



**Dean's Message.** I hope your summer went well. It is so hard to believe that we are heading into the fall semester. I hope you all had a safe and happy summer found time to rest and enjoy family and friends. I wanted to first say thank you to all of the well wishes that were sent this summer as I went through my health scare. It was definitely eye opening to me. Even though family and friends have always been a priority, this summer helped me better understand their importance. Thank you all!

We're delighted to welcome students, faculty, and staff back to campus for this 2023-2024 academic year. As we move into the fall semester, here are a couple of important dates to remember.

- ✓ Faculty Welcome Back Events (August 24 – luncheon for faculty in Curtis Hall and luncheon for staff will be in the Dean's conference room, all-college meeting, welcome back address by President Grant, and welcome back picnic)
- ✓ Fall 2023 Move-in dates (August 23-26, 2023). Look for the information about volunteering for these events. For more information <https://www.svsu.edu/livingoncampus/residentresources/2023fallmove-ininformation/>
- ✓ Classes begin (August 28)
- ✓ Labor Day Recess (Sept 4-5)
- ✓ President Grant's Investiture (September 26 10:30am)
- ✓ Battle of the Valleys (September 30 – help support this fundraiser event)
- ✓ Homecoming Game (October 21 – help celebrate Social Work's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary)
- ✓ HHS Halloween Luncheon (October 31 – Chili-cookoff event)
- ✓ Thanksgiving Recess (November 22-24)

Below are Admissions Events:

- ✓ Cardinal College Day (Friday, August 18)
- ✓ Fall Open House (Saturday, October 28)
- ✓ President's Scholarship Date (Friday, Nov 10)
- ✓ NOTE: Explore Your Future Dates specifically for HHS will be held in Winter 2024 semester.

For those of you joining SVSU for the first time, we are so excited to celebrate you becoming part of our SVSU family. As I move into my third academic year, I too will continue to embark on my journey with all of you. I am eager to engage in our continued work together in meaningful ways. We have accomplished much in the FY22-23 year. Examples of accomplishments in FY22-23 include:

- ✓ Submission of INSIGHT Into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award for Colleges of Health Professions
- ✓ Partnerships with Alpena, Bay, Delta, and Kirtland for the RN-BSN State of Michigan Grant
- ✓ Affiliation Agreements with MyMichigan, Covenant, McLaren Bay Region, and Ascension St. Mary's Hospitals for tuition discounts for their employees.
- ✓ Initiation of the HHS Institutional Wellness Project which began in Winter 2023
- ✓ Initiated HHS IPE clubs at two middle schools in Saginaw and held first IPE camp since before COVID.
- ✓ Kinesiology received initial accreditation from Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) for their Baccalaureate in Exercise Science.
- ✓ Initiated a Part-time BSN program.

# CONGRATULATIONS



Mindy Fabbro

Congratulations to Mindy Fabbro and Jennifer Scott, who successfully passed the national certification, and are now **board-certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNPs)**!

Their contributions to addictions nursing through their work at a Methadone clinic have made a lasting impact to this community. And--- thank you for starting off 2023 with a 100% first-time pass rate--- you've really set the bar for the upcoming grads!



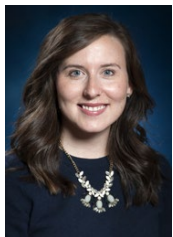
Jennifer Scott

In addition, both Mindy and Jen received tenure and promotion this year as well. Congratulations!

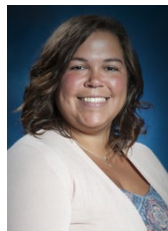
# PROMOTION AND TENURE

This year was a very active year regarding tenure and promotion.

The following faculty from HHS received tenure and were promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor beginning in FY24.



Teresa Coker  
Social Work



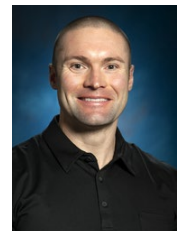
Judith Cox  
Nursing



Mindy Fabbro  
Nursing



Jennifer Scott  
Nursing



Merrick Lincoln  
Kinesiology

In addition, Cathy Macomber was promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor.



Cathy Macomber  
Social Work

# CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate Tyler Rivet (Simulation Operations Specialist) and Michelle Claypool (Part-time staff member) in the Department of Nursing who successfully completed the Certified Healthcare Simulation Operations Specialist (CHSOS®) exam. This exam has been developed as a service to the healthcare simulation community. The CHSOS® certification is intended for individuals who perform healthcare simulation in the operations specialist role. Congratulations Tyler and Michelle!



Tyler Rivet



Michelle Claypool

## HARLEM FESTIVAL OF CULTURE (HFC)



Melvin McDowell Jr.

Harlem Festival of Culture (“HFC”) and its foundation, Harlem Festival of Culture Foundation (“HFCF”) kicked off the month of June 2023 with two noteworthy events in the village of Harlem. HFCF and Northwell Health had a groundbreaking discussion on Friday, June 9th, 2023, at the Harlem School of the Arts located at 645 St. Nicholas Avenue titled, “Supporting Black Men and Their Mental Health.” The panel discussion was led and moderated by HFC Director of Community Impact & Health Equity, Dr. Yolanda Lewis Ragland with four male panelists in-house. Our own Melvin McDowell Jr., from the Social Work department was one of the distinguished panelists.

# CONGRATULATIONS



Kari Peckham

Sending many congratulations to **Kari Peckham**! Kari is the Administrative & IT Coordinator for Project ECHO here at SVSU and she works for an outpatient substance use treatment clinic when she is not here with us at SVSU. Kari is also pursuing a degree in social work and has a passion for helping others. Kari recently passed the exam to become a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor through The Michigan Certification Board for Addiction Professionals (MCBAP). MCBAP is a member of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC), and the most active authority for professional substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery credentialing in Michigan. Membership in the IC&RC requires a commitment to adhere to international standards that ensure competence in professionals providing substance abuse services.

## CONGRATULATIONS, CONT.



**Rebecca Bicigo**, PMHNP Clinical Coordinator at SVSU, and her husband Matt and daughter Emma welcomed a beautiful 8lb 15 oz and 20.5-inch baby boy, Bruno, into the world on Thursday, April 6, 2023. Baby Bruno, mom and family are all healthy and adjusting well to this life change!

## MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING (MI) TRAINING



Carol Essenmacher

Dr. Carol Essenmacher will be providing Motivational Interviewing (MI) Training for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner students August 4 & 5, 2023. The session is also open on a first-come, first-served basis depending on available space. The overall focus of the training is to provide students with an opportunity to learn to have effective conversations with patients about health behavior changes. Students will develop an understanding of the guiding philosophy of MI, also known as the "Spirit of MI." Students will also have the opportunity to learn effective listening and intervention skills. Dr. Essenmacher received her initial Motivational Interviewing training in the mid-1990's from the founding members of MI. She regularly provided MI training to colleagues at the VA Medical Center and continues providing MI trainings for American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) members and in academic settings.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE



Kathleen Schachman

In 2023, nearly 68% of overdose deaths involved the synthetic opioid fentanyl. Fentanyl is involved in more deaths of Americans under age 50 than any cause of death, including heart disease, cancer, homicide, suicide and other accidents. While evidence-based addiction treatment exists, clinicians are often reluctant to initiate pharmacological interventions due to the unpredictable nature of fentanyl poisoning. **Kathleen Schachman**, a fellow in addictions nursing, contributed to the development of the first (and only) national treatment guidelines for clinicians: [\*Practice-Based Guidelines: Buprenorphine in the Age of Fentanyl\*](#). These guidelines have been adopted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Institute on Drug.

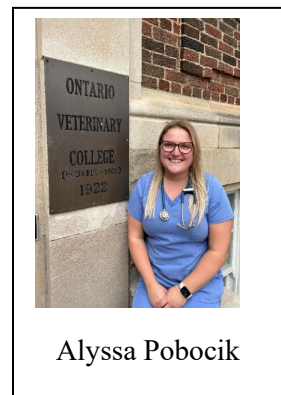


# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF NURSE PRACTITIONER FACULTIES



**Kathleen Schachman, Trisha Charbonneau-Ivey and Kim Martini** shared findings at the annual conference of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) with their presentation “*Learn, Earn & Share with Digital Badges in Nurse Practitioner Education: An Addictions-Focused Exemplar.*”

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE



Alyssa Pobocik

Alyssa Pobocik is now done with her first year of veterinary school at University of Guelph Ontario Veterinary College and back helping the Special Grants Team for the summer. During her first year, Alyssa joined many clubs and is embracing Canadian culture and joined the Class of 2026's Women's hockey team. Alyssa loved all her classes this year, but her favorite was Clinical Medicine, where she got hands on experience learning how to complete physical, cardiology, and neurology exams on a variety of animals. She is looking forward to getting back to classes this fall and continuing her educational journey toward becoming Dr. Pobocik!

## SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION, AND REFERRAL TO TREATMENT



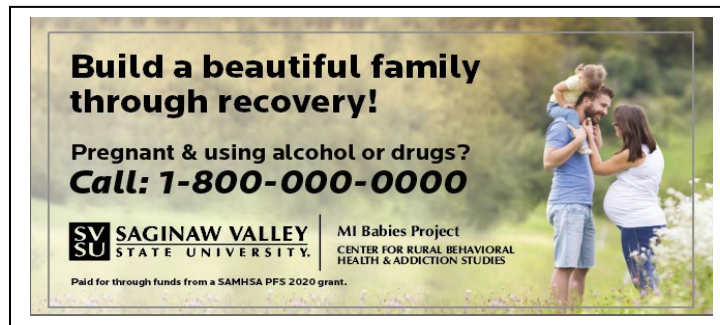
Trisha Charbonneau-Ivey

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care recently awarded Saginaw Valley State University's Center for Rural Behavioral Health & Addiction Studies a five-year, \$928,041.00 grant to expand access to critical Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) services in rural Michigan. **Trisha Charbonneau-Ivey, BA, MSHAL**, Associate Director of the Center, will serve as the SVSU Project Manager for the grant, building the capacity of rural, college, and university health clinics to provide SBIRT as part of their services. The goal of this grant is to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services in rural communities and among the young adult population. Congratulations Trish!

# MI BABIES PROJECT

SVSU's Center for Rural Behavioral Health & Addiction Studies MI Babies Project is encouraging you to be on the lookout for our public education billboard campaign as you are traveling up north this summer. This billboard education campaign is focused on reducing neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) by promoting evidence-based substance use disorder treatment options for people of child-bearing age, promoting recovery, and breastfeeding and bonding – all critical to sustained recovery and healthy babies.

Billboards can be viewed in Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw and Oscoda counties throughout the summer to educate these communities that experience some of the highest rates of NAS/NOWS. The billboards will be seen over 700,000 times each week they are posted. A big thanks to the University Communications team who helped to develop the billboards! Your sneak peek is below.



## GRANT FROM U.S. DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Kathleen Schachman

With a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources & Services Administration, Saginaw Valley State University will collaborate with Northern Michigan University to enhance behavioral health care in rural northern Michigan, especially the Upper Peninsula. Funding Amount: \$2.6M/4 years. Over the next four years, SVSU will receive \$650,000 per year through the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce program to partner with NMU to expand educational opportunities for advanced practice nurses. Through the BRIDGE UP program, SVSU will offer its psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program in collaboration with NMU. Through the grant funding, 31 part-time nurse practitioners annually can participate in a psychiatric mental health traineeship that reduces the cost of their education by nearly 85%.

“This innovative collaboration between Saginaw Valley State University and Northern Michigan University will bring vital resources and support to underserved populations,” said **Kathleen Schachman**, Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Professor of Nursing at SVSU. “By expanding educational opportunities for advanced practice nurses, we aim to bridge gaps in patient care and empower nurse practitioners to meet the specific needs of their communities.” Well done Kathleen and your Team!

# DEAN DITMYER APPOINTED TO STATE BOARD OF NURSING



Marcia Mastracci  
Ditmyer

On June 30, 2023, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced appointments to the Growing Michigan Together Council, Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Executive Committee, Michigan Tax Tribunal, Michigan Board of Nursing, Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services, Manufactured Housing Commission, and Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity.

Marcia Ditmyer was appointed as a public member to the board, along with 7 other new members. The Michigan Board of Nursing was created to establish qualifications for nurse licensure, to establish standards for education and approve nurse education programs, develop, and implement criteria for assurance of continued competency, and take disciplinary action against licensees when the health, safety, and welfare of the public has been adversely affected. The appointment begins July 1, 2023, for a period of 3 years.

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO HHS

Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist visited campus on Thursday, July 6 as part of his "Made it in Michigan" tour, which is intended to highlight efforts to reduce the cost of higher education and increase the number of nurses in Michigan. SVSU's ADN-BSN partnerships with community colleges contribute to this effort. Gilchrist met with SVSU President George Grant Jr., students and faculty during a tour of the College of Health & Human Services facilities. "We know that we have had a need for more and more health care professionals — and nurses in particular — especially in northern Michigan," Gilchrist said. "SVSU has played an important role in helping to fatten that pipeline to get more people into more communities."

During Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist's stop at Saginaw Valley State University, he spoke with students from the College of Health & Human Services. From left to right: **Raven Wieland**, a nursing major from Pinconning; **Allyson Simmons**, a nursing major from Midland; **Natalie Rodriguez**, a nursing major from Essexville; **SVSU President George Grant Jr.**; **Lt. Gov. Gilchrist**; **Alissa Whitmore**, a kinesiology graduate and current occupational therapy major from St. Louis; **Cherie Long**, a social work major from Saginaw; and **Eddie Dunn**, of Saginaw, a social work graduate and current second-year MSW student.



## WELCOME ON BOARD



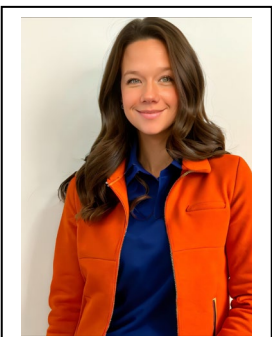
Jill Hyatt

Welcome on board two new employees. Ms. Jill Hyatt and Ms. Kailyn Humphrey. Jill and Kailyn have replaced Danielle Trombley and Danielle Premo who have resigned and gone back into clinical practice.

Jill has spent 10 years primarily in clinical practice. Most recently she worked as an RN in the MyMichigan Midland Emergency Department. She also served as the hospital's Pediatric Nurse Clinical Coordinator. She has worked in many different settings as both a nurse and as a paramedic. Her most recent experiences include flight nursing, critical care ground transport, and emergency department nursing. She also worked in an ICU and in a med-surg unit earlier in my career. She is looking forward to this new chapter in my nursing career. We are very excited to have Jill join HHS family. Welcome!

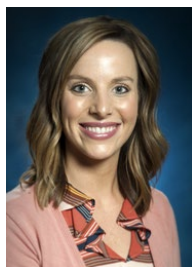
Kailyn is an SVSU alum with a degree in Health Science. Her passion is in public health and the important impact that it makes in our communities while utilizing a diverse workforce. Kailyn was born and raised in Saginaw and has shared how much Saginaw means to her. She is excited about getting to be a part of impacting the growth through her work here at SVSU. She loves being active and was a member of the SVSU Pom team for 4 years. She was also a local varsity Pom coach for 9 years where we made school history and won a state championship title. She is thrilled for this next chapter here at SVSU, where it truly feels like home. We are excited to have you join the HHS family. Welcome!

Please help me welcome both Jill and Kailyn.



Kailyn Humphrey

## CHANGING POSITIONS



Adrienne Galbraith

Adrienne has moved from Administrative Professional in the Nursing Simulation Lab to an Assistant Professor in Nursing. We are excited to have her join HHS faculty and begin her journey. Janet has moved from a part-time position to a full-time position replacing Adrienne in the Simulation Lab. We are thrilled to have her moved to full-time.

Please join me in congratulating both Adrienne and Janet in their new roles.



Janet Ofori-Darko



## BWELL RACE SERIES



BWell Race takes place this year on Saturday, September 30, 2023. The college will be a sponsor for the event. We would love to have a team join in on the activities. The event starts and ends at the Saginaw YMCA, beginning at 8:00am (10K), the family 1 mile event begins at 9:30am, and the 5K starts at 10:30am. The race is brought to you by Dig Deep Races, the Saginaw YMCA, and members of the BWell Saginaw Coalition.

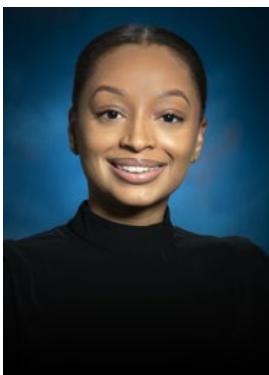
Please let us know if you would like to join the SVSU team by contacting Kelsey Lipinski in the Dean's office at [kllipins@svsu.edu](mailto:kllipins@svsu.edu).

## PARTNERSHIP WITH ENNIS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

SVSU Department of Social Work has partnered with Ennis Center for Children on a program called FACT (Family and Children Together). The program was highlighted on ABC-12 July 25, 2023. Please see the clip by [clicking on this link](#).

That program called FACT, or Families and Children Together, aims to revolutionize the child welfare system and to do just that - keep more families together. Chair of the Department of Social Work and Youth Services at SVSU Michael Heron said though removing a child is needed at times, FACT can offer more options. "Keeping families together is really important to the development of the child and the development of the family through the family lifespan," he said.

## FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



Ashley Sanders

Ashley Sanders, Social Work, had a great write-up on social media this past week. Below is the write-up.

"In high school, I joined the military, and when I finished Basic Training and AIT, I ended up moving to Illinois and going to a small college there for pre-med. Then I found out that I was going to have a child, so I had to make a decision very quickly on how I was going to be able to balance college and a baby. I decided the best decision was to move back home to Saginaw, and that led me to enrolling at Saginaw Valley State University. I was still in the pre-med program when I realized that it was not as easy as I thought it was going to be to take a child to study groups! That led me to really question what I was interested in, and I decided I was really interested in understanding people, and that led me to my major in psychology.

## FACULTY HIGHLIGHT, CONT.

Then at the end of my degree, one of my favorite professors looked at me and said, 'Everything about you is a social worker. And they were right. So, I finished that degree, applied for the Social Work program, was accepted, and I ended up getting a double bachelor's degree. My professors were so influential for me and really helped guide me in so many ways outside of the classroom.

I remember John Kacynzki went around the classroom and asked, 'What do you want to do after you graduate?' Everybody wanted to leave, and I'm like, 'Yeah, I want to leave, too. Then at the end, he looked at everybody and said, 'If you all leave and take your talent with you, how is this place ever going to have what you're looking for? What you're actually running to?

Honestly, at first, I ignored what he said, thinking, 'Oh, he's not talking to me. There are so many other people...' But I always had that in the back of my mind, and as time went on, I started to think, 'He's right. How can our community grow if we leave?' Professor Vanessa Brooks Herd was awesome in helping me challenge some identity issues I was having in regard to being biracial. She helped me feel like it was okay that people didn't see the full me and that I can live in that. That was profound for me. Ed Jones and Dr. Margres helped me prepare for coming back to SVSU as a professor, transitioning from student to faculty, along with so many things they taught me about real life.

I'm a social worker by trade. However, when I went back to grad school and I was getting my doctoral degree, someone posed the question to me, 'Do you want to stay in clinical work? Or do you want to help the community on a larger scale by going into education?' That question allowed me to accept the idea that I could make a huge impact if I came back to Saginaw Valley and became a professor. For me, that is so inspiring because I know one day the students that we are teaching, they're going to be the ones helping me, my family, and my friends, and the fact that I know the skills that they're obtaining here at SVSU gives me that much more confidence.

So I came back, and I'm currently an assistant professor of social work at Saginaw Valley.

For students trying to figure out what they want to do in life, I would say that you need to ask questions. Sometimes you may have an interest in a certain area but don't have the words to put with it, so talking to a counselor, parents, or friends can help formulate where your interests are. I also think that students should go on campus tours. I know some high schools do offer that. Especially if you are first generation or even second-generation college student in your family, you don't have the capacity to know all the departments here and the options you have, and when you're exposed to those options, you can start to wonder what you can actually do.

I also want students to know that it's okay to change your major. There's so much pressure to feel like you need to know exactly what you want to do by a certain age, but that's unrealistic. It's okay to change your major, it's okay to explore those general education classes that all four-year programs have, it's okay to say, 'Hey, I may be interested in a history class's or 'Maybe I need to go look at this computer class.' I think really exploring those gen eds versus saying, 'Oh, I just need to get it done,' can open up new opportunities."

## NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION

Submit any newsworthy items for the next edition of the HHS newsletter that will come out in Sept/Oct. 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 Sept/Oct edition is August 28, 2023**