

## Board of Control approves plan to renovate Melvin J. Zahnow Library

The Board of Control approved spending up to \$12 million to renovate SVSU's Zahnow Library during the Board's regular meeting Friday, Dec. 18.

"Modern libraries continue to be at the heart of teaching and learning for universities, but the ways in which today's students study and learn are much different than they were

a generation ago," said SVSU President Donald Bachand. "Our students have told us that they want more flexible study spaces, more support services, and we are making these changes to better serve them."

Funding for the project includes a \$1.5 million gift from the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation in Saginaw.

"From our earliest days, the Wickes Foundation has supported SVSU's determined

and persistent quest to provide exceptional learning opportunities for students from our region, our state and our world," Bachand said. "We are grateful for their continued generous support."

SVSU expects to receive additional private donations to support the renovation. The remainder of the project will be financed through existing funds reserved for campus construction and renovation.



## Diversity leader and SVSU alum Billy Dexter delivers Commencement address

SVSU students heard from an alumnus who is recognized as a national leader in creating diverse leadership teams for major corporations. Billy Dexter addressed graduates during Commencement exercises Dec. 18 and 19 in SVSU's Ryder Center. The December 2015 class consisted of 637 students who had applied to graduate.

Dexter serves as a managing partner at Heidrick & Struggles, an executive search firm. He leads the company's global diversity advisory services practice that assists clients in creating diverse leadership teams. His clients include major companies such as Allstate, Capital One, John Deere and the NBA. Actively involved as a student at SVSU, Dexter was selected as Homecoming King in 1983. He also was selected as SVSU's Outstanding Alumnus in the College of Art & Behavioral Sciences in 2010.

Go to [svsu.edu/commencement](http://svsu.edu/commencement) to view a video of the December Commencement ceremonies.

## SVSU names new chief of police

SVSU has hired Leo Mioduszewski to serve as the school's next police chief. He had served as the sheriff for



Isabella County since 2005. Mioduszewski will replace Ron Trepkowski, who is retiring at the end of the calendar

year, following 36 years with University Police, including 11 as chief. "Leo has the qualities we were looking for in our next chief," said President Donald Bachand.

"He has a wealth of background and experience, and he possesses a great understanding of the complexities involved in employing a community policing model in a campus setting."

In his capacity as Isabella County Sheriff, Mioduszewski has overseen 58 employees and an annual budget of \$5.2 million. Prior to becoming sheriff, he served 14 years with the Central Michigan University police department, including three years as a sergeant, and five years as a police officer in Mancelona, Michigan.



President Donald Bachand on Dec. 18 welcomed and officially authorized the hiring of SVSU's new chief of university police, Leo Mioduszewski.

# Cal Borden

## Assistant Professor of Biology

Growing up in the southeastern U.S., Cal Borden remembers a childhood swimming lesson in a Florida lake where the instructor first would beat the water with a paddle to scare away lurking alligators.

It was an early lesson on the habits of creatures living in water — a science he pursues today as an adult.

“Early on, I knew my interests were in the hard sciences,” the assistant professor of biology said. “There was a time when I thought about studying forestry, but I always liked fish.”

With the help of his undergraduate students, Borden hopes soon to answer a thousands-year-old question about a species of freshwater fish — smallmouth bass — that populate the Great Lakes: Where did they migrate from?

“Fourteen thousand years ago, Michigan was under several miles of ice,” Borden said. “That ice retreated and left the Great Lakes. All the organisms that live here are new. They invaded this space.”

Borden and his students are tracing the historical journey — the biogeography — of the smallmouth bass by collecting the fish, then comparing its DNA to the genetic data from members of the same species from other bodies of water. The process should reveal the ancestry of the Great Lakes’ smallmouth bass.

There is plenty of lab work required in that process, but one of the

first steps involves merging science with sport. Borden estimates he spent about 15 days this year fishing for the subjects of his study.

The task takes him to sites such as the Cass, Chippewa, Flint, Grand, Kalamazoo and Shiawassee rivers. While he encourages students to join him in collecting the fish, he often travels alone.

“It’s hard to take students because whether I go or not can depend on weather conditions,” he said. “Then you spend half the day in the car, driving there. Every time I go out there, it basically takes up the day. It’s hard to fit that into a student’s schedule.”

Collecting smallmouth bass can be a tedious task too. “Nets don’t work on these fish, so the easiest way to catch them is to throw out a line, preferably in clear water rivers with a rocky bottom,” he said.

The effort sometimes reminds him of his early childhood spent with family in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, where he was born, as well as Toronto, where he was raised later on in life. Back then, his father built a canoe, and the Bordens spent vacations fishing in lakes across Canada and the United States.

“It’s enjoyable,” he said of fishing. “It relaxes me.”

Borden hopes the work culminates in research published in an academic journal, with some of his students credited as co-authors.

“That might happen this year,” he said. “Realistically, I’m looking at [having the research published] two years from now.”



# Michelle Knous

Clinical Coordinator • December Staff Member of the Month

Michelle Knous comes to work every day instilling in SVSU's exercise science students "an Olympic athlete mentality."

Knous would know a thing or two about that mentality. She was an Olympic athlete.

"You just have to have a goal, and then you come in every day and work to get closer to that goal," said Knous, a member of the U.S. women's bobsled team during the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

Her chief role at SVSU is to serve as clinical coordinator for senior exercise science students seeking internships required as part of their academic program. She connects students with opportunities at hospitals, community recreation centers such as the YMCA, chiropractors and other organizations and companies that utilize exercise science students. "There's a lot of career counseling, too," Knous said.

"It's great work, because I'm energized by college students and being able to help them find their path. The best thing is when I get an email from a former student who tells me they've been hired somewhere. That's a victory."

She also works as an adjunct instructor at SVSU, teaching the strength and conditioning course. "That's my 'fun time,'" she said. "Strength and conditioning are close to my heart and something I'm passionate about."

Teaching students about training methods and programming to maximize an athlete's physical potential reminds Knous of her days as a competitive athlete.

Those days include high school years spent competing in sports such as basketball, volleyball, and track and field. Her athletic career continued at Michigan State University, where she competed in pole vault on the track and field team.

It was after college where she was recruited for the bobsled team. That journey included living in the Olympic training center in Lake Placid, New York, for two years. When it came time to compete, Knous — then known as Michelle Rzepka — and teammate Shauna Rohbock earned a sixth-place finish in the Vancouver Olympics.

Knous retired from competitive bobsledding after the experience. Two years later, she joined SVSU. "I had never been to SVSU," the Novi native said, "but I came here and fell in love."

In more ways than one. She married Jeremy Knous, associate professor of kinesiology. The couple on Nov. 4 announced the birth of their first child, Barrett Z Knous.

In the fashion of someone accustomed to testing their physical limits, Michelle Knous tried to convince her academic supervisors that she could continue working while also giving birth and caring for a newborn. "No matter what, I always like to stay busy," she said. "I'm always on the go. That's who I am."



## Professional Profile

- **George Corser**, assistant professor of computer science and information systems, and SVSU computer science students provided instruction to the elementary students Dec. 3 for an Hour of Code program. The event is part of a national initiative to increase diversity in computer science as well as to introduce coding to students at a young age.

- **Julie Foss**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, presented “Managing the Multilevel Class” at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages’ Annual Convention, Nov. 20-22 in San Diego, California.

- **Brandon L. Haskett**, associate professor of music, had an article titled “Challenging Beginnings: Leading a Steel band Without Prior Steelpan Experience” published in Percussive Notes (Vol. 53, No. 5). He also performed on steelpan as part of the “Pan Rocks!” project at the Percussive Arts Society International Conference in November in San Antonio, Texas.

- **Sara Beth Keough**, associate professor of geography, presented a paper titled “Material Culture and Meaning in the Water Economy of Niamey, Niger,” which was co-authored by **Scott M. Youngstedt**, professor of anthropology, at the 58th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association in November in San Diego, California. Youngstedt also served as chair and presented comments on the roundtable “Charlie Hebdo in Niger: Between AQIM and Boko Haram.” In addition, as president, Youngstedt presided over an all-day meeting of the board of directors of the West African Research Association.

- **Michael Mosher**, professor of art/communication & multimedia, co-edited the fall 2015 issue of Bad Subjects. The fall issue includes “Roethke and War” by **Rosalie Riegler**, professor emerita of English; “The Politics of the Bow Tie” by **John Baesler**, associate professor of history; “Art, Sex, Identity and Existence: A Dialogue on Selfies” by **Kimberly Lacey**, assistant professor of English and Mosher. “The Matter of Black Lives for Jon Lockard” by Mosher discusses his late teacher’s exhibition and lecture at SVSU in 2008. Mosher also represented Lockard’s 1970s students and spoke of the muralist’s pedagogy at a two-day symposium titled “Jon Onye Lockard: The Life and Journey of a Visual Griot,” Oct. 11 at the University of Michigan Department of Afroamerican and African Studies.

- **Thomas Renna**, professor emeritus of history, presented a paper titled “Papal Approval of Frederick II at the Fourth Lateran Council” at the Fondazione Centro Studi Emigrazione at the conference Concilium Lateranense IV, November in Rome. Renna spent six weeks in the Vatican Secret Archives and the Tyrolean Archives in Innsbruck during November and December.

- **Jay Scott**, assistant professor of biology, published a paper titled “Retene causes multifunctional transcriptomic changes in the heart of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) embryos” in Environmental Toxicology and Pharmacology.

- **Kristin Sovis**, assistant professor of English, presented “Seeing Beyond Our Own World: Using Character Point-of-View Activities to Introduce Students to Critical Theory” at the National Council of Teachers of English, Nov. 20 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She chaired “Rewriting the Narrative of Teacher Education Through Collaboration.”

## Briefly Speaking

- **Ann Coburn-Collins**, director of Academic Programs Support, presented “Best Practices for Supporting Adjunct Faculty” at the Lilly Conference in Traverse City Friday, Oct. 16.

- **Mike Major**, director of career services, presented two papers at the National Communication Association National Conference, Nov. 19-22 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The papers were titled “The Myers Briggs Type Indicator: A Useful Tool for the University Career Office Role” and “Creating and Forming Impressions in Online Dating: A Lens Model Analysis Role.”

## New Cardinals

- **Jeffrey Zulauf**, assistant director of admissions and transfer admissions, announced the birth of a daughter, Ellerie Margaret Zulauf (7 lbs., 11 oz., 18 in.), Nov. 17.

## Condolences

- To **J. J., Jennifer and Diane Boehm** on the loss of J. J.’s father, Jerry R. Boehm, former instructor of mathematics, who passed away Monday, Nov. 30. Jerry was husband to Diane Boehm, director emeritus of the SVSU Writing Center; father to J. J. Boehm, director of media and community relations; and father-in-law to Jennifer Boehm, women’s tennis coach.

- To **John and Nanette Neumeyer**, on the loss of John’s mother, Esther Neumeyer, who passed away Dec. 11. John is an HVAC assistant and Nanette is a textbook assistant in the Bookstore.

- To **Jo Stanley**, secretary emerita to the Board of Control, whose husband, Louis J. Stanley, passed away Nov. 24.

## Directory Revisions

Please note the following in your 2015-16 faculty and staff directory:

- Add to University Communications department: **Jennifer Weiss**, Administrative Secretary, ext. 4039, [jlweiss1@svsu.edu](mailto:jlweiss1@svsu.edu)
- Disability Services, Diversity Programs and Multicultural Services all are located in **260 Wickes Hall**
- Graduate Admissions and International & Advanced Studies are located in **230 Wickes Hall**
- All staff in Sponsored & Academic Programs Support are located in **314 Wickes Hall**
- The Conference Center at SVSU is located in **201 Curtiss Hall** (the office expects to relocate in mid-2016 to 142 Curtiss Hall)
- Customer Service/Fitness Center (in the Ryder Center) is at ext. **4906**
- The Training Room (in the Ryder Center) is at ext. **2121** and 7318
- Barb Cohen’s office number is **230 Wickes Hall**
- Add Kelly Helmreich, ext. 4019, to the list of **faculty secretaries**

For additional copies of the directory, contact the mailroom at ext. 4466. To access directory information online, or to update your information and photo preferences, go to [svsu.edu/lookup](http://svsu.edu/lookup).

**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](mailto:jjboehm@svsu.edu).**