

Cardinal Athletics welcomes new head football, baseball coaches

SVSU alumnus Ryan Brady has been named the seventh head coach of SVSU football. Brady comes to SVSU after serving as the co-defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Ferris State University.

A Chesaning native, Brady holds a master's degree in educational leadership from SVSU. Since 2012, Brady helped lead the Bulldogs to



Ryan Brady



Steve Jaksa

three GLIAC championships and five straight NCAA Division II playoff berths in the past five seasons.

Brady played quarterback at Grand Valley State University, leading the Lakers to a national title game appearance in 2001 and winning a national championship with the 2002 squad.

In high school, Brady led Chesaning to the 1998 state football championship as the school's quarterback and was a First Team All State honoree.

Jaksa chosen to lead baseball program

The 2019 baseball season is underway with Steve Jaksa as the Cardinals' new head coach. Jaksa is the fifth head coach in the history of the program.

A Grand Blanc native, Jaksa had served as head coach at Central Michigan University for 16 seasons before joining SVSU.

YWCA honors SVSU staff, students, alumni

Seven members of the SVSU community are among 17 women the YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region honored March 20 for their leadership and contributions to social causes across the area:

- **Joni Boye-Beaman**, special assistant to the provost, the Lifetime Achievement Award.

- **Helen Raica-Klotz**, director of the SVSU Writing Center, the Women of Achievement Award for her contributions to education.

- **Linda Sims**, executive director of communications & external affairs, a Women of Achievement Award recipient for her contributions as a community leader.

- **Emma Kirsch**, a student at SVSU, the Emerging Leader Award.

- **Leola Wilson**, a member of SVSU's Board of Control from 2005-13, received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

- **Lisa Coney**, a Women of Achievement Award for her efforts in social justice, serves on the SVSU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

- **Alice Stricker**, who received a Women of Achievement Award for her work in education, earned a B.A. in education and an M.A.T. from SVSU.

Join your faculty and staff colleagues at the 30th annual

All-University Awards Banquet

Friday, April 26

Reception 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Awards Program 7:30 p.m.

FRANC A. LANDEE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Emily Kelley

EARL L. WARRICK AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Olivier Heubo-Kwegna

HOUSE FAMILY AWARD FOR TEACHER IMPACT

C. Vince Samarco

MARY H. ANDERSON ADJUNCT FACULTY AWARD

Sarah Owens

RUBEN DANIELS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Vanessa Brooks-Herd

TERRY ISHIHARA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CO-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT

Veronika Drake • Courtney Fylling

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD

Barbara Cohen

SUPPORT STAFF OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD

Deborah Rickert

THOMSON AWARD FOR EMPOWERING LEARNING IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Rajani Muraleedharan

ROOSEVELT RUFFIN DIVERSITY AWARD

Barbara Jean Jones

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION

Waheed Akbar • Barbara Heller

Amy Pierce

Associate Professor of Communication

Amy Pierce likes to tell a joke: "There's a saying that the top two fears are death and public speaking. What would be worse is to die while delivering a speech."

Of course, there's some truth in the humor, the associate professor of communication says. While death isn't a likelihood during public speaking, many students are likely to experience anxiety when tasked with speaking publicly in her communication classes, she says. That's why it's so gratifying for Pierce when many of those same students later persevere.

"It's satisfying to see a student who can barely deliver their first presentation, and by the end of the semester, they're confident and well organized," she says.

Along with her classroom achievements, she founded a forensic competition program nearly 20 years ago that has sent students across the nation to compete in tournaments as well as the campus' annual Sims Public Speaking Competition, first offered in 1989. Success in both competitions requires students to possess strong public speaking skills, measured by clear articulation, critical thinking and confident argument.

Pierce founded the forensic team in winter 2001. The program experienced success immediately when it earned second place at that year's Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League's Annual Novice Forensics Tournament.

The forensic team continues to experience success today, with

Pierce sharing co-adviser responsibilities with Ryan Rigda, SVSU lecturer of communication. Students this academic year regularly placed among the top of their respective categories during regional and state competitions.

Two members of the team — Dan Visnovsky, a political science major from Sparta, and Jessica Carpenter, an English major from Saginaw — will compete in the 2019 National Forensic Association National Championship Tournament scheduled April 18-22 in Santa Ana, California.

"Although winning is always exciting, forensics is an academic activity that promotes civic engagement, encourages civil debate, and provides a voice to those who are often silenced," Pierce says.

The forensic team teaches students to cope with and appreciate diversity, she says. Forensic participants develop personal character and values by leading and participating within the context of the team, social, academic and competitive environments.

"This is what I love most about directing and coaching the forensics team," Pierce says.

"I get the opportunity to see students applying the material they learn in the classroom in a real-world setting. I want students to be confident in their abilities when they leave my classroom and know they possess the tools necessary to succeed in their lives and improve their communities."



Kathy López

Certification Officer • March Staff Member of the Month

Kathy López has worked and studied all across SVSU's campus all her adult life. The College of Education certification officer graduated from SVSU in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in Spanish, but that was only the beginning of her experience at the university.

She worked in the Office of Admissions for 12 years — from 1984 to 1996 — before spending time in Transfer Student Programs, Graduate Admissions and the Academic Achievement Center. She joined the staff in the College of Education in 1999 and took on her current role eight years later.

As the certification officer, she acts as a liaison between the university and the Michigan Department of Education staff in Lansing.

"It's my job to make sure that our teaching programs meet current state standards and that our students and faculty are aware of changing certification requirements," she said.

López also works with the College of Education faculty to develop new programs to send to the MDE for consideration and approval.

"The best part of my job, though, is recommending our candidates to the MDE for their teaching certificates once everything has been completed," she said.

As part of her job, she and her College of Education colleagues are facing numerous challenges in today's K-12 education environment. The MDE is currently recommending restructuring teacher certification qualifications, which would require SVSU and

other Michigan-based institutions with colleges of education to redesign aspects of current academic programs.

That challenge is arriving at a time when SVSU's College of Education is playing a vital role in helping fill the teacher shortage occurring throughout the state.

"We're working with the MDE and local districts to identify ways to get our candidates into classrooms sooner without compromising their preparation," she said. "Our popular one-year post-baccalaureate Accelerated Certification Program with Residency is just one example of this collaboration."

This program is a non-degree preparation program that includes a required residency in a school setting while taking professional courses throughout the fall and winter semesters at SVSU. This is available to individuals who already possess a bachelor's degree.

Helping SVSU answer these challenges exposes López to one of the favorite aspects of her job: working with students, the campus community and her peers in higher education.

"Most days, I have appointments with undergraduate and graduate students regarding their programs," she said. "The rest of the time is spent in meetings with College of Education faculty and faculty from our other colleges. I also enjoy getting off campus to meet with community college partners and colleagues from other colleges and universities."



You can help make SVSU a safe and injury-free community

Safety is a positive value — safe practices prevent injuries, save lives and improve productivity and outcomes. A strong safety culture involves administrators, faculty and staff who care deeply about safety, have a firm knowledge of safety and promote safety daily. An effective safety culture is necessary not only to protect employees and students but also to protect the university's business, integrity and institutional reputation.

SVSU's safety culture is a reflection of the campus community's actions, attitudes and behaviors concerning safety. Attitudes and behaviors regarding safety can improve when there is consistent communication at all levels to reflect that safety is everyone's priority.

SVSU has an EHS committee

An important way to promote safety is through personal example. This is especially true for faculty and staff, as students will follow your example. It is equally important for administrators and supervisors to lead by example.

The members of SVSU's Environmental Health & Safety Committee will listen to anyone's safety concerns and suggestions and then follow through with the appropriate action, as needed.

Please remember that the committee is not responsible for personal safety and security issues. These should be addressed with SVSU's police department.

The members of the committee include: **Craig Appold, Greg Behe, Carrie Davis, Ryan Dean, Mark Engelhart, Craig Langmaid, Connie Schweitzer, Kim Stevens, Robert Tutsock, Mary Walk, Doris Wenglikowski, Michael Wenglikowski and Thomas Wisniewski.**

The committee meets regularly (the second Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in SCG-A conference room) to discuss safety concerns. Recent improvements in campus safety include increasing lighting across campus; installing safety barriers around natural gas meters near buildings; repairing outdoor walkways and stairs to avoid slips, trips and falls; and conducting safety audits, including property and processes; among others.

Anyone on campus is welcome to attend the committee meetings. Each member of the committee is available to answer questions about matters relating to safety.

Reporting a safety concern also is possible through an online form and/or mobile app: svsu.edu/its/supporttraining/elluciango.

When submitted, the information in the form will be emailed to the committee. Examples might include broken handrails, tripping hazards, fire hazards from improper storage, and other at-risk behaviors or conditions that could result in injury or property damage.

A Safe Workplace Doesn't Happen by Accident

Prevent Serious Accidents and Injuries by Reporting All Hazards and Hazardous Behaviours

Who You Can Report to:

- Supervisor, Manager
- Health & Safety Rep.
- Health & Safety Officer
- Health & Safety Committee Member

All reports will be investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.
Your details can be kept confidential.

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DOWNLOAD THE MOBILE APP:
svsu.edu/its/supporttraining/elluciango

Professional Profile

• **Andy Pandian**, associate professor of mechanical engineering, presented a paper titled "Vision-Guided Robotics Research Study" at the Industrial Engineering & Operations Management International Conference, March 5-7 in Bangkok, Thailand.

• **Thomas Renna**, professor emeritus of history, published a review of V. Leppin's *Martin Luther: A Late Medieval Life* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017) in *16th Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies*, 49.2 (2018) 508-10.

• **Anne Tapp**, professor of teacher education, with Beth Kubitskey (associate dean, Eastern Michigan University), recently presented "Developing a Continuous Improvement Plan that Demonstrates Successes, Identifies Areas of Improvement and is Valid and Reliable" at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

Condolences

• To the family of **Cindy Clifford**, who passed away March 12. Cindy

worked at SVSU for 34 years, most recently as administrative secretary in the Scott L. Carmona College of Business & Management. She also was the mother-in-law of **Becky Clifford**, administrative assistant to the provost.

• To **JoAnn Niedecken**, faculty secretary/office coordinator, whose father, Robert A. Chavez, 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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