

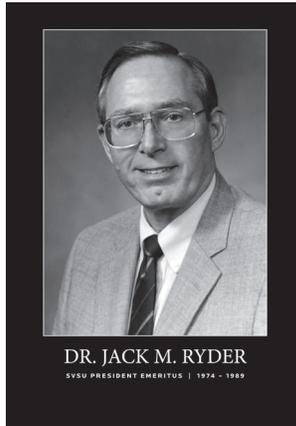
Campus community remembers its second president, Jack Ryder

He was appointed president of Saginaw Valley College. He retired as president of Saginaw Valley State University. The institution's evolving name was just one of the many ways in which Jack M. Ryder strengthened the university's identity as an academic and cultural cornerstone for the region during his presidency from 1974-1989, campus community members recalled at a memorial service honoring SVSU's former leader. Ryder died in April at the age of 90.

Family, friends and former colleagues attended the tribute in Founders Hall Tuesday,

June 4. The service featured testimonials from current SVSU President Donald Bachand; Emerson Gilbert, Eugene Hamilton and Robert Yien, who each served in leadership roles during Ryder's administration before they retired; and Ryder's stepson, Thomas Owens.

The SVSU Board of Control appointed Ryder as SVSU's second president on Oct. 17,



1974. He came to SVSU from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis where he served as vice chancellor and dean for administrative affairs.

When he arrived as president, Ryder noted that many people mistakenly perceived SVSU — then Saginaw Valley College — as a junior college, in part because the institution was founded a decade earlier by many individuals once associated with nearby Delta College. During Ryder's 15 years as president, he

worked tirelessly to create a strong identity for SVSU as a baccalaureate institution.

Under Ryder's guidance, SVSU grew substantially in campus size, enrollment and academic stature, adding highly regarded programs in engineering and nursing, among others.

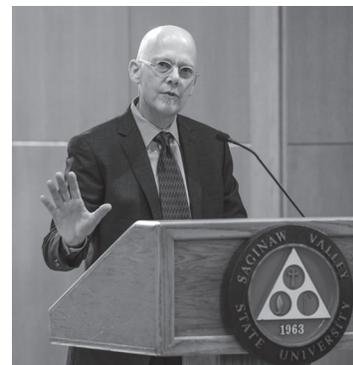
"I couldn't imagine what this institution would look like today if we hadn't created those programs back then," said Bachand, who was hired as a criminal justice professor when Ryder was president. "He brought everyone into this dream for a stronger campus, a better community. He was a man of great vision, character and kindness — and he was a great friend to me."

The evolving name of the institution was a product of Ryder's effort to change public perception. Shortly after his arrival, the school changed its name to Saginaw Valley State College, and in 1987 became Saginaw Valley State University.

Enrollment more than doubled during his tenure, from 2,638 students in 1974 to 5,915 in 1989.

Among the buildings erected during Ryder's presidency were Pioneer Hall, Brown Hall, Zahnow Library, the Arbury Fine Arts Center, the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum and the athletics facility named after him, the Ryder Center. Colleagues remembered

"He was a man of true grit," Hamilton said. "Jack M. Ryder was wise, humble, considerate, relentless and persevering. His legacy is clearly evidenced at this university."



Family, friends and former colleagues attended the tribute to President Ryder, top left. Thomas Owens, Ryder's stepson, recollected his stepfather's ability to overcome challenges. SVSU President Donald Bachand unveiled a gift to Lila Ryder, a custom bench for the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Garden. Photos by Tim Inman.

C. Vincent Samarco

Professor of English

For his work inspiring students in his creative writing courses since joining SVSU's faculty in 2001, C. Vincent Samarco this year earned the House Family Award for Teaching Impact.

Fittingly, the professor of English was nominated by former students who credit Samarco in part for their success after graduation.

"Vince Samarco's impact reaches across time zones and years, over emails, phone calls and hospital visits," wrote Raymond "R.S." Deeren, who earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing from SVSU in 2012.

Deeren, who later earned an M.F.A. in 2017 from Columbia College-Chicago and now is a Ph.D. candidate in the creative writing program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, wrote that Samarco's "support starts in the classroom and quickly spills out into the worlds and lives his students create for themselves."

"He taught a generation of SVSU students that their voices matter and that they have the ability to make their stories heard," Deeren wrote of his mentor.

That impact begins in Samarco's classrooms, where he works directly with students to workshop their writing and engage with them in one-on-one, personalized mentoring.

"The time alone with students is really crucial to figuring out who they are, so that I can either help or not help depending on what the student needs," Samarco said.

For Samarco, discovering new students' backgrounds and interests is part of the teaching and mentoring process. It is important to him that students explore themselves and their relationship to the outside world through their writing. For many of Samarco's students, that personal attention was crucial to their academic and professional success.

"It's difficult to overstate the importance of having a professor like Dr. Samarco in your life," Justin Brouckaert, who earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from SVSU in 2013, wrote in a letter nominating Samarco for the House Award. Brouckaert now applies many of the lessons learned at SVSU in his job as an associate agent at Aevitas Creative Management, a literary agency in New York City.

"Dr. Samarco opened up the world of writing to me," the letter read. "He shared literary journals that I would later submit to; he recommended and gifted books that would become hugely influential for me; and he opened me up to life-changing extracurricular experiences, like teaching creative writing at the Saginaw Correctional Facility."

Samarco said he was honored to receive the award.

"The award was honestly a surprise," Samarco said. "Given the nominators, it means a lot to me, actually. Having them get together and decide they wanted to nominate me was spectacular."



Joel Kiss

Assistant Director of Campus Facilities • May Staff Member of the Month

For Joel Kiss, working in Campus Facilities means being dependable when it counts. This year, it certainly counted when the assistant director of Campus Facilities at SVSU coordinated maintenance and repairs during a winter semester full of extreme weather.

"We had a pretty challenging winter," Kiss said. "The university closed for cold weather, which was, I think, a first for us."

The extreme cold strained the heating and plumbing systems of buildings across campus. But still, Campus Facilities personnel were on site to keep things in working order and respond to emergencies, even on the snow days.

"We had a few vestibule heaters where pipes froze and burst," Kiss said. "When you can freeze and split a three-quarter-inch line that's insulated, that's cold."

After each flooding incident, facilities personnel isolated the damage and made repairs.

In March, a small fire in a Brown Hall classroom tested Kiss and his crew once again. "The sprinkler system did exactly what it was supposed to do — it activated and put the fire out, but the water stayed flowing," Kiss said.

Once the fire was out and the flow of water cut, Kiss coordinated the efforts to get the Brown Hall damage remediated as quickly as possible.

"That was a solid week of craziness, Kiss said. "I called restoration companies saying, 'I need everybody, bring everything!'"

During the spring and summer semesters, Kiss is rarely in his office; instead, he helps coordinate facilities projects.

"This is the busiest time of the year for us," Kiss said. "Right now, we're painting all the dorms on campus, we're doing all the maintenance needs in all the housing on campus, we're beautifying the grounds and repairing winter damage.

"We do all that in the summer so when students come back in the fall, it's seamless."

The Manistee native returned to his alma mater — he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1996 — when he took a position as a buyer in SVSU's purchasing office in 2009. After about two years, he took his current position with Campus Facilities.

Despite constant emerging challenges, Kiss says the smooth running of SVSU's campus is a credit to the skill of the maintenance, HVAC and grounds personnel he supervises.

"I'm blessed to work with a great crew of people," Kiss said. "When stuff goes haywire, people jump in.

"It makes things a lot easier as a facilities director when you have people willing to step up. A lot of people behind the scenes are doing all the things that make me look good."



Professional Profile

- **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of English, published a chapter titled “Uncovering the Future from Beneath the Internet” in *Rhetorical Speculations: The Future of Rhetoric, Writing and Technology* (Utah State UP, 2019).
- **Amy Cook**, assistant director of the English Language Program, and **Jennifer Majorana**, senior ESL specialist, presented “A New Audience: Developing ESL Courses for Graduate Students” at the International TESOL Convention in March in Atlanta. Majorana also presented “Forget Those Words No More!” and co-presented “Immersion Is Not Enough: Vocabulary Development in IEPs” with Lawrence Zwier, Michigan State University.
- **Monika Dix**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled “Performing Salvation: Music and Buddhism in Japanese Buddhist Tales” at the American Association of Teachers of Japanese Seminar, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 21-24 in Denver.
- **Julie Foss**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, presented a workshop titled “Connecting Culture and the Can-Dos” with Emily Spinelli, University of Michigan-Dearborn (Emerita) and Irma Torres, Oakland Schools, to K-12 world language faculty, May 2 at the Oakland Schools Intermediate School District.
- **Chris Giroux** and **Helen Raica-Klotz**, Writing Center directors, gave a presentation titled “Don’t You Know It’s Time for Me to Fly: Articulating a Writing Center’s Scope of Work” at the East Central Writing Center’s Association Conference, April 5 at the University of Dayton.
- **Enayat Mahajerin**, professor of mechanical engineering, presented a paper titled “Prediction of Shock Levels to Packaged Products Cushioned with Foam” at the Pan-American Congress of Applied Mechanics Conference, sponsored by the American Academy of Mechanics, May 20-23 at the University of Michigan.
- **A K M Monayem H. Mazumder**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, presented two papers titled “Enhancement in Gas Pumping to Generate Corona Wind by an EHD Gas Pump,” and “Forced Convection Enhancement in a Square Channel by an EHD Gas Pump” at the ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition, November 2018 in Pittsburgh. Mazumder also published two papers titled “Effect of Uneven Applied Voltages on the Performance of a Two-Stage Electrohydrodynamic Gas Pump” and “Effect of Grounded Electrode Size on a Single Stage EHD Gas Pump Performance in a Square Channel” in the *Journal of Electrostatics*. This month, Mazumder will publish a paper titled “Gas Pumping Enhancement by a Two-Stage EHD Pump Operated at Uneven Applied Voltages” in the proceedings of the 2019 Annual Meeting of Electrostatics Society of America, which takes place June 10-12 in Rochester, New York; and another paper titled “Enhancement of Gas Pumping and Heat Transfer Using a Two-Stage Electrohydrodynamic Pump Operated at Uneven Applied Voltage” will be included in the proceedings of the 2019 AIAA Aviation and Aeronautics Forum & Exposition that runs June 17-21 in Dallas.
- **Stephen Taber**, professor of biology, has a manuscript titled “Comparison of Microscope Slide Mounting Media for Preparation of Fungus Gnats (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)” accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist*.

New Cardinals

- **Michelle Stanley**, assistant director of regional operations, announced the birth of a son, Avery J. Stanley, April 10.
- **Nic Taylor**, associate director of admissions, announced the birth of a daughter, Jaye R. Taylor, May 1.

Condolences

- To the family of **Mary H. Anderson**, who passed away May 21. A gifted musician, Anderson played for 50 years in the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra. She shared her talent by teaching the flute at SVSU as an adjunct music instructor. In 1994 she established the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award, which recognizes an adjunct faculty member who shares both academic expertise and professional experience with students. A native of Bay City, Anderson was 86.
- To **Becky Clifford**, administrative assistant to the provost & vice president of academic affairs, whose mother, Judith Ann Techlin, passed away May 7.
- To **Eddie Jones**, director of the Student Counseling Center, whose father, Eddie V. Jones Sr., passed away May 6.
- To **Cathy Macomber**, associate professor of social work, whose father-in-law, James W. Macomber, passed away May 3.
- To **Sharon Panepucci**, nursing simulated laboratory coordinator, whose mother-in-law, Agnes Marie (Silvenski) Panepucci, passed away May 18.
- To the family of **William Schafer**, an athletics game day employee, who passed away April 23.

Briefly Speaking

- The East Central Writing Centers Association presented its Tutor Leadership Award to Emma Kirsch and its Tutor of the Year Award to Sam Geffert for their roles working as student-tutors in SVSU’s Writing Center. The East Central Writing Centers Association encompasses states including Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.
- Student leaders organizing SVSU’s 2019-2020 Battle of The Valley – formerly known as Battle of the Valleys – selected The ROCK Center for Youth Development as the tradition’s next benefactor. The center provides after-school programs and community-based activities for middle and high school students in Bay, Midland, Isabella and Saginaw counties. For more information about Battle of the Valley, go to svsu.edu/battleofthevalleys.

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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Please email submissions to: jjboehm@svsu.edu