know SVSU, and helped me get to know the local business community," Hendrickson said.

The September event — as its title suggested — had a worldly scale.

Shri Ram College of Commerce, the renowned business school of the University of Delhi in India, partnered with SVSU in the endeavor. The conference featured leading business experts as keynote speakers while providing a forum for both academicians and industry practitioners worldwide to exchange ideas about effective strategies in global business sustainability.

Since the conference was the first of its kind, she was unsure what to expect in a finished product.

"I was thrilled with the way it came together," Hendrickson said. "Trying to get all those people into an event where they could share ideas and experiences, I thought that was very valuable. It gave students a chance to attend an international conference without ever leaving the campus."

She said plans for a follow-up event are in the formative stages.

In the meantime, Hendrickson has plenty of challenges to tackle both in her classrooms and in her research. Net neutrality and intellectual property are among her topics of scholarly interest.

Her interest in educating others began when she was a law student. While attending the UCLA School of Law, she was part of a program that sent her one day each week to the Los Angeles Unified School District. There, she taught public high school juniors about law.

"It was my favorite day of the week," she said of the assignment.

The experience inspired her to pursue teaching as a profession, which eventually led her back to her home state, and to SVSU.

While Hendrickson enjoys a good challenge, she admits settling in to her surroundings on campus has not been one of them so far.

"It's been great here," she said. "On this campus, there are so many people who are happy to help you. I don't think I've encountered a happier work place."



LaMarcus Howard

Charter Transition Coordinator • November Staff Member of the Month

With the ink barely dried on his diploma, LaMarcus Howard began his freshman year of college in 2005 with average academic credentials and little direction on how to approach this next stage of his educational life.

His 3.0 GPA at Flint Northern High School and ACT score of 18 were good enough to get him accepted into college, he says today, but he “didn’t truly understand what it takes to graduate.”

But he did graduate. With the help of mentors and advisors, Howard excelled in school, eventually discovering his direction academically. It led to him earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Central Michigan University, and it paved the way for the professional life that followed. Now Howard, SVSU’s charter transition coordinator, spends most of his days guiding college students in the same way others once guided him.

“My charter students and I share similar stories,” says Howard, November’s Staff Member of the Month. “College can be very challenging for first-generation students. We’ve built very strong relationships from our stories, which fuels my passion to help them succeed.”

With SVSU authorizing nine charter high schools among its 19 academies in Michigan, Howard works with hundreds of students during any given academic calendar.

Some of those he develops are still in high school. For instance, he helped coordinate Charter Day last winter, when more than 600 juniors and seniors visited SVSU. Later, he oversaw the campus’ Charter Transition Camp, where incoming charter school freshmen — SVSU’s Public School Academy Scholars, specifically — participated in a bridge program days before most students arrived for the fall semester.

Others he works with attend SVSU already. Now in his third year at the position, Howard’s first freshmen are juniors today.

“That’s the piece that I’m shocked about every day,” he says. “I remember when they were just out of high school. Watching their minds expand from that to where they are now, it’s very rewarding.”

Helping pupils find focus is a responsibility that extends his attentions outside his office walls. It’s not unusual to see Howard meeting those students on their turf — a task that sometimes includes challenging them on the basketball court.

“It’s a good way for us to bond, with a competitive spirit,” Howard says. “It’s the relationships and bonds that keep you going every day.”

He remembers how those types of bonds once helped him excel as a student. And if he ever were to forget, a reminder sits in an office a few feet from his own in Curtiss Hall. Shawn Wilson, now his supervisor, was one of Howard’s mentors during his student years.



Professional Profile

• **Emily J. Beard**, assistant professor of English, presented a paper titled “Reacting’ to the needs of the Composition Student: Employing Reacting Pedagogy in the Writing Classroom” at the Writing Across the Peninsula conference, Oct. 10 in Marquette. Also, Beard presented a webinar titled “Tapping into Student Success: Using MindTap to Promote Richer Learning Outcomes” as part of the Cengage Learning Fall Webinar Series, Oct. 24.

• **Elson Boles**, professor of sociology, presented a seminar titled “The Flipped Classroom and Team-Based Learning” at the annual Professional Issues in Higher Education Conference at Michigan Education Association headquarters, Oct. 24 in Lansing. Also, Boles began his tenure this fall as vice president, four-year colleges of the Michigan Association of Higher Education.

• **Marlena Bravender**, assistant professor of education technology, presented “What would you do? Student experiences with online simulations” at the annual Lilly Conference, Oct. 18 in Traverse City.

• **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of English, presented a talk and film titled “Crime, Culture and Chicane Lanes: A Hidden History of Michigan Pinball” at the Cultural Rhetorics Conference, Nov. 1 at Michigan State University.

• **Garry Johns**, professor of mathematical sciences, presented two papers that he co-authored with **Jan Hlavacek**, assistant professor of mathematical sciences. First, he presented “Rainbow-colored paths” at the 45th Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Computing, March 3-7. The paper will be included in the conference proceedings. Also, Johns presented “The strong rainbow connection number and maximal cliques” at the 28th Midwest Conference on Combinatorics & Combinatorial Computing, Oct. 22-24.

• **Sara Beth Keough**, associate professor of geography, gave a research presentation at the University of Western Ontario as part of the Fall 2014 Colloquium Series for the Migration and Ethnic Relations Graduate Program. Her presentation was titled, “Migration to Fort McMurray, Alberta: Implications for Urban Planning and Social Capital in a Resource-Dependent Community.”

• **Rhett Mohler**, assistant professor of geography, presented a paper titled “Determining the timing and potential cause of a swampy, chronically hypoxic reach of the North Branch of the Kawkawlin River” at the 37th Applied Geography Conference, Oct. 15-17 in Atlanta, Ga. This work was co-authored by Nick Ross, a student who has since gone on to graduate school in the field of geographic information systems at Chicago State University.

• **Paul Munn**, professor of English, published the article “*Puissance, Jouissance, and Communication: Mediating John Ashbery’s ‘The Salvage Merchant’ in the Context of His Planisphere*” in the journal *Imaginaires* 18 (2014).

• **Stephen Taber**, professor of biology, has a manuscript titled “A New Nearctic Species of the Fungus Gnat Genus *Dziedzickia* Johannsen (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)” accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist* magazine.

• **Judy Youngquist**, senior ESL specialist, and Natalia Knoblock, Language Center International, Ann Arbor, presented “College-level sheltered instruction: Revisiting the issue of effectiveness” at the 2014 Michigan Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Conference, Oct. 17-18 at Grand Valley State University. Youngquist also served as a panelist at the same conference for “Sharing our experiences: Stories of Service Learning for ESL students” with Andrew S. McCullough (moderator), Alissa Cohen, Austin Kaufmann and Lisa B. Levine, Michigan State University; Erin Luyendyk, Eastern Michigan University; and Teri Wertman, Wayne State University.

• **Gladys Zubulake**, professor of modern foreign languages, and students Miranda Strasburg, Bethany Dickerson and Alexandra Arellano presented “Stereotypes of Latina Women” at the Michigan World Language Association conference, Oct. 24 in Lansing.

New Cardinals

• **Randy Baruth**, head men’s basketball coach, and **Meghan Baruth**, assistant professor of health sciences, announced the birth of a son, Bennett Roger (8 lbs., 3 oz., 20.5 in.), Nov. 15.

• **Rebecca Schlaff**, assistant professor of kinesiology, announced the birth of a daughter, Camryn Elizabeth (7 lbs., 2 oz., 19 in.), Oct. 28.

Condolences

• To the family of **Matthew Margres**, professor of psychology, who passed away Oct. 31.

• To **Jane Smith**, custodian, whose mother-in-law, Helen May Smith, passed away Nov. 10.

Briefly Speaking

• Effective Nov. 21, the Mailroom, Central Stores and Receiving have combined operations and have been renamed the Logistics Department. The Mailroom has been relocated into the space occupied by Central Stores and Receiving in South Campus Complex, Building C. Phone numbers remain the same.

• Faculty and staff may present the diploma cover to graduating members of their immediate family at commencement at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12 and/or at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13. 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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Please send items by email to: jjboehm@svsu.edu.**