SVSU recently received a two-year, $352,574 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to establish an addiction recovery support team specializing in patients 60 and older at the SVSU-supported Bay Community Health Clinic in downtown Bay City.

Beginning in January 2019, the clinic will begin adding the growing number of senior citizens suffering from addictions to alcohol and drugs including opioids.

“The older adult population is really under-recognized in this opioid epidemic,” said Kathleen Schachman, SVSU’s Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Chair in Nursing and a nurse practitioner at the clinic.

The medical and mental health needs of the older population are far more complex, and substance use disorders are often under-recognized, she said.

“Health care providers often attribute their symptoms to aging or to other co-occurring health conditions,” Schachman said. “Due to stigma or a lack of age-appropriate services, older adults fail to get the help they need. This calls for addictions care that is tailored to the unique needs of the older adult, and that’s what we want to provide.

The grant in part will fund additional staff for the clinic including health care-trained professionals from both Ferris State University and Recovery Pathways, an Essexville-based outpatient rehabilitation program for individuals suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

The Bay Community Health Clinic is no stranger to helping those with substance use disorders, but the staff largely has been limited to treating those clients for mental health issues. To treat physical dependence relating to substance use, the clinic has referred individuals to other facilities. The Michigan Health Endowment Fund’s support will change that.

By January, the clinic will staff a specially-trained nurse practitioner who will be certified to prescribe buprenorphine, one of three medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder. Health care professionals equipped with that type of certification are rare in the region, Schachman said.

“And some of the rural areas we hope to impact — like Arenac and Oscoda counties — have zero prescribers of buprenorphine,” she said.

The grant will allow the clinic to add a nurse practitioner to prescribe medication-assisted treatment, substance use counselor and peer addictions recovery coach.

The funding also will support the clinic’s educational component, allowing SVSU and Ferris State to embed opioid addiction recovery material in the classroom curriculum.

“This isn’t just about how we can help here and now,” Schachman said. “We’re preparing the next generation of healthcare providers to more adequately deal with this crisis.

As January approaches, clinic staff will prepare for the new resources and advertise the facility’s expanded service — known as The GRACE (Gaining Recovery in Addiction for Community Elders) Project — to community members who one day could be saved by it.

Grant funds addiction recovery services for health clinic
The seeds that sprouted into Adrianne Cole’s STEM career were planted early and nurtured both by forces of nature and inspirational figures alike.

Cole, a two-time SVSU graduate and director of STEM at the university today, began developing a love for the sciences as far back as she can remember. Growing up the granddaughter of a tree nursery owner in Merrill, she spent her earliest years on the family property among nature.

“I was always outdoors — hunting, fishing, trapping, sledding, skating, and building forts in the woods — and that’s where I knew I wanted to do something relating to nature and science,” she said. “I just didn’t know what.”

Then she received sage guidance from her sixth-grade teacher, Mrs. Rahl, at Merrill Middle School.

“She opened my eyes to show me I could do something like this, and made me love the subject even more,” Cole said. “She really helped me ignite that passion for STEM.”

That sentiment carried her through K-12 and later SVSU, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in biology in 2000. After a short stint professionally as a chemist, Cole decided her place wasn’t the laboratory. She wanted to help inspire others excited by STEM, much the same way her middle school teacher once inspired her.

She returned to SVSU to earn a teaching certification in 2002 and then a master’s degree in teaching in 2006. She served as an adjunct faculty member at SVSU and worked for 12 years as a science teacher at Heritage High School in Saginaw Township. She also was a member of the first group of high school teachers selected to participate in SVSU’s Dow Science and Sustainability Education Center Summer Research Experience in 2014.

The following year, she joined SVSU’s staff as the STEM program manager, helping to develop programs aimed at inspiring and training future STEM-based employees for a region with a growing need for such a work force. Now, as director of STEM, Cole is charged with overseeing more than a dozen programs largely involving working closely with on-campus faculty, staff and students as well as community partners and K-12 educators.

“I get to do a little bit of everything now,” she said. “There are days when I can go into classrooms and interact with students, and there are days when I am bringing groups to campus and watching their eyes light up when we introduce them to what STEM can do for them.”

Among those whose eyes lit up while attending SVSU’s STEM outreach programs were Cole’s daughters, 11-year-old Christy and 9-year-old Cate. Their mother recognizes their fledgling love for science, nurtured both by forces of nature and inspirational figures alike.
Janna Kern graduated from SVSU 24 years ago, but her education there has never ended. Now an assistant director in the university’s Academic Advisement Center, the Reese native enjoys soaking in knowledge from the faculty and students she interacts with on a daily basis. Occasionally, she tags along on SVSU-sponsored trips overseas. A photo she snapped at one of those trips — showing London’s Hampton Court Palace — hangs on her office wall as evidence of her ongoing education.

“It’s really the perfect fit for me,” she said of her job. “It works out so well for me.”

Her response seems to be reciprocated by many of those individuals she has helped since she was hired in the Academic Advisement Center in 1998. She has played the piano at the weddings and attending the baby showers of students who she helped over the years.

“When you can make a connection, those relationships can last beyond when they are students,” she said. “Making those personal connections is the best part of my job.”

Kern is on her second career. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in history from SVSU, she spent four years working as a recruiter for an engineering company. One of the employees she recruited — fellow SVSU alumnus Chris Pryor — later returned to his alma mater and recruited Kern to the Academic Advisement Center.

“It’s funny how that worked out,” she said.

Outside of a one-year stint working for the Study Abroad office, Kern has remained an Academic Advisement Center staff member, guiding students through their academic journeys, and occasionally, their personal lives.

“There’s never a day that’s the same,” she said.

“And when I’m meeting with the students, it’s never just about the classes. Sometimes they want to tell me about what is going on at home. Sometimes I have to tell them, ‘I appreciate that you feel safe here, but let me get you in touch with a counselor.’”

Working at the university keeps her within reach of creative individuals and events that quench her artistic appetite. Outside of work, she enjoys photography, art and music. It’s common for her to enroll in campus programs that help her advance those interests. Recently, she participated in an art camp offered by the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum.

She hopes to sign up for more SVSU-sponsored trips abroad.

“I haven’t been able to visit Asia yet — that’s on my list,” she said.

“Scandinavia, too. There are a lot of things I want to do while I’m here.”
Professional Profile

• Jennifer Chaytor, associate professor of chemistry, presented “Online Pre-Laboratory Activities in Organic Chemistry Improve Students’ Preparation for Laboratory” at the 101st Canadian Chemistry Conference, May 31 in Edmonton, Alberta.

• Amy Cook, assistant director of the ELP program, had a feature article, “4 Ways to Teach ELs About Academic Honesty,” published in the July 2018 issue of TESOL Connections.

• Ellen Herlache-Pretzer, associate professor of occupational therapy, and Julie Jacob, academic fieldwork coordinator, wrote an article, “From Prison to the Community: Programs for Developing Life Skills,” that was published in the April 23 edition of OT Practice.

• Julie Foss, associate professor of modern foreign languages, presented the workshop “World Languages for Careers” with Emily Spinelli, American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and Irma Torres, Oakland Schools, on May 11 at the Oakland Schools Intermediate School District.

• Sherrin Frances, associate professor of English, was a keynote speaker in May at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. Her talk, “The materiality of outsider libraries and the trouble they bring,” introduced CSP's first Living Library event.

• Matthew Meissner, police officer, was selected as a 2018 Police Officer of the Year by the Police Officers Association of Michigan. Meissner formally received the award during the association’s annual convention May 24.

• Michael Moshner, professor of art/communication & multimedia, illustrated George Orwell Illustrated by David Smith, published in June by Haymarket Books of Chicago. Also, Moshner delivered a paper titled “Drawing for Socialists” at the 13th International Conference on the Arts in Society, June 29 at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Vancouver, British Columbia.

• Thomas Renna, professor emeritus of history, delivered two presentations: “Martin Luther, Early Lutherans, and Humanists against Rome,” May 12 at the International Congress on Medieval Studies held at Western Michigan University; and “Catholic Controversialists against Martin Luther, 1518-1530,” June 18 at the Sixth Annual Symposium on Medieval & Renaissance Studies held at Saint Louis University in Missouri.

• Anne Tapp, professor of teacher education, was elected president of the board by the Michigan Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Tapp began her term in June.

• Pamela Wegener, associate director of Alumni Relations, presented a session titled “Making an Impression Using the Internet” at the American Council on Education Women’s Network, June 5 in Lansing.

• Zahnow research librarians presented at the 2018 Michigan Academic Library Association Annual Conference, May 16-18, after submitting two blind peer-reviewed proposals. Ashley Blinstrub and Catherine Curtis presented “Sustainable Assessment of Student Learning in Library Instruction.” Michelle Stratcz and Matt Buckley presented “Rooting for Success: Growing and Sustaining an Embedded Online Course Support Librarian Program.”

New Cardinals

• Catherine Curtis, research & first year experience librarian, announced the birth of a boy, Wyatt Curtis (6 lbs., 14 oz., 19 in.), June 3.

• Ryan Trevithick, assistant women’s basketball coach, announced the birth of twin boys, Alexander Nicholas Trevithick (7 lbs., 19.5 in.) and Benjamin Thomas Trevithick (6 lbs., 19 in.), May 30.

• Nick Wagner, director of Institutional Research, announced the birth of a girl, Ava Rose Wagner (7 lbs., 12 oz., 21 in.), July 19.

Condolences

• To Jeremy Bockelman, director of MMTC-NE, whose father, James (Jim) J. Bockelman, passed away May 11.

• To Kevin Simons, associate professor of music, and Dave Jerome, inventory management specialist, on the loss of their grandmother and mother-in-law, respectively; Evelyn (Toots) M. Simons passed away May 10.

• To Emily Kelley, associate professor of art, whose mother-in-law, Catherine Ann Kelley, passed away July 6.

• To Craig Langmaid, HVAC assistant, whose wife, Donna Marie Langmaid, passed away July 5.

• To Debra Lively, professor of teacher education, whose mother-in-law, Mary Jane Lively, passed away May 6.

• To the family of Rose Novey, retired professor of mathematics, who passed away June 30.

• To Christopher Pawloski, Bookstore manager, whose mother, Dorothy Hurd, passed away June 9.

• To Craig Snook, assistant director of creative services, whose brother, Brian Snook, passed away July 11.

• To Marilyn Wheaton, director of the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, whose mother, Margaret Kathleen Roberts, passed away May 11.

• To Jeremy Wysocki, enterprise applications specialist, whose father, Joseph F. Wysocki, passed away June 6.

• To Judy Zietz, administrative secretary, whose father, Francis Schrems, passed away June 2.

Briefly Speaking

• Faculty and staff can pick up two 2018-19 All Sports Passes from Shelly Losee in the Ryder Center.

• Reserve parking permits for 2018-19 may be purchased for $20 at svsu.edu/universitypolice, at University Police in South Campus Complex A or at Student Financial Services in Wickes Hall. Permits for 2017-18 expire Sept. 15. For further information, call ext. 4141.

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.

J.J. Boehm
Director of Media & Community Relations
jjboehm@svsu.edu • 964-4055

Tim Inman
Director of Marketing Support
tmi@svsu.edu • 964-4086

Submission Deadline:
Noon on Wednesday before the publication date
Please email submissions to: jjboehm@svsu.edu