

World's difficult decisions explored in SVSU lecture series

A lecture series this fall at Saginaw Valley State University will explore some of society's most vital decisions, in topics ranging from global affairs and genetic engineering to economic revitalization.

The 2012 Fall Focus series, "Roles and Responsibilities: Ethical Responses to Revolutionary Change," will ask renowned thinkers to examine how to wisely respond to difficult issues in times of great uncertainty. Eight speakers – leaders, experts and authors – will frame knotty issues with unique perspectives and explore world problems through a lens of ethics and consequence.

The series comprises presentations from Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists, the Edwards Lecture, the O'Neill Memorial Lecture and the 10th annual Hoffman-Willertz Lecture.

Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.

**John W. Limbert – "America and Iran: Endless Enemies?"
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts**

The series opens Thursday, Sept. 27 with Iran expert John Limbert in a talk called "America and Iran: Endless Enemies?" For years, relations between the two countries have been tense, with both sides locked in futile patterns of threats, insults and empty slogans. Limbert will discuss how to escape this downward spiral and avoid a disastrous confrontation, because, like it or not, we have many reasons to rely on each other.

Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.

**Catherine Tumber – "The Life and Death of America's Smaller Industrial Cities"
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts**

In the late 20th century, small industrial cities like Flint, Mich., fell on hard times. Yet according to journalist Catherine Tumber, an age of global warming may improve these cities' fortunes. Now, she argues, these centers are poised to thrive, and in a talk based on years of research, Tumber will explain her rationale.

Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m.

**Arthur Caplan – "Bioethics: Just Because We Can, Should We?"
Rhea Miller Recital Hall**

Should you eat genetically modified foods? Should we experiment with genetics at all? Asking these questions is renowned bioethicist Arthur Caplan, the Drs. William F. and Virginia Connolly Mitty Professor and founding head of the Division of Bioethics at New York University Langone Medical Center. His talk is titled "Bioethics: Just Because We Can, Should We?"

Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

**Gayle Tzemach Lemmon – "The Dressmaker of Khair Khana"
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts**

In places like Afghanistan, women are unsung heroes of business. In her talk, journalist and *New York Times* bestselling author Gayle Tzemach Lemmon will speak about the critical role that female entrepreneurs play in war-torn regions and emerging markets. Lemmon draws from hundreds of hours of on-the-ground reporting, and examines what we in the West can learn from the example of businesswomen pushing against a glass ceiling in places it can be all too visible.

**For more information on the
Fall Focus Lecture Series,
visit svsu.edu/fallfocus.**

Thursday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m.

**Robert Edsel – "The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History"
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts**

In the face of revolutionary change, sometimes the most valiant act is preservation. In the ninth annual James E. O'Neill Jr. Memorial Lecture, writer Robert Edsel will tell the story of the Monuments Men, a group of art lovers who chased down great works stolen by Nazis during World War II and saved them from ultimate destruction.

This event is co-sponsored by the Field Neurosciences Institute and the Dow Visiting Scholars & Artists Program.

Monday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.

**Kwame Anthony Appiah – "The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen"
Rhea Miller Recital Hall**

What does it take to transform moral understanding into moral behavior? That's the question being posed by one of America's leading intellectuals, Princeton University professor Kwame Anthony Appiah. In his talk, Appiah will explore the mysteries of moral revolution and the power of two forces: honor and shame.

Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

**Carma Hinton – "History in Images: The Making of 'Gate of Heavenly Peace'"
Rhea Miller Recital Hall**

In this illuminating talk, award-winning director Carma Hinton will recount one of her most challenging projects: a film about the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989. With clips and outtakes from the finished product, Hinton will discuss the difficulties of choosing which material to keep and which to discard, along with the ethics and craft of nonfiction film.

Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.

**Jules Gehrke – "The Dilemmas of a New Era: Collectivism and Individualism in the Victorian City"
Founders Hall**

In the concluding presentation of the series, SVSU associate professor of history Jules Gehrke will give the 10th annual Hoffman-Willertz Lecture. With it, Gehrke will explore one moment in 20th-century British history and examine its lessons for the political and economic situation faced by the United States today.

The Hoffman-Willertz Memorial Lecture is named for the late Bill Hoffman and John Willertz, who are credited as the founding members of the history department at SVSU, and who together accounted for more than 60 years of dedicated service. The annual lecture rotates among history faculty at SVSU.

Kylie Goggins

Associate Professor of Economics

For Kylie Goggins, Ph.D., the problem has never been finding an interest. The problem has been having an interest in everything.

Which may make you wonder why she decided on economics — the so-called “dismal science.” Goggins, who completed her master’s and Ph.D. in the subject at the University of Kentucky and joined SVSU in fall 2010, has an answer for that.

“Economics explains *everything*,” she says. It’s a topic entrenched in money and markets, Goggins says, and yet the science transforms the way you look at the world if you just expand your definition of a “market.”

“There are markets for everything — friendship markets, dating markets, marital markets. That’s why economics is so incredible: there’s nothing it doesn’t apply to.”

Goggins discovered the field during a journalism internship in Washington, D.C., where she found it fit her tastes like a tailored suit. That led to a complete change in her career’s trajectory.

“[Economics] explained so much about human behavior, in markets and policy, yes, but also in relationships, sports, foreign languages — it’s fascinating.”

Academically, Goggins’ research subjects vary — family business, education, international growth and investment — but with an unending interests list, Goggins says she prefers being a resource for others.

Comfortable with extensive data, she recently helped Diane Boehm and Jill Wetmore assemble an accreditation report for the College of Business & Management, which will undergo a routine inspection by the Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business in October. Wetmore submitted the report the day before the fall semester began.

“There were so many different hands involved because it’s so much information, and yet everybody was really helpful,” Goggins said.

Active herself, Goggins also took part in a committee that examined living conditions for women in the community. Through a partnership between the Bay Area YWCA and SVSU, the panel created a research report called “Economic Status of Women in the Great Lakes Bay Region,” a tool for future policy decisions that paints a portrait with data on employment, income, education, political leadership, health and wellness, and crime and violence.

“I love it when somebody asks you a question and you have the skill-set to help answer it,” she said. “You get to collaborate with other people, and yet you can be so eclectic in what you study.”

But for her, the real passion is her work with students, Goggins said, adding that she loves SVSU’s emphasis on teaching. “I really enjoy the conversation you get in the classroom.”



Diane Boehm

Director, Instructional Support Program & University Writing Program • September 2012

To describe Diane Boehm, your best bet might be a metaphor: she's nothing less than a human bridge.

As head of SVSU's Writing Center, Boehm spends much of any workday crossing gaps in communication — whether with the honors students she teaches, the writing tutors she leads or the faculty members she lends an editorial hand to with any number of writing projects.

It's that last one that has her sighing with relief, recently. Finishing the day before the fall semester began, Boehm helped complete a major status report for the College of Business & Management, working with Dean Jill Wetmore and associate professor of economics Kylie Goggins.

"It's a very defined kind of writing," Boehm said, "and yet you don't want to make it boring. You want to capture that sense of your institution's identity. It's almost like answering a massive essay question."

And those are just the kind of questions her tutors tackle when students visit SVSU's Writing Center. Thing is, they tackle them often. Last year, Writing Center tutors conducted 4,900 individual tutoring sessions, and of the students who came in, 97 percent rated their sessions as 'good' or 'excellent.'

"The tutors are my heroes, if you want to know the truth," Boehm said. "They're all students trying to maintain their own

GPA's, choose their majors, decide on graduate school — but they have this wonderful service heart.

"They know that without the ability to write, students aren't going to be successful in college, or in their professions." Eighty-five percent of job descriptions require good communication skills, Boehm added. "Even if you get a good first job, without writing, you're not promotable. All those skills have to be honed and developed."

It's all part of the Writing Center philosophy, she said. "Our goal is never to fix the paper. We use the paper as the instrument to build and grow the writer."

Outside the Writing Center, Boehm also teaches a course on thesis writing, and for 16 years now, she has run the summer institute for new faculty, where fresh hires learn about SVSU's personal teaching approach and get to know one another. In the end, that's just another bridge worth building. "The one thing people always comment on is the feeling," she said — "feeling as though they really belong on this campus."

Beyond SVSU, Diane is an avid gardener, and a lover of David Baldacci novels.

But as this human bridge will tell you smilingly, she wakes up every day looking forward to her work. "I'm very fortunate," she said. "I get to do what I love."



Professional Profile

- **Joseph Affholter**, Dow Entrepreneur-In-Residence, has three recently approved patents: “Integrated in Situ Retorting and Refining of Oil Shale,” “Integrated in Situ Retorting and Refining of Heavy-oil and Tar Sand Deposits” and “Integrated Systems and Methods for Diversity Generation and Screening.”
- **Cyrus Aryana**, professor of mathematics, authored a paper titled “Self-adjoint Toeplitz Operators Associated with Representing Measures on Multiply Connected Regions and their Eigenvalues” that was accepted for publication in *Complex Analysis and Operator Theory*.
- **Dawn Hinton**, professor of sociology, authored a manuscript titled “Unheard Voices in the Community Building Process: The Role of Poor Black Women in the U.S. during the Mid-20th Century” that will be published in the *Journal of International Women’s Studies*.
- **M. Yousef Jabbari**, associate professor of mechanical engineering, presented a paper (co-authored by David Novak, mechanical engineering graduate, and **Christopher Schilling**, Charles J. Strosacker Endowed Chair of Mechanical Engineering) at the 9th International Heat Transfer, Fluid Mechanics and Thermodynamics Conference, held in Malta, July 16-18. Jabbari also chaired a session of the conference on renewable energy.
- **David S. Karpovich**, H.H. Dow Endowed Chair of Chemistry, attended “Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition 8th Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference,” a meeting of scientists, government officials, and other public and private stakeholders to discuss restoration success stories and to make plans for continued work. Hannah Voss, a recent biology graduate, represented SVSU as a panelist in a session titled “Youth Impact: Great Lakes Undergraduate Stewards.” At the conference Karpovich participated in a GLISTEN meeting to plan future program directions.
- **Sara Beth Keough**, associate professor of geography, published an article titled “Don’t Touch That Dial!: Media and the Accumulation of Social Capital Among Newfoundlanders in Fort McMurray, Alberta” in *The American Review of Canadian Studies*.
- **Poonam Kumar**, professor of educational technology & development, co-authored an article titled “An Examination of Factors Influencing Students’ Selection of Business Majors Using TRA Framework” that was accepted for publication in the *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*. She also presented a paper titled “Teaching and Learning in a Virtual World: A Pedagogical Experimentation Using Second Life” at the Americas Conference on Information Systems, Seattle, Wash., Aug. 9-11.
- **Joseph Ofori-Dankwa**, Harvey Randal Wickes Endowed Professor of International Business, had a paper (co-authored with Scott Julian) titled “A Heuristic Model for Explaining Diversity’s Paradox” accepted for publication in the *Journal of Organization Change Management*.
- **Robert Tuttle**, associate professor of mechanical engineering, published a book titled *Foundry Engineering: The Metallurgy and Design of Castings* (978-1478157434) that covers the science, engineering and current art of the creation of metalcastings. Basic theory on gating design, solidification and risering are presented. The metallurgy and processing of aluminum, cast iron and steel are also covered.

Condolences

- To **Tammy Hafner**, administrative secretary, whose father, Robert L. Tobias, passed away Sept. 12.
- To **Debra Karoly**, simulated learning laboratory associate, whose husband, Peter Karoly, passed away Sept. 13.
- To **Paul** and **Melissa Teed**, professors of history, on the loss of Paul’s mother, Carole-Jean Gooder, who passed away Sept. 18.
- To **Richard Trdan**, professor of biology, whose mother, Margaret “Nina” M. Sundberg, passed away Sept. 8.

Briefly Speaking

- A reception to celebrate the publication of Volume 34 of the *Research Bulletin of Faculty and Students* will take place Monday, Oct. 8, from 4-5 p.m. in the Roberta Allen Reading Room on the fourth floor of Zahnow Library. Displays will feature published research, writing and creative works produced by SVSU faculty and staff during 2011. President Eric Gilbertson will deliver brief remarks at 4:30 pm. SVSU grant recipients will also be honored at the reception. If you have published research or produced creative works in 2011, please send copies for the display to Sharon Reff, circulation assistant, by Monday, Oct. 1.
- Faculty and staff may apply for a 2012-13 reserved parking permit at svsu.edu/universitypolice/parking-information.html. All 2011-12 permits expired Sept. 15.
- Additional printed copies of the 2012-13 Faculty/Staff Directory are available through the mailroom, ext. 4466. The campus community also can obtain directory information online at svsu.edu/lookup.

Transitions

Due to the large volume of new hires, promotions, and personnel changes, the list of Transitions can be found at blogs.svsu.edu/newsroom. For complete directory information, including office numbers and telephone extensions, go to svsu.edu/lookup.

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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Please send items by e-mail to: jjboehm@svsu.edu.**