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## ENVIRONMENT

# Being red, seeing green

Green Cardinal Initiative brings students, staff together for eco-ideas

By Mary Oakley  
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

"Red Pride, Green Campus," is the slogan to the new Green Cardinal Initiative with a goal of turning SVSU into a more environmentally-friendly campus.

"The Green Cardinal Initiative involves a collaboration of students, faculty, and staff from a variety of departments, including sociology, engineering, chemistry, art, Dining Services, grounds, and the library," said Brian Thomas, a professor in the sociology department. "These are people who want to volunteer and give back, starting with our 782 acre 'home' and extending to the greater community."

See GREEN, page A10



(Above) Sociology professor Brian Thomas explains the composting procedure to students and staff at the SVSU Greenhouse. (Right) The staff at the greenhouse grow flowering plants in addition to more traditional vegetable-using fertilizer made from the vermiculture process.

Vanguard photos/Adam Baudoux



## HEALTH CARE

# Student helps cure health care woes at Saginaw support program

By Alie Neumeyer  
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

While the economy continues to decline in Michigan, so does the number of people with health care. One Saginaw program is fighting the notable adversity by providing free health care to those in need.

The Community Prescription Support Program, or CRxSP, was founded by a Dominican nun, Sister Phyllis Klonowski. The program provides a variety of services to those in need of health care. Some services include prescription medication, assistance paying for co-pays, durable medical equipment, and referrals.

Social work senior Suzanne Edmonds volunteers with the program weekly. She reflected on the current situation regarding health care in America and more specifically, for students at SVSU.

"There are numerous valid reasons why people including SVSU students do not have insurance or for the insurance they do have does not cover their needs," she said. "It is sad to note that the U.S. is the only developed industrialized country in the world that does not have some form of universal health care."

The CRxSP provides service to customers free of charge as a result of many donations made by numerous sources. Some of these include United Way Saginaw County, St. Mary's of Michigan, Covenant HealthCare, HealthPlus of Michigan, and Saginaw Community Foundation.

"Three components allow CRxSP to assist clients," Edmonds said. "Funding and grants, volunteers, and donations. Without the combination of these three elements, the

See HEALTH, page A10

## ADMISSIONS

# SVSU's high acceptance rate product of trust in school's graduation rate

By Paul Scozzari  
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

With an ever-increasing student population and a group of more than 900 students preparing to walk across the stage for graduation, SVSU's admission standards are among the more accepting in the country.

The standard requirement to be considered for acceptance at SVSU is a 2.5 high school GPA, and a score of 17 on the ACT, though higher ACT scores can offset lower GPAs, and vice-versa.

According to Jim Dwyer, assistant vice president of Student Services, the

focus is on getting students through college, not just through the door.

"The reality of the situation," Dwyer said, "is that the philosophy of people like myself and President Gilbertson is that it should be easy to get in, but hard to get out. The bigger issue is maturation and commitment. We accept students with everything from a 3.3 and a 4.0, to a 2.5 and a 1.7, and everything in between."

In 2005, the last year comparative numbers were released, SVSU accepted 3,082 of the 3,442 applications received, while Grand Valley accepted 9,134 of the 11,934 it received, with an acceptance rate of 76.5 percent.

Using the figures above, SVSU's admissions policy is on par with the size of the campus. The larger the campus grows, the larger the student population grows. Since 2005, the size of the class has grown 23 percent, with a 20 percent increase in applications since last year.

"We have to make sure that there are enough classes available for students, and enough housing," Dwyer said.

"We need to control growth, and as a result, the administration will

have an open dialogue all through the year to work on controlling that."

Based on a national study, 82.5 percent of the colleges surveyed let in more than half of the applicants. SVSU ranks near the top of the list with an acceptance rate of 89.5 percent of the student applications.

Because of competition and a growing reputation, Jim Dwyer says that SVSU is seeing more qualified applications in recent years, as well as an increase in the number of students coming from outside the tri-county area.

Unlike many colleges which put a premium on academic excellence in high school, the policy SVSU started with seems to still work today, said Dwyer.

"We provide opportunities for kids from all walks of life. The good news is if a person takes advantage of what the University offers, they will succeed."

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