

Report shows voter registration rate for SVSU students increases

A steep rise in student voter turnout last year may have been in part the result of a campus initiative determined to increase voter registration.

A report issued in September by The Institute for

Democracy & Higher Education shows the percentage of SVSU students voting doubled during the 2018 election compared to the 2014 election, from 18.4% to 36.8% last year. The latter number was near a 39.1%

voting rate at higher education institutions nationwide in 2018, the report showed.

The same report indicated the voter registration rate for SVSU students increased from 60% in 2014 to 67.1% in 2018;

and the voting rate of registered students hiked from 30.6% to 54.8% during the same span.

The upward trends were the desired effect of Cardinals Vote, an SVSU Center for Community Engagement initiative that in 2018 began encouraging students to sign up to vote.

"I was really excited to see a spike at the university level and nationwide," said Riley Hupfer, director of the Center for Community Engagement. "It represents a strong commitment by our university and youth in our country to be part of the voting process."

He said the Cardinals Vote effort was aided heavily by Democracy Fellows, a group of SVSU students committed to engage in the electoral process.

Hupfer said he counted 500 students registered to vote in 2018 directly from the Cardinals Vote program, but the total number impacted by the initiative may have been higher.

"We're not done," he said of the program's plans for the 2020 election. "We want to exceed what we did in 2018."

As recently as Sept. 11, Cardinals Vote helped secure a Secretary of State mobile unit's day-long visit to SVSU's campus, where officials registered more students to vote.

SVSU was one of more than 1,000 colleges to participate in The Institute for Democracy & Higher Education's study, titled the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE).

The institute is housed in the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University.

The national NSLVE report can be read online at <https://idhe.tufts.edu/2018data>.

SVSU is 4 for 4 in being selected as Great College to Work For®

SVSU's welcoming campus atmosphere and empowering environment has resulted in the institution's designation as a "Great College to Work For" for the fourth consecutive year by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

SVSU was one of 84 higher education institutions named to the list released online and to appear in a special insert in The Chronicle for Higher Education Friday, Sept. 20. The Great Colleges to Work For program was co-founded in 2008 as a partnership between The Chronicle of Higher Education and ModernThink, a strategic human capital consulting firm.

"Here at SVSU, we are dedicated to providing first-rate resources to our dedicated faculty and staff," said SVSU President Donald J. Bachand. "This results in a culture of professional growth and personal satisfaction that strengthens the opportunities we provide our students and community partners. I am proud of this campus-wide commitment to excellence and pleased to see our university continues its reputation as a 'Great College to Work For.'"

SVSU was the only public university in Michigan recognized as a "Great College to Work For" in 2019. The university – which employs about 750 people full time – has made the list each of the four years it applied.

Each institution on the list is recognized in specific categories. SVSU was honored in the same four categories for the third consecutive year: compensation and benefits; facilities, workspace and security; teaching environment; and tenure clarity and process. The list was determined based

on a survey of 236 higher education institutions as well as analysis of demographic data and workplace policy. The survey – distributed earlier this year to staff and faculty members online – examines evaluations by individuals of their respective institution.

2019 THOMAS & HILDA RUSH LECTURE



Kathleen Schachman

H.R. Wickes Endowed Chair of Nursing at SVSU
presents

"High-Tech, High-Touch Solutions to the Opioid Crisis in Rural Michigan"

Thursday, October 3 • Founders Hall • 4 p.m.
Reception to follow

Michael O'Hearn

Assistant Athletic Director of Athletic Facilities & Events

August Staff Member of the Month

When you have a job like Michael O'Hearn does, a lot of people end up depending on you.

As assistant athletic director of facilities & events, O'Hearn works closely with anyone needing to use SVSU's athletic complex, which encompasses the Ryder Center, Fieldhouse Harvey Randall Wickes Stadium, among other athletic facilities.

O'Hearn said the best part of his job is being able to interact with and mentor students and other young people who utilize the sports facilities.

And he has plenty of opportunity to do so throughout the year, from the 60-plus student employees who work in SVSU's athletic complex, to the university's student-athletes, to visiting summer camps and high school sports teams.

"You just want to help them so they don't take that wrong turn in the road, if possible," O'Hearn said. "It's going to help them go so much further."

After studying business administration as an undergraduate at SVSU in the 1990s, O'Hearn spent years in private sales and marketing. In 2011, O'Hearn began working full time at SVSU while he finished his bachelor's degree in business administration. O'Hearn also earned his master's in public administration from SVSU in December 2018.

"It's cool working for your alma mater," O'Hearn said. "In fact,

I'm from Millington, and we're the Cardinals there, so I'm still a Cardinal and I'll always be a Cardinal."

Before starting his current role in 2014, O'Hearn served as operations manager of the athletic complex, working for The Conference Center at SVSU. There, he began his association with SVSU's athletic facilities, frequently working with the staff there and outside groups to schedule events. O'Hearn said the institutional knowledge and experience he gained greatly aided his transition over to helping direct the athletic facilities.

"That's how I ended up coming into this job from the Conference Center," he said. "I learned enough about how the facilities work that when our assistant athletic director at the time left, I didn't know everything about how to make it all work but I knew most of it."

O'Hearn often lends his deep knowledge of the athletic complex assist campus facilities maintenance crews who perform maintenance. The same is true of the Conference Center at SVSU and Campus Recreation, as those offices organize many Athletic-related events.

"If there is a big event — like when FIRST Robotics comes in, or things like that — I want to see us succeed," O'Hearn said. "So, I help as much as I can."



Eric Brookhouse

Director of Athletic Media Relations • September Staff Member of the Month

Eric Brookhouse enjoys working behind the scenes of a baseball game as much as he enjoyed being a student-athlete.

"I like knowing that I do a lot of the back-end stuff to make sure everything goes off hopefully without a hitch — and I really put on a good production and make it a good experience for the student athletes," said the director of athletic media relations. "At the end of the day, what we're all here to do is support them, and that's what makes it satisfying."

Brookhouse, a 2009 graduate of Northwood University, received bachelor's degrees in entertainment, sport & promotion management and business management. At Northwood, he played three seasons of baseball for the Timberwolves.

He was SVSU as an intern in the SVSU Athletic Media Relations Office from 2009-11.

As director of the office, Brookhouse's responsibilities include managing the creation and sharing of news releases, updating and maintaining his department website and social media accounts, as well as assisting with home game management.

The rise of social media has changed the way Brookhouse and his department release game day information, he said.

"Years ago, there was always a strong media presence that would follow and show up to most games," he said. "We used to rely on them for coverage. Now we're pushing that information to them, making sure that they get everything."

That changed with the introduction of Facebook, Twitter and other sites where users follow sports.

"Many people won't go to the website and read our recap, but they'll see the results on social media. They'll like and share it," he said. "That's really good to help get our name out there too."

Managing game days is Brookhouse's favorite part of the job.

"Being a former athlete myself, it gets you in that game day mood when you see the athletes out there warming up, and in the back of your mind you remember doing that," he said.

Multiple campus offices need to work together to make those home contests a positive and fun experience for all in attendance, Brookhouse said.

"It really is a collaboration," he said. "A football game is the biggest example because there are so many people who are teaming up to make sure we put on a good show and everything runs as smooth as possible.

"And we take pride in that."

Brookhouse currently resides in Linwood. In his free time, he enjoys outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing and golfing.



SVSU proudly presents the 2019-20 Visiting Scholars & Artists Series



Meera Chopra



Kathleen Schachman



Olga Custodio

Meera Chopra presents a public lecture

Thursday, Sept. 26 • 7 p.m. • Malcolm Field Theatre

Kathleen Schachman presents the

Thomas & Hilda Rush Distinguished Lecture (see page 1)

Thursday, Oct. 3 • 4 p.m. • Founders Hall

Olga Custodio presents “A Night with Olga Custodio”

Wednesday, Oct. 9 • 6 p.m. • Founders Hall

Susan Hockfield presents the James E. O’Neill Memorial Lecture

Thursday, Oct. 17 • 7 p.m. • Malcolm Field Theatre

Elizabeth Wardle presents “Engaging Learning in Liminal Spaces”

Thursday, Oct. 24 • 7 p.m. • Gilbertson Hall, Room GS202

Horacio Sanchez presents “The Perfect Storm”

Monday, Nov. 4 • 7 p.m. • Ott Auditorium



Susan Hockfield



Elizabeth Wardle



Horacio Sanchez

All presentations are open to the public. Admission is free of charge.

For more information, contact the SVSU Box Office at (989) 964-4261 or go to svsu.edu/publiclectures.

Professional Profile

• **Sara Clark**, studio art technician and instructor of art, has had her ceramic works on display through Sept. 29 at Creative 360 in Midland. The work is part of the 4 Visions exhibit, which displays works from four local artists each using different mediums.

• **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, is co-editor, along with Bryan Sinche of the University of Hartford, of a new edition of *Appointed: An American Novel* (West Virginia University Press, 2019). The novel, a stunning story of cross-racial friendship and the tragedy of lynching, was originally published in Detroit in 1894. It was co-written under the pseudonym “Sanda” by a pair of Black newspapermen from Michigan, William H. Anderson and Walter H. Stowers.

• **David Littell**, adjunct instructor of art, had his artwork accepted into the 2019 Michigan Fine Arts Competition, which premiered at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association over the summer. The watercolor, titled *Blumen II*, was one of 80 works chosen for the show from almost 650 entries by artists from five states.

• **Dennis Savard**, assistant professor of criminal justice, and **Joseph Jaksa**, professor of criminal justice, (along with Thomas Kelley of Wayne State University and Daniel Kennedy of Oakland University) co-authored a paper titled “Violent Crime in Bars: A Quantitative Analysis.” The paper was recently published in *The Journal of Applied Security Research*.

• **Robert Tuttle**, professor of mechanical engineering, took seven students to Atlanta to attend the 2019 CastExpo. He also presented a paper titled “A System for the Thermal Analysis of Steels.” The paper was co-authored with Het Kapadia. Tuttle also received the 2019 AFS Steel Division Service Award. He also hosted the “Future Directions in Steel Castings,” one-day seminar at the American Foundry Society’s headquarters. He presented a talk titled “Grain Refinement in Carbon Steels” and “Recruiting the Next Generation.” His paper, “Study of Rare Earth Additions Effect on the Solidification and Properties of 4130,” was also recently published in the *International Journal of Metalcasting*.

• **Scott M. Youngstedt**, professor of anthropology, and **Sara Beth Keough**, professor of geography, published a chapter titled “La sédentarisation des Touaregs et des Peuls et le commerce de l’eau à Niamey au Niger,” in French, in the edited volume *Identités sahéliennes en temps de crise: Histoires, enjeux et perspectives (Sahelian Identities in Times of Crisis: Stories, Issues, and Perspectives)*, published by Verlag Press (Germany).

New Cardinals

• **Poonam Dharam**, assistant professor of computer science & information systems, welcomed a baby girl, Ishaanvi Ghantasala, born Aug. 23.

Condolences

• To **Vanessa Brooks Herd**, associate professor of social work, whose mother, Eva Barker (Wray), passed away Sept. 11.

• To **Gerald Peterson**, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, and his wife Linda, Faculty Secretary, whose sister Marie (Peterson) Meyers, passed away July 19.

• To **Pat Samolewski**, Director Emeritus of Enterprise Applications & Development, whose mother, Mae Samolewski, passed away Sept. 10.

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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