

## NASA branch chief to deliver keynote at Regional MLK Celebration

After securing visits from a former U.S. attorney general in 2017 and a former adviser to President Barack Obama earlier this year, organizers reached for the stars again when inviting the January 2020 keynote speaker for the 11th annual Great Lakes Bay Regional Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at SVSU.

Responsible for overseeing the safety and mission assurance functions at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, Ruth D. Jones will serve as the MLK Celebration keynote speaker at SVSU. She will deliver her presentation Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. in the



Ruth D. Jones

Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts. The event is free and open to the public.

Jones, the branch chief at the Industrial Safety Branch of the NASA Marshall Space

Flight Center, is a trailblazer. She became the first woman to receive a bachelor's degree in physics from University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 1994. Six years later, she was the second African-American woman to earn a Ph.D. in physics in the state of Alabama when she graduated from Alabama A&M University. In her career, Jones thrived in an industry where many of her peers were white and male.

Now she travels the nation as a motivational speaker, seeking to inspire youth to pursue careers in the STEM fields. She also wants to serve as a role model for other women and minorities.

"No matter what your color is, no matter what your gender is, what matters is what's in your head," she said during a 2017 interview. "For the ones who made it out and have good jobs, we need to go back to those communities and serve as role models."

Ruth joins a prestigious list of guests featured at the MLK Celebration.

Valerie Jarrett, former senior adviser to President Obama, and former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder both were guests in recent years. In 2017, Karen S. Carter, the chief inclusion officer for The Dow Chemical Company, headlined the event.

## Business entrepreneur tells graduates, "Be boastful of your Alma Mater."

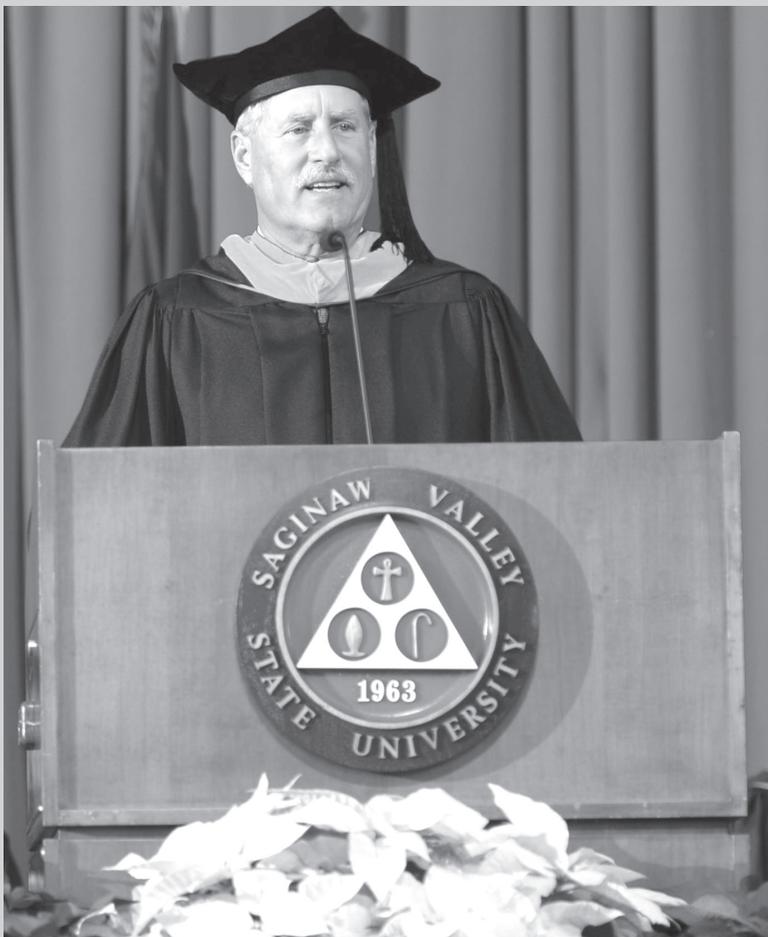


Photo by Tim Inman

Scott L. Carmona offered words of support and inspiration in his address to graduates at Commencement, Dec. 13 and 14 in the Ryder Center.

"Throughout my life, I have had the opportunity of starting businesses, learning various industries and working with outstanding people," Carmona told the audience. "College graduation is a very exciting time, and it can also be a very stressful time as you are faced with big, life-changing decisions ... Remember to think about the long term. And know when you make that decision, it's okay to not have all the answers."

More than 500 students were expected to complete degree requirements in the fall 2019 semester. Of those, 425 students were expected to complete bachelor's degrees and 86 to receive master's or other advanced degrees.

Carmona's first time being recognized at an SVSU commencement ceremony came in 1981, when the Bay City native was a graduate being honored for receiving a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Today, Carmona is the principal owner of Sunrise National Distributors Inc., a Bay City-based distributor of automotive aftermarket products.

Carmona completed his eight-year term on SVSU's Board of Control in July. He committed to be the lead donor for the fundraising campaign to support the building addition for the SVSU College of Business now named for him; his generosity and philanthropy also include granting over 25 scholarships annually.

# Debra Lively

## *Professor of Teacher Education/Director of Clinical Experiences*

When Debra Lively first joined SVSU's faculty in 2001, she would not dare board an airplane.

"I didn't like the idea of crashing," said the professor of teacher education.

But Lively's determination to expand her professional horizons and help SVSU widen its influence on education globally led to some changes in her attitude toward air travel. "I've been on so many flights now; I just relax," she said.

The turnaround happened in recent years as Lively began participating in study abroad trips, first to India and Italy, and more recently, to China.

The latter nation is the focus of a new academic exchange initiative Lively helped organize between the SVSU College of Education and an SVSU sister institution, Changchun Normal University.

The new program allows Changchun Normal students to enroll in early childhood education classes. First, they attend classes at the China campus and later at SVSU. Students also learn how to speak or improve upon their English.

"They want to know about how our young children are taught in the United States," Lively said of the Changchun Normal students. "It's a great opportunity and it helps make them more marketable as teachers if they are fluent in English."

The program began in May 2018. The first group of participants is expected to begin taking SVSU classes next year. Lively,

meanwhile, plans to teach courses at the China campus for one month in May 2020.

She remains plenty busy in the U.S. She serves as the College of Education's director of clinical experiences. The role involves overseeing about 400 student teachers in field placements at schools and educational institutions across Michigan and, occasionally, other states.

The responsibility involves ensuring placements match students' certification and providing positive opportunities for teaching while making sure each individual grows professionally. She remains in constant contact with all the faculty, supervisors and school district officials connected to each students' placement.

She also helps make work easier for the faculty overseeing each student teachers' work in the field. She helped coordinate SVSU's implementation of GoReact, an Internet tool that both allows student teachers to film their classroom interactions and invites faculty to comment on those interactions online.

Before SVSU, Lively spent her 28 years professionally as an educator with the Saginaw Public School District. She also worked at the Michigan School for the Blind prior to that. She most enjoyed teaching students with disabilities, particularly children who are deaf. Lively still enjoys playing the role of teacher — nowadays as a professor at a university.

"I love Saginaw Valley and our students," she said. "SVSU has given me a lot of opportunities and helped me grow."



# Adam Warhausen

## Associate Professor of Chemistry

At a young age, Adam Warhausen was dead-set on one day attending business school. He enjoyed the numbers and pattern recognition involved in business planning. Then one day in high school, his chemistry teacher threw solid sodium into water, causing a safe-for-the-classroom explosive chemical reaction.

"I thought that was cool and nothing could compare to that," he said.

Adam Warhausen, the chemistry enthusiast, was born.

By the time he served as a research assistant at the University of Oklahoma — where he earned his Ph.D. in the subject — Warhausen knew he wanted to make a career out of teaching the subject and share his fondness for chemistry with others. After spending a year as a lecturer at the University of Oklahoma, he was hired as an SVSU associate professor of chemistry in 2013.

"Teaching chemistry can be challenging," he said. "Chemistry has that stigma as a difficult subject. College students come to it after either having a good experience or a horrible experience in their high school chemistry class. I try to help get rid of that stigma for students."

His favorite course to deliver remains General Chemistry I, where he can watch students' knowledge on the subject grow from the beginning.

"There's a big change you notice from the first semester to the second semester," he said. "It's a lot of fun to watch."

Along with teaching, Warhausen is passionate about keeping a college education as accessible and affordable as possible. Along with some of his colleagues in the College of Science, Engineering & Technology, Warhausen was active in selecting several course textbooks that featured essential information at a lower rate than most chemistry textbooks.

"We went through a lot of different books," he said.

Three years ago, Warhausen and his peers in the Department of Chemistry began assigning students a 1,300-page Open Stax chemistry textbook that was available for a low price in print and downloadable as a free PDF document online.

"It's a legitimate General Chemistry textbook," he said. "General Chemistry hasn't changed in a long time. This should work for a long time."

Warhausen enjoys a close relationship with his colleagues in the chemistry department.

"They're like a second family to me," he said. "We spend almost as much time together as we spend with our actual families."

Hailing originally from Chester, Illinois — "We're known as the hometown of Popeye" — the married father of two keeps busy at his home in Freeland, and enjoys the relatively new setting of the Great Lakes Bay Region.

"When I interviewed here, I called my wife right away and told her, 'This is exactly where I want to be,'" he said.



## Professional Profile

- **Jesse Donahue**, professor of political science, has a book she coauthored with **Erik Trump**, professor of political science, titled *The Politics of Zoos* that will now be published by Cornell University Press. Also, Donahue gave an invited talk at the Midland Center for the Arts on Nov. 6 on Grace Lee Boggs, a Detroit political activist, on her ties to social movements in the 1960s and gender in higher education.
- **Clifford Dorne**, registrar, made two presentations at the annual conference of the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, Nov. 20-22 in Bellaire, Michigan. The two presentations were titled “Registrar 101” and “Professor Registrar: Bridging Academic and Student Support Roles.”
- **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, presented a paper titled “Frances E. W. Harper, the Mission of the War, and the Midwest” at the Civil War Caucus of the Midwest Modern Language Association Nov. 16 in Chicago. Gardner also has a piece titled “Far Away, Yet Still So Close: Lincoln, Memory, the Black West, and the Mission of the War” in a collection of essays titled *Visions of Glory: The Civil War in Word and Image*, which is just out from the University of Georgia Press (pp. 187-196).
- **David Schneider**, professor of communication, conducted a workshop titled “Developing Effective Classroom Policies for Student Use of Mobile Technology” at the Professional Issues in Higher Education Conference sponsored by the Michigan Education Association, Oct. 19 in East Lansing.

## Condolences

- To **Tammy Hafner**, faculty secretary for the Art and Music departments, whose father-in-law, Kenneth William Hafner, passed away Nov. 15.
- To **Heather Krueger**, nursing clinical instructor, whose mother, Susan Lynn Cobaugh, passed away Nov. 24.
- To **Jennifer McCullough**, professor of communication, whose father, James (Jim) F. Dane, passed away Nov. 17.
- To **Emmett Mero**, maintenance I, whose father, Emmett T. Mero Sr., passed away Nov. 21.
- To **Daniel Najera**, chef, whose mother, Donsuelo Najera, passed away Nov. 22.

## SVSU collaborates on restoration effort to preserve historic Saginaw mansion

A collaboration between historical preservationists and the SVSU-operated Saginaw Community Writing Center aimed to raise awareness and money for transforming one of Saginaw’s most iconic homes into a multi-use community space.

SVSU’s Saginaw Community Writing Center, the Saginaw Art Museum and the group preserving the historic Charles Lee Mansion structure in Saginaw hosted a poetry slam contest Dec. 12 at the Charles Lee Mansion in Saginaw. The poetry contest coincided with an open house at the mansion the same day.

**Helen Raica-Klotz**, co-director of SVSU’s Saginaw Community Writing Center, took a tour of Charles Lee Mansion and immediately wanted to collaborate.

“Saginaw is a city that’s rich with history, and I think that any community writing center needs to work to recognize and honor

the history of that particular community, as well as the efforts of individuals who are trying to improve the region as a whole,” she said. To learn more about the restoration project or to donate to the Lee Mansion Restoration Project, go to [patronicity.com/lee](http://patronicity.com/lee).

## SVSU staff, faculty art highlighted in Midland Center for the Arts exhibition

SVSU staff and faculty members are showcased as part of a Midland Center for the Arts art exhibition open to the public now until early January. The exhibition — which also features artwork from faculty from Delta College and Mott Community College — was organized in part by Tisch M. Lewis, coordinator of the SVSU University Art Gallery, along with museum staff.

“My goal was to highlight the hard-working artists from SVSU, Delta College and Mott Community College, as they are normally seen as educators first,” Lewis said.

The exhibition ends Sunday, Jan. 5. Admission costs \$10 for adults, \$7 for individuals aged 4 to 14, and free for children under the age of 4. For more information about tickets and the museum, go online to [mcfta.org](http://mcfta.org).

Art displayed in the exhibition includes ceramics, photography, paintings, sculptures, and printmaking, among other mediums. “The works vary in style and content, varying from social justice issues to mere appreciation of the media the artist works in,” said Lewis, whose work also is displayed in the exhibition.

Among the other SVSU staff and faculty members on display at the Midland Center for the Arts exhibition are the following:

- **Tamar Aldrich**, an adjunct faculty member with the SVSU Department of Art
- **Sherri Archer**, an adjunct faculty member with the SVSU Department of Art
- **Shaun E. Bangert**, professor of art
- **Sanford Buchalter**, an adjunct faculty member with the SVSU Department of Art
- **Thomas Canale**, professor of art
- **Sara Brooks Clark**, studio art technician
- **Phillip Hanson**, lecturer of art
- **J. Blake Johnson**, professor of art
- **Hideki Kihata**, professor of art
- **David J. Littell**, an adjunct faculty member with the SVSU Department of Art
- **Michael Mosher**, professor of art/communication and multimedia
- **Andrea Ondish**, curator of education at SVSU’s Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum

**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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