



Dean's Message. It is hard to believe we are reaching spring break. I hope that you all take time to rest and refresh during this time. For the first time since the start of the pandemic, this spring is shaping up to be the first full year of "normal" travel. And with more people feeling comfortable traveling, more flights to more destinations, and fewer travel restrictions, spring break is bound to be the busiest in years. What that means is busier airports, longer security lines, and fuller planes than we have been used to over the last 3 years. So, if flying, prepare by ensuring you get to the airport with plenty of time. Also, prepare for airport delays as well. Spring break is to help refresh and rejuvenate, so being prepared will help ensure a better travel experience. However, you choose to spend your spring break, travel safe and enjoy the time with family and friends.

On the college front, exciting things are happening thanks to your hard work. Bay Community College in Escanaba has joined with Alpena Community College choosing SVSU as their preferred partner in the ADN to BSN pathway grant. We are hosting folks from Northcentral Michigan Community College in March with the hope of partnering with them as well. We are moving forward with our part-time nursing program starting Spring 2023, building our CE offerings that provide important credentials and badges for students and the community. We are increasing our cooperative agreements with health systems, adding Ascension St. Mary's and McLaren to the list. The Department of Kinesiology received recommendation for initial accreditation from the Committee on Accreditation for the Exercise Sciences (CoAES) to the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The Occupational Therapy Department has received initial approval to move to dual entry beginning in 2024. Lastly, the Social Work Department is offering three upcoming Youth Mental Health First programs. You will start seeing signs within the college that bring more wellness and health promotion effort for our faculty and staff, such as mapped out walking paths and continued Pilates classes. We will continue to strive to be better and build stronger and more innovative programs.



May Graduation Activities



Graduation is always great for both the students and faculty/staff. We are able to see the fruits of all the challenging work. Below details for the Spring 2023 commencement activities.

General Commencement

Friday, May 5, 2023, at 4:30pm in the O'Neill Arena, Ryder Center

Graduate Recognition Ceremony

Friday, May 5, 2023, at 9:00am in Malcolm Field Theatre

BSN Symposium

Thursday, May 4, 2022, at 4:00pm in the O'Neill Arena, Ryder Center

All faculty are encouraged to attend all celebrations of our students. Your presence at these events means a great deal to our students. The presence of HHS faculty and staff at the general commencement demonstrates our support and commitment to our students in the presence of administration, Board of Control, and other dignitaries that attend.

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING IN MIDLAND COUNTY

On February 17th, 2023, SVSU nursing students, faculty and staff joined Mobile Medical Response (MMR), MyMichigan EMS, the Midland County Educational Service Agency (EAS), and Midland Sheriff's Department in an active shooter exercise. Sixteen (16) nursing students were asked to simulate students within classrooms, each with a specific role. As a means to more closely replicate a real situation, some students, who were willing, were moulaged to simulate injuries. SVSU faculty and staff were present to provide support for our students as they worked through their active shooter response and reunification.



Following the simulation, students were debriefed. Students learned to identify the trauma of the situation beyond what might be obvious of an active shooter. Students shared feelings one must be going through of being left behind or laying there hurt, scared, and waiting to be removed from the situation. Some students were assigned physical disabilities and discussed how they were managed getting out of the building.

Because of the urgency of the situation, students shared how important it is for nurses to understand what patients are going through prior to reaching the hospital. This is something that you cannot teach out of a textbook. The students who attend believe this type of experience is one all students, especially healthcare students, should experience. Because of this, students will be developing a presentation that can be used to share the importance of being prepared. We would like to thank the faculty and staff who participated. These include Rob Kelch, Tina Thornton, Marlene Smalley, Teri Hill, Janet Ofori-Darko, Adrienne Galbraith, and Judi Cox.

HHS MEATBALL-COOK-OFF

The first annual HHS Meatball Cook-off will be held in the faculty hallway on Thursday, March 16, 2023. In addition to the meatballs for lunch, the college will supplement with salad, etc. To ensure we have sufficient food, please rsvp using the link below. If you have not registered your famous meatball recipe, please do so as soon as possible. We look forward to finding out who will create the winner this year.

RSVP: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023_MEATBALL_COOK-OFF

WINTER MEGA-SIMULATION

Each semester, the college conducts an interprofessional simulation that focuses on one of the core areas of Interprofessional Education: teamwork, community practices, roles and responsibilities, and values/ethics. The Winter 2023 Mega Sim was designed look at 'roles and responsibility.'

There were 574 students who participated this semester, 56 of which were facilitators at each of the tables and breakout rooms. There were both virtual and in-person options. Great discussions were had throughout the sessions.



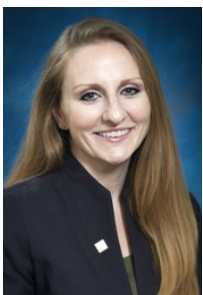
CARDINALS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Members of the registered student organization **Cardinals for Public Health** volunteered at the McNally House in Saginaw last weekend. Students were able to clean and prepare a meal for out-of-town families of patients who are currently staying at Covenant Healthcare. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to give back to those in need in the community.

Cardinals for Public Health bring together Saginaw Valley State University students that are pursuing a career in Public Health and or are interested in the Public Health career options that Saginaw Valley State University can offer. This group works to provide leadership opportunities, cultural and social learning of public health initiatives, career opportunities, and learning from members in our community what we can do as future Public Health professionals. This is accomplished through two pillars of public health, being service and professionalism.



Dr. Rachel Darr, PhD, RD, CSSD



Luke Drumright from 3-2-1 Connections Program on MCTV Network recently interviewed Rachel Darr. Luke earned his associate degree from Saginaw Valley State University in behavioral arts. Luke is a champion Special Olympics Swimmer. Rachel's students have had the opportunity to work with Luke as he has trained for his sport. To watch the interview, [click here](#). (Note: Rachel appears about 13 minutes into the show).

ART LEWIS RADIO SHOW



On February 2, 2023, Master of Social Work student Jake Kokowicz and Dean Ditmyer were interviewed by Art Lewis in the Commons.

The program focused on healthcare providers and the shortages facing the region. We spoke about what SVSU is doing to help with the nursing pipeline. We spoke of the importance and need for Social Workers.

Jake shared his experience as a Social Work student, as well as being part of Military Student Affairs. It was a pleasure to share this time with Jake as he spoke of his experiences at SVSU.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE BACKPACK DRIVE

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) had a Backpack and Bag Drive for foster care children, with a tremendous response. Members donated over 300 bags. On Feb 14, 2023, Master of Social Work Student Kaitlyn Britton assisted SVSU OLLI Staff Members Kayla Pionk and Heather O'Hearn in delivering the bags to Ennis Center for Children, Inc.



SVSU LAUNCHES PART-TIME NURSING PROGRAM



Saginaw Valley State University is responding to regional workforce needs by creating another method to grow the nursing talent pipeline. Beginning with the spring semester, which starts Monday, May 9, SVSU will offer a new part-time nursing program designed to allow students to balance life, career and education demands.

“We are thrilled to provide more opportunities for individuals seeking a career in nursing, allowing them to follow their dream of becoming a nurse while still being able to fulfill family and work obligations,” said Marcia Ditmyer, dean of SVSU's Crystal M. Lange College of Health and Human Services. “By providing students with a year-long, part-time option, students will have the flexibility to ensure the school/life balance they need. The program will begin accepting applications on Monday, Feb. 27.”

NURSING STUDENTS EXCEL ON NATIONAL BOARDS



BSN nursing students at Saginaw Valley State University persevered through numerous COVID disruptions in recent years as part of their desire to care for others. That determination resulted in extraordinary performance on the national licensing exam (NCLEX) nurses must pass to enter the nursing profession.

SVSU NP graduate nursing students had a 100% first time pass rate on their national boards.

Congratulations! Positive proof that we have one of best programs around!!

PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR BSN PATHWAY

Saginaw Valley State University and Alpena Community College will hold a signing ceremony to formalize a partnership to grow the nursing talent pipeline. Under the agreement, students who complete an Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) at ACC can earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from SVSU's fully accredited program. SVSU President George Grant Jr., HHS Dean Marcia Ditmyer and nursing faculty will attend the signing event at Alpena Community College on Thursday, Jan. 26. In addition to Alpena, SVSU has longstanding relationships with Delta College and Kirtland College. Most recently Bay College in Escanaba has joined us as partners.



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

The College of Health and Human Services at Saginaw Valley State University is pleased to announce three free opportunities to participate in training for Youth Mental Health First Aid. The Youth Mental Health First Aid training has been approved for 6-hours of continuing education for social work, nursing, occupational therapy, and education (SCECH).

Please note that the link or the QR code takes you to the registration page where you will be required to create a profile with SVSU's Office of Professional Development. Once your profile is created, you should be able to **"add to cart"** (our training) and then **"checkout"** which completes your registration process. Shortly after you complete the registration process you should receive an email from olli@svsu.edu that confirms your registration. If you have any further complications or questions, please contact Cathy Macomber at camacomb@svsu.edu or 989-964-7136.

We look forward to your participation!

<https://www.enrole.com/svsu/jsp/course.jsp?categoryId=EDA45FE8&courseId=HHS>

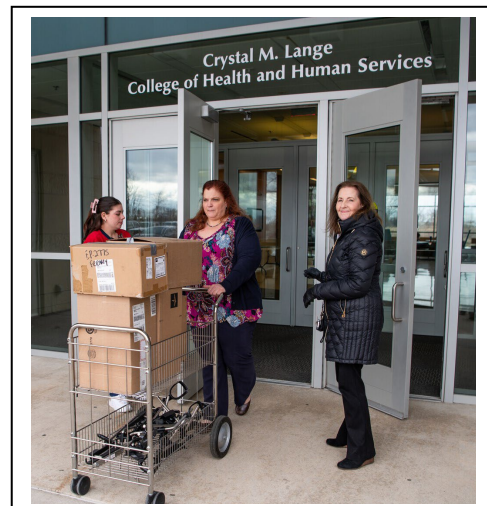
DISCUSSING MENTAL HEALTH

Drs. Cathy Macomber and Ditmyer appeared on the Good Day Northern Michigan News 9/10 show on February 15, 2023. There were two segments which spoke about the importance of early intervention and the need for Youth Mental Health First Aid. See view the segments, [click here](#).



SVSU NURSING DEPARTMENT HELPING PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

When SVSU Board of Control Vice Chair Rajkumari “Raj” Wiener put out a call to help provide medical supplies that could be used for victims of the war in Ukraine, the nursing department stepped up to the plate. Our Nursing Simulation Center team, led by Jennifer Feeney, provided surplus medical supplies, in particular, supplies to treat burns and wounds such as gauze, dressing supplies, kerlix, and elastic wraps. These supplies will be added to shipping containers and sent to the Ukraine. This is just one example of how SVSU can help the people in Ukraine.



SBIRT TRAINING

The Center for Rural Behavioral Health and Addiction Studies is proud to share that in December 2022 we issued 49 digital badges to Family Nurse Practitioner, Social Work, Occupational Therapy and Ferris State University PharmD students for our Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment Training. The 10-hour training includes didactic, virtual simulation, and live simulation with actors who have lived experience with substance use disorders. Digital badges are web-enabled versions of a credential, certification or learning outcome which can be verified in real-time, online. We have partnered with Canvas Credentials to translate our learning outcomes that students demonstrate into a badge. The technology Canvas Credentials uses is based on the Open Badge Standards maintained by IMS Global. This enables recipients to manage, share and verify their competencies digitally.

Representing skills as a badge gives recipients a way to share their abilities online in a way that is simple, trusted, and can be easily verified in real time. Badges provide potential employers and peers concrete evidence of what the recipient had to do to earn their badge, and the skills that the recipient attained through the training. Research shows that professionals who share their digital credentials to professional networking sites are discovered by employers, on average, six times more often than those who do not. Students who completed the digital badges have increased confidence, competence, and readiness to have conversations with those with substance use disorders about adopting healthier behaviors. Students demonstrated improvements in both knowledge and attitudes pertaining to caring for those with addictions. Internal motivation was the strongest driving factor for our students' participation in the training. Of the students who participated in the training 68% had never heard of digital badges prior to the training and 74% would like more opportunities to earn digital badges. This digital badge has been shared on social media more than 100 times by our students.

Additionally, this training was taken "on the road" supported by the MI Babies project to our community partner, Central Michigan District Health Department, where five satellite clinics with a total of 48 participants were trained including nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, and administrative staff.

To view the public website for the digital badge visit:

<https://svsu.badgr.com/public/issuers/GmTf9ARTRGihT5X5aiR8cw/badges>

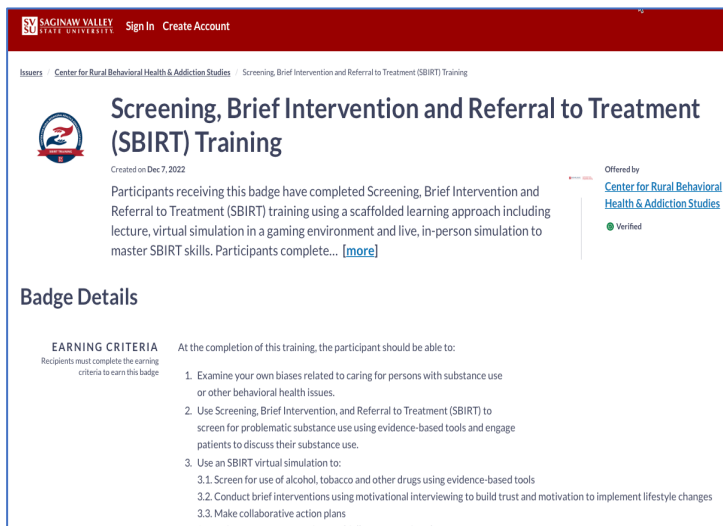


Figure 2: Image of badge verification for SBIRT Digital Badge.



Figure 1: SBIRT Digital Badge participants receive.

N5 Nursing Professional Day

Professional Day for our N5 students was held on February 24, 2023. This day is an exciting day for our soon to be graduates. It provides an opportunity for local agencies to recruit our upcoming graduates. It also allows our students to network with the various local agencies to explore nursing career options. This day was a brainchild of Drs. Fredrick and Fabbro. During the day, the professional agencies present on important topics for students to better understand the job market, the process for employment, and networking. This semester our N5 students were able to visit MyMichigan, McLaren Bay, Ascension St Mary's, Covenant, Owosso Memorial, and Residential Homecare. Career Services also presents on the importance of using LinkedIn and HandShake as they begin their career search.

Below are some photos of the exciting day.

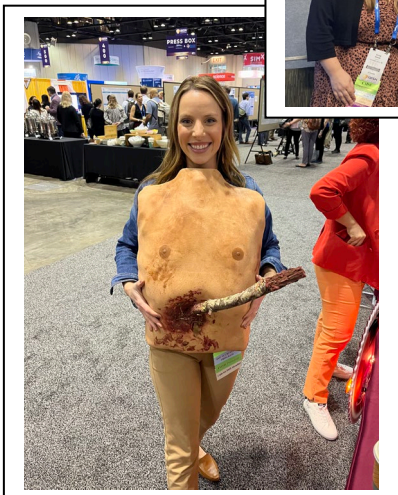
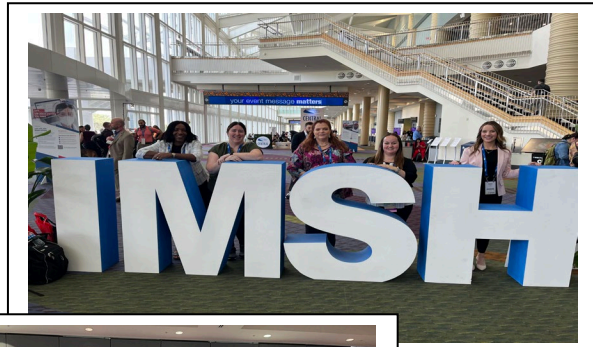


SOCIETY FOR SIMULATION HEALTHCARE 2023 CONFERENCE

This year's conference was held in Orlando, Florida from January 21-25, 2023. The SVSU Simulation Lab hosted a Sixty Minute Hands on Workshop featuring the IPE Team Stepps© Escape Room. The Escape Room was developed as an Interprofessional Simulation for physicians and nursing students. The theme for the escape room was centered around the Michigan winter weather. Escape room participants both review the Team Stepps© strategies and then practice the skills together. The team took the five lockboxes and puzzles and broke them into five tabletop activities that could be performed during the workshop. The Escape Room typically runs as a linear event, but for the number of participants and time constraint an alternate format was necessary. The participants were broken into groups and rotated from station to station. The participants gave positive feedback on the simulation. The Escape Room was presented as a hot topic session on a different day and time. The team was led by Dr. Michelle Claypool and included Adrienne Galbraith, Janet Ofori-Darko, Emily Hribek, and Jennifer Feeney.

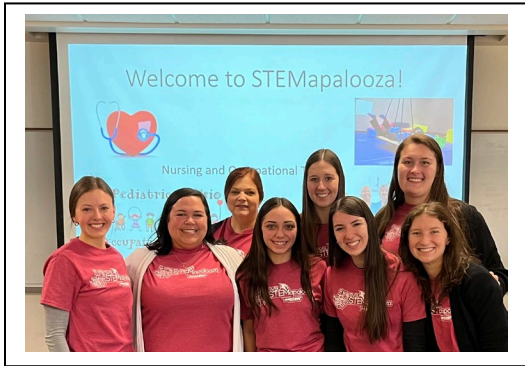
A team led by Jennifer Feeney and Adrienne Galbraith, Janet Ofori-Darko, and Dr. Mindy Fabbro presented on the research track the concept for an Empathy Study. The study focuses on whether a student portraying the patient roles in simulations during the N1 semester courses assists with the development of empathy. It has been assumed that students portraying patients in the N1 semester develop empathy, but it has never been tested. The Jefferson Empathy Scale is a validated and reliable tool for measuring empathy with a version specifically designed for healthcare students. The research concept is for the students to complete the tool at the beginning and the end of the semester to see if the score changes.

The Escape Room used in the N5 semester was developed during COVID when social distancing was essential. This Escape Room was presented as a "Hot Topic" with Dr. Mindy Fabbro and Dr. Jennifer Scott in collaboration with Jennifer Feeney. Dr. Fabbro and Dr. Scott thoroughly explained the rationale, teaching pedagogy, and procedures used in development and facilitation of the escape room. The use of audio/visual technology with two of the team members located in the escape room and the rest of the team in another location. The students learned additional communication skills from this simulation because they needed to work together without being in the same place.



“STEMapalooza”

On Saturday, February 25, 2023, nursing and OT faculty, staff, and students attended “STEMapalooza” and spoke with 80 girl scouts, ages 5-11, about women in healthcare, particularly nursing and occupational therapy. We had 3 interactive stations we did with the girl scouts. We did the following: 1) glo germ and talked about the areas we do not wash as well on our hands, as well as proper ways to do it in the future, 2) stethoscopes so they could listen to each other's heart and lungs (some even tried to listen to their heads, the table, and checked their parents and teachers to make sure they were alive), and 3) adaptive equipment showing how to dress and eat, as well as tested their grip strength. In the pictures below, the OT and nursing students are working with the kids at each of the stations. The girl scouts asked us questions about nursing and occupational therapy and ended our session by telling us knock, knock jokes. It was a fun Saturday morning.



Front row, left to right, Elizabeth Blanck, Judi Cox, Sasha Neff, Dayna Franzel, and Cali Wright. Back row, left to right is Jen Feeney, Kylie Williams, and Hannah Robinson.



NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION

Submit any newsworthy items for the next edition of the HHS newsletter that will come out in APRIL/MAY

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

Deadline for Jan/Feb edition is March 24, 2023