

SVSU announces new scholarship for Saginaw Promise students

SVSU has established a new scholarship to provide additional financial support for students who reside within the Saginaw Promise zone.

The Saginaw Urban and Civic Partnership Scholarship will provide up to \$3,000 annually for up to 10 students who meet the criteria and attend SVSU. The scholarships are renewable for up to four years.

President Don Bachand announced SVSU's commitment to the Saginaw community during his keynote address at the Saginaw Promise luncheon Tuesday, April 26 at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy.

"Saginaw is important to us," Bachand said. "The young people in Saginaw are especially important to us.

We want to work more closely with the Saginaw Promise and other groups locally to provide opportunities for lifelong education. Our future depends on it."

Students who receive the scholarship will be expected to engage in one or more service projects aimed at encouraging students within Saginaw Public Schools to pursue higher education.

SVSU will begin awarding the scholarships for students enrolling in the 2016-17 academic year.

The Saginaw Promise provides scholarships for eligible students who reside in the City of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville Township and the portion of Buena Vista

Workforce data by the Lumina Foundation shows that by 2025, 60 percent of jobs in Michigan will require a college degree or postsecondary certificate. Only 33 percent of Saginaw County residents currently have completed at least an associate's degree.

Township designated to the Saginaw Public School District. For more information, visit saginawpromise.org.

SVSU is nationally recognized for its commitment to community engagement.

In 2015, SVSU received the Community Engagement classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a distinction achieved by only 7 percent of U.S. colleges and universities. 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.

National research has shown that students who are engaged in the community and on campus are more likely to be successful academically, and to have the critical thinking, problem-solving skills, self-efficacy, and adaptability desired by employers.



Current Saginaw Promise recipients Brandon Webster (left), a current Delta College student who plans to transfer to SVSU, and Michael Papesh, an electrical and computer engineering major at SVSU, were joined at the April 26 luncheon by Mamie Thorns, special assistant to the president for diversity programs; Don Bachand, president; David Gamez, a member of the SVSU Board of Control; and Laura Yockey and Tom Braley, members of the SVSU Board of Fellows. Braley, Gamez, Thorns and Yockey all serve on the Saginaw Promise Board of Directors.

Samantha Deere

Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

Despite the new name and new role, Samantha Deere remains passionate about the same causes that made her an outstanding student at SVSU years ago.

From 2007 to 2011, Deere made a name for herself — and, back then, that name was Samantha Danbert — as the student intern charged with overseeing SVSU’s HealthyU program.

A Ph.D. and marriage-inspired name change later, Deere has returned to SVSU. Now, as an assistant professor of kinesiology, she has expanded her mission to improve the health of people outside the campus too. “It’s been a very easy transition coming back here to SVSU,” said Deere, who returned to SVSU as an adjunct in fall 2014.

“I live in Lansing, so I was originally concerned about the long drive every day, but it was such a breath of fresh air to come back to campus. Everyone is smiling and welcoming, like I remembered.”

Her comeback also revealed a campus willing and wanting to inspire better health across the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. That community-minded atmosphere was perfectly suited to Deere’s exercise science-gearred interests.

One focus involves developing SVSU’s partnership with the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM)-led Exercise Is Medicine™ Initiative, a program aimed at making the scientifically proven benefits of physical activity a standard in healthcare systems across the globe.

“The goal is to treat exercise like a vital sign in every patient visit, within the health care community and the campus community,” she said.

Deere said the ACSM has designated SVSU as a “bronze status” institution, meaning the university is recognized for exercise-advocating programs such as HealthyU. Deere hopes to help the campus eventually achieve designation as a “gold status” institution, which recognizes universities that prescribe exercise during healthcare visits.

Another project Deere is involved in is a research study with colleagues Meghan Baruth, assistant professor of health sciences, and Becca Schlaff, assistant professor of kinesiology. The trio soon will begin recruiting participants for an undergraduate-involved study exploring components of an exercise/nutrition intervention to maximize the health of pregnant women. The project includes a partnership with Saginaw-based Valley OB/GYN, whose staff will identify eligible participants and prescribe exercise as indicated by the Exercise is Medicine™ initiative.

“The goal is for participants to obtain a healthy weight gain through their pregnancy; not too little and not too much,” she said.

Deere hopes such initiatives will help impact community health and leave her mark at SVSU — again.



Anita Dey

Director, Melvin J. Zahnow Library • April Staff Member of the Month

For Anita Dey, a “good vacation” means reading a good book, and reading a good book means feeling its pages flip between her fingers.

“I don’t own a Kindle or an eBook,” she said. “There’s a niche, so I might buy one someday. But when I’m home, I want to feel the book; smell it.” But while the director of the Melvin J. Zahnow Library is an old-school reader, she’s accepted the world’s gravitation toward digital reading — and embraced what that means when building a better library for the 2016 customer: students and faculty.

Dey will be overseeing such a building project, literally, as workers begin a \$12 million library renovation project. The changes will include access to more flexible study spaces, collaborative learning areas and additional support services. “What it’s going to make is a very good student-centered learning commons,” she said. “It will allow us to plug into more services and make them a lot more localized for students.”

Officials with Information Technology Services also will be relocated to the library as part of the renovations, meeting a need for students who need support while using the library’s various technological resources.

Library-based technology has constantly grown in importance since Dey was hired at SVSU in July 1987. She began as a reference librarian, largely overseeing the book lending system between SVSU and other libraries.

Back then, the library was located on the first floor of Wickes Hall. In the years that followed, the library moved to its present location, and in the early 21st century, expanded considerably in size.

“It’s a place with unending change,” Dey said. “There’s a lot happening. It keeps things exciting.”

The rise of the Internet has resulted in the most significant adjustments since Dey was hired nearly three decades ago.

“The real challenge is to maintain a balance between print and online, between face-to-face service and virtual service,” she said. “We’re trying to be of service in any way the students need us.”

Recently, an online chat service available through Zahnow Library has grown popular. Rather than seek assistance from employees at the facility’s help desks, more students are asking questions of those same employees who are available online.

“We have to be where the students are, and chat is very popular right now,” she said.

Despite her personal preference of finding her information through more traditional means, Dey said a library’s responsibility doesn’t change regardless of how it delivers services.

“Good, vetted information is expensive, and knowledge is power, but if it’s based on poor information, how good is that power,” she said. “The role of the library is to make that knowledge and that power available however they choose to receive it.”



Professional Profile

- **Cyrus Aryana**, professor of mathematics, gave an expository talk titled “Self-adjoint Toeplitz Operators Associated with Representing Measures on Doubly Connected Planar Regions and their Eigenvalues,” Special Session Speaker, at the Spring Central Sectional Meeting of the American Mathematical Society, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, April 16-17.
- **Joseph Jaksa**, associate professor of criminal justice, presented a session titled “Undergraduate Security Management Students: What Are We Teaching Them?” at the 53rd Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual meeting, April 2 in Denver, Colorado.
- **Garry Johns**, professor of mathematical sciences, presented a paper titled “Using effect sizes of subtasks to compare instructional methods: A network model” at the 2016 Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education Conference, Feb. 26 in Pittsburgh. The accompanying paper, co-authored with **Christopher Nakamura**, assistant professor of physics, and **Curtis Grosse**, lecturer of mathematical sciences, was accepted in the conference proceedings.
- **Jessica Kiss**, **Andrea Hamlin** and **John Lowry** gave a presentation at the NIRSA Annual Conference, April 4 in Orlando, Florida. The title of the presentation was “Three’s Company: Collaborating Across Departments to Build A Healthy Campus.”
- **Peggy Mead-Finizio**, assistant professor of theatre, attended the United States Institute for Theatre Technology conference, March 15-19 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She attended the conference with five Department of Theatre majors and Theatre costumer, **Melissa Penkava Koza**. The students attending the conference, who were sponsored by the SVSU Foundation, were exposed to sessions on all types of technical theatre, lectures and a special showroom floor of new products.
- **David Schneider**, professor of communication, gave a presentation titled “Understanding the roles of faculty and support services in college student retention and success” at the National Education Association’s 2016 Higher Education conference, April 1 in San Diego, California.
- **Kristin Sovis**, assistant professor of English, was elected to the Executive Board of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English as College Chair. Founded in 1924, MCTE provides professional development for English language arts teachers and English education professors throughout the state. Its goals are to disseminate current English education scholarship and assist English language arts teachers as they make decisions about pedagogical practices, student populations, and teaching philosophies.
- **Robert Tuttle**, professor of mechanical engineering, and student Aravinda Bommareddy had two articles recently published in the International Journal of Metalcasting. The first paper titled, “Study of Electrolytic Dissolution in Steels and Rare Earth Oxide Stability,” covered the development of a technique for electrolytically extracting inclusions for analysis in a scanning electron microscope. The second paper titled, “Role of Niobium Oxides on the Strength of Plain Carbon Steels,” discussed work on adding several different niobium

SVSU students honored for outstanding innovation in community impact

SVSU students have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to supporting charities in the Great Lakes Bay Region through the annual Battle of the Valleys fundraising competition.

Michigan Campus Compact, an organization that recognizes college students serving as civically-engaged citizens, selected SVSU and Battle of the Valleys initiative as the recipient of the first-ever statewide 2016 Innovations in Community Impact Award.

“Battle of the Valleys has had a tremendous impact on our community,” said Renee Johnston, president and CEO of the Saginaw Community Foundation. “I love the fact that the concept is so unique: a combination of fun, competitive, charitable and a great way to get involved.”

An annual fundraising competition between students from SVSU and Grand Valley State University, Battle of the Valleys is a one-week challenge. Since 2003, students have raised funds for their university’s respective charity partners during the week leading up to the rival schools’ annual football game.

“Of course, there is the positive financial impact on those charitable organizations who have been the beneficiaries of the funds raised, but there is also an impact on the community at-large,” Johnston said. “These students also are sending a positive message to the community through the commitment they are making through their fundraising and volunteer efforts.”

SVSU has won 10 of the 13 competitions — including the last eight — raising \$331,329 of the \$508,819 total.

oxides and determined that despite their high melting point they dissolve in liquid steel. This resulted in the steel being strengthened through precipitate formation.

- **Gladys Zubulake**, professor of modern foreign languages, was selected as a candidate for the position of college/university representative on the Board of Directors on the slate for the 2016 election of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Condolences

- To **Debra Lively**, professor of teacher education, whose father, Samuel C. Mills Jr., passed away March 30.

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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