

SVSU Foundation raises \$28 million in record fundraising campaign

The Saginaw Valley State University Foundation announced it exceeded its \$25 million goal and raised more than \$28 million during the “Talent. Opportunity. Promise” campaign, making it the largest fundraising effort in university history.

The campaign resulted in a \$5 million gift from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to create the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow STEM Scholars

Network. It provides funding to support SVSU student and faculty research, as well as outreach efforts to improve STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) learning among K-12 schools in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The gift is the largest single donation in SVSU history.

“We are deeply grateful to our generous donors, who are committed to providing more scholarships for students,

supporting our faculty, and advancing the Great Lakes Bay Region, which has been so supportive of SVSU throughout our history,” said SVSU President Donald Bachand.

At a celebration event with donors Wednesday, Sept. 16, Bachand reiterated the importance of “every gift counts” to demonstrate the impact of all gifts.

The campaign raised more than \$8 million for STEM-

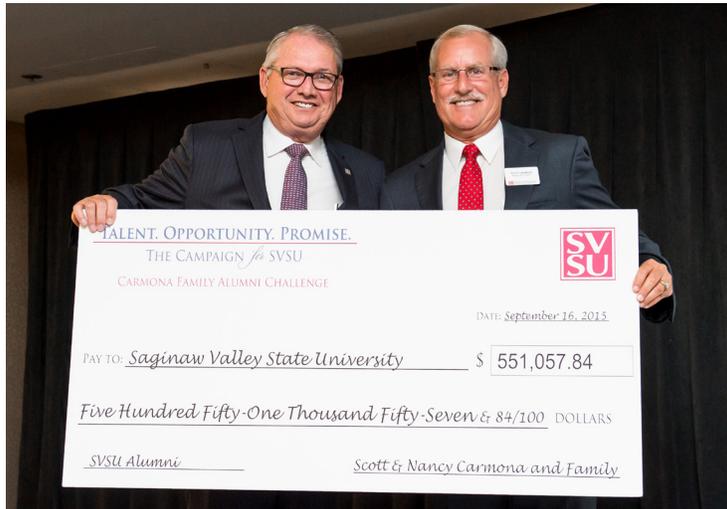
related initiatives, as SVSU also received a total of \$2.7 million from The Dow Chemical Company Foundation to establish the Dow Science and Sustainability Education Center. The center works to enhance STEM education at SVSU and regional K-12 schools.

An estimated 11,000 K-12 students returned to Great Lakes Bay Region classrooms this year to be taught by teachers who participated in STEM professional development experiences offered at SVSU this summer. In addition, SVSU students and faculty are engaged in a number of STEM-based research projects supported through endowments established during this campaign.

The “Talent. Opportunity. Promise” campaign began in 2011. It was chaired by John Decker of Bay City, previously an attorney with Braun Kendrick before being hired as SVSU’s general counsel in 2013; Brian Law of Bay City, chairman and CEO of Magline; Herb Spence III of Saginaw, president of Spence Brothers; and Jenee Velasquez of Midland, executive director of the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation.

The \$28 million raised during the “Talent. Opportunity. Promise.” campaign eclipses the \$23 million generated during the “Promise for Tomorrow” campaign from 2005 to 2010. SVSU’s “Campaign for Distinction” raised more than \$13 million from 1997-99, and the “Creating the Future” campaign from 2000-02 exceeded \$9.5 million.

President Donald Bachand accepts a check for \$551,057.84 as a result of the Carmona Challenge from Scott Carmona, and along with co-chairs Brian Law, John Decker, Herb Spence III and Jenee Velasquez poses in front of the display that lists the names of all the donors to the successful campaign. The display is located on the second floor near the southwest end of Groening Commons.



Brenda Holman

Research Analyst • August Staff Member of the Month

There's not a window in her office, but Brenda Holman finds serenity in the scenery — and the work — there anyway.

In frames on the walls and in portraits lining her cupboards, the Office of Institutional Research analyst has surrounded herself with images of her favorite things in the world: her family and Lake Superior. And on the screen of her computer is the focus of her work.

"I was surprised," she said of receiving the Staff Member of the Month honor. "I was not expecting it."

Holman joined SVSU in 2004, when she worked in the Controller's Office. There, she worked on accounting and grant projects for eight years before stepping down to have her first child. She returned to SVSU in October 2014 to take on her current role, which involves gathering academic data, managing resources that organize that data and working with people who need that data.

"I like working with numbers," she said. "I like being able to use data and numbers, and to give useful information to the person requesting it."

Nick Wagner, director of the Office of Institutional Research, nominated Holman for the recognition.

"Brenda has an accounting background, and so she's extremely thorough in what she does," Wagner said. "She's someone I rely on and who is receptive to using software that shows data in a meaningful way."

Recently, she helped draft a proposal to purchase Tableau, a computer software program that organizes data in ways that are understandable to most people. The university then purchased the software.

Wagner said her work with acquiring and using Tableau was largely the basis for nominating her for the monthly award.

"She's always willing to take on something outside of the box that we've never done before," Wagner said. "She likes to stay up to date and contemporary, especially with best practices. She's my go-to person for new things in the office."

Life doesn't slow down much after work for Holman. With one child — Elena, 3 — she said she and her husband, Don, have plenty of work on their hands at home. It's a labor of love.

"I love just playing around with my daughter and seeing her excitement as she learns something new," Holman said. "It's a lot of fun."

The family also enjoys having fun away from their Midland home when the opportunity presents itself, she said. When possible, the Kingsford native's family goes on road trips and camping excursions. Sometimes the destination is the subject of some of those photos lining her walls: Lake Superior.



Mike Pazdro

Project Manager • September Staff Member of the Month

For Mike Pazdro, every project presents a challenge, but the Facilities Planning and Construction project manager considers the project he faced the past two years among his toughest.

The challenge: Renovate a portion of Gilbertson Hall so the Department of Geography could relocate there. The then-vacated space in Wickes Hall would be used as temporary office space for first-floor occupants while construction was ongoing. The next phase was the big one: remove all the dorm furniture, clean the rooms, set up temporary office furniture and relocate all the occupants from the second and third floors to the Living Center Southwest.

“All projects have a special challenge,” Pazdro said. “Logistically, this was the hardest because of the amount of people and the small time frame.”

The job had to be completed within one week so that Wickes Hall could be turned over to construction workers. They replaced the building’s lighting, and renovated the HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) system. The work also involved reconfiguring the north half of the second floor and installing new roofing, among other renovations.

Then, in August, he oversaw the return of Wickes Hall’s second and third floor occupants. Workers also had to remove the summertime makeshift office space in Living Center Southwest and

re-furnish those areas for students returning for the fall semester, all within a 1-week span.

Things aren’t getting any easier now that the project is finished. He and colleague Stephen Hocquard, assistant vice president of Facilities Planning and Construction, are splitting the responsibilities that once belonged to Jerry Stuart, who was director of the department until he retired in the summer.

It was Stuart and Hocquard who convinced Pazdro to apply at SVSU back in 2005, when he worked at an architectural firm that contracted with the campus. At the time, Pazdro was drawing up blueprints for what today is the Marketplace at Doan.

“Overnight I went from architect to owner on the same job,” he said.

When he’s not hustling across campus from one project to another, he doesn’t slow down much. He enjoys biking. He and his 9-year-old daughter, Jessa, are regulars on the rail trail near Chippewa Nature Center. “As I track all of our bike rides, she’s done over 500 miles in biking this year,” he said proudly of his daughter.

Pazdro also enjoys bow hunting.

The outdoors activities provide temporary reprieve from the hustle and bustle of his day job. Already, he’s planning for the next big projects ahead.



Warren Fincher

Assistant Professor of Sociology

If you think the Venn diagram for expertise in architecture and interest in sociology would offer little overlap, Warren Fincher is ready to correct you.

The assistant professor of sociology has education in both fields — a Ph.D. in sociology and a master's degree in architecture — and has traveled the world to witness how architecture and sociology define cultures abroad. “It’s very interesting how (architecture and sociology) work together,” he said.

Fincher, who grew up east of Dallas, is a bit of a globetrotter. Among the nations he has visited are Bolivia, England, France, Germany, Mexico, Italy, South Korea and Switzerland.

Last summer, he visited Japan, and next summer, he plans to lead a group of SVSU students to India. He has visited that nation eight times already in endeavors that supported his various research interests. That research includes examining changes in the nation’s indigenous medical system.

“I looked at how that craft changed, particularly with the influx of medical tourism,” he said. “A lot of people go to India for less-costly medical treatment — like heart transplants that cost one-fourth of what one costs here, or people who go there for spa treatment. It’s a project I’ve gone back a couple of times to research.”

He also has research interests in India that mix his love of

architecture and sociology. “I want to look into the architectural profession in India, and how do professional structures change in response to the increased presence of the global economy in India,” Fincher said. “The pressure is on (architects in India) to mediate the global scale of their projects with the traditional Indian architecture.”

Fincher is still recruiting students for the July and August trip, which will involve tracing the history of India in New Delhi, visiting the holy city of Varanasi, learning about desert cultures in Jaisalmer and visiting the foothills of the Himalayas.

In April, he traveled to Japan as part of the faculty exchange program at SVSU’s sister institution, Shikoku University. Fincher spent 18 weeks there, teaching English language and culture to the university’s students.

Fincher’s excursions have kept him far from home on many occasions. He enjoys the cultural endeavors although he admits to missing many elements of home when he’s away.

“I was really missing Mexican food when I was in Japan,” he said. “That was the hardest thing to find there. In India, I miss chocolate cake and green salad.”

In a few months, he’ll miss chocolate cake and green salad again.

“I’ll be ok,” he said, jokingly, of this summer’s trip to India. “It’s always worth it.”



SVSU partners with pharmacy in research to improve lab safety

SVSU students and faculty will spend the next year helping a local pharmacist create a cleaner environment for the medicine formulated at his Saginaw Township-based compounding pharmacy laboratory.

The community partnership was formed when pharmacist Michael Collins asked James L. McEvoy, assistant professor of biology, to examine and identify the few bacteria found in the formulation lab at Collins' Healthway Compounding Pharmacy. The results will help Collins create an even more sanitary environment for producing customized medicines.

"Healthway is locally owned and has been supported by the community for 30 years," Collins said. "Doing business locally is important to me. The science departments at SVSU have an outstanding reputation."

McEvoy recommended conducting the research using a microbial identification system known as Biolog. Collins agreed to purchase the equipment; he has loaned the Biolog system to SVSU with the intent of donating the system to the university once the microbial identification research concludes next year.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone involved," said McEvoy, a former United States Department of Agriculture food safety lab researcher.

"Michael wants to find ways to improve his pharmacy. SVSU is working with a community partner and receiving state-of-the-art equipment. And one of my main goals is to introduce students to research."

Collins said he is excited about the partnership too.



Michael E. Collins, R.Ph., FIACP, from Healthway Compounding Pharmacy (Saginaw, Michigan) meets with James L. McEvoy, assistant professor of biology at SVSU, and Nicholas Wolter, a senior pre-nursing major from Bay City, on a partnership to examine amounts of bacteria found in laboratory environments.

"I want to give back to our community and this is a great opportunity for Healthway to do that," he said. "The SVSU biology department and the students will have an opportunity to use a state-of-the-art microbial identification system and Healthway will be able to keep their business needs local."

SVSU's research will involve testing microbes captured from air samples collected during those environmental tests. In the university's laboratories, McEvoy and his students will isolate pure cultures of the microbes found in those samples and then run them through the Biolog metabolic fingerprinting system to identify.

Once the Healthway Compounding Pharmacy research is finished, McEvoy said he expects SVSU will use the Biolog system for teaching and faculty research while also offering research services to Healthway Compounding Pharmacy and other companies.

SVSU encourages intellectual "Discovery!" in 2015 Fall Focus Lecture Series

SVSU invites the community to engage with and enjoy another exciting, educational and eye-opening Fall Focus lecture series. This year's program, with the theme of "Discovery!," features seven speakers who will talk about topics that both test historical narratives and illuminate issues that may shape the future. In addition to Paul Teed's presentation for the Rush Lecture (see Page 6), four speakers have upcoming talks as part of the series.

- **Nathan Wolfe** will speak Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts. Considered by some to be "the Indiana Jones of virus hunting," he travels the world to track, study and eradicate the next pandemic before it strikes.

- **Nassir Ghaemi**, an academic psychiatrist specializing in mood illnesses, especially bipolar disorder, will deliver the 12th annual James E. O'Neill Memorial Lecture Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.

- **Vijay (Robert) Gupta**, a soloist and chamber musician, will discuss the ability of music to change an individual's brain, heal ailments and transform lives in his appearance Monday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.

- **Jennifer Stinson**, associate professor of history, will deliver SVSU's 13th annual Hoffmann/Willertz Lecture Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 4 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. She will present an excerpt from her book manuscript on African-Americans and those whose lives bridged African, Indian and Euro-American identities in the rural Midwest.

For more information on these speakers, visit svsu.edu/fallfocus.

Professional Profile

- **Jennifer Chaytor**, assistant professor of chemistry, had a paper titled "Identification of Didecyldimethylammonium Salts and Salicylic Acid as Antimicrobial Compounds in Commercial Fermented Radish Kimchi" published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*. She also presented this paper at the 98th Canadian Society for Chemistry Conference, June 15 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- **Sara Beth Keough**, associate professor of geography, published an article titled "Planning for Growth in a Natural Resource Boomtown: Challenges for Urban Planners in Fort McMurray, Alberta" in *Urban Geography* (Vol. 36, Issue 5, pages 128).
- **Suzanne Savoy**, associate professor of nursing, co-authored an article titled "Depressive Symptoms Impact Health-promoting Lifestyle Behaviors and Quality of Life in Healthy Women" that was published in the *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing* (30, 360-372).
- **Paul and Melissa Teed**, professors of history, co-authored a book, *Reconstruction*, that was published by ABC-CLIO in July. The book, which is a study of the political, social and cultural aspects of the period following the American Civil War, is part of the publisher's Guides to Historic Events Series.
- **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, has a one-person exhibition of paintings and collage from his "Americana Series" on display at Mott Community College's Visual Arts and Design Center. Included in the show are works from 2007 to 2015.

As a committee co-chair, Zivich opened the reception of the University of Michigan Ninth Annual Stamps School of Art & Design Alumni Show, July 17 in the Slusser Gallery in Ann Arbor. He also had his painting, "Down Yonder (Blue)" accepted for showing in this juried exhibition that ran from July 13 to Aug. 2.

New Cardinals

- **David Bechard**, enterprise applications specialist, announced the birth of a son, Carter Jeremiah Bechard (7.8 lbs., 20.5 in.), Sept. 17.

Condolences

- To **Mary Aumann**, manager of enterprise applications, whose husband, Martin Aumann, passed away Aug. 23.
- To the family of **Nathaniel Fulara**, technology specialist, who passed away Aug. 22.
- To **Robert Lemuel**, director of scholarships & financial aid, whose mother-in-law, Nancy Moon, passed away Sept. 10.
- To **William Prince**, custodian, whose mother-in-law, Sally A. Hemstreet, passed away Aug. 31.

Briefly Speaking

- **Ann Coburn-Collins**, director of academic programs support, led a workshop titled "Adjunct and Part-Time Faculty: Working Toward Organizational Structures that Support Instructors and Student Success" at the 2015 annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Aug. 22 in Chicago.
- **Beth Johns**, e-resources & research librarian, presented a poster titled "Not for Orientation Only: Using the Cephalonian Method to



You are cordially invited to attend the
Eighteenth Annual Thomas and Hilda Rush
Distinguished Lectureship Presentation

"Contesting Freedom: The Civil War After Appomattox"
a discussion by
Paul E. Teed
Professor of History

Thursday, Oct. 8
4 p.m.
Founders Hall
Reception to follow

Reinvigorate Your Instruction" at the Michigan Library Association's annual Academic Libraries Conference, May 29 in Bay City.

- **Poonam Kumar**, director of the Center for Academic Innovation, co-authored an article titled "Developing a Preference for Collaboration Using Team-Based Learning" that was published in the *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*.
- Faculty and staff are eligible for two 2015-2016 All Sports Passes, which grant admission to all home regular season football and basketball games. Pick up your All Sports Passes from Shelly Losee in the Ryder Center; you must sign for them and you may not pick up passes for anyone else. All Sports Passes are not distributed at any home contests. Please note that your SVSU ID card does not provide you with free admission to the games; you must present your All Sports Pass to the ticket taker.
- Full-time faculty and staff interested in scheduling a new portrait appointment for the 2015-2016 Faculty/Staff Directory should call ext. 4086 or email tmi@svsu.edu.

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.