

## Bachand succeeds Gilbertson as fourth president of SVSU

When Don Bachand arrived at SVSU in 1978 to interview for a position on the criminal justice faculty, he recalls meeting with students in the program — all eight of them. He got the job and today SVSU has more than 450 criminal justice students enrolled; now he has a new job.

The Board of Control appointed Bachand as the school's next president Monday, Feb. 10. Bachand started a week later, becoming the fourth president of SVSU, replacing Eric Gilbertson, who retired after more than 24 years of service. Gilbertson will return to teach.

"As the Board evaluated the candidates, it became clear to us that Don best demonstrated the attributes we were seeking in the new president," said Board chair Jeff Martin. "He is a dynamic leader and an excellent listener, and he sets high standards and expectations for faculty and staff.

"We wanted someone who could maintain enrollment in the face of declining high school graduates, help students succeed academically, and improve graduation rates. We are confident that Don is ready for these challenges."

Martin also expressed appreciation to the many faculty, staff and students who attended forums and participated in the search process when finalists visited campus Jan. 28-31.

Bachand had served as vice president for academic affairs since 2006 and added the responsibilities of provost in 2010. Prior to that he served nearly 10 years as dean of the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences. Bachand identified a



Bystanders filled the board room to hear Board of Control Chair Jeff Martin announce the board's selection of Don Bachand as SVSU's fourth president.

strong desire to preserve SVSU's strong work culture.

"I have spent most of my life at this university and care deeply about its future," he said. "I will work hard to maintain the work ethic, collegiality and 'first name' basis of SVSU; those characteristics are integral to who we are and are what set us apart."

Bachand said too many people across Michigan and beyond are unfamiliar with the quality of SVSU's faculty and its overall academic rigor; one of his first priorities will be to change that.

"We have an obligation to our students and alumni to improve understanding in the broader community of how good we are academically and how good our faculty are as teachers and scholars," he said.

News of Bachand's selection

received significant attention from regional and statewide media, including the Associated Press and *Detroit Free Press*. Word spread quickly on social media, too. The SVSU Facebook post received more than 20,000 views and nearly 400 "likes."

Herman Clark, a two-time SVSU graduate and current director of the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Regional Training Commission, based at Mott Community College, was quite pleased to see his former professor named president.

"I'm not surprised he ended up where he ended up," Clark said. "To see his picture in the news really is heartfelt for a lot of people down here who Don helped along the way. He had a lot of respect from people in all walks of life. He was the most inspirational person in the classroom I've ever come across."

He was the reason I stayed in school, got my master's and went on to teach."

Don Pussehl, Saginaw Township police chief and an SVSU adjunct instructor, completed bachelor's and master's degrees at SVSU. He also credits Bachand for convincing him to pursue the master's degree, saying his law enforcement career otherwise would not have advanced as it did.

"I was very pleased to hear he was named as the president," Pussehl said. "He's a true professional and dedicated to SVSU. I'm very pleased, at this juncture, that he will continue with what needs to be done there. I always enjoyed him as a professor and I've always considered him a friend."

## HLC Update: Self-Study Complete, Campus Outreach Underway

SVSU has completed its self-study report and submitted it to the Higher Learning Commission Monday, Feb. 10. The full 196-page document is posted online at [svsu.edu/hlc/2014selfstudy/](http://svsu.edu/hlc/2014selfstudy/). It represents more than two years' worth of

work by members of SVSU's HLC task force and is a required element in preparation for the upcoming site visit by an HLC accreditation team April 7-9.

With the report's completion, attention turns to other matters, such as raising attention

on campus for why HLC accreditation is important. In the coming weeks, a number of outreach activities are planned, many of them particularly aimed at students.

"HLC really expects that everyone on campus will have

an understanding of what they're about and what they do, and why they're being here is important," said Marc Peretz, associate provost and SVSU's accreditation liaison officer. "That includes students."

Merry Jo Brandimore, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, has assembled a "street team" to engage students directly. Tyler Manning, a December 2013 graduate from Davison now working toward a master's degree, and Megan Potts, a communication major from Cadillac, will lead the team. They recently met with Peretz and he is convinced they're the right students for the job.

"They were very prepared," he said. "They are incredibly enthusiastic and shared some very good ideas on how to effectively and properly reach the right student audiences."

Planned activities include:

- T-shirt tosses at basketball games
- Staffing information tables outside Marketplace at Doan and Zahnow Library
- Meeting with many of the larger registered students organizations
- Holding an online trivia contest, complete with prizes
- Using social media to inform and engage students

Faculty and staff will receive regular updates, too, as fresh facts will be posted daily to the new online portal, starting Monday, March 10. For more information, including a link to frequently asked questions, visit [svsu.edu/hlc](http://svsu.edu/hlc).



SVSU presented traditional "soul food" to the campus community and the public during its annual Taste of Soul on Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Marketplace at Doan cafeteria. The event featured a variety of other traditional dishes and desserts based on recipes provided by some 30 African American faculty and staff at SVSU and prepared in collaboration with SVSU Dining Services. Also this year, the Black History Month event featured members of the Dow Chemical African American Affinity Group. John James prepared Cajun seafood pasta, while Jennifer Kitt featured her yellow pound cake. Local businesses shared their wares, as well. Bernard Harris from Bernard's Best restaurant in Saginaw made ribs, and Natasha Burns from the Rite Spot restaurant, also of Saginaw, cooked catfish. This year's event was sponsored by the Office of Diversity Programs, Dining Services, Conference and Events Center and Minority Student Services.

# Meghan Baruth

## Assistant Professor of Health Sciences

Meghan Baruth has a lot cooking — both in the proverbial oven and a literal one.

The assistant professor of health sciences hasn't been a member of SVSU's campus more than six months and already she's gained a reputation with the men's basketball team — which her husband coaches — as a flesh-and-blood Mrs. Fields, capable of baking up to 100 "monster cookies" at a time for the roster's consumption.

But sweets admirers shouldn't be fooled by the gluttonous amounts of chocolate chips, M&Ms, peanut butter and oatmeal in each bite. Baruth is a health advocate.

In her proverbial oven is ongoing research into the dietary and physical activity practices of adults 50 and older, along with efforts to change those practices for a healthier lifestyle.

"It's very behavior-based," Baruth said of the sort of studies she began as a faculty member at the University of South Carolina.

She has applied for grant money to continue her research studies here with colleague Rebecca Schlaff, assistant professor of kinesiology. Baruth also plans to enlist student help in the initiative, which she hopes to begin in the summer or fall.

In the meantime, she plans to enjoy her new surroundings, both at work and home.

She joined the university about a year after her husband, Randy, began coaching the basketball team. Since her arrival, she said she's considered SVSU "a diamond in the rough."

"Recruits are shocked at what we have to offer," Meghan Baruth said of SVSU. "My undergrad (institution) was similar in size but so different in terms of research and how nice the campus is. I'm really happy here."

Even the intensely cold winter hasn't fazed this newfound affection. While her previous residence was in the sunny South, Baruth is a native of Minnesota, growing up in a small town north of Minneapolis. She later earned her master's degree from infamously icy Fargo's North Dakota State University.

Baruth relates to her new friends in Michigan in other ways. The avid sports fan is loyal to the Minnesota Vikings, an NFL team whose history of win-lessness she likens to the Detroit Lions' losing legacy. "We're in the same boat," she said.

Her other interests include staying active and remaining fit. It's a state she accomplishes in part by following up her other hobby — cooking — by swiftly sending the food elsewhere.

"I like to bake and then get it out of the house," Baruth said. "The basketball players take care of that."



# Lee Koski

## Environmental Science Coordinator/Lab Tech • February Staff Member of the Month

Work and play often overlap for Lee Koski. Since taking on his latest role with SVSU's Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute, Koski has found himself extracting samples from the same water systems he fishes during warmer months.

It hasn't been balmy for a while, and collecting specimens lately involves drilling into layers upon layers of ice, but Koski already feels a warm fondness for the work the science institute is undertaking.

"It's been a very positive experience for me," said Koski, who has helped colleagues such as SVSU's David Karpovich establish the foundation for the first-year endeavor.

Their efforts have included authoring policy for operations; bringing to commission the new research vessel, Cardinal II; developing a forthcoming bi-annual newsletter for the institute; overseeing the setup of a website; and preparing students to help with the research.

"It continues to evolve," he said of the science institute. "I don't know what's going to be around the next curve."

He's excited to learn, though.

"I love that we're working with the watershed," Koski said, referring to the science institute's focus. "It's such an important piece with what's going on in our region."

Those around Koski have noticed his dedication to the cause.

"Lee has been an enormous help," said Deborah Huntley, the dean who nominated Koski for Staff Member of the Month.

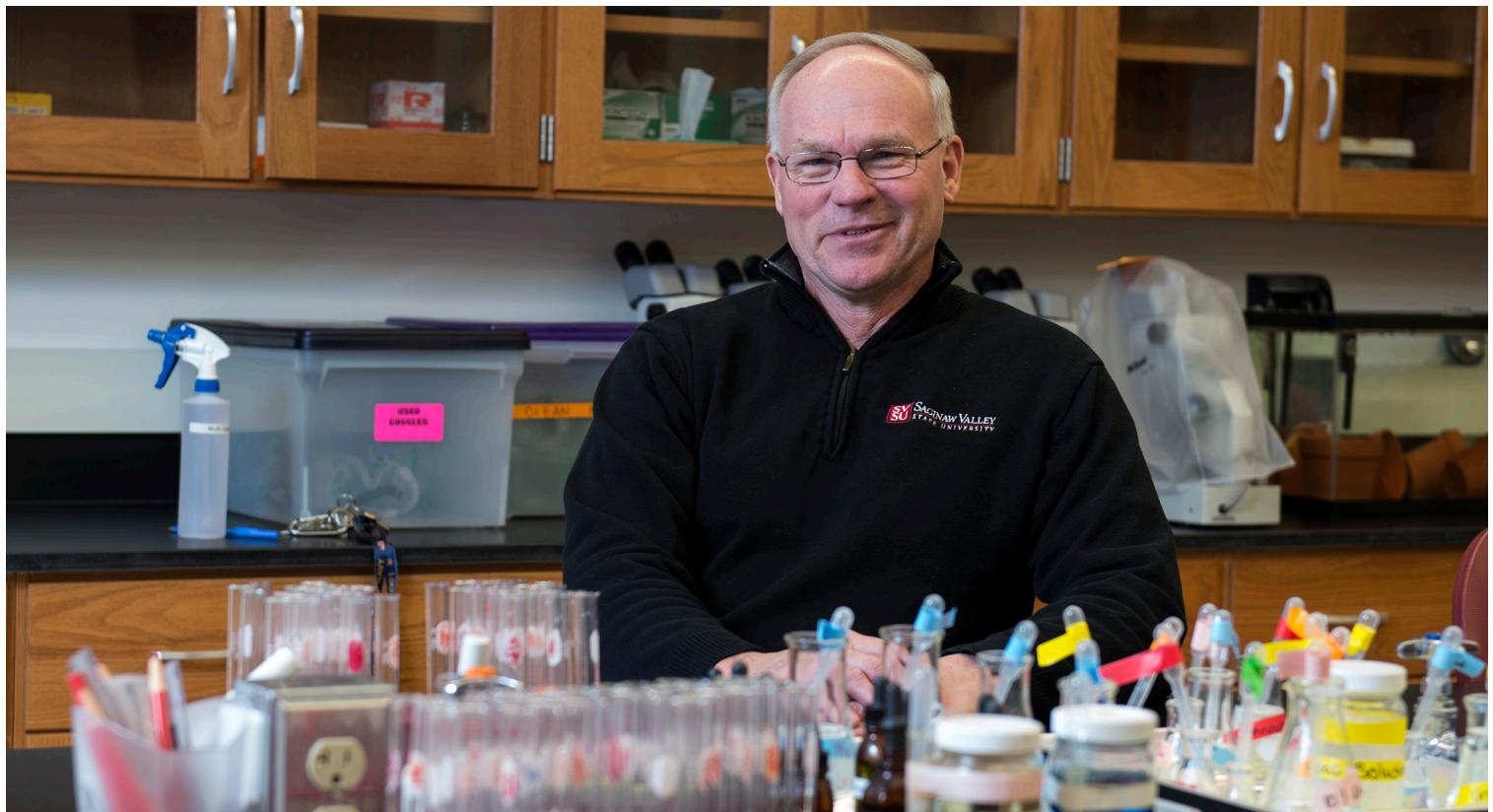
"In every aspect of his job, he goes so far and beyond what you'd expect," she said. "He's absolutely delightful to work with and his response is never 'No.' It's his attitude that really makes things happen."

In addition to his role with the institute, Koski works as a lab technician for the Biology Department.

Koski is quick to give praise to colleagues for their dedication to a subject he holds dear. Science, after all, is a subject the Saginaw native knows well. Before his arrival at SVSU, Koski spent more than three decades as a chemistry and biology teacher, largely with the Midland Public Schools district.

Outside of work, the 1977 SVSU graduate has kept busy raising a family, involving himself in the community and having fun.

He talks with glowing pride about his three grown children — two daughters and a son, ages 26 to 31 — and remains an avid fisherman and golfer. Koski and his wife since the early 1980s have resided in Midland, where he often volunteers at his church, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



# Karen Roseberry

## Graduation and Records Assistant • February Staff Member of the Month

Karen Roseberry came upon her first job at SVSU when a friend asked, with a bit of sarcasm, “Can you count money?”

Now Roseberry is counting her blessings that she landed a role she cherishes with people she enjoys working with.

The Kawkawlin native began at SVSU in 2000 as a temp in the cashier’s office. Time, circumstances and a hearty effort eventually paved a path to the Registrar’s Office, where she’s worked full time since 2012 as a graduation and records assistant.

“I really love working with the students here,” she said. “Now I can’t see myself not having that contact with them. It’s really rewarding work.”

Her duties involve processing diplomas for would-be graduates, making Roseberry one of the final rungs for students climbing the proverbial college ladder. Her affection for the work shines through in the eyes of colleagues such as Clifford Dorne, who nominated Roseberry for the Staff Member of the Month award.

In a letter recommending Roseberry for the accolade, Dorne called his colleague “an outstanding team player” who “works with students in a patient, courteous and professional manner.”

But that doesn’t mean she can’t have a little fun on the clock.

While posing for the photo included in this profile, Roseberry and

her first floor Wickes Hall colleagues playfully teased each other. One co-worker feigned blowing into Roseberry’s hair to give her a more grandiose portrait, while others pressed the Bay City resident for an autograph.

“The girls are wonderful here,” Roseberry—putting her serious face back on—said of those co-workers. “I work with such wonderful people. It’s an incredible setting.”

Roseberry considers the “girls” of first floor Wickes to be members of her extended family—and family means a lot to Roseberry.

Before her arrival at SVSU, she was a “stay-at-home mom” for her son and daughter. It wasn’t until her children were in high school that Roseberry felt ready to apply for a job at SVSU.

So when friend Cheryl David—another one of the “girls” of first floor Wickes—recommended Roseberry enter SVSU’s clerical pool in 2000, “the timing was right,” she said.

It didn’t take long for Roseberry to distinguish herself as a hard worker, and become part of the SVSU family—in part because of her own family’s upbringing.

“My parents taught my 10 siblings and I to give 100 percent and to take pride in my work,” she said. “When I came here, I knew this is exactly where I wanted to be.”



## Professional Profile

- **Steven C. Erickson**, professor of theatre, accepted an invitation to judge one-act plays at the Mid-Michigan Theatre Arts Festival at Garber High School, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. He adjudicated six of 12 shows that were brought in by high schools in the region.
- **Julie Foss**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, presented a workshop titled “Authentic Materials in the Foreign Language Classroom” at the Bay-Arenac ISD Professional Learning Conference, Feb. 3 at Standish-Sterling Central High School.
- **Brock A. Humphries, Kathleen L. Pelksi, Sally P. Shepardson** and **David J. Stanton**, all of the biology department, co-authored an article titled “Spermatozoon Ultrastructure of Hanginiflies, *Bittacus strigosus* and *Bittacus stigmaterus*,” in the *Journal of Insect Science* (Vol. 14, No. 10).
- **Sara Beth Keough**, associate professor of geography, published an article titled “The Cultural Landscape” as part of the Oxford Bibliography series in *Geography*, published by Oxford University Press, 2013. She also presented a paper titled “Looking for a Woman with a Syncrude Job: Place and Power in Alberta Oil Sands Music” at the Association for Canadian Studies Biennial Conference in Tampa, Fla., in November 2013.
- **Mike Mosher**, professor of art/communication & digital media, has had an illustration titled “The European Girl” published in *LURCH* magazine (Brooklyn, N.Y.).
- **Ric Roberts**, associate professor of theatre, responded to participating competing productions at the Region IV Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Roanoke, Va., Feb. 5-9. Also while at the festival, he served as moderator and panelist for a talk back about alternative voices in theatre and how they are responded to by the public. Roberts is in his third year as Region III vice-chair for the festival. He will become Region III chair in April 2015 and serve for three years.

In addition, Roberts responded to the participating production of the new play “ROUSTABOUT: The Great Circus Train Wreck!” written by Jay Torrence, for the Region III Festival at Concordia University in Chicago, Feb. 15. Roberts also serves as an executive board member for the region that covers all universities and colleges in Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.

- **Jay Scott**, assistant professor of biology, published a paper titled “Oxidative Activation of the Ca<sup>2+</sup>/calmodulin-dependent Protein Kinase II (CaMKII) Regulates Vascular Smooth Muscle Migration and Apoptosis,” in the *Journal of Vascular Pharmacology* (Vol. 6, No. 2).

## New Cardinals

- **Jules Gehrke**, special assistant to the provost, and his wife, **Anne Huebel**, visiting assistant professor of history, announced the birth of a daughter, Margaret Elise Gehrke, Feb. 13.

## Condolences

- To **Barb Cohen**, coordinator of the language lab and media center, and **Lou Cohen**, professor of psychology, on the passing of Barb’s mother, Betty Lou Watson, on Feb. 18.
- To the family of **Eldon Graham**, who passed away Feb. 12. For a number of years, Graham served as assistant dean for the College of Science, Engineering & Technology. He was granted Professor Emeritus status in 2006, but continued teaching and advising students and serving as the director of the Engineering Technology Management Program.
- To the family of **Nancy Holt**, sculptor of the “Annual Ring,” located at the northeast corner of campus, who passed away Feb. 8.
- To **Judy Izzo**, custodian, whose mother, Genevieve L. Streb, passed away Jan. 25.
- To **Debra Piotrowski**, secretary in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, whose mother-in-law, Grace M. Piotrowski, passed away Feb. 4.
- To **Doug Woodington**, support center technology specialist, whose father, James Edwin Woodington, passed away Feb. 9.
- To **Carol Zimmermann**, associate professor of criminal justice, whose mother-in-law, Barbara (Hickey) Zimmermann, passed away Feb. 8.

## Phi Alpha Theta establishes chapter at SVSU

The history department recently announced that the National Board of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society has approved the establishment of a chapter at SVSU.

A national honor society, Phi Alpha Theta recognizes and celebrates the achievements of students and faculty who have excelled in their study of history. The group carries more than 350,000 members in 860 chapters. SVSU’s chapter has been designated the Alpha-Omicron-Rho chapter. The approval is an affirmation of the strong credentials of history students and faculty at SVSU.

The chapter’s installation ceremony and initiation of its first members is planned for April 2014. Membership in Phi Alpha Theta is lifetime and student members will have access to Phi Alpha Theta’s extensive scholarship and awards program.

Membership is open to students who meet the requirements of 12 credit hours in history with at least a 3.1 GPA in history and a 3.0 GPA overall. Nameeta Mathur, professor of history, serves as the faculty advisor to Alpha-Omicron-Rho.

**The Interior is published on the last Tuesday of each month for faculty and staff at SVSU.** University departments sponsoring activities or events listed in the Interior will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities when contacted at least three days in advance.

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**Noon on Wednesday before the publication date.**  
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