

Political Science

News & Notes

April 2010



Students converse with Representative Jeff Mayes at the Starbucks on campus in late March. Article on page 7.

Announcements

Annual Award Banquet April 12:

The Political Science Department's Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Monday, April 12 at 7pm in the Emeriti Room. R.S.V.P required.

CD/CR Debate April 15:

The College Democrats and College Republicans Annual Debate will be held on Thursday, April 15, at 7pm.

College Democrats Fundraiser April 16, 6 - 9pm:

An art show fundraiser will be held in conjunction with AIGA at the Saginaw County Democratic Headquarters, 122 N. Michigan Ave. Admission - \$5 for students, food and drinks provided.

Moot Court, Mock Trial Teams Being Formed!

Julie Keil, Law Club advisor and a Political Science faculty member, was recently awarded an SVSU Foundation Grant to start a Moot Court team for the 2010 – 2011 school year. The award will pay for transportation and expenses for team members to participate in a regional competition. A minimum of two teams, with two students per team, will be formed. Keil has hopes that there will be enough interest to form more than two teams. The Moot Court teams will be an extension of the Law Club. The Law Club is excited that Keil received the foundation grant and hopes to recruit more members to both the Law Club and the Moot Court teams.

The teams will draft briefs and travel to the regional competition, which will be held in Ohio. According to Keil, the competition first consists of "reviewing a case that has already been tried and is being appealed to the Supreme Court on the basis of statutory and constitutional arguments. Then, a brief, which is a written statement regarding why the team feels the original decision was legally wrong or right, is drafted. The brief is presented to a panel of judges, and the team and the judges discuss the brief and the team answers any questions judges have about it."

Keil noted that the "competition is very intense and practices highly beneficial skills that students will use in law school and as practicing attorneys. The main focus is on superior writing and analytical skills. Moot court is less theatrical than the mock trial competition. There will be two practice sessions this summer in legal research, which will help students going to law school to develop research skills." More than 100 colleges and universities compete in this event yearly. If there is enough interest at SVSU in participating, a practice competition will be held in October and the two strongest teams will be selected to represent SVSU in the Ohio competition.

A Mock Trial team is being formed as a separate registered student organization. Keil will serve as the faculty advisor for this group as well. Mock Trial allows students to partake in a civil or criminal court room or trial simulation. The mock trial teams are larger than moot court teams and consist of six to eight people. Participants act as witnesses and prosecution and defense lawyers. *(Continued)*

See Moot Court/Mock Trial, Page 3

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

Political Science News & Notes

Dear Reader:

As the semester winds down and we all begin planning ahead for the fall semester, I would like to remind those approaching their final year that we will be offering PS 485 Senior Seminar and PS 475 in the fall. If you entered SVSU within the past three years, this course is likely a requirement for the political science major; but, to be sure, you need to check with the advising office to see which "catalog year" governs your requirements.

If you have had any difficulty registering for PS 485, it may be because you have taken a newer upper-division course (e.g., PS 363) that was not in the catalog when PS 485 was created. As a result, the registration system does not "recognize" the new course. Confusing? Yes! Just contact me, and I can help you get registered.

By the end of April we will have published a new department "Survival Guide." This guide will put all of our department's course and program information in one place, and it will offer tips for getting through your SVSU years safely and effectively. Look for it!

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STUDENT UPDATES

- Nathan Jerry (Political Science major) has a summer internship with Congressman Dave Camp in Washington D.C.
- Chad Young (Political Science major) recently received a job as campaign manager for Gary McDowell for State Senate.
- Justin Alexander (Political Science major) recently received a job as campaign organizer for Jeff Mayes for State Senate.
- Melanie Ellison (Political Science major) has a summer internship in Washington D.C. with Bryce Cullinane, founder of PoliticsUnder30.org.
- John Riske (Political Science minor) recently received a job as campaign manager for Dr. Debasish Mridha for State Senate.
- Stuart Chipman (Political Science minor) has a summer internship with the Sierra Club in San Diego.

Moot Court/Mock Trial (continued from page 1)

The idea for a mock trial team came from Kasey Bey and Jordan Bellant, two students pursuing majors in Political Science. They learned about the concept at their high schools through a Youth in Government program, which was a mock government simulation. Both students had a lot of fun participating in the program and wanted to bring something similar to SVSU.

A large number of other collegiate institutions have mock trial teams, including University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Northwood University. In fact, Northwood University is known for having won a number of the national competitions its students have competed in.

According to Bey, mock trial is “a great way to prepare students for law and graduate schools. It builds on and enhances public speaking and critical thinking skills. The Political Science Department is growing really quickly, and this is an exciting opportunity, especially for students planning on furthering their education after obtaining their Bachelor’s.”

The mock trial organization plans to try to meet over the summer to get better acquainted with the members who join. The court case for the national mock trial competition is posted before the school year begins, and national competition invitationals are held in the fall.

Any and all students are welcome and encouraged to participate in either or both teams. If interested, contact faculty advisor Julie Keil at jakeil@svsu.edu.

Benjamin Machar Delivers Inspiring Presentation at SVSU

— by Kristen Taber

The SVSU community has the unique and gratifying privilege to have Benjamin Machar, a Sudanese native, as a current Political Science adjunct professor. Machar is a graduate from Central Michigan University, where he received his master’s degree in political science.



Pictured: Benjamin Machar, a Sudanese native.

Here at SVSU, he teaches World Politics. John Kaczynski, Director of the Center for Public Policy and Service and Political Science instructor, commented that Machar is “one of the most interesting people that he’s ever met.” The two met at Central Michigan University and co-founded the CMU Model United Nations Program, and were both members of Pi Sigma Alpha. “I am never surprised by what Machar has accomplished in his lifetime, and I look forward to what is to come in the future,” Kaczynski remarked.

On Monday, March 29th, the SVSU Law Club sponsored a presentation by Machar, entitled “Sudan Faces ‘Historic Crossroads’: Unity or Separation in 2011 Referendum”. In his presentation, Machar spoke about his own experience as a “Lost boy” of Sudan, as well as the problems that exist in his homeland.

He lectured to a crowd of about 60 students and faculty in the Marble Lecture Hall regarding the ongoing civil war in Sudan. Machar spoke passionately about the conflict between the southern, non-Arab populations and the northern, Arab-dominated government. He also explained that in 2011, the citizens of Southern Sudan will have the opportunity to vote on whether they wish to separate from Northern Sudan or remain as a unified country.

Dr. Erik Trump was one of the faculty members in attendance at the program. Trump remarked, “I was really pleased that the Law Club arranged this lecture on a timely political issue that reminds us of the significance of international law. International politics is not my field, so I found the lecture helpful in clarifying aspects of Sudanese politics and history about which I had little knowledge. This past weekend I read a newspaper article about a threatened boycott of the upcoming referendum in Sudan, and I was able to appreciate the dangerous implications of this threat.” Because of Benjamin Machar’s presentation, SVSU now has a better understanding of a momentous international issue.

“...because of Machar’s presentation, SVSU now has a better understanding of a momentous international issue.”

AN ALUMNUS PERSPECTIVE

Recent Graduate Greg Dietrich Running for 95th District State Representative



Pictured: Greg Dietrich

Greg Dietrich recently graduated in 2009 with a Political Science major and Communication minor. His interest in politics grew out of watching the televised 2004 presidential campaign, in which George W. Bush was elected to a second term. He was serving in the Air Force as crew chief for a fighter jet and stationed in Korea during that time period.

Dietrich was the chair of the Saginaw Democratic Party from January 2009 - February 2010. He currently serves as a trustee on the Board of Trustees in Buena Vista Township. For a while, Dietrich was a full time student, and held a job and his positions as trustee and Democratic Party chair at the same time. In the midst of all of that, he had to continuously do fundraising for the Democratic Party. Through these experiences,

Dietrich has learned how to “deal with clashing personalities and non-supporters, how to work collaboratively to get things done, and how to graciously accept defeat regarding proposed ideas or issues.”

What Dietrich finds to be the biggest political surprise of his lifetime was the election of Barack Obama. “It was astonishing, the mood of the electorate has really changed. I didn’t think that the Democratic Party would win, but the Democratic rhetoric proved appealing to the electorate, and I’m very pleased,” he states.

Dietrich says he is “truly happy with his experience at SVSU.” He really enjoyed working with the faculty. He believes that internships are key to gaining real world experience that employers are looking for. Dietrich interned for Congressman Kildee, Senator Levin, and the House Democratic caucus in Lansing. He strongly encourages current students to get involved through internships and gain experience in real life situations outside of campus, as it builds character and strengthens resumes. “It’s important to learn about local community issues. A lot of the issues in Saginaw County mirror larger issues in the state, country, and even the world.” He encourages students to always be looking to make media contacts to both gain and share an inside knowledge.

Dietrich is now running for 95th District state representative, which represents Saginaw, Bridgeport, Buena Vista, and Spaulding townships. At the top of Dietrich’s legislative agenda are “issues that include bringing jobs to the area, sharing state revenue and decreasing home foreclosures.” He wants to better the quality of life in the area so that students have an incentive to stay around after graduation. Dietrich understands the local workforce, as he currently works in production at Nexteer Automotive, part of the UAW 699 union.

Dietrich felt prepared to run following his graduation. “I felt it was the best opportunity and time for me personally,” he says. “I’ve wanted to be a state representative since I got out of the military. It’s a real commitment and you definitely need to have a passion for it to be able to uphold an office.”

If interested in helping Dietrich with his campaign for state representative, contact him at gregdee48601@yahoo.com.

College Democrats/ College Republicans Debate April 15, 7pm

Save the date for the CR/CD Debate! On Thursday, April 15, at 7pm, the College Democrats and College Republicans of SVSU will engage in their annual policy discussion debate. Local legislators have been invited to the debate, and if present, will speak on current issues. The event is free and open to the public.

John Kaczynski, a Political Science instructor and the Director of the Center for Public Policy and Service, will moderate the event. Two members chosen by each organization will participate in the debate. The participants are chosen by nomination and internal debate.

Chad Young, President of the College Democrats, looks forward to this exciting annual event, commenting, “It provides great exposure for our organizations and students.”

Ted Goodman, President of the College Republicans, also talked about his organization’s excitement for the event, mentioning that the debate is a “great opportunity to express views and have constructive conversation with those who may have different opinions on some of today’s hottest topics. Rather than hearing the same talking points from both the left and the right, we anticipate healthy, positive conversation from both sides of the aisle.”

Students from a political science policy course will select two major state issues for the participants to discuss. The participants will have no prior knowledge regarding the topics chosen, and the questions will be posed at random. The first hour of the debate will be the exchange between the CD’s and CR’s members. A fifteen minute question and answer session from the audience will follow.

For more information, contact Chad Young at cyoung@svsu.edu, or Ted Goodman at tcgoodma@svsu.edu.

Bryce Cullinane's New Media Jobs Presentation

Bryce Cullinane gave a high-energy and engaging presentation on March 16th in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

Cullinane is founder and director of PoliticsUnder30.org, both an organization and online guide for young professionals pursuing careers in the world of politics. He works as a Web consultant for lobbyists, campaigns, and clients in politics and in new media marketing at the George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management. He is also the organizer of the Politics Online Conference, which will be held in Washington D.C. this month.

Cullinane received his Bachelor's Degree in history and political science at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and is currently working toward his Master's Degree at the George Washington University.

His presentation highlighted new media, politics, and jobs that encompass both fields. He discussed the effect technology will have in upcoming elections and how to successfully market one's self in the digital age.

Chad Young, a senior and President of the College Democrats at SVSU, said, "It was refreshing to have someone our age come and speak to us about current technologies, politics, and job opportunities." According to Cullinane, politics is "one of the only professions that is recession proof. There are always available jobs." Cullinane discussed how there aren't enough new media consultants at present, and professionals in politics need assistance in building websites and managing social networks.

Cullinane stressed the benefits of having a technical knowledge, and highlighted the importance of learning technologies such as video embedding and being able to use Wordpress, Drupal, Final Cut Pro, and Adobe Photoshop and Flash programs.

"It's really important to be the person who knows the basics of technology and new media when entering a career," Cullinane explained, "It's imperative to be a good writer and to know how to use social media for organizing." Cullinane covered new media such as Facebook, Foursquare, Mashable, Prezi, and Twitter.com web pages.

John Kauten, a student pursuing a degree in Political Science, noted that "it was really interesting because the topics he covered were not those

normally discussed in the political science classroom setting."

Cullinane also recommended that all students invest time in creating a professional website portfolio detailing their resume, accomplishments, and experience. "Having a positive web presence is key in marketing yourself," he remarked.

Cullinane's ultimate advice to students was to make as many contacts as possible, and consistently follow up and maintain those contacts.

He encourages students to get in touch with him if they have questions, need advice, or simply want to talk new media.

Cullinane can be contacted via e-mail at bryce222@gmail.com



Pictured: Justin Alexander, Chad Young, Bryce Cullinane, and Dr. Pamela Edwards-Ham pose for a photo at the reception after Cullinane's presentation.

"It's really important to be the person who knows the basics of technology and new media when entering a career."

- Bryce Cullinane

Benefits of a Professional/Technical Writing Minor

Ever thought about the benefits of a minor in Professional and Technical Writing (PTW)?

According to Dr. Beth Jorgensen, a PTW professor and the Outreach Coordinator of the program, “employers and graduate schools consistently cite flexible, insightful communication skills as the most important in any field. The Professional and Technical Writing program at SVSU provides the perfect environment for students to develop proficiency in written, oral, and visual communication.”

The knowledge gained in PTW give students the “ability to apply and express their expertise in future workplaces or graduate schools. Above all, students will develop analytical skills to determine the best strategies and methods for effective delivery to diverse audiences.”

For students seeking a Political Science or Public Administration major, a PTW minor would prepare them to “successfully write effective arguments, funding proposals for research and community projects, and clear and effective research articles for publication, including design of charts, graphs, and other clarifying visuals.”

Dr. Jorgensen believes that a PTW minor would show students how to analyze the language of politics and learn to argue both effectively and ethically. “PTW is clearly grounded in the study of rhetoric, and Political Science majors will benefit from skills in analysis of historical and contemporary political documents, as well as from understanding of the role of communication in political outcomes.

Students will benefit from a fuller understanding of the theory and practice of argumentation as well as the role of communication in legal outcomes. Courses that address cross-cultural communication, political discourse, and rhetorical history, will

enhance insight into socio-cultural factors in law and policy debate and implementation. PTW courses will sharpen critical thinking about contemporary political issues.”

John Kaczynski, Director of the Center for Public Policy at SVSU and Political Science instructor, states, “every student, whether going into Politics, Policy, Public Administration, or Law, should have a well-versed background and skill set in professional writing.”

The PTW courses allow and encourage

common in a professional workplace.” With the Public Administration and Professional Writing course work and internships behind her, Katie feels adequately prepared for a future administration job.

Kasey Bey, a Political Science student, just recently decided to pursue a PTW minor. She noted that she was persuaded by the various writing opportunities and electives the minor provides. She has only taken one course so far but is very excited

for her coursework in the fall. Kasey is one of the editors for the upcoming Political Science Student Journal, *The Sovereign*. Editing the journal has been a launching point for Kasey to combine her passion for politics with her passion for writing. Kasey looks forward to honing her writing skills through the PTW minor.

Dr. Bill Williamson, the PTW Coordinator, states that in the PTW program, “an emphasis is placed on meeting audience needs, expectations, and building audience appropriate arguments, evidence, and visuals. A PTW minor will ultimately make a student a better job candidate because the student will be willing and

able to do quality research and survey design.”

The core curriculum for a PTW minor includes an introductory course, Writing in Electronic Spaces, Instruction Writing, and Grant and Proposal Writing. Students also have the opportunity to complete an internship for course credit.

Faculty: If you would like to have Dr. Jorgensen give a brief presentation about PTW to your classes, e-mail her at ejorgens@svsu.edu to schedule a date.

The PTW offices are located behind the Student Technology Center on the second floor of the Zahnaw Library.

Program Requirements (18 credits)

Core Classes (12 credits):

ENGL 260 – Intro to PTW
ENGL 285 – Writing in Electronic Spaces
ENGL 320 – Grant and Proposal Writing
ENGL 322 – Instruction Writing

Professional Electives of Particular Interest to Political Scientists:

ENGL 296 – Internship in PTW
ENGL 324 – Topics in PTW (Fall 2009 is Environmental Rhetoric)
ENGL 400 – Studies in Rhetoric

Other Professional Electives:

ENGL 261 – Introduction to Creative Writing
OR
ENGL 262 – Introduction to Journalism
ENGL 304 – Technical Report Writing
ENGL 340 – Writing in Community Organizations
ENGL 355 – Language in Society
ENGL 360 – Grammar of Contemporary English (Recommended)
ENGL 383 – Tutoring Writing
ENGL 390 – Special Topics (Topic must be related to PTW)
ENGL 396 – Internship in PTW
ENGL 481 – Managing Documentation Projects

students to work for real-world, often local, clients, writing business or grant proposals, aiding community organizations, and partaking in document design.

Katie Mack is a soon-to-be graduate with a Public Administration major and Professional and Technical Writing minor. According to Katie, obtaining the PTW minor has helped her tremendously with her writing skills.

Katie commented, “I believe having a PTW minor has helped me hone my overall communication skills. It has pushed me to learn how to better organize and present thoughts and information. I now feel comfortable writing important documents that are

Students: For more information on the PTW program, e-mail Dr. Bill Williamson at wwilliam@svsu.edu, or Dr. Beth Jorgensen at ejorgens@svsu.edu.

Spotlight On... STUDENTS

Meet **Sean Hammond**, a second year student pursuing a Biology major and Political Science and Chemistry minor. Hammond is well known in his hometown of Potterville, for being valedictorian of his 2008 graduating high school class and for recently becoming a city councilman.

Hammond had an internship with Representative Rick Jones in Lansing, where he was able to experience firsthand a lot of what happens in the political world. After partaking in the internship, he wanted to step up and make a change in his own town. He heard complaints from residents and felt that the town wasn't being run as efficiently as it could be.

Hammond decided to show Potterville what he had to offer, so he ran a small campaign, had yard signs created, and went door to door and talked to people. His efforts proved worthwhile and he was elected city councilman in November 2009.

So far, Hammond is extremely pleased with his SVSU experience. "I just love it here," he said. He really enjoyed his political science honors courses. "Dr. Trump and Professor Nicol opened my eyes to what Political Science is all about."

His honors courses ultimately led him to participate in the Living Leadership internship program in

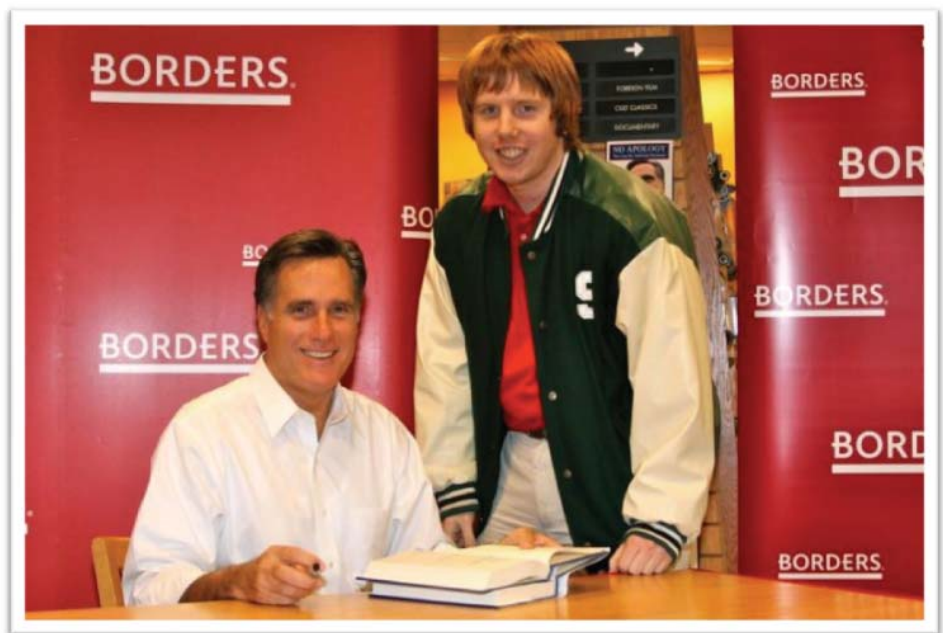
Lansing, which he cites as his best overall experience so far. "I was able to see how the state handled monetary issues and it inspired me to work closely with my own local government in that aspect," he remarked.

Another one of his favorite classes was Dr. Trepanier's "Film, Politics, and Literature" course. "I loved that we got to talk about things you wouldn't normally get to talk about in the realm of politics. The class was a blast and I really learned a lot," he said.

So, what's his plan for the future?

He sees himself continuing to pursue elected positions, working his way towards higher elected offices. He also has plans to attend graduate school to further his studies in biology.

Hammond encourages students of all ages to pursue local politics, saying, "Don't be afraid to make yourself heard and try for an elected position. Make yourself known at meetings, raise questions, always be questioning everything because there might be a more efficient way of doing things."



Pictured: Hammond at a book signing with Mitt Romney.

Coffee and Conversation with Jeff Mayes



**Pictured:
State Representative
Jeff Mayes**

At the end of March, State Representative Jeff Mayes took time out of his busy schedule to have coffee with students at the Starbucks on campus.

According to Justin Alexander, who was recently appointed campaign coordinator for Mayes' state senate campaign, Mayes has "supported SVSU with his vote in favor of keeping the Michigan Promise Scholarship. Mayes continues to support SVSU and college students in any way that he can."

Many of the students in attendance remarked that they really appreciate the time and energy Mayes has dedicated to forming close relationships and having conversations with students. During his Starbucks visit, Mayes listened to students' concerns and answered questions on matters in Lansing that directly affect the college-age demographic. Students commented that they found it refreshing to have a member of the state legislature come to campus and talk to students in an informal setting.

If you'd like to help Jeff Mayes with his campaign for state senate, contact Justin Alexander at jmalexan@svsu.edu.

Dr. Donahue & Dr. Trump to Receive Faculty Research Award

Dr. Erik Trump and Dr. Jesse Donahue will be receiving the Faculty Research Award at the April 12 Annual Political Science Department's Award Banquet for their recent research in zoos and politics.

So, how did they get to where they are now?

Their initial interest in zoos, politics, and animal studies began when Donahue started teaching a state and local government course. She wanted to find an interesting way to show students how government is involved in their lives, and she found that zoos proved to be a fitting example. The initial spark of interest turned into a number of books about the politics of zoos and zoo art that the two have co-authored.

Their first book details how zoos are defended against animal rights groups. Doing the zoo research was a "fun process" and led them to a number of fascinating animal rights court cases regarding federal regulators, agencies, and activists they never knew existed. It also led Trump to attend the American Zoos and Aquarium Association (AZA) Conference. While at the conference, Trump participated in a charity silent

auction where he won boxes and boxes of historical AZA newsletters that introduced them to important names and events in the zoo world.

Donahue and Trump also did field research to try to get a sense of what zoos as public institutions were like. They ended up traveling to 30 different zoos and aquariums around the country. This led them to the discovery of how big of a role art, which was further tied to politics, played in the zoo setting. They found images, sculptures, posters, and environmental art to be a consistent part of the zoos that they visited. Further research showed them that the "New Deal" in the 1930's, designed to rebuild American infrastructure, funded a large number of both zoos and artwork.

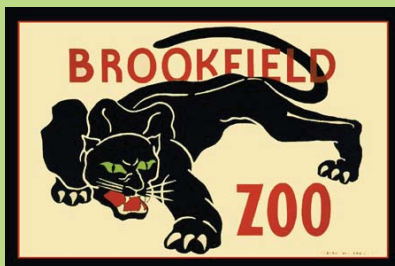
They traveled all over the U.S., sifting through archives and uncovering the ways in which the "New Deal" built zoos. They also uncovered many funding debates about spending money on animals. "It was an interesting time period...it was the people versus the animals, and the animals won...it was a battle between good politicians and animals versus the bad politicians," Donahue said. Their book on the "New

Deal" and zoo art, entitled *American Zoos During the Great Depression*, is currently at their publisher's office being prepared for print. They are in the process of starting a fourth book about snakes and American experiences with them, another topic that they became interested in through their zoo research.

Their advice for students contemplating authorship is to "write about fun stuff...write about what you like." Donahue remarked that graduate students are often encouraged to fill a niche with their writing, but that's not necessarily true. Writing about something that people want to read is often more appealing to a publisher. They also noted that most of their research is qualitative and is based on going back to original information sources and government documents. A lot of published books aren't about quantitative research, which is frequently stressed in political science graduate courses. "There's a wealth of primary documents to examine. You shouldn't always trust the secondary literature because you can find originality in re-interpretation," Trump commented. *(Continued)* **See Page 9**

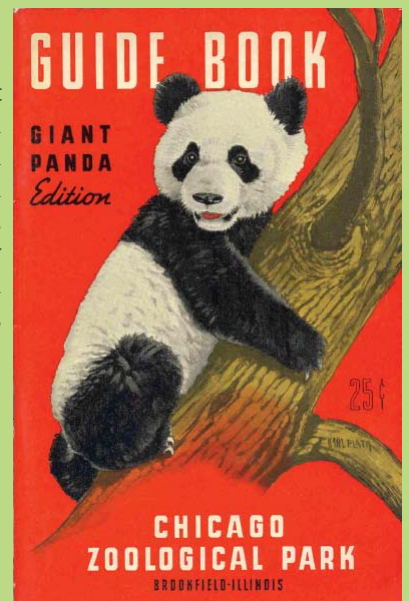
An Overview of Dr. Donahue and Dr. Trump's forthcoming book, *American Zoos During the Great Depression*:

American zoos flourished during the Great Depression, thanks to Federal programs that enabled local governments to build new zoological parks, complete unfinished ones, and remodel outdated facilities. Community leaders successfully advocated zoo construction in the context of widespread poverty and human suffering, arguing that they stimulated tourism, provided employment, served educational purposes, and democratized leisure. Simultaneously, zoo professionals seized the opportunity created by their rising visibility to promote an agenda of science and conservation, as well as build "Reptile Houses" and advance an antivenin program. Thus, the New Deal significantly impacted animal welfare, the development of the zoo profession, and ideas about necessary public institutions.



Pictured Left: An image of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) zoo poster. The WPA was a 1930's "New Deal" work relief program for artists.

Pictured Right: An image of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) zoo guidebook cover.



Donahue & Trump, Continued from p. 9

In addition to being published authors, Donahue and Trump are exemplary faculty members. Trump is currently the Department Chair, a position that Donahue also held in the past. Donahue was chair of the Honors Program for a number of years, Trump served as a previous coordinator of the Writing Center, and both have served on the Faculty Association.

Their advice to students is to “seek advice from faculty, stay actively involved in activities both on and off campus, and volunteer and intern with politicians and organizations.” They also encourage students to take courses with heavy reading requirements, as it will help in the long run with graduate and law school.

“We truly enjoy our discipline and students. Being at SVSU has been wonderful, and we’re thankful for the connections we’ve made with students and staff,” Donahue mentioned. The pair have been teaching here since 1996, when SVSU was largely commuter based, and they’ve been pushing the expectations of the students and department ever since. They feel very

fortunate to be able to teach at the same university. Donahue and Trump met at the University of California Santa Cruz during their undergraduate studies. They were both able to attend graduate schools in Boston, and are now happily married with two children, ages seven and eleven. They are an “animal” family, and have six pets: a fish, cat, dog, rabbit, and two quarter horse mares.

In the summers, Donahue and her daughter spend time trail riding and competing in horse shows, which she says is “fun and exciting, but lots of work!” Trump and son enjoy their horses but would often rather ride their “iron horses” (motorcycles). The family enjoys outdoor activities such as camping, kayaking, swimming, and ice skating. Trump, a California native, commented that he learned to ice skate at age 40, as he’d never seen ice until he lived in Boston. The family owns a “farm” in Beaverton with an apple orchard of over 50 trees and enjoys spending much of their time there.

For further information, Dr. Donahue and Dr. Trump can be contacted at jdonahue@svsu.edu or at ekt@svsu.edu.



Pictured Above: Dr. Jesse Donahue and Dr. Erik Trump with one of their horses.

SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Jesse Donahue

Colleges Attended: UC Santa Cruz and Boston College

Regularly Teach: Statistics, Gender and Politics; Animals, Habitats, and Politics; State and Local Government; The American Presidency; and Introduction to Political Science

Favorite Course to Teach: Animals, Habitats, and Politics

Currently Reading: books about the first Afghanistan war, September 11, and the Pat Tillman case

Favorite Music Genres: country, classic rock, classical music, and pop
Places lived: Bucaramanga, Colombia; New Orleans, Louisiana; Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York; The Hague, Holland; Mallorca, Spain; Los Angeles, California; Santa Cruz, California; Natick, Massachusetts; and Midland, Michigan

SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Erik Trump

Colleges Attended: UC Santa Cruz and Boston University

Regularly Teach: Intro to Political Science, Writing and Politics, American Political System, Native American Politics, Art and Politics, and American Political Thought

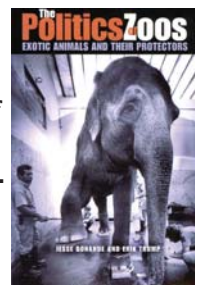
Favorite Course to Teach: Native American Politics

Favorite Movies: Apocalypse Now, Lord of the Rings trilogy, Heat, Million Dollar Baby, A Knight’s Tale

Favorite Music: Johnny Cash, Jimi Hendrix, Rolling Stones, Stevie Ray Vaughn, JJ Cale, Lynard Skynard, Led Zeppelin, etc.

Places Lived: Trinidad, California; Santa Cruz, California; Natick, Massachusetts; Midland, Michigan

Pictured Right:
An image of one of
Dr. Donahue and
Dr. Trump’s books.



Biomass: What Is It Good For? Absolutely Something!

— by Julie Luce, Green News Network reporter

Although many people are comfortable with the way energy usage is currently assessed in the United States, there are a growing number of discontented folks, wondering, “What will it take to change the way the U.S. utilizes energy?”

On the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, Dr. Christopher Schilling, chair and professor of Engineering, is a strong supporter of alternative energies, specifically, biomass.

“Biomass is a renewable resource that contains a storehouse of usable energy made of organic material, which generally is derived from plant matter, animal waste, or even human garbage,” explains senior, chemistry major, Gretchen Roekle.

And although the idea of using human garbage to create electricity and heat may scare people away, many other countries within Europe, Asia, and South America have already begun embracing it. But how exactly would a switch to biomass energy be possible, or even beneficial?

According to Schilling, changes are necessary within the system of large power plants currently being used within the U.S. As the world population increases, there will inevitably be an increase in energy consumption, and thus, power plants.

He explains that resorting to smaller, or “baby,” biomass-fueled power plants, would allow for a more localized examination of waste produced within an area, that could be easily converted into electricity and heat. “We’re at a very fortunate time because we can go to Europe and see this in action,” Schilling explains, “and it is remarkable.”

Essentially, the “baby” power plants would utilize only waste produced within a specific area, which would save not only money, but also the environment.

Taking the utilization of waste one step further, Schilling is also

experimenting with the combination and compression of materials into usable products, which could ideally be used as replacements for plastics, or wood. Others could be burned to effectively heat a home, or building.

In Pioneer Hall, a lab displays the effort that Schilling, along with colleagues and students, including Roekle, have put into identifying and researching biomass energy, and utilizing the waste produced. Housing a plethora of both energy-efficient and recycled materials, the lab is being utilized in multiple ways.

Within the lab are an aquaponics unit, hydroponics unit, corn-burning stove, a 100% bio-diesel powered motorcycle, and an array of compressed materials on display.

An on campus registered student organization, Taking Education Abroad, is planning on using some of the recycled waste materials to make jewelry to sell as a fundraiser. The jewelry will be made from compressed materials, including switch grass, soy meal, corn cob, and spent coffee grounds. Simultaneously, Schilling’s Management 680, sustainable business course, is exploring the possibility of actually implementing “baby” power plants within the state of Michigan. They have even been considering already existing small scale distributed power systems, such as Novi Energy, Morbark HTI, and Phase III Renewables, that would be hired to initiate the process.

While SVSU is witnessing the integration of alternative energy concepts into classes, and registered student organizations, Schilling believes that the biggest obstacle is spreading awareness about its benefits. “People don’t trust science, they don’t trust me,” Schilling admits, “and there’s a lot of hard stuff here, scientifically.”

For more information, visit www.GreenCardinal.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON... Julie Keil

Julie Keil is a full time faculty member in the Political Science Department. She has attended the University of Michigan, University of Oregon, Central Michigan University, and is currently attending Wayne State University as a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science focusing on International Relations.

Keil’s main educational passions are in the areas of international justice, international law, and human rights. In fact, her interest in political science stemmed from an international law course that she took. Her favorite college course was “British Constitutional History to 1492.”

This is Keil’s fourth year teaching at SVSU, and she is pleased with how approachable administrators and other instructors are. “I really enjoy the fact that student ages vary from 18 years old to people coming back to school in their fifties and sixties.” Keil says. She actively supports a wide range of student activities. She is the adviser for Law Club, Moot Court, Mock Trial, a human rights group, and *The Saginaw Valley Journal*.

Keil loves to travel and has spent time in Oregon, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, and other parts of Europe. One interesting thing about Keil is that she has a fourth degree Shorin Ryu black belt and runs a martial art school in Midland. She is one of the three highest-ranking women trained in okdr weapons in the world. Her interest in martial arts started when she attended law school over thirty years ago, and she’s been practicing martial arts ever since.

In five years, Keil plans to still be teaching at SVSU, but hopes to see the Department featuring more in international relations and world politics. She encourages students to “take classes that are intellectually challenging because it will make students more aware of what’s going on in the world as well as improving reading and writing skills.”

For more information, Keil can be contacted at jakeil@svsu.edu.

SVSU: Something More, Something Greener!

— by Lisa Luce, Green News Network reporter

As the first building at Saginaw Valley State University to become Green Seal Certified, Pioneer Hall is encouraging a change of color at SVSU by urging students and staff to show their green pride.

In an attempt to increase economic efficiency on campus, Dr. Christopher Schilling of the Engineering department has led construction of both a hydroponics unit and an aquaponics unit for use and display in Pioneer Hall. Both unit types prove ideal for crop growing as they eliminate the use of chemicals and call for minimal maintenance, primarily running themselves after set-up. To ensure proper operation and growth of crops, they do require constantly running water and adequate lighting.

"All we have to do, once a week, is make sure that the water basin is filled, and we replenish it with nutrients," explains Caitlin Cooper, a sophomore involved with maintaining the hydroponics unit in Living Center South.

Currently, Living Center South and SVSU's own greenhouse are the only other two locations on campus to house units such as these. As of now, both are equipped with hydroponics units, and the greenhouse is also undergoing development of an aquaponics unit.

Already boasting little maintenance and chemical-free produce, these alternative methods of growing crops continue to increase interest among

SVSU faculty and students due to their vast array of consequential benefits, including decreased health care costs, an increase in jobs, and decreased usage of fossil fuels for shipping.

"Imagine the effect on health care costs that would have if all of a sudden people stopped eating garbage," explains senior Stuart Chipman, a student participant in producing and maintaining these units.

The idea is that if more people were provided with easy access to chemical-free vegetables, they would, ideally, be encouraged to eat healthier foods, as opposed to processed food items, currently available quickly and easily in fast-food chains and grocery stores.

Resulting over time would then be less sickness due to less unhealthy food intake, and cheaper health care costs because of a shrinking demand for doctor's visits.

Because of the many benefits associated with the operation of aquaponics and hydroponics systems, Dr. Brian Thomas of the Sociology department acted as "Principal Investigator" for a project to construct a hydroponics unit for the Houghton-Jones Center and the Good Neighbors Mission of east Saginaw.

In an attempt to spread awareness and educate people on how to properly maintain the hydroponics unit, Chipman and Cooper, along with a handful of other students and faculty

members, took part in Thomas's project.

The unit, which was made available to the neighborhood residents, also served as an experiment to determine how practical it was for average people to efficiently maintain.

The goal was to accustom the neighbors to caring for the vegetables primarily by themselves, so that they could eventually learn to grow and maintain their own crops in order to save money on, and have easier access to, produce.

Though the project was not as successful as all had hoped, it was the first step in spreading awareness about alternative ways of living a greener lifestyle to non-campus residents, and it has even contributed to new developments within the area.

"The hydroponics systems stimulated some significant community interest in food related activities," says Thomas, "For instance, it led to establishing a community garden near the Houghton-Jones Center." As for SVSU though, interested students and faculty members are hoping that environmental awareness will only continue to grow as organizations with a green focus, such as Green Cardinal Initiative and Friends of Ishmael, gain popularity on campus and further promote the importance of living green.

For more information, visit www.GreenCardinal.org.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Sterling, Hoffman & Co. is searching for current SVSU students interested in a journalism internship with *The Saginaw Valley Journal* starting in late August of 2010. Candidates should have strong beat reporting and investigative skills along with a desire to learn and grow in a rewarding work environment.

This internship is paid with a \$500 stipend upon completion of the program (one academic semester), with an option to renew the internship at the discretion of the publisher. In addition to the \$500 stipend, academic credit can often be arranged. The newspaper hopes to select two candidates among the applicants for inclusion in the program. All majors are welcomed to apply; however communications, rhetoric, English, and political science majors are especially encouraged to do so. Journalism experience is a plus but is not required.

Selected interns will be expected to maintain an output of 1,500-2,000 words (approximately two hours of work) per week. Interns are encouraged to explore and investigate potential news leads; remaining assignments will come from senior editors. Interns will be expected to build relationships with contacts around the university in order to maintain a robust network from which to draw information important to the campus community for inclusion in the publication. All work will be conducted at Saginaw Valley State University.

Applicants should send a cover letter; résumé with telephone, e-mail, and postal contact information; and a maximum of five varied and impressive clips or writing samples to: Sterling, Hoffman & Co. Internship Program, P.O. Box 1074, Midland, MI 48641-1074 or mail@saginawvalleyjournal.com. To learn more about The Saginaw Valley Journal, visit <http://www.saginawvalleyjournal.com>.

