

## Dean's Message

As spring arrives, let us embrace the renewal it brings, not only to the landscape around us, but also to our spirits and our academic pursuits. This season offers a chance to blossom with fresh ideas, re-energize our collaborations, and step into the vibrant possibilities that lie ahead. Let's seize this moment to cultivate our creativity, nurture our curiosity, and collectively flourish in the coming months.



As we approach the end of another semester, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work and achievements that we have accomplished together as a community.

- ✓ We continue to increase our collaborative outreach initiatives. We have added the Sanilac County Community Mental Health Authority. We also have the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, the Veteran's Health Administration, Henry Ford Health, and Corwell Health. In addition, we have been working to arrange agreements with health institutions in the upper peninsula.
- ✓ The Anatomage Table which is the world's most advanced real-human medical education platform has been ordered. This state-of-the-art platform offers digitized human cadavers and superior learning tools, transforming health professions education and training. It will be housed in the Department of Kinesiology, however, can be used by all HHS departments. We will figure out a process by which it can be scheduled to be used.
- ✓ As previously mentioned, the nursing department's reaccreditation site visit was on Feb 24-26, 2025. The team worked very diligently and tirelessly to ensure a successful site visit. While we will not get the final word from the commission until end of September, the site team reported the nursing programs MET all standards and did not find any compliance concerns! Congratulations!
- ✓ We will continue to work on the two major projects which include the establishment of the Malcom Field Biomedical Sciences Research Institute (MFBRSI) within Bachand Hall, and the SVSU Graduate Health Sciences Building within the Medical Diamond in downtown Saginaw.



We are in the final two months of the HHS Wellness Challenge. We will celebrate the achievements at our year-long accomplishments at the Wellness Celebration Pot-luck luncheon on April 24<sup>th</sup>. This will immediately follow the last workshop of the academic year, "immunity to change" presented by Dr. Anthony Palatta. The workshop will begin at 9am and everyone is welcome. We only ask for RSVP for the workshop for morning continental breakfast foods and RSVP for those who want to bring something for the potluck and those who will attend the potluck.

This potluck challenge will focus on creating healthier versions of your favorite rich dishes. The idea is to create a dish that offers the same savory tastes with less fat and fewer calories. At the luncheon, we will also present the Wellness awards for the year. What this means is the April challenge will be only 3 weeks, finishing the activities by April 20<sup>th</sup> so that I can calculate the numbers and have them ready for the luncheon.

I want to thank all of you for your perseverance throughout the semester. For many faculty this will be the end of the academic year since they don't teach in the Spring/Summer. If that is the case, enjoy the summer and we will see you in August. For those who are teaching Spring/Summer, thank you for taking this on so that our students are able to continue their studies and not fall behind.

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS COACHING OPPORTUNITIES



A health and wellness coach is a change agent that shifts the culture and delivery of healthcare from dependency to empowerment. NBC-HWC's (National Board-Certified Health and Wellness Coaches) are members of the healthcare community who serve as behavior change agents and are trained to the highest standard in the profession.



University of Wisconsin  
**Stevens Point**



As partners with client in the behavior change process, NBC-HWCs empower, support and guide individuals looking to enhance their wellbeing through self-directed lasting changes that align with their values. Coaches assist client to use their own insight, personal strengths, and resources to set goals, commit to action steps, and establish accountability in building an envisioned healthy lifestyle.

HHS is proud to announce that Drs. Marcia Mastracci Ditmyer and Catherine Macomber are in their final stages of completing this national certification. As such, they will be completing their final practicum and skills assessment. Once that is completed, there is a requirement of 50 coaching sessions prior to sitting for the national exam. During this time, we would like to offer free coaching sessions for anyone who would like to receive them. Once we are ready to have folks sign up, we will send out an email.

## COACHING SESSIONS DR. ANTHONY PALATTA

We are still offering opportunities for coaching with Dr. Palatta. If you are you ready to achieve your personal and professional goals with clarity and confidence? Whether you're looking to enhance your leadership skills, navigate challenging conversations, or foster a collaborative and inclusive work environment, coaching can be the game-changer you need. I've asked Anthony Palatta to provide coaching sessions to all HHS faculty and staff!

### The Coaching Experience Includes:

- **Personalized Sessions:** Focused on your unique needs and goals.
- **Actionable Insights:** Practical tools and techniques you can apply immediately.
- **Confidential Support:** A safe space to grow and reflect.
- **Measurable Results:** Clear progress that aligns with your aspirations.

### Ready to Transform?

Discover how coaching can help you unlock new possibilities. Schedule a consultation today to explore how we can work together to achieve your goals. [\*\*Contact Dr. Anthony Palatta at antpalatta@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:antpalatta@gmail.com)

## Welcome New Member of HHS Family



We are pleased to welcome Wyatt Jehu Coker, arrived on December 30th. 7lbs, 6 oz, and 20.5 inches long. Wyatt is happy and healthy, and family is doing well.



## HHS GRADS STAND OUT



Graduates of Saginaw Valley State University's nursing program continue to stand out, achieving a 98.55% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX®, the national licensure exam in 2024. Nurses must pass this exam to become licensed and enter the nursing profession. NCLEX reports pass rates at the end of every quarter throughout the year. Through December 31, 2024, 136 Saginaw Valley State University recent nursing graduates passed the NCLEX-RN test, demonstrating their readiness to work. The 2024 first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN in Michigan was just shy of 92%, while the national rate was slightly over 91%.

Graduates of Saginaw Valley State University's occupational therapy program continue to stand out. While the final results won't be in until December, currently with a majority of the students taking the exam, OT has a 100% pass rate. The 2023 pass rate for SVSU was 98%, which was significantly higher than the national pass rate of 87%



# CONGRATULATIONS!!



## CARDINALS 4 PUBLIC HEALTH (C4PH)

The C4PH hosted a tie blanket event, where over 50 blankets were made to donate to local pediatric patients. What a fantastic accomplishment and community spirit effort. Congratulations for a job well done!



They continue their efforts, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, they held a C4PH event where they were making cards for the elderly in our community. It is a simple way to spread kindness! Well done!



# FIELD-SPICER ENDOWMENT LECTURE

**UNIVERSITY**  
**LECTURE SEASON**  
2024-2025



**SAGINAW VALLEY**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY**

**THE FIELD/SPICER**  
**ENDOWMENT IN**  
**SCIENCE AND**  
**ENGINEERING**  
**PRESENTS**

**Breakthroughs and Innovations:**  
**Recent Advances in Alzheimer's**  
**Disease Research**

Guest speaker Nicholas Kanaan, Ph.D.

Over the past several years there have been important advances in the basic science and clinical research fields for Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Dr. Kanaan is a professor of translational neuroscience and the inaugural Maibach Smiley Professor of Alzheimer's Research at Michigan State University. He is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in the Alzheimer's disease and tau fields. After obtaining a B.S. in neuroscience, psychology, and sociology from Central Michigan University, he went on to receive a Ph.D. in Neurological Sciences from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. His dissertation was focused on understanding the links between aging and Parkinson's disease in the brain. Dr. Kanaan completed his postdoctoral training in Chicago with the late Dr. Lester "Skip" Binder, at Northwestern University, where he began studying the molecular mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias with a focus on mechanisms involving the tau protein. In 2010, Dr. Kanaan started his laboratory in the Department of Translational Neuroscience at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine, studying aging-related neurodegenerative diseases. Kanaan's lab focuses on studying the molecular mechanisms underlying degenerative diseases and therapeutic strategies through a combination of experimental approaches, including various in vitro and in vivo model systems and novel monoclonal antibody production. Dr. Kanaan's research recently expanded to include studying and developing biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Ultimately, Dr. Kanaan aims to conduct research that will lead to improvements in the lives of those affected by these devastating diseases.



**TUE. | APR. 22**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**MALCOLM FIELD THEATRE**  
**FOR PERFORMING ARTS**

Entrance inside Curtiss Hall

SVSU is hosting [Nicholas Kanaan, PhD](#), a prominent MSUCHM translational neuroscientist, for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Field/Spicer Lecture on **Tuesday, April 22, 2025**.

I'm writing to extend an invitation to you and your students to join us for the public lecture, **Breakthroughs and Innovations: Recent Advances in Alzheimer's Disease Research**, at **6:30 pm** this day. The lecture will be held in the Malcom Field Theatre. Please promote the lecture to your students and plan to join us for an engaging night of education and conversation. More details to follow from the Provost's Office; please save the date on your calendars.

At the request of faculty, we have added an **informal lunch/conversation opportunity with Dr. Kanaan this day at 1 pm for faculty in the Marketplace at Doan**. Complimentary lunch tickets are available for those who reply to Heidi Lang, Pre-Health Professions Advisor at [hblang@svsu.edu](mailto:hblang@svsu.edu) with an RSVP by Tues, April 8. Please forward this message to additional faculty who might be interested in joining for lunch.

## HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Colin Diehl, Kinesiology Major, is presenting his honors thesis on Friday, March 21, 2025, at 11am in GS 115. He will be presenting this research "Evaluating the Clinical Application of Repetitions in Reserve (RIR) Scales: An Analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats." Dr. Merrick Lincoln is his advisor.

We congratulate Colin and invite you to join in for his presentation.



**THE HONORS PROGRAM**

## WALKING PROGRAM AND 5K ACTIVITY



The SVSU Walking Program spearheaded by Dr. Gena Guerin, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, is underway. The 8-week program will run until April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Currently, there are 190 participants registered for the program. The Week 1 walking tally is 2,483 miles total and 18.5 miles average per participant. To increase adherence and success during the winter, mileage can also be earned by minutes completing other exercise like indoor cycling or taking exercise classes. Kinesiology student volunteers have been leading walks on the Bachand Hall-Gilbertson Hall ½ mile loop at 11am and 1pm Monday through Thursday with expansion across campus being planned.

At the conclusion of the Walking Program, a 5-K memorial walk/run event is being planned for Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9am with a 1K Kids event and the 5-K start time of 9:15am. The 5-K will take place on the certified course used for the Heroes Run. More information will be released shortly. Keep your eyes open for the information.

## MAY COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Winter semester commencement activities are scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2025, in the Ryder Center.

### **10:00 AM Ceremony**

College of Arts and Behavioral Science  
Scott L. Carmona College of Business  
College of SE&T

### **2:30 PM Ceremony**

College of Education  
College of Health & Human Services



BSN Symposium  
Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>  
3pm to 5pm  
Ryder Center

Graduate Recognition Ceremony  
Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
6pm to 7:30pm  
Malcolm Field Theatre, Curtis Hall



# HENRY MARSH INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY, CLASS 2024

The 2025 program launched with a successful Graduation and Induction Ceremony where we celebrated our 2024 cohort graduates and welcomed the new 2025 cohort. **Representative Amos O'Neal** delivered an inspiring keynote address, while **Jimmy Greene** shared reflections on HMIPP's lasting impact on our community. Congratulations to the *2024 graduates!*

## 2024 Graduated Cohort

- Todd Clements
- George Copeland
- **Marcia Ditmyer**
- Amy Hoerauf
- Nathan Niestroy
- Maximilian Olivarez
- Anita Richardson
- Glenn Rowley
- Randall Sanborn
- Seth Taylor
- Brian Taylor
- Benjamin Tenney
- Tara Welch



## DAY IN THE NEST – SATURDAY, MARCH 22nd

Saturday: March 22nd A Day in the Nest: Admitted Student Day (all colleges)

This event will only require faculty to be present from 11am to 12pm. You will hear more about the event from the Dean's office as it gets closer. But please put this on your calendar if you want to participate.

In addition to Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will also be an event on April 12, 2025. This event is the same day at the HHS 5K event. It would be great for folks who participate in that event to remain and participate in the one-hour event from 11am to 12pm.



## N5-BSN LEVEL ACTIVITIES

As the N5 BSN nursing students finish up their semester, they are going through many different activities.

### **Implicit Bias Training**

On Thursday, February 20, 2025, they completed their required Implicit Bias training with Dr. Marcia Ditmyer.

### **Professional Day**

Dr. Mindy Fabro and the N5 faculty arrange a professional day for the N5 students. This is an opportunity for community members to present and meet with the students as a recruitment effort. This all-day event is scheduled for Friday February 28, 2025.



### **Tabletop Disaster Simulation**

On Friday, March 28, 2025, N5's will go through a tabletop disaster simulation. Ms. Emily Hribek, along with simulation staff, faculty, and community members assist in this disaster. It is a great experience for all nursing students getting ready to enter the workforce.

## PREPARE TO LAUNCH: WORKDAY



### **The Workday Platform will go live Sunday, March 23.**

Before it launches, we encourage you to learn the basics through a training session: Introduction to Workday – Basic Navigation and Key Features.

Faculty and staff have several opportunities to attend this workshop. Click on the link to find the training sessions as they become available: [svsu.edu/workday](https://svsu.edu/workday).

- ✓ **March 24th-April 4th:** Open lab hours for Workday help. More details coming soon.
- ✓ **March 31st:** All Employment transactions will resume in Workday (e.g. new job requisitions will be accepted in Workday, voluntary payroll deductions can resume, employee changes, etc.).
- ✓ **April 1st:** Workday Financials launches. All financial processes will move to Workday.
- ✓ **April 3rd: Deadline to update direct deposit info for the April 11 pay. If you miss this date, you will receive a check mailed to the address on file.**



# BWell PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMIT 2025

## BWell Public Health Summit 2025

This year's BWell Saginaw Summit coincides with National Public Health Week, offering two tracks – one for healthcare providers and another for the general public.

Keynote speakers and breakout sessions will take a multi-faceted approach to four of Saginaw's health priorities: equity, maternal & child health, mental health & substance use, and obesity & related chronic diseases.

There is something for everyone to learn, apply to patients, adopt for healthier living, and work individually and collectively to improve Saginaw's wellbeing.



**AGENDA**

7:30 am	Check in/Continental Breakfast
8:30 am	Speakers to be announced
12:00 noon	Luncheon
1:00-4:00 pm	Breakout Sessions
4:00-5:00 pm	Speaker to be announced

Registration information available soon.

**SPONSORS**

**BWELL Saginaw**

HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CURENT, Grand Valley State University, HEALTHSOURCE, PARTNERS, Michigan Health, Saginaw County Health Department, MDHHS, MEDICAL SOCIETY

## MPHA 2025 EPIDEMIOLOGY CONFERENCE

### 2025 Michigan Public Health Association's Epidemiology Conference

Registration for the 2025 Michigan Public Health Association's Epidemiology Conference is now available at <https://www.svsu.edu/opd/mpha/>.

The conference will be held on **Friday, April 11, 2025** on the campus of Central Michigan University in **Mt. Pleasant**.

#### Conference Fees

Conference registration is \$110 for non-MPHA members, students. Please note, after you add the registration to your cart, clicking on "Add Another Person" before you are able to checkout.

**Registration is open until March 31, 2025.**

[CLICK HERE: View Conference Agenda](#)



### 20th Annual Epidemiology Conference 2025

#### Contemporary Data Approaches to Advance Public Health

**When:** Friday, April 11, 2025

**Where:** Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI

**Abstracts are now being accepted. The abstract submission deadline is February 28, 2025 at 5pm.**

**For more details and to submit, scan the QR code:**



## FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST



Michelle Claypool, who works in the nursing simulation center just received a Fulbright Specialist six-week grant to travel to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She will be working on a Student Academic Advising Certification Program for the staff at Fakeeh College for Medical Sciences. This is an exciting and unique opportunity for U.S. academics and established professionals to engage in project-based exchanges as host institutions across the globe.

Once again, congratulations!



## NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION

Submit any newsworthy items for the next edition of the HHS newsletter.

We are always looking for faculty and staff achievements, external funding, recent publications, and accepted presentations since the last newsletter, including those you have completed with students, research projects going on, creative activities, community service activities, and anyone special in the college (faculty, staff, or student) you would like to highlight.

To submit information, please send to [mditmyer@svsu.edu](mailto:mditmyer@svsu.edu)

**Deadline for 3rd Quarter 2025 edition is June 20th, 2025.**