

Happenings at SVSU this past summer

SVSU earns "Best Dorms" in Michigan ranking, No. 26 nationally

SVSU's housing facilities have been ranked No. 1 in Michigan and No. 26 nationally by a website grading "Best Dorms" in the United States.

The website, Niche, calculated the rankings using a weighted formula where 70 percent of a school's score came from students' satisfaction with their housing. The website surveyed 60,000 students from 903 colleges and universities. The rest of the formula was based upon housing costs, capacity and crime rates; each counted for 10 percent of the total score.

News of SVSU's stellar review was no surprise to Ashley Murdock, an elementary education major from Oxford. She serves as president of the Residence Housing Association, a student organization for SVSU's residential population.

"We have such a positive energy here, and the residence halls are so homey," the sophomore said. "We really take pride in them. This ranking doesn't surprise me."

A new crop of Cardinals will have an opportunity to share that feeling when the fall semester begins. Residential students begin moving in Wednesday, August 26. Classes begin Monday, August 31. More than 70 percent of the freshman class is expected to live on campus, continuing a seven-year trend.

To view the "Best Dorms" list, go to colleges.niche.com/rankings/best-dorms/.

SVSU creates graduate fellowship for study of Fredericks, Follett, Roethke

SVSU will welcome scholars to study the art and literature of three renowned figures through a newly established program, the Fredericks-Follett-Roethke Graduate Fellowship in the Arts & Humanities. SVSU is home to archival collections of popular British author Ken Follett; the late Michigan sculptor Marshall Fredericks; and the late poet Theodore Roethke, a Saginaw native.

SVSU's K-12 Literacy Specialist Endorsement Program recognized for excellence

The program has received accreditation from the International Literacy Association. SVSU's graduate program is designed for K-12 teachers who have initial

certification and want to become more effective literacy teachers in their classrooms or who aspire to work as a reading specialist or literacy coach.

SVSU Athletics receives GLIAC Community Engagement Award

The department has been awarded the Community Engagement Award from the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference for the 2014-15 academic year. This marks the third time that SVSU Athletics has received the honor from the league in the seven years since the award's creation.

SVSU moot court attains national top 20 ranking

The program is quickly establishing itself among the nation's best. SVSU's undergraduate program now ranks no. 20 overall in the national rankings and earned a no. 17 finish for the 2014-15 academic year. A relatively young program (formed in 2010), SVSU has quickly climbed ahead of highly regarded schools such as Duke University and the University of Chicago.

More on all of these stories can be found in our online newsroom at svsu.edu/newsroom.

Faculty and staff are eligible for two 2015-16 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.

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

Welcome Back Picnic

Thursday, Aug. 27 • 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.



Donna Helmreich-Lopez

Faculty Secretary/Office Coordinator • June Staff Member of the Month

Employee excellence seemingly was a family affair this spring at SVSU.

Donna Helmreich-Lopez was named SVSU's Staff Member of the Month for June, one month after her sister-in-law, Kelly Helmreich, received the same recognition.

"I was quite surprised," Helmreich-Lopez said of her recognition. "I was honored."

Helmreich-Lopez serves both as faculty secretary and office coordinator for the College of Business & Management as well as secretary of the Faculty Association.

She wears many hats — and wears them all well, colleagues say.

"Donna finishes anything she takes on in a timely and professional fashion, be it completely new tasks or routine work," said Rama Yelkur, dean of the College of Business & Management.

"Her attention to detail is remarkable, whatever you ask for. From the recent past or from 10 years ago, we can count on Donna to pull out a neatly organized binder with detailed information on the subject."

And she does all that work with a smile.

"Her kindness and helpful attitude toward anyone she interacts with emanates when one encounters Donna," Yelkur said. "Most of all, we all truly appreciate her ability to interact with people, balance her many roles on campus and her immense patience."

After a 15-year career in the auto insurance industry, Helmreich-Lopez was hired at SVSU in June 2000. The university was in the midst of both an enrollment boom and expanding faculty.

"It's gotten a lot busier since then," she said. "I do everything, from helping students connect with professors, helping faculty with computer problems or taking minutes at meetings."

Helmreich-Lopez also was instrumental in organizing SVSU's Global Business Sustainability Conference in September. The university hosted the event with Shri Ram College of Commerce, a renowned business school from the University of Delhi, India.

"I don't know that there's a typical day here," she said of her job. "It differs from day to day, but it's constantly busy."

Helmreich-Lopez enjoys the variety. And the people.

"I really enjoy working with the students and the faculty," she said. "It's fun to see the students you recognize doing well (after graduation)."

Kelly Helmreich isn't the only family member working on campus. Helmreich-Lopez is married to Bob Lopez, a groundskeeper and foreman for campus facilities. They were introduced via a mutual friend on campus.

At home, Helmreich-Lopez enjoys cooking and planning camping trips with Lopez and her 23-year-old son, Andrew.

"I like to keep busy," she said.



Dawn Gillespie

Administrative Secretary, School & University Partnerships • July Staff Member of the Month

No two days are ever the same at work for Dawn Gillespie — and that's the way she likes it.

She is the administrative secretary for School & University Partnerships, an office that oversees issues relating to the university's public school academies, or charter schools.

It's a job that tasks her with responsibilities including managing the office budget, updating the office's website, assisting with professional development of educators involved with the public school academies, and helping with personnel reviews of public school academy employees. That's listing just a few of her responsibilities.

"I like the variety," Gillespie said. "I like that there's so much to do and that every day is different. The staff here is such a great staff to work for, and I love working with the schools and all the people with those schools."

Gillespie is a believer in the School & University Partnerships' mission.

"We are helping these schools make a change in the lives of students," she said. "It's a big responsibility. An important (responsibility)."

And Gillespie's work has earned her praise. In July, she was honored as SVSU's Staff Member of the Month, marking the second time she received the award. She earned the distinction the first

time in 1997, three years after she was initially hired to work in the university's Sponsored Programs office.

When she eventually moved into her current role with School & University Partnerships, SVSU had relationships with one or two public school academies. That number grew to as many as 21 during her tenure. Today, SVSU has relationships with 18 public school academies.

"The job has progressed through the years," she said. "With new legislation, our role has increased throughout the years too."

Gillespie keeps busy outside of the office too. Among the Midland native's most cherished roles are that of mother to two sons and one step-daughter as well as grandmother to three grandchildren.

Gillespie, who lives in Bay City now, serves as minister of music at the Fraser Road Church of God in Kawkawlin Township. She oversees weekly performances as well as holiday services. "I'm also a violinist, but I don't get to play much anymore," she said.

During her spare time, she enjoys playing golf. Sometimes. "It's a very frustrating game," she said. "Sometimes I just want to throw the club. Every now and then, though, you get a good hit and that keeps you coming back for more."

Gillespie said she experiences that same level of joy while working at SVSU — minus the frustration. "I love working for the university," she said. "It's been the best job I've ever had."



Professional Profile

• **David Berry**, professor of kinesiology, earned two honors for his work in the athletic training field. Berry was named the 2015 Distinguished Athletic Trainer of the Year by the Michigan Athletic Trainers Society as well as a 2015 Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer by the National Athletic Trainers Association.

• **Michael Busch, Mary Klaus and Jeannine Lorenger**, instructors in the English Language Program, presented “Designing a Grammar-for-Reading Task Using Elicited Imitation” at the National Geographic/Michigan State University National Geographic Learning/MSU English Language Center Learning Symposium, April 11 in East Lansing. Busch also had a manuscript titled “Elicited Imitation: From Research Technique to Classroom Activity” accepted for publication in *Creative Practices in Curriculum and Teaching in the 21st Century*.

• **Fenobia I. Dallas**, associate professor of rhetoric and professional writing, presented “The Power of the New Media Press” May 8 at the Pentecost University College Graduate School in Labone Junction, Accra, Ghana.

• **Melissa Ford**, archivist at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, presented “Lone Arrangers Do It All!” at the Michigan Archival Association Annual Meeting, June 11 in Holland, Michigan.

• **Enayat Mahajerin**, professor of mechanical engineering, presented “Recreation of Random Vibration During Truck Transportation” and “Transient Heat Flow Analysis using FEA and Laplace Transform-Based Collocations Method” at the 25th Canadian Congress of Applied Mechanics, May 31 through June 4 at Western University, London, Ontario, Canada.

• **Mike Mosher**, professor of art/communication & multimedia, presented “High School Comics: Teenage Autobiographical Postures in Revolutionary Ann Arbor’s Graphic Story Journal” at the International Association of Biography and Autobiography of the Americas conference, June 2015 at the University of Michigan. The paper will appear as a chapter in *Territories of Artists Periodicals*, edited by Marie Boivent and Stephen Perkins, September 2015, Université de Rennes, France. Mosher’s painting, “Scope” (acrylics and china marker on foam core, 2014), was exhibited in the 2015 Annual Competition exhibition, Alfred Berkowitz Gallery, University of Michigan Dearborn, June and July 2015.

• **Jason Pagano**, assistant professor of chemistry, co-authored an article titled “From chemical gardens to chemobrionics” in *Chemical Reviews*. The article is available at pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.chemrev.5b00014.

• **Hong Y. Park**, professor of economics, presented “Family Firms’ Innovation Drivers and Performances” at the 22nd Innovation and Product Development Management Conference, June 14-16 at Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. Park coauthored the paper with business faculty **Kaustav Misra, Surender Reddy and Kylie Jaber**.

• **Thomas Renna**, professor emeritus of history, gave three presentations: “Electors and the Holy Roman Empire, 1440-1519,” at the 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 15 at

Western Michigan University; “Papal Approval of Imperial Elections, 1200-1356” at the Third Annual Symposium on Medieval & Renaissance Studies, June 16 at Saint Louis University; and “Tacitus’ Germania and the German Humanists” at the Rocky Mountain Medieval & Renaissance Association, Aug. 4 at Southern Utah University.

• **David Rzeszutek**, associate professor of theatre, participated as a member of the Acting Focus Group at the 2015 Association for Theatre in Higher Education national conference, titled “Je me Souviens,” July 30 through Aug. 2 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

New Cardinals

• **Jennifer Boehm**, women’s tennis coach, and **J. J. Boehm**, director of media & community relations, announced the birth of a daughter, Caroline Mary Boehm (7 lbs., 15 oz., 20 in.), June 6.

Condolences

• To **Tim Burke**, assistant registrar, whose brother, Terry Burke, passed away Aug. 15.

• To **Dawn Iseler**, director auxiliary operations, whose father-in-law, Gene Iseler, passed away July 24.

• To **Connie Meier**, transfer credit clerk, whose father-in-law, Clarence Meier, passed away July 23.

• To **William Prince**, custodian, whose father-in-law, Robert Hemstreet passed away June 22.

Briefly Speaking

• **Henry Shin**, resident director in the First Year Suites, authored a chapter titled “The Relationship between the Arab Spring Revolutions and Entrepreneurial Inhibitors, Enablers and Activity in North Africa” that was published in *Comparative Case Studies on Entrepreneurship in Developed and Developing Countries* (released in January 2015 by IGI Global and authored by **Joseph Ofori-Dankwa**, Harvey Randall Wickes Chair in International Studies at SVSU, and Kwame Boasiako Omane-Antwi, Pentecost University College, Ghana).

• Reserve parking permits for 2015-16 may be purchased for \$20 at svsu.edu/universitypolice, at University Police in South Campus Complex A or at Student Financial Services in Wickes Hall. Permits for 2014-15 expire Sept. 15. Please note that Lot G1 is now all faculty and staff parking and all of Lot H is now free parking. For further information, call ext. 4141.

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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Submission Deadline:

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