

Nursing professor earns Fulbright to study health care in Ireland

Sally Decker, professor of nursing at Saginaw Valley State University, has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar to support her teaching and research in Ireland.



Sally Decker

Decker will work with inter-professional teams at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. She also will teach health education courses and work with faculty members on simulation.

"I am looking forward to working with health care providers in Ireland," she said. "I hope I can share some of what I have learned as I work with the inter-professional teams at the

Royal College of Surgeons."

Decker plans to design and create an interactive workshop on simulation with faculty members, work with students in groups or individually related to the pedagogy of education in healthcare, and help create, facilitate and evaluate an inter-professional simulation with students and faculty members.

Decker is familiar with educational settings overseas. She has led SVSU students on study abroad experiences in England, Australia and Nepal. Those experiences focused on the differences in health care in different nations and cultures.

"These experiences — in addition to my personal travel experiences — have increased my sensitivity to cultural competence and the need to review evidence with

consideration for the context from which it was created," she said. "Context relates to cultural, environmental, genetics, and health care system differences."

Her interest in the topic started when she served as a member of the Army Nurse Corps.

"The system of health care and specifics of interventions in the military setting — followed by the transition to civilian health care — created a striking awareness for me of the importance of contextual understanding and teamwork," she said.

Decker has presented on research related to educational pedagogy at international venues. In June 2017, she presented on the use of visual metaphor in concept-based

education at the International Congress of Nurses in Barcelona.

Decker has received SVSU's highest faculty honors, winning the Landee Award for Teaching Excellence in 2002 and the Warrick Award for Excellence in Research in 1991. She completed a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan.

The Fulbright Program aims to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Each year, this international educational program of the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs awards about 8,000 grants for research, study, and teaching opportunities in over 160 countries.

Relay for Life raises in excess of \$25,000 in 2018 charity drive



SVSU's Colleges Against Cancer, a registered student organization, hosted its 10th annual Relay for Life Friday, Feb. 23 in the O'Neill Arena. The 10-hour marathon event saw 38 teams from on and off campus raise a total of \$25,750 for the American Cancer Society. Tammy Elliott, special assistant to the provost, is the staff adviser for SVSU's Colleges Against Cancer chapter. Donations for this Relay season remain open until August. For more information, visit svsu.orgsync.com/org/cac.

Vanessa Brooks Herd

Professor of Social Work

Vanessa Brooks Herd was 11 years old the first time it became clear she wanted to spend her life helping others.

"My mother likes to tell me this story about when she sent me to a hardware store to get some kind of gadget," Brooks Herd said, "and I didn't bring the change home."

While at the store collecting the "gadget," the 11-year-old noticed the man behind the counter's hands were coated with grease, likely from working with the hardware in the store.

"But, in my head, his hands were dirty and so he needed help," Brooks Herd recalled. "So I told him, 'You can keep the change.' I was already, as a child, trying to identify people who I thought needed help."

It's a habit that followed her into adulthood as Brooks Herd pursued a life and career both practicing social work and educating others about it.

After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from Wayne State University, Brooks Herd spent time as a social worker and administrator working with families, recovering addicts and school children in both Detroit and Saginaw. In 2001, she was recruited to join SVSU's faculty by the late Stephen Yanca, a former social work professor.

"I wasn't 100 percent sure that is what I wanted to do because I was looking for another clinical job at the time," she said.

Brooks Herd decided to apply, and even after she was hired, she approached the profession "with a healthy skepticism," she said.

"I wanted to give it a year."

By her third year, she earned the SVSU House Family Award for Teacher Impact.

"That was confirmation that I made the right move," said Brooks Herd, who earned an Ed.D. in curriculum and education from Wayne State in 2011.

While at SVSU, she has led a number of academic trips for students to locations such as Costa Rica and Uganda; served as an exchange faculty member at SVSU's Japan-based sister institution, Shikoku University; and presented research in conferences across the globe. She also has led social work programs at SVSU that have allowed students to gain hands-on experience in the field.

Among those programs is FAST, which provides support for adults previously served by the foster care system now pursuing college degrees. It's a demographic familiar to Herd Brooks, who once served as a foster parent. After raising a son with her husband, the couple also adopted one of the boys they fostered. For Brooks Herd, it was a gesture of providing help that was familiar, dating back to the change she forfeited in a hardware store at the age of 11.



Trisha Heintskill • Julie Reinbold

February Staff Members of the Month

Trisha Heintskill and Julie Reinbold do not work in the same office on campus — or the same building, for that matter — but their job responsibilities cause the kind of workplace overlap that leads them to text each other on the weekends.

It's getting to the point where they sometimes can finish each other's sentences.

"I may not know how Julie is doing something, but I can understand it in layman's terms and I can...," Heintskill starts to say.

"... And you can understand it quickly," Reinbold says.

The two consider each other friends, which makes teaming up so easy, both say. Their synergy is at least part of the reason why Heintskill, the associate director of Scholarships & Financial Aid, and Reinbold, a senior programmer and analyst for Information Technology Services, were named co-Staff Members of the Month. Their workplace collaborations date back to the early 2000s, when both began inching SVSU's student financial aid services toward the future.

The first big leap forward came in 2002, when the duo helped oversee the transition from processing student financial aid records manually on paper to processing them electronically. Another milestone happened less than a decade ago, when SVSU stopped sending financial aid award letters through the U.S. Postal Service and instead delivered the news via email.

"We used to have 13 student employees folding letters, all the

time," Heintskill says of her office, where three student employees these days help with other tasks.

Their most recent collaboration occurred earlier this academic year, when Reinbold and Heintskill helped design a new award letter notification that shows recently-admitted students their scholarships and financial aid package. The printed notice is personalized and tailored to each student's circumstances, and offers them options and information.

"It gives students the whole financial picture," Heintskill says.

As the digital age continues to transform how higher education institutions operate, Heintskill and Reinbold continue to work in concert to better equip students with the most modern service. Sometimes a project comes from an idea from Heintskill relating to financial aid offerings. Other times, Reinbold's discovery of a new computer program serves as the origin of a financial information-related project.

"In information technology, you have to be looking at how things are going to change," Reinbold says. "You can't blink. As soon as you pat yourself on the back for doing something well, there's a new way to do it."

Heintskill echoes the sentiment: "I get bored very easily so I enjoy looking at new ways to do things. When that happens, I know who to call, and I know her number by heart."



Professional Profile

- **Julie Foss**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Modern Language Teacher Associations. NFMLTA, the publisher of *The Modern Language Journal*, is dedicated to the expansion, promotion, and improvement of the teaching of languages, literatures, and cultures throughout the United States.
- **Susan L. Hillman**, professor of teacher education, gave a presentation with Signe Kastberg (Purdue University) and Alyson E. Lischka (Middle Tennessee State University) titled "Factors that impact MTE's written feedback practice: Improving practice through inquiry" at the annual meeting of the Association for Mathematics Teacher Educators, Feb. 8-10 in Houston.
- **Sara Beth Keough**, professor of geography, and **Scott M. Youngstedt**, professor of anthropology, published an article titled "'Pure water' in Niamey, Niger: The backstory of sachet water in a landscape of waste," in *Africa* 88 (1) 2018: 38-62.
- **Jeffrey Koperski**, professor of philosophy, presented "Should a Naturalist Trust Science?" at a philosophy colloquium and "Physics and Fine-Tuning" at a physics colloquium, Feb. 1-2 at Valparaiso University.
- **Ed Meisel**, lecturer of chemistry, gave an invited talk to the Saginaw Women's Farm and Garden group on Feb. 13. The group expressed an interest in collaborating with the SVSU Greenhouse on future opportunities.
- **Betsy Pierce**, assistant professor of accounting, published an article titled "ERM and Strategic Planning: A change in paradigm" in the *International Journal of Disclosure and Governance*. The paper outlines the changes to COSO's ERM Framework, which was just revised for the first time, and discusses the motivation behind those changes.
- **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, on Jan. 29 participated in the University of Michigan Penny Stamps School of Art & Design closing artist panel and reception for its "Future Former" alumni art exhibition that began Jan. 8 at the Stamps School. The other panelists were fellow alumni Robin Wilt, Nawal Motawi and Janna Coumondorous. Topics such as the effectiveness of mentoring, factors that influenced career choices and the promoting of art works were discussed. The panel was moderated by John Luther, Stamps School career development coordinator, and was attended by Stamps students and local alumni.

New Cardinals

- **Kellie Lehner**, operations coordinator, announced the birth of a daughter, Rylee Renee Lehner (6 lbs., 3oz., 7.5 in.), Feb. 6.

Condolences

- To **Bruce Hart**, chemistry lab technician, whose father, James M. Hart, passed away Jan. 31.
- To **Emily Kelly**, associate professor of art history, whose father, Mark S. Diana, passed away Jan. 23.
- Edward Schliska passed away Jan. 29. Edward was the father of **Rose Lange**, associate professor of nursing, and **Robert Schliska**, Physical Plant pool; and he was the father-in-law to **Gary Lange**, professor of biology.
- To **David Schneider**, professor of communication, whose father, Ernest C. Schneider, passed away Feb. 1.

Faculty earn tenure

Fifteen SVSU faculty members were granted tenure (effective July 1) by the Board of Control at its Feb. 19 regular meeting:

- **Prashanth Anekal**, assistant professor of management
- **Meghan Baruth**, assistant professor of health sciences
- **William Calvin Borden**, assistant professor of biology
- **Brittany Collins**, assistant professor of communication
- **Veronika Drake**, assistant professor of English
- **Rosina Hassoun**, assistant professor of sociology
- **Amy Hendrickson**, assistant professor of law
- **Julie Keil**, assistant professor of political science
- **Natalia Knoblock**, assistant professor of English
- **Scott Kowalewski**, assistant professor of rhetoric & professional writing
- **Elizabeth Pierce**, assistant professor of accounting
- **Kandaker Abir Rahman**, assistant professor of computer science
- **Conor Shaw-Draves**, assistant professor of English
- **Isaac Stephens**, assistant professor of history
- **Adam Warhausen**, assistant professor of chemistry

SVSU sponsors a community celebration of the arts

Poetry readings, musical performances, and prize ceremonies are just a taste of what is to come during the Theodore Roethke Poetry and Arts Festival, a triennial celebration of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning poet from Saginaw. Sponsored by SVSU, the festival venues will stretch across the Great Lakes Bay Region from March 23-28.

"We're very excited to offer a range of rich events to celebrate the arts in our area and to promote the work of Theodore Roethke, Saginaw's native son," said Helen Raica-Klotz, director of the Writing Center at SVSU and chair of the 2018 Festival.

All events are free and open to the public, funded in part by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. A full schedule is available at svsu.edu/roethke.

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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