

## Survey reveals majority satisfied with climate on SVSU campus

Students, faculty and staff reported high levels of general satisfaction with SVSU's campus climate during a survey conducted last November and December.

Campus climate is defined as "the current attitudes, behaviors, and standards of faculty, staff, administrators, and students concerning the level of respect for individual needs, abilities, and potential."

The level of comfort experienced by faculty, staff, and students is one indicator of campus climate, and 82 percent

of survey respondents reported they were "comfortable" or "very comfortable" at SVSU. The survey also explored



Sue Rankin, of Rankin and Associates, worked with SVSU on administering the survey and analyzing the data. She also led three presentations to the campus community on the findings.

attitudes and experiences related to a number of issues, including academic success, diversity, work-life balance, and pathways to promotion. Members of historically under-represented groups (women, ethnic minorities, LBGQ individuals) expressed lower levels of satisfaction in certain areas. Consistent with national data, 24 percent of SVSU respondents said they personally had experienced exclusionary, intimidating, offensive or hostile conduct.

"This project was a proactive initiative by SVSU to examine the environment for faculty, staff, and students and the process was transparent," said Sue Rankin of Rankin and Associates, a firm that specializes in assisting campuses and organizations in assessing their environments for learning and working. She worked with SVSU on administering the survey and analyzing the data.

Based on the findings, SVSU's campus climate team will develop recommendations and action items to make SVSU more welcoming for all members of the campus community.

Participation in the survey was high among all employee groups, administrative/professional staff (55 percent), faculty (51 percent), and support staff (93 percent). SVSU also saw 17 percent of undergraduate students participate. In all, 2,358 members of the campus community completed the survey.

The executive summary and full report are available at [svsu.edu/climatesurvey](http://svsu.edu/climatesurvey).

## Senior administrative positions filled

SVSU will welcome some new faces this summer while also seeing familiar faces step into new roles.

Linda Sims will join SVSU June 1 as senior executive assistant to the president/executive director for communications and external affairs; she will report to President Bachand. She comes to SVSU after 30 years at Consumers Energy, where the past decade she was executive director of public affairs. In that role, she supervised 20 area managers across 68 Michigan counties. In addition to communications, her responsibilities included government and community relations, roles she is expected to oversee at SVSU, as well.



**Linda Sims**



**Frank Hall**

Sims also has a long history with SVSU. She previously served on SVSU's Board of Control, including a term as chair; she presently serves on the Board of Directors of the SVSU Foundation. Along with her husband Larry, they endowed the Sims Public Speaking Contest, which annually provides students with an opportunity to compete for scholarships.

Carlos Ramet, who had been serving SVSU in a similar capacity, has been appointed associate dean of the College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences, SVSU's largest academic college. He is a past chair of the English department and will provide valuable continuity as Joni Boye-Beaman, dean, and Eric Gardner, associate dean, return to the faculty.



**Carlos Ramet**



**Josh Ode**

Josh Ode, associate professor of kinesiology and assistant dean for the College of Health & Human Services, has agreed to serve as associate vice president for academic affairs. He replaces Kerry Rastigue, who has left SVSU to return to the practice of law.

In the College of Science, Engineering & Technology, Frank Hall has been hired as dean. He comes to SVSU from Worcester State University in Massachusetts, where he has been a professor since 2012, including a one-year term as dean.

Andrew Chubb, who had been serving as interim dean, will assume the role of associate dean.

# Adam Coughlin

Associate Professor of Kinesiology

Next season, the performance of the SVSU men's basketball team will be measured in more ways than its on-the-court output.

Adam Coughlin, associate professor of kinesiology, will lead a study — assisted by undergraduate students — on how the team's practices affect the players physically.

"Every time someone works out or practices, the body breaks down and rebuilds," Coughlin said.

"With exercising, if you train too much, your body will not be able to recover in time for the next day's training session. If you don't train enough, you aren't maximizing your practices. We're looking for that sweet spot of getting the most out of practice before the players' bodies pay for it the next day."

It's the kind of research Coughlin began while on the Adrian College faculty, where he studied the effects of practice on that institution's hockey program. There, the study involved four times-a-year testing. At SVSU, with what he describes as "a fancy heart rate monitor," Coughlin plans to track the same measurements — except on a daily basis.

Coughlin, hired at SVSU in fall 2014, said such research is part of the reason he became interested in the kinesiology field.

He received both a master's degree and a Ph.D. in exercise physiology from Michigan State University. There, he was a student

alongside current SVSU faculty members such as Josh Ode, the assistant dean of the College of Health & Human Services who in July will become associate vice president for academic affairs, and Jeremy Knous, associate professor of kinesiology.

Besides those colleagues Coughlin already was familiar with, he has felt a kinship with many others in SVSU's faculty, staff and student populations, he said.

"I love my job," Coughlin said. "I'm 10 years out of my graduate program, but I feel like I still have the passion for this work. The students are hard workers, and the people I work with are fantastic. The president, the provost ... it feels like we're all pulling on the rope together for the same issues. The campus is beautiful too, and that helps."

Coughlin, in addition to monitoring other individuals' physical activity, enjoys working out his own body.

"If I'm not in my office, I'm usually running around or biking, just staying fit," he said. "I like to practice what I preach."

Coughlin enjoys racing. In 2010, he participated in an Ironman triathlon. He also coaches, on an independent basis, other runners and triathletes, including some former students.

"The students are like my surrogate kids," he said. "I want to be here for them if they need me."



# Pat Shelley

International Student Advisor • April Staff Member of the Month

Meet Charles A. Shelley Jr.

It's a name unfamiliar to many who are familiar with the man. At SVSU, the international student advisor goes by "Pat" Shelley, on account of his date of birth being St. Patrick's Day.

Some may say Shelley's date of birth on a day associated with Irish "luck" carries additional significance. After all, Shelley said he has been lucky enough to embark on two separate career paths that satisfied two different interests of his life: Teaching and embracing other cultures. "I've been very fortunate," he said.

His first career spanned 35 years in Saginaw Public Schools, where he worked largely as a principal at elementary schools such as Fuerbringer, Zilwaukee and Jerome. He retired from that life in 2005, and shortly after, joined SVSU as a part-time faculty member teaching German and English as a second language courses.

"My interview here was done in German," recalled Shelley, who lived in the European nation, first for seven weeks during high school and also during his junior year in college.

"Those were great times," he said of those early trips abroad. "I was truly immersed in the language and the culture. I wasn't there as a tourist."

Shelley never lost his desire to travel. Among the nations he's visited include Austria, Canada, China, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Mexico, Panama, Scotland and Switzerland.

"I know German (language), a little bit of Spanish and I dabble in another dozen languages," he said. "Enough to say 'please' and 'thank you.' That's always good for a smile."

His experiences abroad in part inspired Shelley to apply for the position he now holds.

Rashed Aldubayyan, one of 647 international students enrolled in classes here this academic year, said Shelley was one of the individuals who turned SVSU into a second home for Aldubayyan.

"He's awesome," said the native of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. "He has always been open to help me and answer questions, and he's encouraged me to be involved."

Thanks in part to Shelley's influence, Aldubayyan went from a first-year student speaking little English to a senior serving as ombudsman for the Student Association. He also asked Shelley to stand with him when Aldubayyan was introduced as a member of the 2014 homecoming court at halftime of the football game in October.

Such success stories fuel Shelley's desire to continue helping international students.

"I enjoy just meeting the students from all the different countries, getting to know them and helping them," Shelley said. "As long as I'm healthy and able to keep up with the pace, I want to be here."



## Professional Profile

- **Marlena Bravender**, assistant professor of education technology, presented “Do Middle School Spanish Students Need More Than a Textbook?” at the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning annual conference, March 19 in Detroit.
- **Monika Dix**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, presented “Cross-disciplinary Dialogs: Japanese Religions, Gender, and the Humanities” at a roundtable discussion hosted by the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions in conjunction with the Annual Association of Asian Studies Conference, March 26-29 in Chicago. Dix also served as organizer and discussant for the panel “Acting Modern: The Changing Face of Kabuki and Meiji Print Culture” at this same conference.
- **Julie Foss**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, and Emily Spinelli, executive director of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, presented the webinar “What Can You Do with the ‘Can-Do Statements?’” March 24-26 for the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.
- **John Lowry**, assistant professor of kinesiology, presented a poster and gave an oral presentation at the Team Based Learning Collaborative Annual Conference, March 6-7 in St. Petersburg, Florida. His poster and presentation were titled “Using Team Based Learning and Simulation to Enhance Learning Outcomes.”
- **Mike Mosher**, professor of art/communication & media, gave a workshop in drawing comics to teachers, poets and Detroit high school students at the 4th annual EcoJustice Conference, March 20 at Eastern Michigan University. Also, Mosher’s proposal for a 10-foot aluminum/styrene monumental artwork titled “Goddess Bless All Great MICHIGI WOMEN!” was exhibited at the 53rd Ann Arbor Film Festival.
- **Andy Pandian**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, presented a paper titled “Investigation of Maintenance Assumptions for an Automotive Production line using Simulation Modeling” at the Industrial Engineering and Operations Management 2015 International Conference, March 3-5 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- **Thomas Renna**, professor emeritus of history, presented “Charlemagne in German Political Thought, 1200-1360” at the Renaissance Society, March 28 in Berlin. Also, Renna presented “How did the Holy Roman Empire become German?” at the Michigan Academy, March 13 at Andrews University. And, he presented “Papal Approbation and Imperial Elections” at the American Catholic Historical Association, Jan. 5 in New York City.
- **Danilo Sirias**, professor of management, conducted a workshop titled “Business Process Improvement: Getting More from What You Have” at the Michigan Bankers Association Perry School of Banking annual event, April 13 at Michigan State University.
- **Kristin Sovis**, assistant professor of English, had an article titled “Rewriting the Narrative of Teacher Education through Collaboration” published in *English Leadership Quarterly*.

## Retired president of North Central College to address SVSU graduates

Harold “Hal” R. Wilde, who served as president of North Central College from 1991 to 2012, will speak to SVSU graduates at commencement ceremonies at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 8 and at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 9, in the Ryder Center.



Harold Wilde

During Wilde’s nearly 22-year tenure, North Central College saw a tenfold increase in its endowment, continuous balanced budgets, 100 percent growth in full-time undergraduate enrollments, and the largest individual, corporate and foundation gifts and bequests in the college’s history.

## New Cardinals

- **David Callejo Perez**, associate provost, announced the birth of a daughter, Mazie Josefine Callejo, April 24.
- **Khandaker “Abir” Rahman**, assistant professor of computer science & information systems, announced the birth of a son, Araf Taysir Khandaker, April 14.

## Condolences

- To **Brenda Puddy**, custodian, whose father, Walter Cabala, passed away April 12.
- To the family of **Logan Thomas Sattler**, an SVSU student who passed away April 13.
- To **Marilyn Wheaton**, director of the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, whose father, George Anthony Roberts, passed away April 4.
- To **Debwin Williams**, financial aid advisor, whose brother, Terry Draper Williams, passed away April 10.
- To **Carol Zimmermann**, associate professor of criminal justice, whose father, John Rapp, passed away March 29.

## Briefly Speaking

- **Bryan Crainer**, associate dean for student life and leadership programs, recently received the Outstanding Advisor Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education for District 5, which includes higher education institutions in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Crainer was recognized for his work as advisor of Forever Red, an SVSU student organization that coordinates activities and helps raise funds for a variety of SVSU programs.

**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.**