

## SVSU profs to use Braun Fellowship fund to study diet and exercise of pregnant women, drugs used for diabetes

Two faculty members will study common health issues through support from SVSU's Braun Fellowship.

Meghan Baruth, assistant professor of health sciences, will research behavioral intervention programs aimed at improving the diet and exercise of pregnant women. Jennifer Chaytor, assistant professor of chemistry, will study and modify drugs used to fight Type 2 diabetes.

Through SVSU's Braun Fellowship, Baruth and Chaytor will each receive research support grants totaling up to \$37,500 over the next three years to further their scholarly and professional activities. Funds may be used for research expenses, equipment, travel and/or other related support.

As part of her research, Baruth plans to publish research papers on a pilot behavioral intervention program aimed at improving the diet and exercise of pregnant women. She also plans to present those findings at national conferences, attend a grant-writing workshop by the National Institutes of Health, and pursue grants that would help expand on her findings. The initiative also will involve research opportunities for undergraduate students.

Baruth joined SVSU's health sciences faculty in 2013. She completed a Ph.D. in exercise science at the University of South Carolina, where she also worked as a post-doctoral fellow.

Chaytor plans to task undergraduates with helping her study drugs used to fight



Meghan Baruth Jennifer Chaytor

Type 2 diabetes. The research will involve synthesizing and evaluating compounds based on structures of drugs already on the market while investigating modifications that could more effectively combat Type 2 diabetes. Chaytor said she and her students plan to submit research papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals and

present at national conferences.

Chaytor joined SVSU's chemistry faculty in 2012. She earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from University of Ottawa in Ontario. Chaytor also worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta.

Established in 2005, the Braun Fellowship program was created through a \$1.5 million endowment from the Saginaw-based Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation. Administered by the Saginaw Community Foundation, the program's purpose is to recognize the exceptional accomplishments

and potential of select SVSU faculty and staff. It is named for Ruth and Ted Braun of Saginaw.

### DONALD BACHAND WILL DELIVER HIS STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

4 P.M., THURSDAY, FEB. 11

IN THE MALCOLM FIELD THEATRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO ATTEND

A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE ADDRESS



N. Cornell Boggs III, senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Dow Corning, delivered the keynote address at the seventh annual Great Lakes Bay Regional Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Wednesday, Jan. 20. SVSU hosted hundreds of guests for the program, which included the presentation of regional scholarship awards by the Bay Area, Midland Area and Saginaw community foundations to high school seniors who have embodied Martin Luther King's ideals.

# Micah DelVecchio

Assistant Professor of Economics

Through his research interests and approach to teaching, Micah DelVecchio is dedicated to making an impact both on his students and community.

“That’s the reason I’m here: to be in a position to support people and help make that kind of a difference,” the assistant professor of economics said. “It’s a great opportunity to be part of everything that’s going on here at SVSU. I want to take advantage of that.”

The Denver transplant began working at the university in fall 2014. Since then, he has kept busy with research opportunities that align with his academic expertise in macroeconomics, his interest in supporting undergraduate student research and a neighborly desire to elevate his community.

By March, DelVecchio hopes to wrap up a year-long research project for Midland Area Homes, a nonprofit organization that helps low-income homeowners maintain and improve housing conditions.

DelVecchio and his student researcher Aranya Biswas, an economics major from Bengledesh, are performing a cost-benefit analysis in an effort to measure Midland Area Homes’ impact on its surroundings.

“Midland Area Homes want to see the effect they are having on the community,” DelVecchio said. “The results might be useful when they are trying to attract donors in the future.”

His other research project involves examining the impact of laws and regulations on the economic growth of various nations. “I want to see the ways economies grow based on those factors,” he said.

Editors at an academic journal are reviewing his first paper based on the research. Eventually, he hopes his work is published in several peer journals.

In the classroom, DelVecchio attempts to humanize a subject that is often theoretical in nature.

“It can be a challenge finding that emotional connection when talking about economics,” DelVecchio said.

“I try to show people how economics affects their daily lives. A lot of times, we’ll talk about robotics and technology and how that affects economics because students can relate to [technology]. For me, it’s important that students can connect to what they’re learning.”

Following that teaching philosophy becomes easier when working in a supportive environment, he said. DelVecchio praised his colleagues in the Department of Economics.

“With the senior faculty, you can tell they care deeply about our department’s direction, and the younger faculty members get along and relate well to each other. Together, we are building something strong.”



# Student Counseling Services

## January Staff Members of the Month

If you build it, they will come.

That's the mantra at SVSU's Student Counseling Services, where a growing office has resulted in an expanding clientele. That additional work isn't a burden on those who work there. The office's three full-time professionals — Eddie Jones, director; and Anne Acker and Jenny Stephens, assistant directors — hope even more people utilize their services.

"I love my job because we are contributing to student success and helping them realize their potential," said Jones.

Student Counseling Services' clients increased by 5 percent between the 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years. In 2015-16, the office is on pace to top the 1,617 clients served during the previous academic year.

In recent years, additional resources have allowed the staff to focus on outreach efforts aimed at raising awareness about the office's services as well as erasing the stigma that prevents people from seeking counseling.

"A big challenge is deciding to come in for counseling the first time," Stephens said. "But, once a student has been here to see one of us, they say it's not what they expected. Coming in helps erase that stigma."

Some of that successful outreach came courtesy of a suicide prevention grant in 2011 that helped Student Counseling Services

secure guest speakers. The office also has hosted prevention programs dealing with topics such as eating disorders, bipolar disorders and anxiety. And counselors have worked with Active Minds, an SVSU student organization that educates peers about mental health, to connect with those in need of help.

"Mental health and wellness affects every area of a student's life," Acker said. "If we can help them here, it can have an impact on all areas of their lives."

Student Counseling Services also has expanded to include group counseling sessions and mental health workshops.

Along with the trio of counselors, the office staff includes four student interns and Travis Pashak, an assistant professor of psychology who volunteers part time in the office as part of his work to attain full state licensure as a clinical psychologist.

Merry Jo Brandimore, associate provost for Student Affairs and dean of students, called the Student Counseling Services team a "critical" component of SVSU student success that often goes unrecognized because of the confidential nature of the work.

"Thank goodness they do the work they do," Brandimore said. "They spend their days behind doors, talking to students who are struggling to find hope and optimism."

"The counselors quietly help them find that, and help them create internal motivations."



## Professional Profile

- **James Bowers**, assistant professor of criminal justice, **Kim Lacey**, assistant professor of English, and **Poonam Kumar**, director of online/hybrid learning, presented a session titled “Comparing Student Engagement and Satisfaction in Online vs Face-to-Face Courses” at the Lilly Conference Oct. 15 in Traverse City.
- **Vanessa Brooks Herd**, associate professor of social work, presented “Our Children are in Trouble: Social Work Education Responds” at the Social Work Social Development International Conference, October 2015 in East London, South Africa.
- **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, is co-guest editor (with Joycelyn Moody, University of Texas at San Antonio) of *American Periodicals* (Vol. 25, No. 2: Fall 2015), a special issue focused on black periodical studies. Gardner also presented a paper titled “Delilah Beasley’s Negro Trail Blazers of California: Black Women’s History and the American West” at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference Nov. 7.
- **Stacie Krupp**, assistant professor of accounting, and **Mark McCartney**, professor of accounting, had a paper titled “Evaluating a Fee Structure for a Not-for-Profit Community Foundation: A Case Study on Activity Based Costing” published in *The Accounting Educators’ Journal*.
- **Jason Pagano**, assistant professor of chemistry, gave a talk titled “Synthesis of silica-supported cadmium oxide and phosphorescent zinc sulfide precipitation tubes using nonequilibrium processes” at Pacificchem 2015: The International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies Dec. 17 in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- **David Rzeszutek**, associate professor of theatre, was a responder for the preliminary round of the Irene Ryan National Scholarship in acting and for four student design projects in sound design at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region III, Regional Festival, Jan. 5-10 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## New Cardinals

- **Andrew Chubb**, associate dean in the College of Science, Engineering & Technology, and **Jennifer Chubb**, lecturer of mathematics, announced the birth of a daughter, Alison Kira Chubb (6 lbs., 1 oz., 19 in.) Jan. 4.
- **Josh Miller**, assistant football coach/defensive line coach, announced the birth of a daughter, Alivia Rose Miller (6 lbs., 7 oz.).

## Condolences

- To **Craig Douglas**, dean of the College of Education, whose mother-in-law, Loretta Lucille (Nicholson) Blakely, passed away Dec. 16.
- To **Tom Hare**, groundskeeper, whose father, Marvin D. Hare, passed away Jan. 9.
- To **Cheri Stokes**, administrative assistant to the provost and vice president for academic & student affairs, whose father, Jack T. Williams, passed away Jan. 18. **Vicki Hayes**, retired administrative secretary, and Kelly Nitschmann, financial services rep, are daughter and granddaughter, respectively, of Mr. Williams.

## Teaching Symposium set for Feb. 19

Mark your calendar for the second annual Teaching Symposium Friday, Feb. 19, hosted by the Center for Academic Innovation. Faculty and staff to are invited to attend.

The morning’s keynote address will be given by Kenn Barron, professor of psychology and co-director of the Motivation Research Institute at James Madison University. Barron’s talk is titled “Is There a Formula to Help Understand and Improve Student Motivation?”

A workshop titled “Practicing How to Use and Apply a Formula for Student Motivation” will immediately follow Barron’s presentation. In addition, several SVSU faculty will offer tips on effective instruction during afternoon sessions.

More information on how to RSVP will be announced in the near future.

## Berry honored as outstanding educator by regional athletic training organization

David Berry, professor of kinesiology, recently was named the 2016 Outstanding Educator award recipient by the Great Lakes Athletic Training Association.



David Berry

The award recognizes educators for their work both with students and professionals.

“It’s always an honor to be identified by students, peers and colleagues as someone who can impact students’ and professionals’ growth and development as well,” Berry said.

The Great Lakes Athletic Training Association is one of 10 districts that constitute the National Athletic Trainers Association, a professional organization of athletic trainers. The regional district encompasses Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Berry is active with a number of athletic training associations, providing presentations at a number of conferences. He also has encouraged over 40 students to make oral or poster presentations at various conferences over the last five years.

One of his former students, Rachel Katch, nominated Berry for the Outstanding Educator award.

**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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Please send items by email to: jjboehm@svsu.edu.**