

## SVSU named a community-engaged university

Saginaw Valley State University has been selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to receive its 2015 Community Engagement Classification, marking SVSU as a university that is exceptionally engaged with the community it serves.

“Throughout my nearly 37 years here and during my first year as president, we have sought to instill in our students a deep sense of responsibility to the communities where they live and learn, and as an institution, we strive every day to advance the region we call home,” said SVSU President Donald Bachand. “This is the ultimate affirmation of meeting those goals at the highest national standard.”

Among 241 first-time applicants who requested applications from the Carnegie Foundation for 2015, SVSU was one of 83 who were successfully classified as community engaged institutions during this application cycle. To be selected, institutions provide descriptions and examples of

institutionalized practices of community engagement that showed alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices. SVSU’s status will remain in effect for 10 years.

Deb Huntley, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and Merry Jo Brandimore, dean of students, co-chaired a task force of 26 SVSU faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters that was formed in 2011 to critically evaluate whether SVSU should

pursue the community engagement designation.

“Receiving this classification is an important validation of one of our fundamental educational

philosophies: learning is enhanced when the content and skills taught in the classroom can be applied directly,” Huntley said. “Our partners provide opportunities for our students to learn by working in professional settings, and our students provide tangible service back to the community. Everybody wins.”



### Community leaders attest to SVSU’s Community Engagement

**Joel Strasz, health director for the Bay County Health Department**  
 “We’ve worked with a few organizations of higher learning in the past, but SVSU is different. They go beyond just ‘doing research.’ The instructors, staff, and students are fully engaged right here in Bay County. We have partnered with SVSU on a variety of projects since 2009. Their expertise and commitment have helped us immensely.”

**Bob Stafford, president and CEO of the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce**  
 “SVSU has been an asset to the business community in many ways. They take an active role in fostering in-demand jobs for our workforce. With educational partners like SVSU, our business community can continue to grow with a well-trained, highly educated workforce.”

**Cherrie Benchley, president and CEO of the United Way of Saginaw County, speaking of the AmeriCorps Healthy Kids Healthy Futures Partnership**  
 “Students and faculty at SVSU have played a crucial role in the program’s success. Partnering with SVSU has allowed the organizations we work with to expand their capacity, allowing them to serve more children and families. Furthermore, the college students set amazing examples for the youth while receiving real world, hands-on experience in the community. We feel that because of this partnership, this is a win-win program for all that are involved.”

SVSU students are actively engaged in field-based learning and volunteer service throughout the region and Michigan as a whole. By their senior year, 84 percent of students have engaged with community employers and agencies in internships, field placements or some other component of their academic preparation, and more than 60

percent of students have engaged in co-curricular service outside of academic course work.

In her capacity as dean of students, Brandimore sees SVSU students’ spirit of service on a daily basis.

“Our students show a strong desire to give back both on campus and in the community,” she said. “You see this through the funds they raise for charities during Battle of the Valleys and Relay for Life, and in the thousands of students who volunteer their time for community service during the course of their SVSU education. These are more than feel-good activities. They help our students learn and develop confidence and relationships that will serve them well after they graduate.”

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**PRESIDENT DONALD BACHAND  
 WILL DELIVER HIS**

# STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

4 P.M., THURSDAY, FEB. 26 IN THE MALCOLM FIELD THEATRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS.  
 THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO ATTEND. A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE ADDRESS.

# George Corser

Assistant Professor of Computer Science & Information Services

George Corser isn't in the business of waiting around to make an impact on the lives of SVSU's students and community.

Six months after his arrival on campus, the assistant professor of computer science & information systems is overseeing an event that will bring a national phenomenon — the TED speaker series — to SVSU.

"I hope it will showcase Saginaw Valley to the world," he said of the planned Aug. 1 event. "This will help put Saginaw Valley on the map."

The TED series gained popularity in recent years thanks in part to Internet-uploaded videos featuring the inspirational and innovational speaking engagements. As a result, the TEDx program was established to allow independent organizers to host TED-like events using a license granted by the organization.

Corser hopes one of the taped sessions will catch the kind of Internet wave that has given some TED a viral push online.

While he's new to SVSU, Corser isn't new to TEDx. He sat on the program committee that organized a TEDx event when he was a graduate student at Oakland University.

Here, he has secured a \$5,500 SVSU Foundation Resource Grant to help fund the August endeavor, which he hopes is the first of many. Much of the event remains in the planning stages, and Corser is actively seeking volunteers to help build the speaking engagement.

"I want students to be the leaders of this," he said. "I'm hoping some people will want to stand up and make a difference."

Those interested can find out more about those opportunities by visiting SVSU's TEDx web page at [tedxsvsu.com](http://tedxsvsu.com).

Corser's desire to get students involved extends to his research interest: vehicle network privacy. He has had several works published on the subject, with more planned in the near future. All of the research has and will feature undergraduate co-authors.

His research focuses on network routers being installed in new vehicles. Typically, the technology's intended use is GPS-style navigation and crash avoidance, but its accessibility by employees of the technology companies raises privacy concerns, Corser said. The technology allows vehicles to be tracked from computers.

"We want to find out what the boundaries of this are," he said. "How do you know some system administrator isn't using this for nefarious purposes? How do we protect ourselves, knowing sometimes bad people are getting into these jobs?"

While Corser is new to SVSU's faculty, he's familiar with the institution. His father — who shares his name — was a mechanical engineering professor here before retiring two decades ago. The elder Corser still lives in Bridgeport Township, which partly motivated his son to move to SVSU.



# Emmie Busch

Coordinator of Scholarships & Development Communications  
January Staff Member of the Month

Since her days as an undergraduate student here, Emmie Busch had her sights set on working at SVSU. She met that goal and has kept that dream alive for two decades now, serving since 1995 in the SVSU Foundation.

"I loved it here as a student and it became a career goal for me to work here," said Busch. "The friendliness, the family atmosphere — I came from a small high school and that really appealed to me," said the Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart Academy graduate. "I remember walking on the SVSU campus and I was like, 'This is it.'"

Her love of the campus culture translates through her day job, where she works with members of the Foundation's Board of Directors, SVSU donors and alumni, as well as other university supporters. "I really enjoy interacting with the variety of people," she said.

Her responsibilities include coordinating SVSU's online scholarship system (AcademicWorks) and the SVSU Foundation Resource Grant Program, stewarding those scholarships, and making sure donors' wishes are represented. She also writes content relating to scholarship agreements, acknowledgement letters, "and whatever type of document is needed."

"Every day is a little different," Busch said. "There's a lot of variety in the position."

She has witnessed a period of substantial growth at SVSU when

enrollment numbers skyrocketed and the on-campus culture expansion. That evolution since 1995 has included her office.

"We have more events coming through the office," she said. "We're definitely handling a broader range of activities than we were back then."

In the immediate future, Busch looks forward to the launch of the online scholarship application process for the 2015-16 academic year, and working on the current cycle of the SVSU Foundation Resource Grant Program.

"We just passed the milestone of awarding \$1 million in grants to programs involving SVSU students," she said. "It's an exciting program to be part of."

Away from work, Busch spends much of her time helping her mother, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. When there is time to spare, her favorite hobby is creative writing. "I haven't been professionally published, so it's mainly for pleasure at this point."

Her third floor Wickes Hall office is distinct in its frog theme. She purchased a colorful frog poster at an SVSU poster sale years ago. That poster hangs in her office today, now surrounded by the dozens of frog toys and artworks purchased in the years since.

Her appreciation of frog collectibles isn't present at her home. Instead, it's exclusive to SVSU, a place that's become her home away from home for 20 years.



## Professional Profile

- **James Bowers**, assistant professor of criminal justice; **Kim Lacey**, assistant professor of English; and **Poonam Kumar**, director of online/hybrid learning, presented “Teaching Presence on the Rise: Engaging Undergraduate Students in Online Course” Nov. 15, 2014, at the Bucknell Digital Scholarship Conference.
- **Brandon Haskett**, assistant professor of music, recently published two articles: “A Case Study of Early Professional Development Opportunities for Steel Band Directors in the United States: The Haystack Steelpan Program,” in *Visions of Research in Music Education* (December 2014); and “A Survey Study of U.S. Collegiate and K12 Steel Band Directors’ Attitudes Relating to Steel Band Curriculum and Pedagogy” in *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education* (November 2014). Also, Haskett presented “The Development of K-12 and Collegiate Steel Bands in the U.S.” at the Percussive Arts Society International Conference in November 2014.
- **Robert Tuttle**, professor of mechanical engineering, and **Yousef Jabbari**, associate professor of mechanical engineering, have received a \$21,359 grant from the American Foundry Society for their Thermal Property Trends in Green Sand. This project focuses on determining how the thermophysical properties of foundry molding sands vary with temperature and sand composition. Results from this project will improve the performance of the solidification simulation software by creating new thermophysical property data sets and developing a better understanding of the effect of molding sands on removing heat from a casting.
- **Sara Beth Keough**, associate professor of geography, and **Scott Youngstedt**, professor of anthropology, have coauthored an article that was published in Vol. 57, no. 4 (2014) of the peer reviewed journal, *FOCUS on Geography*. The article is titled “The Material Culture of Water: Transportation, Storage, and Consumption in Niamey, Niger.” Funding for fieldwork in Niger was provided by the American Geographical Society’s McColl Fellowship and an SVSU Faculty Research Grant.
- **Jeffrey Koperski**, professor of philosophy, has published his first book with Wiley-Blackwell: *The Physics of Theism: God, Physics, and the Philosophy of Science*.
- **Helen Raica Klotz**, **Christina Montgomery**, and **Christopher Giroux**, with Crystal Brinson, Zach Gibson, Taeler Singleton, Kramer Stoneman and Ka Vang, published “Developing Writers: The Multiple Identities of an Embedded Tutor in the Developmental Writing Classroom” in *Praxis: A Writing Center Journal* (12:1), December 2014.
- **Anne Tapp**, professor of education, and **Joe Jaksa**, associate professor of criminal justice, presented “The Role of Technology in Virtual Mentorships and Internships” at the 13th Annual International Conference on Education, Jan. 8 in Honolulu.

## New Cardinals

- **Adrienne Galbraith**, nursing simulated learning laboratory specialist, announced the birth of a son, Blake Charles Galbraith, Jan. 14.

## Condolences

- To **Jane Anderson**, manager of financial reporting services, whose father, Andrew Lavern Anderson, passed away Dec. 17.
- To **Leslie Smith**, custodial specialist, whose father, Roland Gilbert Smith, passed away Dec. 16.
- To **Renea Smith**, assistant registrar, whose father, James Edward Smith, passed away.
- To **Ron Trepkowski**, chief of university police, whose mother, Patricia Trepkowski, passed away Jan. 10.

## Faculty/Staff Directory Revision

- Please note on page 3 that **Charles Pelzer** is chair of the Department of Biology in the College of Science, Engineering & Technology. Pelzer’s extension is 4358 and office number is SW 153.

## Jim Dwyer named executive director of alumni relations

President Bachand has appointed Jim Dwyer to the position of executive director of alumni relations.

“As we seek to advance SVSU’s reputation and draw upon those relationships that can help us recruit bright students, our alumni must be engaged with the university and serving as our ambassadors to a much greater extent and in innovative ways,” Bachand said. “I asked Jim to take this position, and he accepted.

“For thousands of our graduates, Jim was their first point of contact here. His ability to relate to people and his extraordinary enthusiasm for SVSU — the same traits that made him so effective recruiting students — will serve him well in this new assignment, one that is critical to our long-term success.”

In his new role, Dwyer will report directly to Bachand. Kevin Schultz and Pamela Wegener will join Dwyer in a newly constituted Alumni Relations office that will be located on the first floor of Wickes Hall.

Dwyer is expected to officially begin his new duties some time in February.

## Joni Boye-Beaman announces return to faculty ranks

Joni Boye-Beaman, dean of the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences, has decided to exercise her option to return to the faculty beginning in the 2015-16 academic year. Her decision was based on her desire to make a direct impact on students’ lives through classroom teaching and to renew her commitment to community-based research.

**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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## Submission Deadline:

**Noon on Wednesday before the publication date.**  
**Please send items by email to: jjboehm@svsu.edu.**