

Time to Battle

For 14 years, SVSU and GVSU students for one week each year have attempted to out-fundraise each other, all in the spirit of charity and community support.

One of Samantha McKenzie's first memories involved helping her grandmother deliver food from their Mount Pleasant church to elderly parishioners who weren't able to attend Sunday services.

Emma Eldred has similar childhood memories of helping her church provide food for the needy.

The two women will share another commonality soon: Both are hoping their contributions to an annual competitive fundraiser between Saginaw Valley State University and Grand Valley State University will result in more food on the plates of needy families in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

"Battle of the Valleys is such an important event," said McKenzie, president and chief executive officer of Saginaw-based Hidden Harvest. "It's amazing to see what the students at SVSU are able to accomplish."

For 14 years, SVSU and GVSU students for one week each year have attempted to out-fundraise each other, all in the spirit of charity and community support. Each university yearly selects its own respective beneficiary — typically a



Samantha McKenzie



Emma Eldred

nonprofit organization or foundation. In the end, both beneficiaries win. The university that collects the most funds simply earns a year's worth of bragging rights and temporary custody of a 3-foot-tall trophy some affectionately call "Victoria." That trophy has remained on SVSU's campus for eight consecutive years.

McKenzie hopes to help extend that streak into 2017. Her organization, a nonprofit that provides food for pantries across the Great Lakes Bay Region, is SVSU's charity partner for this year's Battle of the Valleys competition, which spans the week beginning Sunday, Oct. 30.

"SVSU is definitely going to win it," said McKenzie, who happens to be a 2005 SVSU graduate. "Definitely."

Eldred hopes McKenzie's prediction pans out. Eldred,

after all, is an SVSU student and the philanthropy chairperson for the upcoming contest. For nearly a year, the SVSU nursing major has planned for the next Battle of the Valleys week, which involves a daily lineup of coordinated collection efforts and fun activities on campus.

"As any normal chair would be, I'm very nervous," the Lake Isabella native said. "It's going to be a busy week. I have high goals."

If history is any indication, Eldred and her Battle of the Valleys student committee will provide substantial funds for Hidden Harvest to use to purchase food. Both SVSU and GVSU have raised \$508,819 since the competition began in 2003. SVSU has collected \$331,329 of that total, which includes last year's \$24,540 intake. The school's largest collection was \$40,088 in 2010. SVSU has collected 5-figure sums every year except the first Battle of the Valleys.

McKenzie remembers that inaugural campaign from when she was an undergraduate.

"It was a fledgling operation at the time, but the excitement on campus

for this event already was there," she said. "It's amazing to see how it's grown. Not surprising, though."

McKenzie said SVSU students are a community-minded bunch. Even outside of the Battle of the Valleys competition, students have contributed mightily to Hidden Harvest over the years. Her organization's records show a number of SVSU student donation drives over the years resulted in the collection of 19,000 lbs. of canned goods for Hidden Harvest. The university's Dining Services since 2000 also has contributed 122,707 lbs. of food to the nonprofit.

"It's been a great partnership," McKenzie said. "I'm very proud to be a Cardinal."

The winner of this year's Battle of the Valleys contest will be announced during halftime of the football game between SVSU and GVSU, which kicks off at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 at Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium.

For a complete schedule of Battle of the Valleys events, visit svsu.edu/battleofthevalleys.

Kay Castillo

Associate Professor of Medical Laboratory Science

Kay Castillo can tell you the professional whereabouts of all her students, both past and present.

That acute awareness is one of the byproducts of being the lone faculty member in her academic program, medical laboratory science, which the associate professor has led since she joined SVSU in 2009. “Some of them, I haven’t seen in years, but I hear about them and know what they’re up to,” she said of the 75 program graduates. “A lot of them work nearby, so I see them quite a bit. Others, every once in a while, will contact me. I really enjoy hearing about their success.”

Castillo built a “medical laboratory science alumni” Facebook page where many of those graduates maintain their connection to each other and the university. An annual cookie-incentivized holiday party in the Health & Human Services building brings together grads and current students in the program, which admits 15 people at a time.

Castillo’s strong connection to her students was particularly useful earlier this month when the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science sent two site visitors to help consider reaccrediting the program. The medical laboratory science program seemed to be a hit with NAACLS. While the agency isn’t expected to rule on its findings until March 2017, the site visitors provided positive reviews before departing, Castillo said.

“They found no deficiencies and nothing that needed to be fixed,” she said.

In collecting data for the site reviewers, Castillo was able to chart how the program helped its graduates succeed professionally. The effort included mapping out the whereabouts of those former students. The resulting data showed that most graduates are working in the profession, including 52 who earned jobs in the mid-Michigan region. The largest chunk of that group — 15 — work at Covenant HealthCare.

Coincidentally, Covenant HealthCare provided the first touchpoint between Castillo and SVSU. The Thomas Township native served as the core lab manager at the Saginaw-based healthcare facility in 2008 when she attended the Michigan Association of Laboratory Science Educators bi-annual conference. There, she met David Stanton, professor of biology, who taught an early incarnation of the medical laboratory science classes. Stanton then connected her with Rene Hernandez, assistant professor of health science, who lobbied — successfully — for Castillo to join SVSU.

She hasn’t regretted the move since.

“It’s been busy, but I love it because of the students,” Castillo said. “It’s like we’re a family, all working toward a purpose. They’re succeeding, and many of them are getting jobs, really, before they’ve even graduated. It’s exciting to see and be a part of.”



Kate Scott

Director of the English Language Program • October Staff Member of the Month

If you're trying to conceal the nature of your conversation by speaking in a non-English language in front of Kate Scott, your secret might not be so safe.

The director of the English Language Program is charged with helping international students learn English, but the extent of her handle on other languages remains a source of mystery to those on campus — and that's the way she likes it.

"There was this one student talking to another who hadn't bought his textbook yet," Scott recalled. "They were going back in forth (in Arabic) about this until, finally, I told him, 'You just need to go to the bookstore.' They both looked at me a little surprised. 'You know what we were saying?'"

Mostly she knew what they were saying, at least.

"I just left it at that," she said with a smile.

Scott's understanding of that particular language began in the Sudan, where she served as a third grade teacher shortly after graduating from SVSU as an elementary education major in 2007.

Her 3-year stint in the northeastern African nation — where they speak Arabic — helped inspire Scott to continue working in international education when she returned to the United States in 2010. That inspiration led her back to SVSU, where she began as a teacher in the ELP that same year, largely working with students from Saudi Arabia.

Scott was hired as the program's assistant director in 2011 and became director in early 2014.

"I love my staff," the Kalamazoo native said of the 19 people she oversees. "They're one of the reasons why I like my job so much. They are considerate, competent and genuinely like each other."

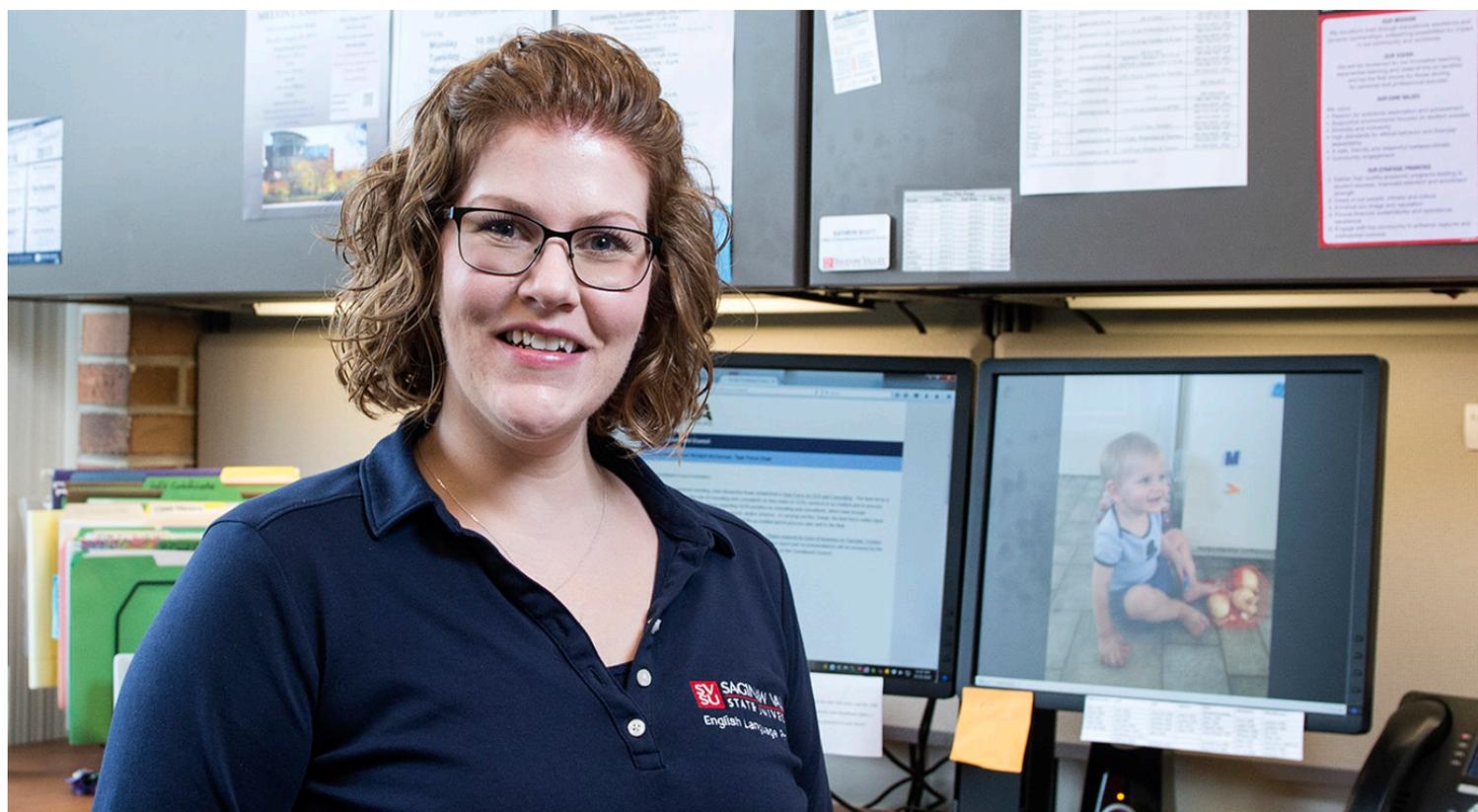
The team sometimes turns meetings into potlucks; other times, the group enjoys organizing outings with the program's students. In addition to the 22 hours of intensive language instruction students receive each week, "We also want to make sure the students have an authentic experience in our community," Scott said. For instance, her staff and students earlier this month visited Johnson's Giant Pumpkin Farm in Saginaw.

It's not all fun and games, however. The ELP recently earned some serious stripes. In August, the program received SVSU's first 4-year accreditation designation from The Commission on English Language Program Accreditation.

Scott is proud of the accomplishment, and the program in general, which is celebrating its 20th year on campus.

"It's one of the best places you could work," she said of the program.

She might be able to inform people of that fact in more languages than one — she just won't tell you how many.



Professional Profile

• **John Baesler**, associate professor of history, published the essay “Our German Space” in *Bad Subjects* issue #90: Space, <http://bad.eserver.org/issues/2016/90>, edited by independent scholar Molly Hankwitz and **Mike Mosher**, professor of art/communication media administration.

The issue also contains contributions by alumni Christi Griffis, '07 and Chad M. White, '08. In the same issue, Mosher has an essay “Jim Shaw: Architecture, Page, Dreamspace” about the notable artist who grew up in Midland, Michigan.

Another essay by Mosher, “Lost Men, Purposeful Women: Jim Shaw’s ‘The Hole’ and ‘The Whole,’” appears in *Other Cinema OTHERZINE* (San Francisco) #31; <http://www.othercinema/otherzine>. Mosher’s research on Shaw was funded by an SVSU Foundation 2015 Special Collections/Facilities Research Grant.

• **Amy Cook**, assistant director of the English Language Program, and **Charlene Bartholomew**, ESL specialist, presented “Promoting Academic Integrity Among English Language Learners” Oct. 14-15 at the MITESOL Conference, held at the University of Michigan-Flint.

• **James Bowers**, associate professor of criminal justice, **Joni Boye-Beaman**, professor of sociology, and **Carol Zimmermann**, retired criminal justice faculty, with David Kenziorski of Saginaw Police Department, co-presented “Officer and Staff Perceptions of Providing Services to Victims of Violent Crimes” at the annual Midwest Criminal Justice Association conference, Sept. 22 in Chicago.

• **LaCreta M. Clark**, associate professor of educational leadership & services, had a case study titled “New Chief in Town: Different Leadership Styles” published in *Choices and Consequences*.

• **Chad M. Dewey**, lecturer of computer science & information systems, recently presented “Hacking the High Seas” at the DerbyCon Security Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Dewey also presented on the same subject in early October at another security conference, GrrCon, in Grand Rapids.

• **Monika Dix**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, literature & culture, presented a paper titled “Sacred Placemaking in Taima-dera jikkai-zu byobu: Religious and Spatial Practices in Medieval Buddhist Narratives” at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Oct. 14-16 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

• **Jeannine Lorenger**, ELP senior specialist, published an article titled “Collaboration Among International and American Students in an IEP Setting” in *MITESOL Messages* (August 2016 issue).

• **Rhett Mohler**, assistant professor of geography, was the faculty adviser for Eric Breidinger, a student from Auburn who won the undergraduate paper competition at the American Association of Geographers East Lakes/West Lakes joint meeting, Oct. 14. The paper was titled “Mapping land cover changes along the Kawkawlin River using object-based classification of 1938 and 2014 aerial photography” and the research was supported with funding from the Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute at SVSU and the SVSU Foundation.

• **Andy Pandian**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, recently gave an invited talk on “Global Engineering Education” at the IEOM Detroit Conference at Lawrence Technological University.

• **Helen Raica-Klotz**, Writing Center director, and **Chris Giroux**, Writing Center assistant director, gave two conference presentations, “Which is the True/Truer/Truest Story: The Role of Grammar Instruction in Tutor Training” and “AMer ‘the Turn’: Expanding and Sustaining Writing Center Boundaries into our Larger Communities,” at the International Writing Centers Association Conference, Oct. 14-16 in Denver.

• **James P. Sullivan**, professor of English, submitted three of his on-going studies for presentation: “Revisions, Revisions, Revisions: Mere deviations, or creative inventions embodying the shifting ecology of the text,” was accepted for the Annual Conference of the Society for Textual Scholarship (Carleton University, Ottawa April 2016); and, “Padraic Colum’s, *Second Shepherds Play: A Transcription and Critical Introduction to the 1911 Berg Manuscript* (New York Public Library)” was read at Annual Conference of International Association for the Study of Irish Literature (University College Cork, Ireland, July 2016). The longer version of the paper has now been published in *Breac: A Digital Journal of Irish Studies* (University of Notre Dame, Fall 2016, under the title, “From the Abbey to the World of Children’s Literature: Padraic Colum’s, *The Second Shepherds’ Play*”; and finally, “From Dublin Dramatist to New York Children’s Author: Colum’s Adaptation of a 15th Century Morality Play,” will be read at the Mid-Atlantic Conference of the American Conference of Irish Studies (Gucksman [“Ireland-Israel”] House, New York University, November 2016).

• **Stephen Taber**, professor of biology, has a manuscript titled “Two New Nearctic Species of *Erioptera* Meigen Crane Flies” accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist*.

New Cardinals

• **Dennis Savard**, assistant professor of criminal justice, announced the birth of a daughter, Josephine Savard, Sept. 24.

Condolences

• To **Vanessa Brooks Herd**, associate professor of social work, whose father-in-law, Neville Britto, passed away Aug. 31.

• To **Craig Langmaid**, HVAC assistant, and **Robert Beauchamp**, electrician, whose father and father-in-law, respectively, Ernest Gilmore “Gil” Schwaderer, passed away Oct. 4.

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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Noon on Wednesday before the publication date
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