

Homecoming royalty crowned during halftime

SVSU students elected Brandon Jones, a management major from Saginaw; and Charnaë Keith, a social work major from Redford Township, as the university's 2015 Homecoming King and Queen. They were crowned Saturday, Oct. 17, during halftime of SVSU's home football game against Lake Erie College.

Alumni Relations welcomed hundreds of graduates who returned to campus for the festivities. Bill Wollner, associate professor music and director of the SVSU marching band, served as Grand Marshal for the Homecoming parade.

Students initially elected Jones and Keith to the 10-student Homecoming Court earlier in the month. Then Jones and Keith, who are friends, campaigned for the Homecoming Queen and King titles as a tandem.

"We were pushing each other," Keith said. "So, when they called his name, I was scared that they weren't going to call my name. That was another fear — we wanted to win

together because we did the race together."

Keith said she felt relieved after hearing her name announced.

While Jones said he was honored, what really caught the public's attention was his mother Tonya Jones' reaction when she heard her son's name announced as Homecoming King.

"My mom's reaction was priceless," said Jones, a business management major. "The

announcer didn't even finish my name before she started screaming and shouting."

Jones said he "never expected to win.

"Each candidate was amazing and could have received the crowns and I would have been just as happy," he said. "I am so grateful and so humbled."

The two were joined on the Homecoming Court by:

- Marianna Cuevas, a social work major from Tecumseh

- Kevin Finley, an accounting major from Flint
- Sam Hudson, an English major from Port Hope
- Samantha Hull, a management major from Clinton Township
- Riley Hupfer, a communication major from Freeland
- Keshara Mumford, a social work major from Eastpointe
- Kimberly Salwey, a marketing major from East Tawas
- Grant Voisinet, a nursing major from Laingsburg



SVSU's 2015 Homecoming Court, from left: Sam Hudson, Marianna Cuevas, Riley Hupfer, Keshara Mumford, Kevin Finley, Samantha Hull, Grant Voisinet, Kimberly Salwey, Charnaë Keith and Brandon Jones.

THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO
A RECEPTION HONORING
JEFFREY MARTIN AND JEROME YANTZ
IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE
ON THE SVSU BOARD OF CONTROL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2015

4 TO 5:30 P.M.

CURTISS HALL BANQUET ROOMS A & B

SVSU makes major investment to campus WiFi

The Board of Control approved spending up to \$2.7 million to upgrade the university's wireless network during the Board's regular meeting Monday, Oct. 12. This investment will improve wireless connectivity in academic and administrative spaces across campus. Work will begin immediately and should conclude next summer.

"We have an aging WiFi infrastructure," said James Muladore, SVSU executive vice president for administration and business affairs. "This will directly affect WiFi performance in classrooms."

The action follows \$770,000 approved by the Board in February to improve WiFi service in SVSU's residence halls. The SVSU Student Association previously shared that the residential upgrades have resulted in far fewer complaints from students.

Lucy Mercier

Professor of Social Work

This isn't the first time Lucy Mercier was the right person in the right place at the right time.

The professor of social work is the director of the recently-opened Pride Center, SVSU's resource center for those who identify as members or supporters of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Creating The Pride Center was a years-long effort that involved a labor of love from various members of SVSU's students, faculty, staff and administrators. Mercier's background in LGBT family research and social work practice made her the right candidate to become the center's first director, she said.

"This is just a natural fit for me," Mercier said. "It was the right time for this, for SVSU."

Her expertise in LGBT issues also largely was due to timing, too. While serving as a social worker in the 1990s, many of her jobs led her to assist LGBT youths and their families.

"I really thought I was going to do early childhood mental health, but that's not where the referrals were taking me," she said.

Then, while pursuing her Ph.D. in social work and sociology in the late 1990s, same-sex marriage and LGBT parenting became hot topics. Because of the interest in the subject and her exposure to LGBT families as a social worker, she chose to research lesbian parenting strategies for her dissertation.

More than a decade later, Mercier continues to champion the

rights and inclusion of those in the LGBT community. "There's such a need and so few resources for these students," she said.

Mercier said she could relate to that demographic. While a college student in the 1980s, she was active with LGBT groups and dealt with coming out as a lesbian to family and friends.

"I identify with being a college student on campus and feeling isolated," she said. "When you're away from home at that time, you're beginning to form an adult identity, and it's important to have those resources."

She said The Pride Center will offer those resources. The office and its staff will facilitate events and guest speakers, provide advice to faculty members working with LGBT students, create a network with members of the off-campus LGBT community, and offer a "safe space" for the on-campus LGBT community.

Mercier said the center is still developing. To help define the center's direction, the staff plans to organize a summit in April featuring LGBT guest speakers along with members of SVSU's community and regional partners. Eventually, Mercier hopes the center grows to a point where the university can hire a full-time director. She is volunteering in the position now.

"I like to think of myself as the 'interim director,'" Mercier said. "I'm here because I'm needed in this position at this time."



Participating in the Oct. 7 ribbon-cutting for the new Pride Center at SVSU were, from left, Nikki English, Pride Center coordinator; Kurt Wingar, a member of Living Proud; Lucy Mercier, professor of social work; Anthony Cianciolo, assistant director of the Student Life Center; Brandon Errer, president of Living Proud; and Merry Jo Brandimore, associate provost for Student Affairs/dean of students.

Kathleen Chantaca-Kubczak

Administrative Secretary • October Staff Member of the Month

Kathleen Chantaca-Kubczak is the Google of SVSU.

The Student Life administrative secretary works in an office that experiences heavy traffic from students — students who ask all sorts of questions. And Chantaca-Kubczak has been around SVSU and Saginaw long enough that she knows most of the answers.

Where can I go talk about my scholarship? Where can I get my car fixed? I've got a tooth ache: Who can help me?

"I get asked everything," Chantaca-Kubczak said. "I'm like an emergency room triage in a college environment."

She does more than answer questions. Sometimes her involvement is the answer to getting things done. That involvement is one of the reasons Merry Jo Brandimore, associate provost for Student Affairs and dean of students, nominated her colleague for Staff Member of the Month.

"She has always been, first and foremost, thinking about the student experience," Brandimore said.

"She is one of the hardest workers and most caring individuals I've worked with. She is always going 200 percent, full throttle, and yet she always has time to stop to be cordial and friendly, no matter who it is. She's so approachable."

Chantaca-Kubczak's voice came through in planning this month's Hispanic Heritage Month activities on campus.

"She brought ideas to the table, and then she made those ideas happen," Brandimore said.

Chantaca-Kubczak brings her effort to organizations, both on and off campus. Off campus, she is active on the board for Saginaw's Pit & Balcony Theatre. On campus, she is the advisor for the Latino Awareness Association.

Sometimes her on- and off-campus lives mix. For instance, when one of her members began looking for a new place to live, Chantaca-Kubczak turned to her family. Now the student rents a room at the home of Chantaca-Kubczak's aunt.

"We create our own little family here," she said. "My family is their family. My aunts become their aunts. My cousins help out."

Chantaca-Kubczak joined the SVSU family in 1998, when she was hired as an administrative secretary with the College of Education. She moved to Student Counseling Center and Disability Services in 2004. In 2011, she began in her current role with Student Life.

"I've loved every minute working here," she said of her SVSU life. "I love helping the students, and in any capacity I've worked here, that's what I've been able to do. I can be talking to anybody here, about anything, and I'm able to connect them."



Professional Profile

- **James Bowers**, assistant professor of criminal justice, along with students Tyler Johnson, Chyna Williams, and Jaeleen Davis, presented “General Strain Theory and College Crime” at the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association Conference, Sept. 24 in Chicago.
- **Kyle Cissell**, assistant professor of chemistry, published a patent with the United State Patent and Trademark Office. The title of the patent is “Chitosan-Graphene Biosensors and Methods for Their Use.”
- **Fenobia I. Dallas**, associate professor of rhetoric & professional writing, served as chair and commentator on panel session titled “Visualizations of a Black Aesthetics” at the Association for African American Life and History conference, Sept. 25 in Atlanta, Georgia. Dallas also commented on a panel session titled “The Challenge of Teaching Race and Racism at a Predominantly White/Hispanic Serving Institution on the West Coast,” using “E-Raced Teaching at a PWI.”
- **Monika Dix**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, published a book chapter titled “Heike Nokyo as Repertoire: Contextualizing Kiyomori’s Devotional Practice of Copying Sutras” in *Lovable Losers: The Taira in Action and Memory*, ed. Mikael Adolphson and Anne Commons. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2015: 163-198.
- **Christopher Giroux**, Writing Center assistant director and assistant professor of English, and **Helen Raica-Klotz**, Writing Center director, gave two presentations at the International Writing Centers Association Conference, Oct. 8-11 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: “(Re)Visiting Lower-order Concerns: A Research-based Approach to Grammar Instruction for Tutors” and “‘Often Courageous, Sometimes Ridiculous, Always Strange’: One Writing Center’s Story of Collaboration with the Visual and Creative Arts.”
- **Sara Beth Keough**, associate professor of geography, published a book chapter in the edited volume *Mediated Geographies and Geographies of Media* (Springer Press 2015). The chapter is titled “Placing Satellite Radio in the Contemporary Radio Landscape.”
- **Jessica Kiss**, Human Performance Laboratory coordinator, **Andrea Hamlin**, acting director of student wellness programs, and **John Lowry**, assistant professor of kinesiology, gave a presentation titled “Three’s Company: Collaborating to Build a Healthy Campus” at the Michigan Intramural & Recreational Sports Association 2015 State Workshop, Oct. 9 at Oakland University.
- **Jason Pagano**, assistant professor of chemistry, gave an invited talk at the 2015 Conference on Complex Systems, the week of Sept. 28 in Tempe, Arizona. The title of his talk was “Tubular precipitation patterns in the zinc sulfate/zinc sulfide/silicate system.”
- **Hong Park**, professor of economics, had a paper titled “Information and communication technology and user knowledge-driven innovation in services” published in *Cogent Business & Management*. His research was supported by the Braun Research Fellowship. Park co-authored the paper with **Il-Hyung Cho**, associate professor of computer science & information systems, Sook Jung and Dorrie Main (both from Washington State University).
- **Jay Scott**, assistant professor of biology, had a paper titled “Deletion of methionine sulfoxide reductase A does not affect atherothrombosis

but promotes neointimal hyperplasia and ERK1/2 signaling” published in *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology*.

- **Kerry Segel**, professor of English, and **Maria Vos**, literacy support specialist, presented “Preparing L1 English Tutors to use Mandarin Chinese Grammar Knowledge in Writing Center Tutorial Sessions” at the 2015 Michigan Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages conference, Oct. 9-10 at Michigan State University.
- **Dustin Spencer**, assistant professor of nursing, co-authored an article titled “Pediatric Developmental Screening: What constitutes evidence-based practice?” that was published in the *Advance for NPs & PAs*. Spencer also presented an invited lecture titled “Incorporating Child & Adolescent Screening in Nursing Education Programs” at the 2015 American Association of Nurse Practitioners National Conference.
- **Stephen Taber**, professor of biology, has a manuscript titled “A new species of *Erioptera* Meigen crane fly (Diptera: Limoniidae) from Michigan with notes on other species” accepted for publication in *Great Lakes Entomologist*. Taber also has a manuscript titled “Two New Nearctic Species of Boletina Fungus Gnats (Diptera: Mycetophilidae) From Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana* Lambert) Forest” accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist*.

New Cardinals

- **Catherine Curtis**, reference librarian, announced the birth of a son, Kian Alexander Curtis (7 lbs. 14 oz.), Sept. 14.
- **Dan Goodell**, video production technology specialist, announced the birth of a daughter, Eleanor Joy Goodell (8 lb. 13 oz. 20.5 in.), Sept. 30.
- **Doug Woodington**, technology specialist, announced the birth of a daughter, Mia Anne Woodington (7 lbs. 8.8 oz. 19 in.), Sept. 30.

Condolences

- To the family of **Jeremy Osmond Bailey**, a political science major, who passed away Oct. 17.
- To **Jamie Borrello**, financial aid advisor, whose mother-in-law, Audre Borrello, passed away Oct. 2.
- To **Ranjana Dutta**, professor of psychology, whose mother passed away in October.
- To **Jason Rasmussen**, HVAC assistant, whose father, John “Jack” Joseph Rasmussen, passed away Oct. 8.
- To **Jane Smith**, custodian, whose father, Harold ‘Peanut’ Johnson, passed away Oct. 17.

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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