

# *Cardinal Voices*

**Host:** Joy Bonke and Andrew Richard

**Episode Title:** Jim Dwyer's Journey to SVSU

**Episode Topic:** The journey of Jim Dwyer from Detroit to SVSU, his athletic prowess at SVSU, and how he was hired and persuaded to stay

**Episode Guest(s):** Jim Dwyer

**Slogan/tag line:** It's a great day to be a Cardinal!

**Synopsis:** A conversation with Jim Dwyer, who recently retired from SVSU after working here for 42 years. In this episode, we discuss his journey here and what led him to stay.

**Keywords:** beginning, president, passion, purpose

**Episode Outline:**

1. Introduction of Hosts and episode (0:00)
2. Introduction to Jim Dwyer (0:28)
3. What was your athletic journey here at SVSU and what was it like? (10:25)
4. How were you hired at SVSU? (18:33)
5. Wrap up (28:40)

**Other Notes:** There were some other smaller questions being asked by the hosts to Jim, however the two in the episode outline are the ones he spent the most time on during the time of the podcast, therefore, they are included in the episode outline.

**Credits:**

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## Transcription:

### Audio file

[\[DRAFT\] Cardinal Voices Ep. 1.1 - Jim Dwyer PreSVSU \(2\).mp3](#)

### Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Hello and welcome to Cardinal Voices, a podcast about people who have shaped Saginaw Valley State University.

00:00:05 Speaker 1

We are your Co hosts.

00:00:06 Speaker 2

Andrew Richard and Joy Bonke.

00:00:08 Speaker 2

Today we're interviewing Jim Dwyer, who's worked at the University for 42 years before retiring this year. He most recently served as SVC Special assistant to the President for Professional Development.

00:00:18 Speaker 1

Dwyer has truly exemplified red pride throughout.

00:00:21 Speaker 1

His time here.

00:00:22 Speaker 1

And we wanted to sit down with him to learn more about his journey here, his career and the people he impacted along the way.

In part one of our conversation with Jim, we talked about his life as an SVC student, so be sure to subscribe to the Cardinal Voices Podcast to hear the rest of the conversation.

00:00:30 Speaker 2

So why don't you do like just a basic introduction of yourself, Jim, your name?

00:00:35 Speaker 1

Your major hometown Social Security number?

00:00:40 Speaker 1

Your mother's maiden name?

00:00:43 Speaker 3

Jim Dwyer, special assistant to the president for professional development. I'm a proud two-time alum in my 42nd year of employment.

00:00:55 Speaker 3

And I bleed red pride.

00:00:58 Speaker 1

That's what we love to hear. Our blood is red. Actually, so.

00:01:01

Yes, it is.

00:01:03 Speaker 1

You know you can make a connection there.

00:01:05 Speaker 2

So where where is your hometown and what?

00:01:07 Speaker 2

High School did you go to?

00:01:08 Speaker 3

I'm from Detroit, MI, a proud Detroiter along.

00:01:12 Speaker 3

With President Bachand.

00:01:13 Speaker 3

And believe it or not, he went to Cooley High School and I went to Saint Mary's of Redford, which were probably 2 miles apart. Really? Yeah. And we didn't know that until we had discussions.

00:01:26 Speaker 3

Realize why we had so many communalities the rustics.

00:01:30 Speaker 3

Yes, we were there and.

00:01:31 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:01:32 Speaker 1

I did my research.

00:01:32 Speaker 3

How did you know that?

00:01:37 Speaker 1

That research.

00:01:38 Speaker 1

You know what?

00:01:39 Speaker 1

Happened to the school, I saw it closed down.

00:01:41 Speaker 3

So in Detroit, back in the day, there were many Catholic High schools, for example.

00:01:48 Speaker 3

My graduating class was 275 students. It was robust, Rosedale Park. It was an incredible place to be raised.

00:01:58 Speaker 3

Now you had the dad's club, the church was robust and then as Detroit changed demographically, all these high schools from shrine.

00:02:08 Speaker 3

Bishop Gallagher survived.

00:02:10 Speaker 3

Right.

00:02:11 Speaker 3

They either have closed or they're very small.

00:02:13 Speaker 3

In our case, eventually there just wasn't enough students.

00:02:17 Speaker 3

And like many, Catholic high schools in Detroit.

00:02:21 Speaker 3

Their demise happened and they faded away.

00:02:26 Speaker 3

And as you went out to the suburbs, schools like Detroit Catholic Central.

00:02:30 Speaker 3

Brother Rice, those kind of schools, flourished and still flourish, but those schools that were what I would call part of a Parish School eventually rolled because there were fewer.

00:02:41 Speaker 3

Nuns back in the day, probably at our school, there was 30 nuns that taught in the system and as well as incredible support by the parishes.

00:02:51 Speaker 3

But as the parish changed, the demographic changed, everything eroded.

00:02:56 Speaker 3

They no longer exist.

00:02:57 Speaker 3

But I just had my 50th high school reunion and what was so...

00:03:02 Speaker 3

Powerful for me at that reunion was how many people were successful and how many eluded it to the environment they grew up.

00:03:12 Speaker 3

And there was just so much support of the community and that the pride of that Catholic High School was very, very important to that parish.

00:03:22 Speaker 3

And consequently, subsequently, people really flourished once they've left, right?

00:03:27 Speaker 1

So you really seem to have that connection there and here with the community really supporting that culture.

00:03:33 Speaker 1

To give back, you know, I.

00:03:34 Speaker 3

I would say that the one thing after my reunion, I wrote back to everybody and I said it's time for us to pay back 'cause they had this big bill at the parish to pay off their sound system.

00:03:47 Speaker 3

And I just said it's time to give back and pay back.

00:03:50 Speaker 3

And overwhelmingly we generated a lot of money to pay pay off that bill.

00:03:57 Speaker 3

And I think the one thing again.

00:03:59 Speaker 3

When you put.

00:03:59 Speaker 3

That respective of Saginaw Valley.

00:04:02 Speaker 3

The one thing I've noticed working closely with the alumni in the last five or six years is how many want to give.

00:04:08 Speaker 3

Back then, it's not so much about money.

00:04:10 Speaker 3

But how they're willing to mentor students or provide internships provides sage advice so they don't have the same kind of experience as they had as they go out to the workforce or Graduate School.

00:04:23 Speaker 3

And I think that's what makes Saginaw Valley so special is the willingness.

00:04:27 Speaker 3

Of people don't really pay back.

00:04:29 Speaker 3

And I've always said that's.

00:04:30 Speaker 3

What is so different about red pride, versus, other schools that you don't have that kind of field?

00:04:37 Speaker 1

Definitely, definitely.

00:04:39 Speaker 1

I feel that love here for sure.

00:04:41 Speaker 1

What about you, joy?

00:04:42 Speaker 2

I do it's.

00:04:43 Speaker 2

A very welcoming community.

00:04:44 Speaker 2

Everyone is, you know, willing to give time, resources, if you're, if you're willing to put yourself out.

00:04:51 Speaker 2

There as well.

00:04:52 Speaker 3

So what makes it special?

00:04:53 Speaker 3

Just let you know and I hear.

00:04:55 Speaker 3

This from a.

00:04:55 Speaker 3

Lot of people that come to work at.

00:04:57 Speaker 3

Saginaw Valley whether they're faculty or.

00:05:00 Speaker 3

They're coming from another higher education institution, or they've.

00:05:03 Speaker 3

Never had any.

00:05:04 Speaker 3

Higher education back, they'll say to me, you know, Jim, this is a different vibe here.

00:05:08 Speaker 3

There's a lot of people that have worked here 15, 20, 25, 30 years and it just is reflective of.

00:05:16 Speaker 3

Who we are.

00:05:17 Speaker 3

And what we stand for and what our mission is to transform.

00:05:21 Speaker 3

Students and they're just kind of blown away because they have never had that experience in their previous institutions or place of employment.

00:05:29 Speaker 1

I mean, I definitely felt the love here as well, 'cause I came here not knowing anybody and Anderson in the admissions office, he really told me.

00:05:36 Speaker 1

It's like it's a raise your hand atmosphere, you know you really, you know, no one's going to walk you through it.

00:05:41 Speaker 1

You got to raise your hand and everything, and that was extremely true 'cause now.

00:05:46 Speaker 1

I get a lot of more unique opportunities now than what I've been doing.

00:05:49 Speaker 1

But you know, I had to start out with raising my hand and cold emailing and reaching out to people like asking for advice and just introducing myself.

00:05:57 Speaker 1

And everything basically like starting from.

00:06:00 Speaker 1

Bottom and trying to work my way up and and get the most out of what I can here at SVSU and really has paid off dividends.

00:06:08 Speaker 1

Starting to pay off dividends now for sure.

00:06:10 Speaker 3

Well, what I've always told one of things is I walk out of this office today for the last time after 42 years.

00:06:19 Speaker 3

What I get reflective of the students that really are willing to get out of their comfort zone and willing to create their own story and to understand what their.



00:06:30 Speaker 3

Really, God-given potential is that's where you see incredible transformation here.

00:06:35 Speaker 3

And I've seen it over and over.

00:06:37 Speaker 3

Whether the student was gifted and a high test score and you know, four point student is a student that barely could get in, doesn't matter if they're willing to get out of that comfort zone and really engage transformation takes place.

00:06:51 Speaker 3

I've just seen it over and over definitely, but while you are.

00:06:55 Speaker 1

Over there at Redford, Saint Mary's, the Rustics, as they say. We know you got here. You played basketball here. Was that how you first got?

00:07:04 Speaker 1

Introduced to SVSU.

00:07:06 Speaker 3

So at that time the SVC.

00:07:08 Speaker 3

OK, I I came up here and I think October about 70 and came up.

00:07:15 Speaker 3

I can't remember who I came up with, but I I drove up and obviously there's Wickes Hall with what they call the zoo first year suites, the dining Hall, Project 60s or whatever that the building.

00:07:22 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:07:28 Speaker 3

Was called and the new gym.

00:07:30 Speaker 3

That they were building.

00:07:31 Speaker 3

But I came up and I wanted to play basketball, and I had a good high school career, Allstate.

00:07:38 Speaker 3

And I wanted to continue playing or at least see if I could play.

00:07:42 Speaker 3

And I came up and one of my first contacts was Dick Thompson, who ended up being my mentor.

00:07:49 Speaker 3

That transformed my life and I came up and.

00:07:52 Speaker 3

I just, I've always said.

00:07:53 Speaker 3

I I felt.

00:07:54 Speaker 3

I felt the vibe OK.

00:07:56 Speaker 3

I felt that the people were genuine.

00:07:58 Speaker 3

Here, I said, geez, I could be part of a program.

00:08:02 Speaker 3

I'd be if I did come here, I'd be one of the first players ever to play for four years in the program.

00:08:08 Speaker 3

So I was part of something new.

00:08:11 Speaker 3

And I had.

00:08:11 Speaker 3

No idea where it was going to take me.

00:08:13 Speaker 3

But I made the decision that day that I visited, and I could have gone to several other places, but it was just, I was just intrigued by SVC.

00:08:21 Speaker 3

It was back in the day.

00:08:24 Speaker 3

I can't tell many times I hitchhiked.

00:08:26 Speaker 3

Home, back and forth.

00:08:27 Speaker 3

To school.

00:08:28 Speaker 3

That was back when you could hitchhike.

00:08:30 Speaker 3

OK?

00:08:32 Speaker 3

It's kind of bizarre, OK, but I just knew that.

00:08:36 Speaker 3

There were people here.

00:08:38 Speaker 3

And it just was new, right?

00:08:40 Speaker 3

And who knew what would happen when I came here?

00:08:44 Speaker 3

But what's interesting?

00:08:46 Speaker 3

When I came here?

00:08:46 Speaker 3

My first roommates.

00:08:48 Speaker 3

That I met.

00:08:50 Speaker 3

Today, today, we've been friends for 50.

00:08:54 Speaker 3

Wow, yeah.

00:08:56 Speaker 3

So it's amazing.

00:08:57 Speaker 3

And we get together.

00:08:58 Speaker 3

So in August we get together once a year.

00:09:00 Speaker 3

And amazingly, what happened to us and what our success was, we were The Pioneers of this university.

00:09:07 Speaker 3

You know, we lived in the housing for four.

00:09:09 Speaker 3

Years. And it was so.

00:09:11 Speaker 3

Different back in the day and.

00:09:13 Speaker 3

The first floor of Wickes Hall was.

00:09:15 Speaker 3

The library and all the classes that you mostly took were in the third floor of Wickes

00:09:20 Speaker 3

Hall and there wasn't.

00:09:21 Speaker 3

The facilities or the infrastructure we have now, but.

00:09:25 Speaker 3

It was a unique time.

00:09:27 Speaker 1

So what other schools were you looking at?

00:09:29 Speaker 1

Was it just SVC or were you getting looks from other colleges too?

00:09:32 Speaker 3

Yeah, yeah.

00:09:33 Speaker 3

So they're, other, more aligned to what would be the Ferrises and Northwood and kind of schools like that.

00:09:40 Speaker 3

That are kinda in the league now, yeah, and back then it was NAIA as in Division Two.

00:09:46 Speaker 3

We draw any high schools.

00:09:48 Speaker 3

But, you know, I just wanted to try to see if I.

00:09:51 Speaker 3

Could play I compete?

00:09:53 Speaker 3

Could I play and

00:09:54 Speaker 3

Obviously I had a four year career and I was able to play four years and I had a couple good years playing.

00:10:00 Speaker 3

Can't play anymore.

00:10:01 Speaker 3

I, you know, I try to play in a charity thing here.

00:10:03 Speaker 3

Not too long.

00:10:04 Speaker 3

Ago, I just have to tell you.

00:10:06 Speaker 3

Guys even though I.

00:10:07 Speaker 3

Work on it was probably 5% of what I once was.

00:10:10 Speaker 3

I have to tell you the look when you ever seen those commercial and it's dimly lit and just kind of sitting going over.

00:10:18 Speaker 3

Yeah, my career is over.

00:10:20 Speaker 3

But it was fine.

00:10:21 Speaker 3

Yeah, I had a great ride, right?

00:10:23 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:10:23 Speaker 1

You were coached by the great Bob Pratt.

00:10:25 Speaker 3

No, so my first year.

00:10:28 Speaker 3

coaching.

00:10:29 Speaker 3

I want you to think who my coaches were, Gene Hamilton

00:10:32 Speaker 3

Oh yes, Dick Thompson was my assistant coach since they came Gary Apsey, who was here for a long time and had several jobs.

00:10:42 Speaker 3

OK.

00:10:43 Speaker 3

That's my coaches my freshman year, OK?

00:10:48 Speaker 3

And obviously I think what happened, I mean, they both have had facilities named after them, you know, Gene and Dick because of their impact they had on this school.

00:10:59 Speaker 3

No, those were my coaches my freshman year.

00:11:03 Speaker 1

And then when did that was just freshman year?

00:11:05 Speaker 3

And then my second year, Gary Apsey, who was an assistant became.

00:11:10 Speaker 3

The head coach.

00:11:11 Speaker 3

OK.

00:11:11 Speaker 3

And had him my sophomore year.

00:11:14 Speaker 3

And then things really changed when Anne Dickey, who at that time it's over responsibility at the university, reaches out to a freshly graduated PhD.

00:11:26 Speaker 3

Bob Pratt from Ohio State and.

00:11:29 Speaker 3

Bob had never really coached before, OK, brought him on.

00:11:33 Speaker 3

And that's when really scholarships really started becoming more effective.

00:11:37 Speaker 3

Mike Koval was the athletic director at this time.

00:11:40 Speaker 3

Bob came in, and I still remember the first time I met him.

00:11:44 Speaker 3

And as soon.

00:11:44 Speaker 3

As I met him, I knew.

00:11:46 Speaker 3

I deeply knew.

00:11:48 Speaker 3

He was the right person to choose.

00:11:50 Speaker 3

And it proved, you know, the success he had over the years as being head coach.

00:11:55 Speaker 3

And one thing about Bob Pratt that people have to understand, not only was he a great.

00:12:00 Speaker 3

Coach, he was a tenured faculty member.

00:12:02 Speaker 3

So yeah, there is no one probably ever in the state of Michigan that is been a tenured faculty member and also the head basketball coach, he was an incredible faculty member.

00:12:13 Speaker 3

He his classes were very engaging and students love taking him.

00:12:19 Speaker 3

Yeah, OK.

00:12:20 Speaker 3

Yeah, so I had him my last two years and we got better and better every year.

00:12:24 Speaker 3

Yeah, I had a jumper, I guess, like all.

00:12:27 Speaker 3

I could shoot.

00:12:28 Speaker 3

I could shoot the pill.

00:12:31 Speaker 3

At one time, OK, but not anymore.

00:12:35 Speaker 1

What would what's your like NBA comparison?



00:12:38 Speaker 3

So I would.

00:12:39 Speaker 3

Have been in this today's world.

00:12:41 Speaker 3

Think of you know that person plays for Golden State that got injured.

00:12:47 Speaker 3

Could you shoot?

00:12:47 Speaker 3

I could just really shoot the basketball, you know, humbly shoot.

00:12:51 Speaker 3

I mean, you know, back in the day.

00:12:53 Speaker 3

And that's why this was in high school.

00:12:55 Speaker 3

I wasn't.

00:12:56 Speaker 3

I mean, I could drive, but not really.

00:12:58 Speaker 3

But if I got open and I learned how to get open, I was probably the.

00:13:03 Speaker 3

The kind of.

00:13:04 Speaker 3

NBA player you see today that really knows how to move without the basketball and could shoot. OK, so we didn't have the three-point line back then, OK, that was pre 3 point line.

00:13:17 Speaker 3

But if they did, you know that's that's really.

00:13:21 Speaker 3

Most of my shots came.

00:13:22 Speaker 3

From you know from the outside.

00:13:24 Speaker 1

So, like, uh, Klay Thompson, Reggie Miller?

00:13:25 Speaker 3

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:13:28 Speaker 3

They always used to say Jim.

00:13:30 Speaker 3

Is Reggie your brother?

00:13:34 Speaker 1

From that time, but you're playing defense that you're not actually shooting and down and you.

00:13:37 Speaker 3

Add in, you had hair.

00:13:39 Speaker 1

Did have hair.

00:13:40 Speaker 3

You did have.

00:13:41 Speaker 1

Hair, and a lot of it.

00:13:42 Speaker 3

Yeah, I did, back in the day.

00:13:46 Speaker 1

Why did you wear #42?

00:13:48 Speaker 3

You know what?

00:13:48 Speaker 3

My real number.

00:13:49 Speaker 3

I don't know why this number isn't it 'cause?

00:13:51 Speaker 3

My real number was 23, so I.

00:13:54 Speaker 3

Don't know if.

00:13:55 Speaker 3

We were just doing a photo shoot that day because this picture ended up being the Valley vanguard in the school newspaper, I think, to start off the school year or the basketball season, and that's Greg Vogel.

00:14:06 Speaker 3

OK, who's from Bay City?

00:14:08 Speaker 1

All Saints.

00:14:09 Speaker 3

So he again, this is back in the day when him and I were and we both could shoot the basketball.

00:14:16 Speaker 3

Sometimes he had to learn to pass it a little bit more to me.

00:14:19 Speaker 3

OK, but I.

00:14:20 Speaker 3

Didn't pass it back to him.

00:14:22 Speaker 1

That's funny, that's why we found that in the photos archive and thought that would be great to show you.

00:14:27

Yeah. Oh yeah.

00:14:28 Speaker 1

And then we also found that same article in the photos Archive that talks about you and Vogel.

00:14:35 Speaker 1

The twosome tough.

00:14:38 Speaker 3

But you know.

00:14:39 Speaker 3

Again, I want to kind of create the scenario. We were a young school, right? I don't think we had 1000 students back at the time.

00:14:47 Speaker 3

We were just.

00:14:48 Speaker 3

Creating an athletic program here and that's what kind of intrigued me to come.

00:14:53 Speaker 3

And we were trying to compete, you know, just getting more players.

00:14:58 Speaker 3

That had good high school careers and try to create a team environment and grow the athletic program and I think again in reflection.

00:15:07 Speaker 3

I mean that was a long time ago, right? That was 1971 when I came here, but it was a special time because I was part of something that was non existent.

00:15:17 Speaker 3

The gym had just been built OK all of a sudden here I am, part of this program being able to play and I got to play, but it was just, it was just.

00:15:27 Speaker 3

Special time of the university.

00:15:29 Speaker 3

Because everything was new.

00:15:32 Speaker 3

Yeah, you know, someone start the music program, so I'm going to.

00:15:35 Speaker 3

Start this and it.

00:15:37 Speaker 3

Was right from the ground, right from the ground.

00:15:40 Speaker 1

It was really like the wild.

00:15:41 Speaker 3

West oh is Wild West.

00:15:43 Speaker 3

Let's talk about the Wild West, because back in the day when you lived in housing, you right now could be outside.

00:15:49 Speaker 3

In a person would be wheeling in a keg.

00:15:51 Speaker 3

Hey, it's just that's the way it was yeah, there was no IPS, there was no hey, you know, we're having a get together tonight and there will be several get togethers.

00:16:02 Speaker 3

But with all that said and done, no one got really crazy.

00:16:06 Speaker 3

But it was.

00:16:06 Speaker 3

Just the times, right?

00:16:08 Speaker 3

It was.

00:16:09 Speaker 3

Everything was.

00:16:09 Speaker 3

New new faculty.

00:16:11 Speaker 3

Were being hired.

00:16:12 Speaker 3

New administrators were being hired.

00:16:15 Speaker 3

It just was a time that

00:16:18 Speaker 3

For me, what is so special is knowing what it was.

00:16:22 Speaker 3

I don't think anybody in this community would ever, ever fathom that back when those pioneers created that dollars and created \$4 million to get, that's equivalent to public.

00:16:33 Speaker 3

Twenty \$25 million today to get this school that it would ever become right because now in the kind of programs and when you when you fathom.

00:16:44 Speaker 3

OK, there's now 24,000 alumni working within a 50 mile radius of this university. The impact these alumni have in the community and the quality of.

00:16:56 Speaker 3

Life is pretty special.

00:16:58 Speaker 1

Yeah, it's crazy to see, like to look at all the names 'cause now they're there's something named after him now, right?

00:17:04 Speaker 1

'cause what?

00:17:05 Speaker 1

Those people were just getting hired at that point.

00:17:07 Speaker 1

And like you said, they're pioneers.

00:17:09 Speaker 1

There's and it was crazy to see 'cause I and there was a media guy.

00:17:12 Speaker 1

This was now in the 80s, but it was a media guy from the 80s and it said had all the head coaches and the athletic director, and now all of them are like almost all of them are in the Athletic Hall of Fame.

00:17:21 Speaker 1

No, like there was like Bob Becker was the athletic coach.

00:17:24 Speaker 1

Evans Lawless was this.

00:17:25 Speaker 1

This was right after Hanson had left Hanson.

00:17:29 Speaker 1

Uhm, it had Pratt no, that was still the head coach in 1845.

00:17:34 Speaker 1

Uhm, who's not in the Hall of Fame, but his teams are?

00:17:37 Speaker 1

And there was just like it just seemed like every coach was a Hall of Famer.

00:17:41 Speaker 1

And it was.

00:17:42 Speaker 1

Like crazy to see.

00:17:43 Speaker 3

So think about this. Fathom both of you. But here I am, 1971, first basketball practice. It's Gene Hamilton and Dick Thompson.

00:17:54 Speaker 3

Who then created this incredible legacy of the impact so much that facilities were named after them and they impacted so many people and those were my first contact with this and very close.

00:18:11 Speaker 3

His friends to this date, you know.

00:18:14 Speaker 3

I had them.

00:18:16 Speaker 3

As my coach, my freshman, and little did I know the impact they would have over the importance of what they gave and their talents and gifts they gave to this university went to become what it's become today.

00:18:30 Speaker 3

Yeah, and I had that my freshman.

00:18:32 Speaker 1

Year you just got.

00:18:33 Speaker 1

So lucky.

00:18:34 Speaker 3

I did.

00:18:34 Speaker 1

So that's insane, yeah.

00:18:35 Speaker 3

Then he became my mentor.

00:18:36 Speaker 3

I mean, Dick was my incredible mentor that allowed me to become what I gave.

00:18:45 Speaker 2

So what were some of your goals starting off of college, and then what were your goals coming out of college?

00:18:51 Speaker 2

And if they changed, why did they change?

00:18:53 Speaker 3

Well, I I think all of us, you know, when you think what are you going to do and what do you want to do, sometimes it's not real, OK.

00:19:02 Speaker 3

And I think again, for me, I wanted to be a teacher and coach.

00:19:06 Speaker 3

I I really had a passion.

00:19:08 Speaker 3

I loved athletics because I think one thing athletics does, it teaches you.

00:19:14 Speaker 3

It teaches you how to be a teammate.

00:19:17 Speaker 3



It teaches you how to overcome adversity.

00:19:20 Speaker 3

All those things were appealing to me because that's what athletics does, OK?

00:19:25 Speaker 3

And and so I was going to do that.

00:19:27 Speaker 3

But remember, back when I graduated in teaching, there were no jobs.

00:19:33 Speaker 3

There were so many teachers, unlike today where they're begging for teachers, right?

00:19:40 Speaker 3

So there's no teaching jobs.

00:19:42 Speaker 3

So I went out West for a couple years.

00:19:45 Speaker 3

I worked in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

00:19:47 Speaker 3

I worked in Keystone Co.

00:19:49 Speaker 3

I had these incredible jobs.

00:19:51 Speaker 3

I was a waiter, I was a wine steward.

00:19:54 Speaker 3

I just had a great time.

00:19:56 Speaker 3

And then I was all set to go to Martha vineyards, and my dad said, hey, I think it's time for you to grow up, OK?

00:20:03 Speaker 3

I was growing up I.

00:20:04 Speaker 3

Was having a great time.

00:20:05 Speaker 3

OK, and.

00:20:06 Speaker 3

Then I was asked by Bob Pratt.

00:20:08 Speaker 3

To be a coach.

00:20:09 Speaker 3

I said, yeah, I think I'd like to do that.

00:20:12 Speaker 3

Well then the only thing I had to get a job and at that time, that's how I ended up at Bay City.

00:20:18 Speaker 3

All Saints and.

00:20:20 Speaker 3

And you say, well, what did you teach Jim?

00:20:23 Speaker 3

Because I was a history major.

00:20:25 Speaker 3

I taught religion, yes.

00:20:27 Speaker 3

Yeah, I had no background and I was teaching seniors and at that time it was 18 years.

00:20:34 Speaker 3

Old you could go to.

00:20:35 Speaker 3

The bar.

00:20:35 Speaker 3

OK, back in the.

00:20:36 Speaker 1

Day when they dropped down from 21 to 18 for.

00:20:39 Speaker 1

A brief period.

00:20:39 Speaker 3

Oh, yeah.

00:20:40 Speaker 3

And then I had no textbook.

00:20:42 Speaker 3

And then if you're in a Catholic school, if someone had religion for 11 years, you know, when they get to the senior year, their their brain is just.

00:20:51 Speaker 3

It went out OK, so I I had to learn how to be creative and I did get creative just to let you know.

00:20:58 Speaker 3

So it was it was a great experience for.

00:21:00 Speaker 3

Me OK, so.

00:21:02 Speaker 1

As according to this article, it says upon graduation from SVC, Dwyer plans to work on a graduate degree.

00:21:08 Speaker 1

In teaching.

00:21:09 Speaker 1

It helps to be a counselor or teacher and.

00:21:11 Speaker 1

Eventually coach on the high school level.

00:21:13 Speaker 3

Yeah, that that.

00:21:14 Speaker 3

Clearly was my.

00:21:16 Speaker 3

Goal until I got a call from Dick Thompson and I was in my third year, so beginning my third year at All Saints, you can imagine I was making big top dollar

00:21:28 Speaker 3

No, I think, I think.

00:21:28 Speaker 2

Yeah, absolutely.

00:21:29 Speaker 3

I I think, I think my paycheck was like 8000.

00:21:33 Speaker 3

A year, you know.

00:21:34 Speaker 3

Yeah, and and then he calls me and he goes, Jim, I want you to.

00:21:40 Speaker 3

Apply for a job.

00:21:41 Speaker 3

Well, what do you want, admissions?

00:21:43 Speaker 3

Well, what do you do?

00:21:44 Speaker 3

And we think you could be good.

00:21:45 Speaker 3

That's what I went with.

00:21:47 Speaker 1

Yeah, going back a little bit, 'cause, we'll get into that.

00:21:50 Speaker 3

Right. OK.

00:21:50 Speaker 1

We'll get into all that later.

00:21:52 Speaker 1

But going back a little bit, I wanted to know, I guess, that what was like the reputation when you came to SVSU and your time at SVSU?

00:22:01 Speaker 1

And then leaving SVSU graduating or SVC, I'm saying SVC, but I truly mean SVC at that time.

00:22:09 Speaker 3

So, so when I reflect back, when you ask what did I think about the reputation when you're 18 years old, you're not, you're not really engaged.

00:22:20 Speaker 3

I mean, this wasn't University of Michigan, obviously, OK?

00:22:23 Speaker 3

But at the same time, it was a university.

00:22:25 Speaker 3

It was an opportunity.

00:22:26 Speaker 3

To get a.

00:22:26 Speaker 3

Collegiate degree.

00:22:28 Speaker 3

My parents did not go to college.

00:22:30 Speaker 3

I was a first generation student, but what was great about Saginaw Valley was in part of this has not changed today.

00:22:40 Speaker 3

The faculty were great.

00:22:41 Speaker 3

I mean, so they all wondered how they got here.

00:22:44 Speaker 3

So I was talking to George Eastland the other day, and he gave he, you know, he gave his story how he got a call and he drove from Sioux Saint Marie, and that's in South Dakota and his wife looking at you're kidding.

00:22:58 Speaker 3

We're gonna work here, you know, because you gotta remember.

00:23:01 Speaker 3

We looked like, but it was all of that, people coming here from all over the country or the world thinking, oh man, I don't know.

00:23:11 Speaker 3

And then once they got into it, they.

00:23:13 Speaker 3

Knew they were home.

00:23:15 Speaker 3

And I think for me and for my friends.

00:23:18 Speaker 3

What happened was we didn't know what we were doing as a lot of my friends were really on the golf program or something most of.

00:23:26 Speaker 3

Them, but we didn't know.

00:23:28 Speaker 3

But as time went on, the place grew on, you know, we we were family, we were small.

00:23:35 Speaker 3

You knew everybody at the university.

00:23:38 Speaker 3

You know the President to the custodian.

00:23:41 Speaker 3

And so he was just this family, Dave Lewis and his other sister that works here, OK, in in the nursing department.

00:23:50 Speaker 3

He was kind of a security guard at the time, but I told people he was like the.

00:23:55 Speaker 3

Dean of students 'cause.

00:23:56 Speaker 3

He knew it.

00:23:57 Speaker 3

He knew his all.

00:23:58 Speaker 3

He could wire.

00:23:59 Speaker 3

I told you again, don't get in trouble.

00:24:01 Speaker 3

I mean, they they they just watch for you, OK?

00:24:05 Speaker 3

'cause you had to pay 1/4 to get in the.

00:24:06 Speaker 3

Parking lot and we were.

00:24:08 Speaker 3

Always lifting the gate out to sneak our car underneath.

00:24:11 Speaker 3

I saw you'd worry.

00:24:12 Speaker 3

I saw you.

00:24:13 Speaker 3

Well, but with and then sometimes you know the doughnuts.

00:24:17 Speaker 3

They would let the bakery put.

00:24:19 Speaker 3

The Donuts behind Bohnsack and before they got him, we got him OK.

00:24:23 Speaker 3

The other boys would be eating the Donuts.

00:24:26 Speaker 3

But with all that said and done experience that we got, and I look at myself and all my friends, I think it it allowed us to believe in ourselves because people just bleed.

00:24:38 Speaker 3

Then you what else we going to do?

00:24:40 Speaker 3

And that allowed us to all have a really successful career path.

00:24:44 Speaker 3

So back in the day, whether it was Bob Becker, OK, or whether.

00:24:48 Speaker 3

It was a Georgie.

00:24:50 Speaker 3

Or rather, was Hoffman our history professor?

00:24:53 Speaker 3

And back then you could smoke in classroom and he would come in and he was a he's from the Deep South.

00:24:59 Speaker 3

And he'd take a lucky strikes, putting his mouth, light it up.

00:25:04 Speaker 3

And then he'd say he'd say, where did I leave off he?

00:25:08 Speaker 3

He was brilliant.

00:25:09 Speaker 3

And he and he was the history professor and then he would just start like shrink.

00:25:15 Speaker 3

The people are just smoking away in the classroom.

00:25:17 Speaker 3

But my point is back then.

00:25:21 Speaker 3

It was so new.



00:25:22 Speaker 3

People were really taking a chance to come here.

00:25:27

You know.

00:25:27 Speaker 3

Whether you were.

00:25:27 Speaker 3

Student or a faculty member.

00:25:29 Speaker 3

But once they got here, they knew they made right decision.

00:25:33 Speaker 3

It was family.

00:25:34 Speaker 3

It was truly family.

00:25:35 Speaker 1

Yeah, it definitely does.

00:25:37 Speaker 1

Keeps around here.

00:25:38 Speaker 1

It's the Wild West of.

00:25:39 Speaker 3

Oh, it was.

00:25:40 Speaker 1

Man, like he could be anything anybody who wanted.

00:25:41

Right.

00:25:43

To be here.

00:25:43 Speaker 3

Well, that, well, people, people come up.

00:25:46 Speaker 3

So back in the day, people would bring their hunting guns out and just go hunting out in the fields.

00:25:50 Speaker 3

Oh yeah.

00:25:51 Speaker 3

You know, got the guns in the dorm room.

00:25:53 Speaker 3

Yeah, but.

00:25:54 Speaker 3

And it was.

00:25:54 Speaker 3

Wild West and you?

00:25:57 Speaker 3

Know they would try to create new rules.

00:25:59 Speaker 3

Because and we used to have what was called dorm court and on Monday nights at 10:00 o'clock if some students had done something against policy.

00:26:06 Speaker 3

We would be part.

00:26:07 Speaker 3

Of the judges and we would decide what the penalty was not.

00:26:11 Speaker 2

Looking to record?

00:26:12 Speaker 2

Oh my goodness.

00:26:13 Speaker 1

That's crazy.

00:26:14 Speaker 3

You know, it was just an int imli pan who started the B8 Halloween party now. You wouldn't say B8. We just celebrated the 50th Halloween party three years ago.

00:26:29 Speaker 3

In Muskegon.

00:26:31 Speaker 3

So for years he just had this hiring party that.

00:26:34 Speaker 3

Started in the dorm room and again back then.

00:26:37 Speaker 3

You do really whatever you want to do, but the tradition of that has lasted 50 years, so there's a lot of cool things that just started out back in the day.

00:26:48 Speaker 3

And again, faculty members would come and new student organizations would be developed.

00:26:53 Speaker 3

Gosh, back in the day on the 3rd.

00:26:55 Speaker 3

Floor if you brought food out.

00:26:57 Speaker 3

Or whatever confunction.

00:27:00 Speaker 3

Here come the faculty, they.

00:27:02 Speaker 3

Were just like.

00:27:02 Speaker 3

Ants just coming right out and taking.

00:27:05 Speaker 3

Care of themselves, but.

00:27:06 Speaker 3

It was just that was family.

00:27:08 Speaker 3

That's the way it.

00:27:08 Speaker 1

Was yeah.

00:27:09 Speaker 1

You kind of see that still today, though, you meet so many, so many departments overlap and people know for each.

00:27:12 Speaker 3

That's yes.

00:27:16 Speaker 1

Other 'cause they?

00:27:17 Speaker 1

Go to different departments from there and so so true.

00:27:18 Speaker 3

Yeah, yeah, that's true.

00:27:20 Speaker 3

The back then it was just like myself coming here from Detroit or just the different people that came from all walks of life.

00:27:28 Speaker 3

There was a there was a risk coming here. It wasn't like Saginaw Valley had been here for 20-30 years fully.

00:27:35 Speaker 3

We were part of something new and we were part of a vision that what could Saginaw Valley really become.

00:27:44 Speaker 3

And people had ideas, but no way did they think what would.

00:27:49 Speaker 1

I mean, could you guys?

00:27:50 Speaker 1

Sense that in a way.

00:27:52 Speaker 1

Like we're starting something new here.

00:27:54 Speaker 1

This is like.

00:27:55 Speaker 1

A little different beast here, you know?

00:27:57 Speaker 1

Could you sense that in?

00:27:58 Speaker 3

Any way when?

00:27:59 Speaker 3

You say sense?

00:28:00 Speaker 3

I'm not sure.

00:28:01 Speaker 3

So sense I think we we.

00:28:03 Speaker 3

Were so naive, OK.

00:28:05 Speaker 3

That here we are.

00:28:07 Speaker 3

Looking at this community and they have these little.

00:28:09 Speaker 3

Spruce trees, Christmas trees, whatever.

00:28:12 Speaker 3

You want to call him?

00:28:13 Speaker 3

And he had this road, he had farm.

00:28:15 Speaker 3

And so it wasn't like it was this appealing infrastructure, but once you got and once you started meeting the counselors and once you started meeting some of the faculty.

00:28:27 Speaker 3

And once you start seeing the bookstore and everything, you go, yeah, let's try it out.

00:28:33 Speaker 3

And then subsequently again, the Wild, Wild West is probably a great vision of what it.

00:28:39 Speaker 3

Was back in.

00:28:40 Speaker 1

The day, yeah, yeah, that's awesome.

00:28:43 Speaker 2

Thank you for listening to the first installment of the Cardinal Voices Podcast.

00:28:46 Speaker 2

Be sure to follow the podcast for more conversations with people who've shaped SVSU.

00:28:50 Speaker 1

And as always, it's a great.

00:28:51 Speaker 1

Day to be a cardinal.