

Chubb named new dean of College of Science, Engineering & Technology

SVSU has hired Andrew Chubb to serve as dean of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology.

Chubb, who joined SVSU's faculty in 2002 and twice served as interim dean of the academic college, will help lead the university's efforts to advance STEM studies on campus as well as in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

"I am honored to serve the College of Science, Engineering & Technology as its dean," he said. "We have top-notch faculty and staff, outstanding programs, and excellent students who are the STEM workforce of the future. I look forward to building upon this foundation as the College of Science, Engineering & Technology continues to establish its role as a leader for STEM education in the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond."

Chubb served as a faculty member with SVSU's Department of Chemistry from 2002-12. Along with his classroom duties, Chubb designed and implemented a new organic chemistry lab curriculum, managed an undergraduate research laboratory, and served as



Andrew M. Chubb

the university's Pre-Health Professions adviser. He was the 2011 recipient of the Franc A. Landee Award for Teaching Excellence, the most prestigious honor given to members of SVSU's faculty.

He first served as interim dean in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology from 2014-15 and then again beginning in 2018 until the interim status was removed with his current hiring. He fills the role occupied by Frank Hall before his retirement last year. Chubb served as associate dean during Hall's time with the university.

While serving in the

dean's office since 2012, his responsibilities have included managing expanding resources dedicated to STEM education. With a growing market for STEM industry jobs in the region, SVSU in recent years has received major gifts from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, and the Dow Corning Foundation, among others, to improve students' performance in STEM disciplines at the middle school, high school and university levels.

Deborah Huntley, SVSU's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said Chubb's success in his many roles at the institution demonstrated his "outstanding commitment to the mission and vision of our university."

"His focus on students and their success has been apparent from the start, as evidenced in his outstanding teaching, advising and administrative work," Huntley said. "He is actively engaged with external constituencies including our industry partners, community organizations and STEM educators. I believe

that, under his leadership, our STEM programs will flourish and expand their impact on the Great Lakes Bay Region and the state of Michigan."

In addition to his work at SVSU, Chubb is an active member of the Great Lakes Bay Community. He was selected as a member of the 2011 class of RUBY Award recipients, an honor given annually to top professionals in the Great Lakes Bay Region under the age of 40. That same year, Chubb became a graduate of Leadership Midland, a community leadership development initiative. He remains active with the program today.

Chubb was born in Great Falls, Montana. He received a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Iowa State University in 2003 after earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Washington University in 1995. Before joining SVSU, he served as a chemistry instructor at Iowa State University beginning in 1998.

He is married to Jennifer Chubb, a math lecturer at SVSU. They live in Midland with their children, Ajay, 7; and Alison, 3.

SVSU receives \$99K grant to train elementary school teachers in engaging STEM education strategies

The Regional Mathematics and Science Center was awarded a grant from the Michigan Department of Education's MiSTEM Advisory Council to help elementary teachers foster a love of science and math in students, starting at an early age.

The \$99,672 grant will enable SVSU to provide professional development training to teachers in grades 1 to 5 throughout the East Central MiSTEM region, which includes Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties. The program is called "Engineering is Elementary."

Tamara Barrientos, director of the SVSU Regional Mathematics and Science Center, said the professional development program is valuable because it gives elementary school teachers an integrated approach to implementing science and math standards.

MiSTEM is an effort by the state of Michigan to create a system that will produce more science, technology, engineering and math-equipped students and educators by empowering them through professional training and development. In pursuing those goals, MiSTEM also integrates businesses and educational institutions.

The first phase of the training is scheduled Friday to Sunday, March 5-7, at SVSU. The workshop will be facilitated by professional development trainers from the Museum of Science, Boston.

Attendees will be certified to conduct "Engineering is Elementary" professional development training during the second phase of the project.

Joseph Weaver

Assistant Professor of Psychology

As a youth, Joseph Weaver wanted to pursue a career as a therapist.

"After some wise advice from my mom, I blended that interest with some other interests of mine," the Ohio native said. "I dabbled in computer programming, and so the two of those interests led me to experimental psychology."

Fast-forward to 2019: Weaver, an SVSU assistant professor of psychology, and his students are in the midst of research examining people, their emotions and the decisions they make. Weaver's has no regrets in his own decision to pursue that branch of psychology, he said.

"Experimental psychology allows me to still be curious and learn new things about people," he said. "I like the creativity involved in it too."

Weaver, who joined SVSU's faculty in 2016, said he specializes "in the intersection between cognition and emotion."

"Right now, I'm focusing on how that intersection influences risky decision making," he said. "For instance, I want to know, 'Why do people play the lottery?' If you're just using those cognitive decision-making processes, no one would ever play the lottery, but the excitement of a payoff leads people to take the risk. Even if you just win \$1, it's exciting."

Currently, Weaver and a team of his undergraduates are in the midst of research very much related to the industry where he works. He wants to explore the decisions that lead college students to successfully complete or abandon their pursuit of an academic degree. The results, he said, could help higher education institutions improve both retention and graduation rates.

"The larger goal of this research is to collect enough data and discern enough patterns that we can I.D. the students who are most likely to leave and direct them to appropriate services that could prevent them from making that kind of decision," he said.

SVSU's retention rate in fall 2018 increased by 3 percentage points (from 74.4 to 77.4 percent) compared to the previous fall, and keeping the trend continuing in that direction remains a top priority at the university. Weaver said he knows, as a result, campus leaders will be interested in the results of his research.

"I'd like to help the deficit between who is coming here and who is staying here," he said.

Weaver said it's likely the research data at first will be collected through surveys distributed among SVSU students, but eventually, he may seek to include individuals enrolled in other colleges and universities.

"That all hinges on how successful we are with the research," Weaver said.



Ryan Persails

Police Officer • February Staff Member of the Month

It was the kind of call Ryan Persails dreaded hearing on his police vehicle radio, but in the early morning hours of Jan. 22, that call came: A fellow law enforcer was shot.

Persails, a police officer with SVSU's University Police since 2010, was the first person to respond to the call for help from Saginaw Township Police Officer Jeff Koenig, who was shot in the jaw and shoulder during a traffic stop in nearby Saginaw Township.

Koenig survived the shooting and a suspect was apprehended hours later, but when Persails first heard the troubling dispatch at 2 a.m., all bets were off.

"In my mind, as I'm driving there, I'm thinking, 'Is this going to be an ambush?'" Persails said. "I was expecting the worst at first, but by the time I got there, I forgot all that. I was focused on helping Officer Koenig."

Within moments of Persails' arrival, Saginaw Township Det. Greg Remer pulled up to the scene. They helped their injured colleague into the back of Remer's vehicle before it sped toward Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw.

"You could tell Jeff was in pain, but it was a good sign that he was talking," Persails said of Koenig, who had called in his own shooting to Central Dispatch earlier. "We just wanted to make sure he was calm while we were getting him to the hospital."

When they arrived at Covenant, Koenig was listed in critical condition at first. He was upgraded to stable condition and released to recover at home over the course of the next few weeks.

The experience was humbling for Persails, who enjoys a tight-knit relationship with his University Police colleagues as well as peers in the law enforcement agencies patrolling the region surrounding SVSU. The agencies often collaborate and network resources, and he knew Koenig long before Jan. 22. Persails' close relationship with his peers as well as his close proximity to the dangerous incident — at the time of the shooting, he was patrolling an area less than five miles away — put things into perspective for him.

"It really opens your eyes to the kind of danger you can find yourself in as a police officer," Persails said. "Ninety-nine percent of the people we run into are good people, but there's always that danger."

The experience was eye-opening in other ways, he said.

"Everyone really came together to help, from the doctor and nurses who helped Jeff to all the businesses and people who have put together fundraisers to help him with expenses," he said. "It's been great, the way the community has responded to this. It's good to know police here have that kind of support."





Cancer survivors, caretakers and supporters gathered Friday, Feb. 8 with members of SVSU's community during the university's annual Relay For Life event. Thanks to the contributions of about 1,000 people, about \$27,000 was raised. That totaled topped the 2018 fundraiser by about \$2,000. Money collected at Relay For Life events are donated to the American Cancer Society to benefit cancer research. The fundraiser was coordinated by the SVSU chapter of Colleges Against Cancer. Photo by Kyle Will.

Professional Profile

- **Monika Dix**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled "Narrating Peace: Music, Poetry and Memory in Japanese Buddhist Tales" at the Mid Atlantic Regional Association of Asian Studies Conference, Nov. 4, 2018, at Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.
- **Heather Fisher**, metadata/catalog librarian, co-presented a webinar titled "Coping with Burnout: Strategies for Staying Centered" to members of the Music Library Association and the American Library Association, Feb. 6. The webinar addressed issues that impact librarians' ability to provide services to patrons.
- **Susan L. Hillman**, professor of teacher education, with Signe Kastberg (Purdue University) and Alyson Lischka (Middle Tennessee State University), presented "Characterizing MTE's Questioning Practice: Improving Practice through Inquiry" at the 2019 annual conference of the Association for Mathematics Teacher Educators, Feb. 7-9 in Orlando.
- **Joseph Jaksa**, professor of criminal justice, was appointed as a faculty evaluator for military curriculum by the American Council on Education, headquartered in Washington, D.C.
- **Dennis Savard**, assistant professor of criminal justice, and **Joseph Jaksa**, professor of criminal justice, had a paper titled "Violent Crime in Bars: A Quantitative Analysis" accepted for publication by the *Journal of Applied Security Research: Prevention and Response in Asset Protection, Terrorism and Violence* (Taylor and Francis Group).
- **Stephen Taber**, professor of biology, has a manuscript titled "Five New Nearctic Species of Boletina Staeger Fungus Gnats (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)" accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist*.
- **Robert Tuttle**, professor of mechanical engineering, recently had three papers published: *The International Journal of Metalcasting* accepted his paper titled "Thermal Analysis of Rare Earth Grain Refined 4130" (co-authored with Het Kapadia, a recent graduate from the MEM program); "Thermal Analysis of Rare Earth Additions to HY100," was accepted by the *Journal of Materials Engineering and Performance*; and The Polish journal *Archives of Foundry Engineering* accepted his paper titled "Peritectic

Determination by a Melt Deck Thermal Analysis System." These papers are a result of Tuttle's ONR-funded project and the efforts of his team of three undergraduates.

- **Woongsun Yoo**, assistant professor of finance, had a paper accepted for publication in the Spring 2019 edition of the *Journal of Fixed Income*. The paper is titled "What Drives Systemic State Credit Risk? Evidence from the State Credit Default Swap Market."
- **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, has had a painting accepted for showing in the Gilda Snowden Memorial Exhibition, to be held at The Scarab Club in Detroit. The accepted acrylic painting, "Burning Down the Houses," 2018, is 48x58 inches and is part of Zivich's history painting series. The juror, Detroit artist Sue CarmanVian, reviewed over 550 images submitted for the show. The exhibition runs through March 30.

New Cardinals

- **Aneasha Gogineni**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, announced the birth of a son, Thiyash Koneru, Feb. 6.

Condolences

- To **Ann Schneider-Branch**, assistant to the executive director of the SVSU Foundation, whose husband, Greg Branch, passed away Feb. 9.
- To **Hideki Kihata**, professor of art, whose mother-in-law passed away Feb. 17.

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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