

Cherry, Weiner appointed to SVSU Board of Control

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently announced the appointment of two new members to the SVSU Board of Control. Former Lieutenant Governor John Cherry and SVSU alumna Raj Wiener began their service Aug. 8.



John Cherry



Raj Wiener

as they serve SVSU and the State of Michigan in this vital volunteer capacity."

"As lieutenant governor, John Cherry chaired the Michigan Commission on Higher Education that provided

a road map for improving our state's future by increasing educational attainment," Bachand said.

"He served as our Commencement speaker in May 2004 and received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. We welcome his advocacy for public higher education and his career of public service to our Board.

"Raj Wiener is a shining example of the career success and community service SVSU

alumni achieve," Bachand said. "She is a past recipient of our Distinguished Alumni award, and her career includes service to our state as director of the Michigan Department of Public Health. She has remained active with SVSU through her service on the board of the SVSU Foundation."

Cherry and Wiener replace Scott Carmona and Jenee Velasquez, who completed their eight-year terms on the SVSU Board of Control.

SVSU lands \$2.8M grant to tackle health concerns in rural Michigan

Determined to be part of the solution for Michigan's opioid epidemic and other health problems plaguing rural Michigan, Saginaw Valley State University sought and secured a \$2.8 million federal grant to combat the most pressing health crises in some of the state's most under-served communities.

SVSU will empower a

new generation of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners to serve on the front lines of patient care. It's an initiative that could prove transformative to rural communities in Michigan where thousands suffer from the opioid epidemic, SVSU leaders say.

"People are dying," said Kathleen Schachman, SVSU's

Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Chair in Nursing and one of the initiative's key leaders.

"Families and communities are being destroyed. Those in rural areas who are seeking care often have to travel up to 100 miles and wait two or three months to receive addictions treatment. Sadly, many die while they wait. This

educational grant will target this significant treatment gap."

The four-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration - an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - will result in SVSU enrolling 25 nurse practitioners each year as students in the university's psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner post-graduate certificate program. Eventually, SVSU expects 100 students to complete the program as a result of the grant.

Those who earn the certification will serve as the front-line health care responders to patients suffering from drug abuse. Considered one of the nation's hardest-hit states by the opioid epidemic, Michigan also happens to employ a dangerously-low number of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners trained to treat substance use disorders.

The \$2.8 million initiative at SVSU will aim to heal people in those ailing communities by raising the number of professionals trained to treat individuals suffering from addiction.

All SVSU faculty and staff and their families are invited to the annual

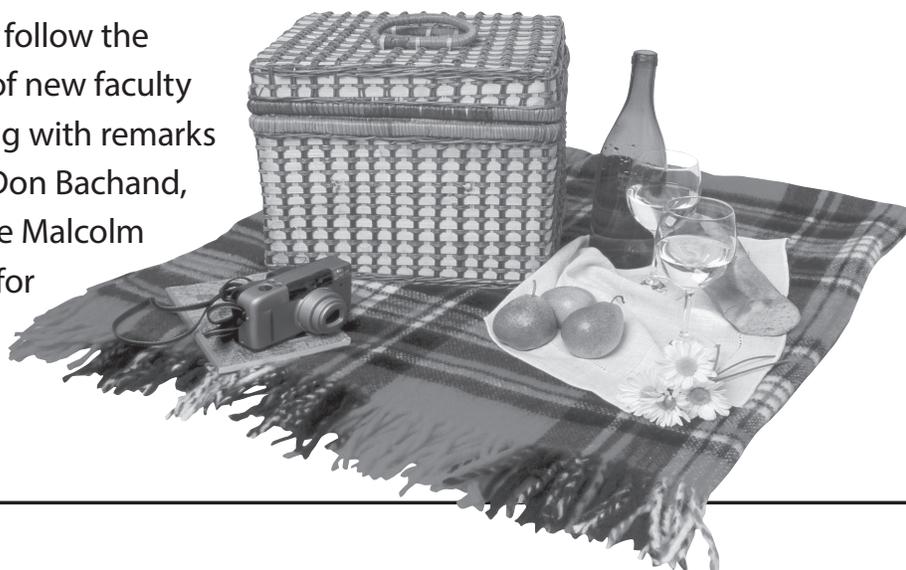
Welcome Back Picnic

Thursday, Aug. 22 • 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Owsley Grove

(Northwest of the Arbury Fine Arts Center)

The festivities follow the introduction of new faculty and staff, along with remarks by President Don Bachand, at 4 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.



Tony Cianciolo

Assistant Dean of Students • June Staff Member of the Month

Even before he enrolled at SVSU as an undergraduate more than a decade ago, Tony Cianciolo knew he wanted to pursue a career as a mentor to younger people.

For a long time, Cianciolo thought this ambition would lead to a career in teaching, non-profit work or maybe even coaching sports. But then he joined the Office of Student Life as a student employee during his senior year. The decision to join the student staff set him on the path that led him to his position today as assistant dean of students.

That's when Cianciolo, who earned a bachelor's degree in history in 2013, became aware of the student affairs track in SVSU's Master of Public Administration program.

"When I started working here, I got introduced to the student affairs track and I was like, 'Ok, yeah, this is much more up my alley,'" Cianciolo said.

During the last semester of his undergraduate degree, Cianciolo dual-enrolled in the master's program. Soon, he was hired on as the Office of Student Life's graduate assistant. After a year in that position, Cianciolo joined SVSU's staff full time as the assistant director of Student Life in 2014. He earned his master's degree in 2017.

As assistant director, Cianciolo's duties included increasing students' engagement and sense of belonging on campus, planning events with Program Board and Valley Nights, as well

as managing SVSU's registered student organizations. Cianciolo said he is passionate about helping students feel connected to the campus community. He considers that type of connection an important factor in determining whether a student finds academic fulfillment and success.

"There are a lot of studies that show students who feel like they belong on campus are much more likely to retain and finish," he said.

Cianciolo said his perspective as a former undergraduate gives him a clearer view on student needs and interests.

"As a student, I was involved in Program Board — I was its president at that time — so I've experienced event planning from the student perspective," Cianciolo said. "I was also involved in Cardinal Radio, so I have a student perspective on what they need from the Office of Student Life."

Cianciolo's responsibilities at Student Life continues to evolve. In January, he was promoted to assistant dean of students. Cianciolo said the move means less of a role in event planning and more responsibilities — among others — in developing commuter programs, registered student organizations and new Student Life initiatives.

Cianciolo also serves on the steering committees for The Pride Center at SVSU and The Cardinal Food Pantry.



Alicea Moll

Administrative Secretary, Career Services • July Staff Member of the Month

These days, Alicea Moll's specialty at SVSU involves connecting people with the jobs they desire; but once upon a time, she initially feared she wouldn't earn the job she desired at SVSU.

Moll, now the administrative secretary for Career Services, was first attracted to work at the university because friends told her about its reputation as a friendly, welcoming campus. What her friends didn't tell her: How to navigate Wickes Hall.

"I got lost on my way to my interview, and I remember it was on Halloween because Kathie Gerard was wearing cat ears when she found me and helped me find where I needed to go," she said. "I apologized profusely for being late, and I was sure I wouldn't get the job. I was wrong about that."

Alicea, whose first role at SVSU was in 2012 in the registrar's office, recovered and landed on her feet. With Career Services since 2016, her job involves guiding students seeking both on-campus employment as well as post-graduation careers. Along with overseeing paperwork and hiring processes for the university's 850 on-campus student employees, she connects students with on- and off-campus employers.

"It's great seeing students get a job and then stay with it and watch as that job leads them to something bigger," she said. "They become like one of my children."

One of the most rewarding elements of her job happens when students visit her after she has helped them.

"There's a student in the mailroom who I helped," she said. "She pops in every day to let me know how things are going. I look forward to things like that."

As her friend suggested all those years ago, SVSU's friendly, welcoming campus environment became one of Moll's favorite aspects of the job — especially when it comes to her Career Services co-workers. She enjoys a close relationship with Bill Stec, interim director; Tom Barnikow, interim associate director; and the student-employees in the office.

"If I'm having a bad day for some reason, I can look at Bill or Tom, and they can say something completely off-the-wall to make me feel better," she said. "We genuinely care about what's going on in each other's lives."

She also proudly holds another job: "Professional sports mom," Moll said. She is a regular at basketball and soccer games for her 14-year-old daughter, Madisen, and 8-year-old son, Rylan.

"I'm very fortunate to work at a university and in an office where I can make a difference at work and still have time for my family at home," she said.



Professional Profile

- **Sherrin Frances**, associate professor of English, and **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of English, presented a panel titled "Spinning Recordings On & Off the Bus" at the Computers and Writing Conference June 21 in East Lansing.
- **Beth Johns**, e-resources librarian, presented and led a facilitated discussion titled "I am Oz the great and powerful: Elevator pitches to pull back the curtain on the Value of Technical Services" at the Michigan Academic Association's annual conference May 14 at SVSU.
- **Thomas Renna**, Professor Emeritus of History, presented a paper titled "Martin Luther and Ecclesiology in Context" at the 7th Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, June 18 at St. Louis University.

Condolences

- To **Roy Atkinson**, maintenance, whose mother, Marcella Atkinson, passed away June 14.
- To **Jaime Ayala**, senior logistics specialist, whose mother, Esperanza Ayala, passed away July 8.
- To the family of **Robert Beauchamp**, an electrician at SVSU who passed away July 30.
- To the family of **Craig Allen Block**, an adjunct instructor of mathematics, who passed away June 21.
- To **Rob Drew**, professor of communication, whose father, Ted Drew, passed away July 5.
- To **Marilyn Frahm**, Director Emerita of Information Services, whose husband, Ralph Frahm, passed away June 28.
- To **Carolyn Gilbreath**, associate professor of teacher education, whose father-in-law, Oren Lee Gilbreath, passed away June 21.
- To **Norma Jimenez**, administrative secretary, whose father-in-law, Filemon Jimenez, passed away July 27.
- To **Matt Krease**, Graphics Center assistant manager, whose father-in-law, Tim Ott, passed away July 15.
- To **Jeanne Malmberg**, associate professor of psychology, whose mother, Mary A. Malmberg, passed away May 9.
- To **Mary Mudd**, placement coordinator, whose father, Derold "Bud" Clement, passed away Aug. 10.
- To **Mike Ohman**, custodial specialist, whose father-in-law, Richard Lee Griffith, passed away July 17.
- To **Robert Yien**, Vice President Emeritus for Academic Affairs, whose wife, "Amy" Hwei-Mei Yien, passed away June 30.

Briefly Speaking

- Reserve parking permits for 2019-20 may be purchased for \$20 after Sept. 9 online at svsu.edu/universitypolice/parkingservices/, in-person at University Police in South Campus Complex A, or at the Campus Financial Services Center on first floor Wickes Hall. Permits for 2018-19 expire Sept. 15. For further information, call ext. 4141.

SVSU's Stec named Michigan's Career Services Professional of the Year

Bill Stec is dedicated to serving students, alumni and employers as the interim director of Career Services at SVSU. His exceptional dedication and work ethic has earned him a statewide honor.

Stec was selected as the 2018-2019 Career Services Professional of the Year at the Michigan Career Educator and Employer Alliance. The award was announced at the group's annual conference in Kalamazoo Thursday, June 13.

Stec said the award shows the impact Career Services makes on SVSU students and alumni.

"We want our students to succeed," Stec said. "We are going above and beyond to make sure we can give our students these opportunities and this award represents the return on investment that we are putting in for our students."

The Michigan Career Educator and Employer Alliance's mission is to promote career potential within Michigan through relationships among employers, colleges and universities. The group includes public and private universities, colleges and community colleges across the state. Each year, the alliance presents its Employer of the Year Award, Don Hunt Service Award, and Career Services Professional Award. This is the first time SVSU has been awarded.

Stec joined the SVSU Career Services office in 2014 and has demonstrated a passion and dedication to building partnerships with employers and changing the lives of students and alumni. He has served as interim director for nearly a year since Mike Major, director, who serves in the U.S. Navy Reserves, was asked to teach at the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland.

Stec hopes his individual honor will encourage students, alumni and employers to further utilize opportunities through SVSU Career Services.

"Even if you know the direction you want to take or unsure of that direction, we can help at any level," said Stec. "The world is there for you, you just have to figure out the passion. We can place you and introduce you to the people we know all over."

Stec served as the Michigan Career Educator and Employer Alliance conference co-chair in 2016, and is a past president of the executive board. He completed bachelor's and master's degrees at SVSU.



Bill Stec

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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