

WHO'S WHO IN THE SUCCESS CENTER

The Success Center is celebrating 33 years of helping SVC's students realize their dream of earning a college degree. We are the primary office of academic support at the College. Our services are free.



SYLVIA JIMISON

What I do: As Associate Dean and Director of the Success Center, I also manage the **TRiO** Program which provides academic support services to help students stay in college until graduation. I track students throughout their college years to address any academic concerns they have and make sure they're succeeding.

Where to find me: Room 340 Mansion — sjimison@svc.edu — 447-6372

Best part of being at SVC: making a difference in the lives of others and seeing students turn into professional individuals.

My favorite book(s): Many! I love spiritual readings and books about changing one's life from the inside out.

My favorite movie(s): *Ray* with Jamie Foxx and *What's Love Got To Do With It!* with Angela Bassett

Outside interests: Talking to individuals who have the potential to attend college but have never had anyone approach them about college. I volunteer at a Catholic organization in Albany every Saturday; it's my passion and keeps me feeling alive. I love making a difference and being able to help others who accept my help.



KITTY FARNHAM

What I do: As Administrative Assistant, I maintain program databases, update reports, and keep things running smoothly behind the scenes. I'm the first person students see when they come into the Success Center!

Where to find me: Room 340 Mansion — kfarnham@svc.edu — 447-6375

Best part of being at SVC: I especially enjoy getting to know students and staff from diverse backgrounds and appreciate the beauty of our campus.

My favorite book(s): the latest gory mystery

My favorite movie(s): *White Palace*, a heart-warming romance with Susan Sarandon and James Spader

Outside interests: Dancer with Sahidi Sisters, American tribal-style belly dance troupe, and also an exhibited collage artist.



ROSALIE FOX

What I do: As Academic Counselor, I am the "bridge" between **TRiO** students with academic (and related) challenges and their instructors and/or college administrators. My goal is to make things turn out "OK" for everyone!

Where to find me: Room 209 Mansion — rfox@svc.edu — 447-6397

Best part of being at SVC: Working with great colleagues to help students realize their dreams.

My favorite book(s): *Sophie's Choice* by William Styron – a brutal topic that's exquisitely written

My favorite movie(s): Romantic comedies, especially *Notting Hill*, *French Kiss*, and *Pretty Woman*

Outside interests: Downhill skiing; writing (creative and work-related), teaching Sociology at community college; giving-back to the community; and enjoying time with my 3 children, husband, dog and horse.



DAVID LINDENBERG

What I do: As the Learning Differences Coordinator, I make sure that students with disabilities receive accommodations that level the academic playing field; and I also help them process course materials to meet their learning style. I also work with all students on time-management, study skills, and ways to work more efficiently.

Where to find me: Room 305 Mansion — dlindenberg@svc.edu — 447-6360

Best part of being at SVC: Seeing that so many people take the time to support the people around them is absolutely remarkable.

My favorite book(s): Two authors hold a special place in my memory: Michael Crichton and Torey Hayden. Crichton's books were my first realization that I could relate pleasure reading to my academic life. Hayden has inspired me to take the time to try to understand situations and people, especially when things are not clear.

My favorite movie(s): Inspirational true stories (*Stand and Deliver*, *Rudy*, *Lean on Me*, and *Patch Adams*)

Outside interests: Finding ways that allow people to use technology to become more independent and efficient learners; playing with my son; hiking/cross-country skiing on a trail.



CATHERINE BURNS

What I do: As Tutor Coordinator, I recruit, hire, train, and supervise a staff of peer tutors who assist students in all academic disciplines. In addition to coordinating workshops, I work individually with students who need writing assistance or help developing better study strategies.

Where to find me: Room 340 Mansion — cburns@svc.edu — 447-4674

Best part of being at SVC: Having the opportunity to be part of so many students' success stories.

My favorite book(s): I can never answer this question due to the number of books I read; in fact, I am a member of two book clubs! However, I gravitate toward literary mysteries, 19th century British literature, and foreign literature.

My favorite movies: Film noir, psychological thrillers, Woody Allen flicks, and the comedies of the Marx Brothers, Monty Python, and W. C. Fields.

Outside interests: Reading; baking; learning about wine; taking a picnic and exploring on a day trip with my husband; hosting friends and family; enjoying every aspect of summer while it lasts.



STEFANO DONATI

What I do: As Learning Differences Assistant, I tutor students (focused on research papers and social sciences), help them develop study strategies and test-taking strategies, and arrange accommodations for any disabilities.

Where to find me: Room 308 Mansion — sdonati@svc.edu — 447-6364

Best part of being at SVC: There are so many students I truly admire, for the obstacles they overcome and their quiet courage in doing so.

My favorite book(s): *1,000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die* (Tom Moon), *High Fidelity* (Nick Hornby), *The Myth of Male Power* (Warren Farrell), *Dying Inside* (Robert Silverberg), *Beyond Belief* (Emlyn Williams).

My favorite movie(s): I'm more of a music freak than a film-watcher. Favorites include Portuguese fado, British indie, and various world music. Current favorites: *Felt Mountain* (Goldfrapp); *From Croydon to Cuba* (Kirsty MacColl); *Aconteceu* (Ana Moura); *Good Ol' Boys* (Randy Newman); *The Queen is Dead* (the Smiths).

Outside interests: Believing Cleveland might someday, somehow, win a sports championship in my lifetime.



DENISE SPENCER

What I do: As Director of Career Development, I assist students and alumni with career planning, resume writing, developing interview skills, and preparing for graduate school and job search. I conduct workshops on various career-related topics and plan/organize the annual graduate school and career fairs.

Where to find me: Room 209 Mansion – dspencer@svc.edu – 447- 4631

Best part of being at SVC: Working with students and helping them to realize their career goals and dreams.

My favorite book(s): Too many to mention, but I love mysteries and historical fiction!

My favorite movie(s): *Pursuit of Happiness*, *Dirty Dancing*, and movies with Denzel Washington

Outside interests: Going to the beach, gardening, reading and spending time with family and friends.



JENNIFER NELSON

What I do: As Math Specialist, I teach mathematics courses and tutor students who need help in this area of study.

Where to find me: Room Mansion — jnelson@svc.edu — 447-6327

Best part of being at SVC: Helping students appreciate quantitative thinking.

My favorite book(s): Anything by Tanya Huff or Patricia C. Wrede. I am drawn to fantasy novels in general, but also particularly enjoy biographies.

My favorite movie: *The Princess Bride*

Outside interests: I am a watercolor and traditional Asian brush painter. I love animals (a dog named Levi and a cat named Sasha), and I enjoy spending time with friends and family.



MICHAEL GOODWIN

What I do: As Director of Counseling Services, I'm available to talk with anybody about anything of concern in a comfortable and confidential setting.

Where to find me: Wellness Center in Hunter Hall — mgoodwin@svc.edu — 447-6343

Best part of being at SVC: SVC is so small that there's no reason why students can't be successful. If they look for it, it's there for them.

My favorite book(s): *Atonement* (Ian McEwan) and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Harper Lee)

My favorite movie: *Good Will Hunting* (Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, and Robin Williams), about a young janitor at MIT with a gift for math and a psychologist who helps him uncover his gift and reshape his life.

Outside Interests: the Red Sox, the Patriots, biking, kayaking, and spending time with my family.