

Office relocation plan outlined as Wickes Hall renovation approaches

With a Wickes Hall makeover on the way, some offices in the 45-year-old building will be relocated over the next year, both temporarily and permanently.

Construction crews have begun work in the Regional Education Center, where the

geography department — now housed on the second floor of Wickes Hall — will relocate in July, said Jim Muladore, executive vice president for administration & business affairs.

Once the geography

department has moved, those emptied rooms will act as a temporary residence for offices on the building's first floor, where the beginning phase of an \$8 million Wickes Hall renovation project kicks off this summer.

The initiative — supported by \$6 million in state funds — involves modernizing the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting and water pipe systems, along with the roof and ceilings. Muladore said workers will replace stone panels on the facility's exterior in an effort to match the modern look of SVSU's newer structures. The large windows in the south and north stairwells will be replaced with more modern, energy efficient equivalents.

Next summer, the second phase of the Wickes Hall renovation project begins. That initiative will involve the same modernization efforts, this time directed at the third floor.

Muladore expects the affected departments will temporarily relocate to one of the Living Centers.

"We'll be 'living' where students live now," Muladore said. He added the expectation is that third floor employees will return to their original space before students arrive for the 2015 fall semester classes.

By then, Enrollment Management — now on the first floor — will permanently relocate to the second floor's northwest corner, which will be renovated for its new occupants.

"It's going to be designed to address enrollment management issues, from meeting rooms to technology to storage," said Jim Dwyer, vice president for enrollment management.

"It's designed to be efficient, maximize office space and utilize the technologies that will be available to us to streamline processes."

Cardinal Formula Racing car finishes tops in acceleration category

SVSU's Cardinal Formula Racing team sped to its fifth-best finish ever during the annual Formula Society of Automotive Engineers Collegiate Design Series competition.

The May 14-17 event at the Michigan International Speedway featured 120 schools across the globe competing in categories including design, cost, acceleration and endurance. SVSU's team finished first in the acceleration category and 36th overall.

"We have fast cars year after year because we have a great team of students, faculty, staff, administrators and sponsors," said Brooks Byam, professor of mechanical engineering and Cardinal Formula Racing advisor since 1998. "The great

support we have is why we go fast."

SVSU's team previously has finished better four times.

The top four finishes were sixth in 2002, eighth in 2005, 14th in 2008 and 18th in 2010.



Members of the 2014 Cardinal Racing team.

International and Graduate Programs moving to Academic Affairs

International Programs and Graduate Admissions are becoming part of the Academic Affairs division, as President Don Bachand realigns the organization to more effectively recruit and serve students.

"As we seek to diversify our international student population, International Programs must work closely with academic units," explained Deb Huntley, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Our recruiting efforts must maximize existing

international partnerships, while also developing new relationships."

Associate Provost Marc Peretz will oversee the new Office of International & Advanced Study, and Jenna Briggs will continue to lead admissions efforts for international and graduate students. Brian Thomas also will retain his role as director of strategic partnerships.

In a separate move, Huntley announced that Nick Wagner has been appointed director

of institutional research and will report to the provost. He previously served as special assistant to the vice president for enrollment management.

"Nick is well-prepared to provide leadership in this area, given his experience on the student success committee and having recently completed his doctorate," Huntley said.

Cliff Dorne will continue to serve as registrar and report to the provost. The reorganization will be in effect by July 1.

Kyle Cissell

Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Kyle Cissell's chemistry with teaching chemistry was a late reaction.

The SVSU assistant professor of chemistry joined the academic world three years ago after beginning his professional career working for a molecular diagnostics company in Tampa. It was there — working with high school and college interns — where he decided his future should involve teaching.

“That’s really when the switch happened,” Cissell said. “I was looking for a tenure-track position, and wanted to work with undergraduates in the Midwest.”

Since joining the higher education ranks, though, Cissell hasn't abandoned research in favor of the classroom. The Newburgh, Ind., native is a regular in SVSU's laboratories, where he hopes his research in chemical and biochemical sensor development will enhance scientific processes such as water quality analysis and the early detection of certain human diseases.

Cissell is one of several faculty and students involved in studies for the Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute, a community research-based initiative housed at SVSU. This summer, Cissell is helping develop proper quality control measures — basically, ensuring accurate results in testing — as the institute studies nearby water systems including the Kawkawlin, Pigeon and Pinnebog rivers.

Those efforts now are heightened thanks to the recent acquisition

of high-tech instruments including two spectrophotometers, which measure the amount of light absorbed by material and can determine the concentration of various nutrients in that material.

“It’s a significant upgrade,” he said. The spectrophotometers and other recent technological purchases in the lab come courtesy of several grants SVSU earned as part of its SBESI initiative.

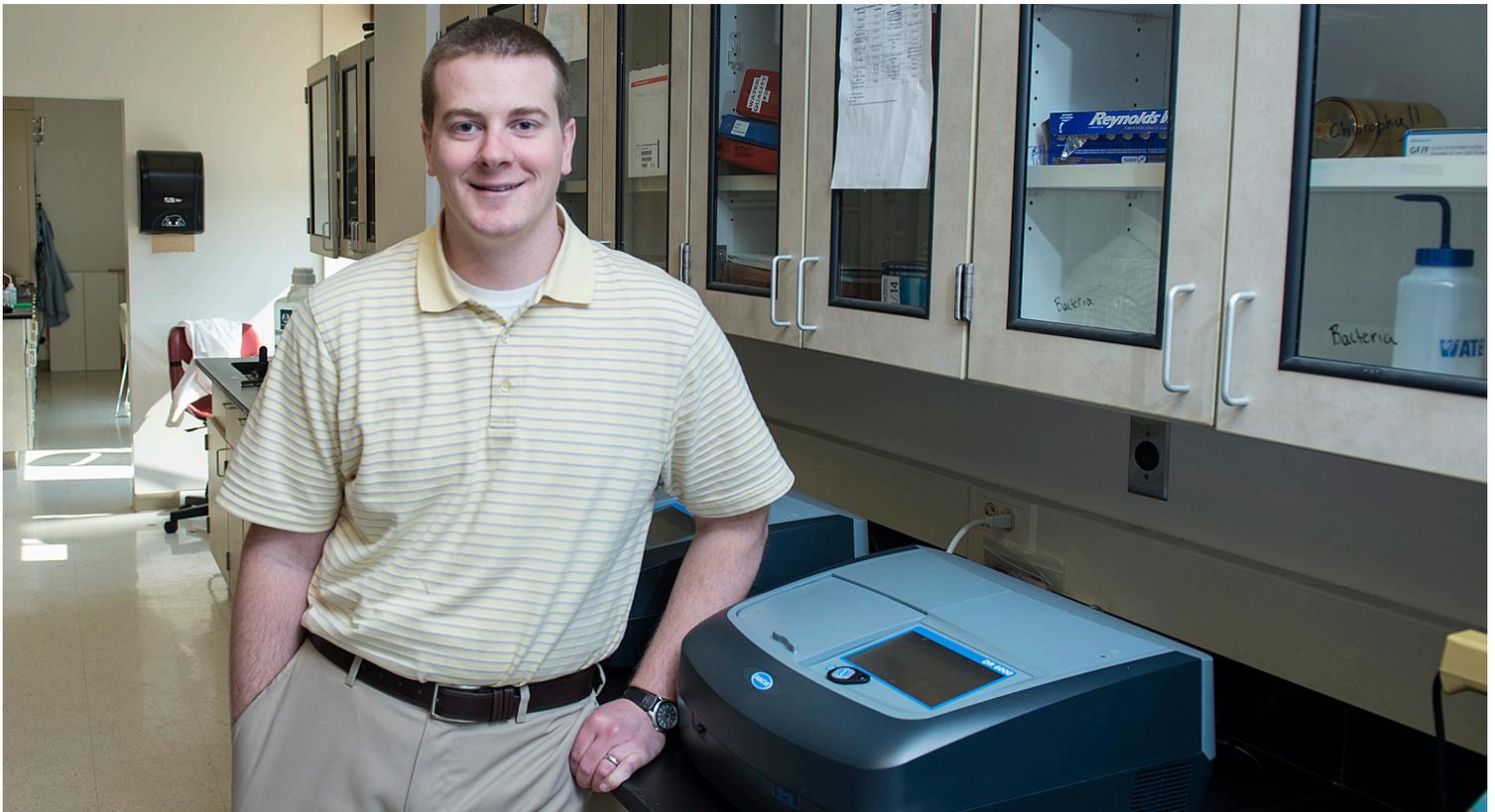
Cissell said he's enjoyed his young career at SVSU so far.

“I like the collaborative nature of the research in the school,” he said. “We have biochemists, chemists, geographers, engineers and biologists all working on projects together. It's neat to be able to collaborate with faculty from so many disciplines.”

Cissell, who earned his Ph.D. from the Purdue University-Indianapolis campus, said other undergraduate universities he's familiar with typically feature students who graduate with chemistry degrees prior to pursuing a professional degree, with few entering industry. “Here, a lot of students move from SVSU into industry positions and have successful careers,” Cissell said, pointing out the relationship between the university and nearby companies such as The Dow Chemical Company and Dow Corning Corp.

Cissell said he's managed to balance work with another element of his life: family. He is married to Sonja, and the couple is raising two daughters: 18-month-old Ainsley and Laura, born May 6.

“Family is very important to me,” he said.



Kathy Anderson

Administrative Secretary • May Staff Member of the Month

When Kathy Anderson arrived at SVSU in 2003, she was looking for a workspace she could make her second home.

She found it.

“I love my job,” said Anderson, the SVSU Regional Mathematics & Science Center’s administrative secretary. “My co-workers and our student employees make it like a family,” the Freeland native added. “It is a family.”

And she means that somewhat literally. Anderson is married with three children and four grandchildren. Her youngest son, Ryan Anderson, is an SVSU custodial specialist who typically works the third shift for the Campus Facilities department. “I was very happy he got hired here,” she said. “That’s how strongly I feel about SVSU as a home.”

It’s not simply the personnel that make Kathy Anderson feel comfortable in her job. The work itself is fulfilling, and Anderson believes in her office’s mission, she said.

The center serves students, teachers and administrators in school districts throughout Arenac, Bay, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola counties. It provides professional development and student enrichment in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) studies, maintain a resource clearinghouse and host family engineering, mathematics and science events.

Anderson said her role involves “across-the-board” help of the

center’s many initiatives — everything from working on budgets to carrying plates of food for school children involved in one of the center’s outreach programs. “It’s a different job all the time,” the Bay City resident said. “I really enjoy that.”

Anderson began at SVSU in the clerical pool in 2003. There, she moved around the campus, working in places such as the College of Education’s certification and dean’s offices, the Ryder Center, Brown Hall, Student Life and Purchasing.

She also served temporarily in the center, and was impressed enough with the operation that she applied for a part-time grant secretary position that opened in January 2005. The job had a 9-month limit, but as the center earned more grant money, services expanded and Anderson was brought aboard permanently.

Tamara Barrientos, the center’s director, said her colleague’s work ethic earned her staff member of the month accolades.

“She has never said, ‘I can’t do that,’” Barrientos said. “When she’s not sure, she will say, ‘Let me figure that out.’ She doesn’t skip a beat.”

Mary Harmon, dean of the College of Education, nominated Anderson for the monthly award.

“She’s here many Saturdays and many days after school,” Harmon said. “I am so impressed with how she always goes above and beyond. She’s just great.”



Professional Profile

- **Dave Karpovich**, H.H. Dow Endowed Chair in Chemistry, and **Art Martin**, associate professor of biology, are co-authors of an article titled “Implications of hypoxia on the North Branch of the Kawkawlin River,” that was published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*. Three SVSU alumni and a Delta College faculty member are also co-authors. The research study is tied to the Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute at SVSU.
- **Sara Beth Keough**, associate professor of geography, and **Scott M. Youngstedt**, professor of anthropology, presented a paper titled “The Material Culture of Water in Niamey, Niger: Preliminary Report” at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Tampa in April. Youngstedt published a 5,119-word entry on “Niger” in *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices, 2nd Edition*, Missoula, MT: Thomas Riggs & Company, 2014.
- **Stephen Taber**, professor of biology, has a manuscript titled “A New Nearctic Species of *Tetragoneura* Winnertz, 1846 Fungus Gnat and Notes on *Tetragoneura nitida* Adams, 1903 (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)” accepted for publication in *SPIXIANA*, a journal of the Bavarian State Zoological Museum in Munich.
- **Gardner Umbarger**, associate professor of teacher education/special education, was one of the speakers at the Showcase Session sponsored by the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference and Convention, held in Philadelphia April 10. The title of the presentation was “Separating Fact from Fiction: A Critical Analysis of Popular Autism Treatments.”

New Cardinals

- **Jennifer Chaytor**, assistant professor of chemistry, announced the birth of a son, Ryan John Spencer (5 lbs., 13 oz., 17.5 in.), May 19.
- **Kyle Cissell**, assistant professor of chemistry, announced the birth of a daughter, Laura Elizabeth (6 lbs., 10 oz., 19.75 in.), May 6.
- **Robert Jones**, custodian, announced the birth of a son, Silas Jamey (9 lbs., 10 oz., 20 in.), April 26.

Condolences

- To **Syl Banks**, senior faculty secretary, whose step-father, Willie James Cook, passed away April 21.
- To the family of **Alma Gilmore**, who passed away May 1. Gilmore served on the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum board and on the SVSU Foundation Committee, where she and her husband established the Gilmore-Williams Fund.
- To **Bonnie Harmer**, associate professor of nursing, whose husband, Robert J. Harmer, passed away May 12.
- To Custodial Specialists **Mike Miller** and **Randy Julian**, whose mother-in-law/sister, Thelma (Tod) Cuevas, passed away May 9.
- To **Terry Paris**, manager of the Campus Financial Services Center, whose mother-in-law, Patricia Paris, passed away April 25.

The Interior will resume its monthly publication schedule with the August 2014 issue (distributed Tuesday, Aug. 26).

SVSU earns new distinctions for commitment to military students

SVSU recently met the criteria for two key initiatives leaders say will help the university’s recruitment, retention and support of military veterans looking for a college education.

SVSU now is recognized as meeting the requirements for the U.S. Department of Education and Department of Veterans Affairs’ “8 Keys To Veterans’ Success” initiative, which designates institutions providing outstanding services to active and reserve service members, veterans and their dependents.

Additionally, SVSU has become a “Yellow Ribbon” school — a Veterans Affairs program that guarantees eligible veterans’ tuition will not exceed the cost of the highest tuition at a public institution of higher learning in Michigan.

Denise Berry, director of military student affairs and special assistant to the vice president for student affairs, said veterans



Denise Berry

shopping for higher education institutions are now often including both initiatives on a list of must-have items.

“Participation in these national initiatives helps get the word out that SVSU is committed to supporting veterans and their families,” Berry said. “We want them to know if they come here we’re going to take care of them.”

Formal inclusion in the “8 Keys to Veterans’ Success” on the Department of Education’s website means that SVSU has become just the 6th college or university in Michigan to join a select group of educational institutions fulfilling the standards initially outlined by President Obama.

Military members and veterans seeking more information about SVSU’s programs and services specific to them can contact Berry in the Military Student Affairs office at ext. 2462.

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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