



COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Dean’s Message. Like many of you, I felt like the winter semester would never end. These past few weeks have reinvigorated my hope for a wonderful Spring/Summer. The signs include the singing of the birds, the golden daffodils, tulips, and the buds or blossoms on the trees. For those of you who have chosen to take the summer off, my wish for you is to enjoy the time to rejuvenate. For those of you who will be with us spring/summer, I hope you take some time to smell the flowers and enjoy the ‘hibernation wakeup.’ We have many things going on within the college, but first let me congratulate our graduates. One thing we do know is that the commencement ceremony is a place where inspiration begins. It’s a moment in time to feel proud, accomplished, and hopeful for the future. All of the hard work and perseverance have led our graduates to this proud moment and must be recognized. We all wish you the best on your next adventure!



As we move toward the spring/summer we will continue to work on our college initiatives. These include improvements on recruitment and retention, expanding our wellness and DEIBA initiatives, and building new relationships. To this end, we will make it a priority to actively seek new grant funding opportunities. We will target workforce and community grants that will not only help improve the health professions workforce, but also assist in improving the health and wellbeing of the community. We have submitted 4-5 large grants this past semester and, as these go, are awaiting the disposition. We will also continue to work with K-12 on pipeline initiatives. We have begun developing some health professions club within Saginaw public schools. From May 30 to June 1, 2023, we held an interprofessional education (IPE) summer camp. Our hope is to seek funding to expand these initiatives. I want to close by saying have a fun, safe, and enjoyable summer! Regardless of your plans, take the time to seek out unique opportunities, learn new things, and take the time to recharge. Sometimes taking the time recharge can be challenging. Investing time to recharge is important. How one does this is individual. Find what is right for you and schedule time for yourself to make that happen. Happy summer!

24th Class of Roberts Gilbertson Fellows

The Roberts-Gilbertson Fellowship Program engages a select group of approximately 10 outstanding SVSU undergraduates from a wide range of disciplines for an entire academic year in three-hour weekly seminars, a year-long service project of their own creation, and interactions with campus and community leaders, culminating with an international travel experience. This past year, there were 4 HHS students. These included Brooke Claus (neuroscience), Anna Peruski (nursing), Katey Taylor (Rehabilitation medicine), and Elisabeth Wollenzin (nursing). We congratulate them as they finish out their year with their international trip to Japan and Taiwan.

The new class, 25th class, was selected. This class includes one student from HHS: Ole Leischnig, Exercise Science major, Athletic Coaching minor. Congratulations Ole!



24th class of Robert-Gilbertson Fellowship (AY22-23)

ALL-UNIVERSITY AWARDS APRIL 29, 2022

On April 21, 2023, SVSU hosted the All-University awards ceremony. The All-University Awards Banquet is a tradition, held in April each year for employees. Awards are given to celebrate outstanding achievement in teaching, mentoring, involvement, and employee performance. This event celebrated the winners of 2023. Below are the folks from HHS that were acknowledged. Congratulations!



The All-University Awards Banquet is a tradition, held in April each year for employees. Awards are given to celebrate outstanding achievement in teaching, mentoring, involvement, diversity, and employee performance. This year, SVSU Saginaw Valley State University will honor two of the region's most active community leaders, as well as faculty and staff who display extraordinary enthusiasm and dedication, during SVSU's All-University Awards Banquet Friday, April 21. SVSU's most prestigious award for a community member, The Distinguished Service Award, will be presented to Dr. Malcolm Field and Avril Roundtree. Among the many award winners is HHS Dr. Cathy Macomber who received the Award for Empowering Learning in Community Engagement. Congratulations!

The Award for Empowering Learning in Community Engagement will be presented to **Catherine Macomber, Professor of Social Work.**

SOCIAL WORK TRIVIA NIGHT



From left to right are: Breanna Dulworth, Emily Tafelski, Austin Urlaub, Alexis Moulton, Dr. Michael Heron, Dana Johnson, and Madilyn Tschirhart.

The Student Social Work Organization hosted a trivia night fundraiser for the George Heron Emergency Fund for Social Work Students on Thursday, April 6th. The night was an enormous success raising over \$1,350 for the fund which provides targeted financial aid to students who have an unexpected financial emergency or hardship which is likely to impact their wellbeing and thus their participation and/or success in the social work program in the immediate future. The fund is named after George R. Heron, a longtime social worker in our community and adjunct faculty in the Social Work Department, who died in 2020, the same year he was awarded Adjunct Faculty of the Year by SVSU. Over 25 teams participated, 35 raffle baskets were awarded, a 50/50 prize, and trivia team winnings of over \$160 which was donated back to the fund. The event was MC'ed by Michael Heron, Chair of the Department of Social Work and Youth Services and organized solely by the students.

INSTITUTIONAL WELLNESS RETREAT



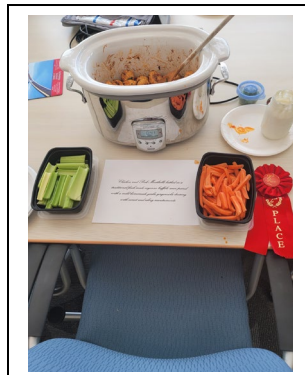
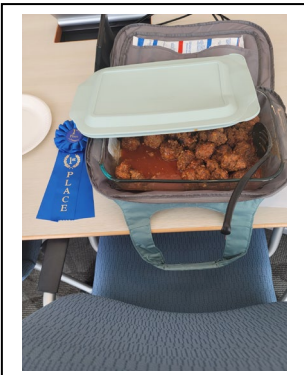
On May 1-2, HHS hosted a series of activities that included all college employees. Dr. Anthony Palatta, DDS, EdD, ACC who is a healthcare education consultant and certified coach who specializes in helping leaders in health professions education identify key drivers in the system that are creating barriers to effectively achieving institutional wellbeing. In keeping with the college wellness and DEIBA initiatives, this is just the first of many programs to assist the college toward a culture of wellness that encourages a broader perspective on well-being and prioritizes it with more collective investment and ownership. Thank you Anthony!

THE LANE FAMILY NURSING FACULTY AWARD

The Lane Family Award for Nursing Faculty. This award is established to recognize SVSU full-time teaching faculty in the Department of Nursing who consistently engage students in a positive, meaningful manner, shaping the lives of compassionate professional nurses. The genesis of this award springs from two sources: the focus upon the Department of Nursing is born from the multi-generational Registered Nurse legacy of Sherylann Lane's maternal grandmother (Bernadette Kendzora), mother (Joan Lane), and her own career. The other source lies in Robert's commitment to teaching for his entire adult life. His teaching career entails nine years of secondary school and more than 30 years as a college professor, and he has tried to both model and support excellence in teaching at SVSU. The intent is to give both recognition and a gift of some substance to members of the nursing faculty who consistently model compassion and make an impactful commitment of the professional developed of their students. Last year's award winner was Dr. Elizabeth Roe. This year's award winner is Dr. Bonnie Harmer. She will be acknowledged at a dinner on June 13, 2023. Congratulations Bonnie! We will share photos in the July/August newsletter.

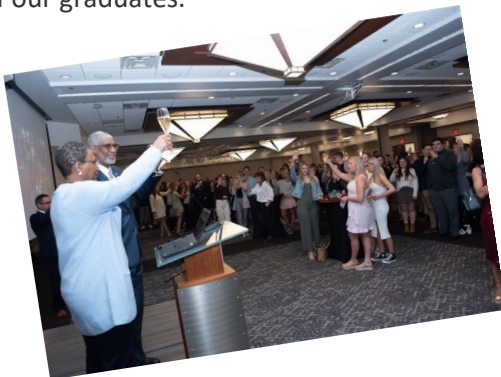
MEATBALL COOK-OFF

On March 16, 2023, HHS held the 1st annual meatball cook-off. It was a great success, with a dozen or so entries. The following were the winners: 1st Place: Jason Jaime; 2nd place: Michael Heron; 3rd place: Anthony DiRusso. Everyone had a great time enjoying the company during lunch. Look out for the next cook-off in the fall.



MAY 2023 COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

SENIOR TOAST...On April 17th, the Senior Toast took place. This The Senior Class Toast celebrates your success during a champagne toast with President Grant, faculty, and staff. As a gift, each graduate takes home a complimentary champagne flute with the SVSU seal engraved. This is one of the largest graduating classes. We are proud of our graduates.



BSN Symposium...BSN Symposium was held on Thursday, May 4, 2023, from 4-6PM. Activities held at the O'Neill Arena, Ryder Center. The pinning ceremony is a symbolic welcoming of newly graduated nurses into the nursing profession. The history of the ceremony dates back to the Crusades in the 12th century, and later, when Queen Victoria awarded Florence Nightingale the Royal Red Cross for her service as a military nurse during the Crimean War. This ceremony is a symbol of the nursing students' hard work and dedication towards their coursework and clinicals. We are proud of our nursing class of May 2023. Congratulations!



MAY 2023 COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES, CONT.

HHS Graduate Recognition Ceremony... This ceremony was held on Friday, May 5, 2023, from 9-10AM. Activities held at Malcolm Field Theatre. The Hooding Ceremony is a special recognition ceremony for masters or doctoral degree candidates. During the ceremony, a faculty member places the hood over the head of the graduate, signifying their success in completing the graduate program.

Significance of the graduate hoods. The hoods are the most expressive component of the academic costume. They serve to communicate the graduate's school, degree, and field of study through their length and the colors of the lining and binding. The tradition of special academic dress entered the USA in the 1880's.

- ✓ The hoods for all degrees are lined with silk of the colors of the academic institution conferring the degree (Cardinal Red and Royal Blue).
- ✓ The edging or trim of the hood is a wide velvet band, the color of which indicates the academic field of study.
- ✓ The doctoral hood differs from the master hoods as they are longer, have a wider velvet edging, and expose more of the silk lining.
- ✓ The gowns themselves also are different. The sleeves of the master's gown are oblong with the base being square cut forming a pocket-like space. The doctoral has velvet trimming down the front and three bars of velvet across the sleeves which can be either black/gold as in my case, or the color of the degree.



MAY 2023 COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES, CONT.

HHS Main Commencement...The main graduation ceremony took place on Friday, May 5, 2023, at 4:30pm in the Ryder Center. HHS graduates were recognized for their accomplishments. We are excited that Beth Charlton, CEO and President of Covenant (and SVSU alumni) who was our commencement speaker also received her honorary doctorate at the ceremony.



MSHAL CELEBRATIONS

Alumni Celebration. SVSU's College of Health and Human Services and Alumni Relations office hosted a dinner that celebrated the alumni and students of the Master of Science in Health Administration & Leadership (MSHAL) Program on April 12, 2023. The guest speaker was alumni Joseph Fifer, CPA and President and CEO of Healthcare Financial Management Association.



MSHAL CELEBRATIONS, CONT.

Graduation Dinner... Following the graduation on May 5th, the MSHAL graduates celebrated at the Saginaw Club. It was a great evening to end the one chapter and begin the new chapter as an SVSU graduate. Congratulations!



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN MICHIGAN SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

The 2023 Michigan Social Work Students of the Year were announced on April 12, 2023. Annually, one BSW and one MSW student from each accredited social work program in Michigan receives this statewide honor, presented by the National Association of Social Workers –Michigan Chapter. This award recognizes social work student leaders who have shown outstanding academic achievement, organizing efforts, student involvement, and a commitment to our Code of Ethics. From SVSU, the winners this year were Michelle Campbell (BSW) and Chad Pocock (MSW).



Chad took a few minutes to share some information with me. Chad said, “The social work department has been instrumental in helping me grow. I am beyond appreciative of the opportunities they have provided me with. Denise Dedman has been such an incredible model and I am truly in debt for how she has helped me throughout this program.

Thanks for sharing, Chad. We congratulate both of this year’s SVSU winners. We are so very proud of you.

SVSU 2023 WRITING AWARDS

Nursing student Emily Kuch was honored this year by receiving the Braun Award for Writing Excellence in Health and Human Services for her paper entitled “Motivation in Nursing.” Judges were impressed with her level of thought and quality in writing. She received her award during the University Writing Awards Ceremony on April 19th. Her work will be featured in the SVSU publication, *Writing@SVSU*. We had two students currently in HHS and an up-and-coming nursing student who won writing awards. Congratulations! We are very proud of you.



Emily Kuch, Nursing student won the Braun Award for her paper entitled “*Motivation in Nursing*”



Jenna Mandernach, MSOT student, won the Diane Boehm writing award for her e-portfolio work.



Sophia Giulianelli, pre-nursing student won a first year writing award for her work entitled “*A Persuasive Essay on Disadvantages of becoming an EMT Provider*”

THETA CHI CHAPTER PRESENTATIONS REGIONAL 10 CONFERENCE

The Theta Chi Chapter of Sigma, the International Honor Society of Nursing, here at Saginaw Valley State University, was quite involved at the recent Sigma North America Region 10 Biennial Conference, *Voices of the Vulnerable: Bridging Nursing Leadership, Research & Practice* on March 24& 25, 2023 at The Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Five members of our Chapter were in attendance and three had oral presentations while one had a poster presentation. Chapter president, Mary Graiver shared with me information and pictures of the event. Congratulations to the five of you for your hard work and presentations at this conference.

Emily Laroque DNP, RN. presented *Implementation of a Structured Quiet Time: A Quality Improvement Project*. In addition to being nursing faculty, she also chairs the Leadership Succession Committee for Theta Chi.

Sherry Kaufman, DNP, FN. Presented *Decreasing Time to Antibiotics for Patients with Sepsis in the Emergency Care Setting*. Dr. Kaufman worked focused on decreasing sepsis in the hospital setting. In addition to being nursing faculty, she also serves on the Governance Committee of Theta Chi.

Grace Djapri, MSN, RN presented her thesis findings, *COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance among Korean American Immigrants in Mid- Michigan*. Grace, a recent graduate from the MSN program at SVSU. In addition to the presentation, her work has also been recently published with her advisor, Dr. Rose Lange.

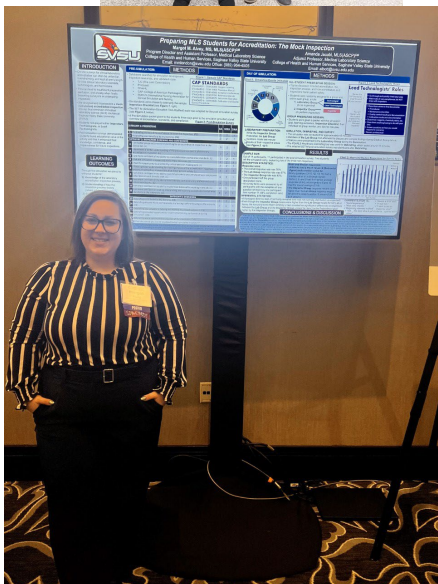
Judith Cox, PhD, MSN, RN presented *Nurses' Perceptions of Culturally Competent Care at the Bedside*. In addition to being nursing faculty, she also has served many years as Vice-president and Program Chair.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

Eight medical laboratory science (MLS) seniors attended the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (ASCLS) state conference with program director Margot Alvey and adjunct professor Bethanie Smith. The students are able to network with industry vendors, graduate school representatives, and potential employers, and they attended numerous technical educational seminars.

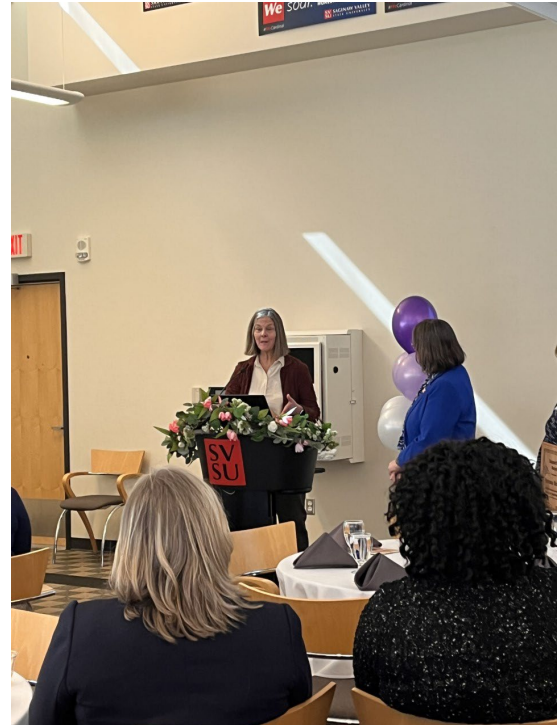
Earlier this year, the MLS seniors participated in a Mock Certification Exam competition which simulated the national certification examination the students will have to take upon completion of the program. The seniors took the Mock Exam twice: once individually and once working with assigned teammates. The ASCLS-Michigan Conference held a special awards and recognition ceremony for outstanding high scorers of the competition. One of SVSU's teams consisting of Jacob Collier (pictured), Elena Holley (pictured), Lauren Ellsworth (not pictured), and Emily Grove (not pictured) placed 3rd overall for all participating teams! Elena Holley also took 1st place for highest individual score from over 11 competing schools and over 100 participating students! We are very proud of our 2023 MLS Cohort and all of their accomplishments!



In addition to this conference, Assistant Professor Margot Alvey travelled to New Orleans in March to attend the Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference (CLEC), the premier and largest conference nationwide for clinical laboratory science educators. While at the conference, Professor Alvey presented a research poster, *Preparing MLS Students for Accreditation: The Mock Inspection*, detailing one of her research projects integrated within the Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) curriculum. The Mock Inspection was a new MLS simulation lab implemented by Alvey and adjunct professor Amanda Jacob in Fall 2022, which the instructors hope to improve and implement annually.

WOMXN'S HISTORY LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

Womxn's leadership luncheon was sponsored by the Offices of Student Life, Multicultural Student Affairs, Student Affairs, University Communications, and provost. A panel discussion was held following lunch. A panel discussion with four community females, among which was Marcia Ditmyer, Dean for HHS, inspires faculty, staff, and students. The discussion focused on celebrating women who tell their stories. The panel were asked to share their definition of effective leadership, share a successful story within their careers, and how they would describe their leadership style. In addition, they were asked to discuss the impact of many factors they have faced on their ability to lead. It was a very dynamic discussion.



During the luncheon, Dr. Elizabeth Roe (above), nursing faculty, received the authentic leader award. She was honored following the luncheon. Congratulations Beth!



CETL FACUTLY LEARNING COMMUNITY GRANTS

The 2023-2024 faculty learning communities will focus on emerging technologies and their implications for higher education. There are 3 faculty members who were selected to be part of the FLC's. Drs. Emily Larocque and Sherry Kauffman will be participating in the FLC that runs from July through December. Dr. Bonnie Harmer will be participating in the FLC that runs from September through April. In addition to meeting regularly with the other FLC members, each will be developing teaching-related projects that they will share with the broader SVSU community. The three topics each has chosen is listed below. Congratulations!

Emily Larocque	Incorporating Virtual Reality (VR) to Improve Student Competency in Patient Assessment
Sherry Kaufman	Use of virtual reality to increase classroom participation and enjoyment
Bonnie Harmer	Using AI to Enhance Nursing Education and Practice
Teri Hill	To be Announced

Student Occupational Therapy Association Conference

The SOTA conference was held this year in person for the first time since COVID. It was a tremendous success. This conference is held in conjunction with occupational therapy month. This conference is held annually, and this year more than 300 occupational therapy clinicians and students attended the event. The conference was hosted by second year MSOT students Emily Albrant and Brooklyn Duffey and the keynote speaker was alum Sam Penkala ('15). Great job!

NURSING STUDENTS/ACADEMIC TUTORS PRESENT



Ashwin Mudaliyar, Elaine Hunyadi, and Shelby Czartoryski

Two SVSU nursing majors recently presented at the 33rd Teaching Academic Survival and Success conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Shelby Czartoryski of Fort Gratiot, near Port Huron, and Ashwin Mudaliyar, an international student from India now living in Saginaw, shared information on a workshop they helped create to increase student success in four challenging courses in the nursing program. They received support from Elaine Hunyadi, director of the Center for Academic Achievement at SVSU, as well as Elizabeth Roe, SVSU professor of nursing, and Jennifer Scott, SVSU assistant professor of nursing.

HHS PARTNERSHIPS

HHS has been working hard to forge new partnerships. We are pleased to say over the past year that we have signed agreements with 3 major health systems for tuition discounts for their staff. These include MyMichigan, Covenant, St. Mary's Ascension. We are very close to signing with the fourth system, McLaren Bay. Employees from these institutions who are eligible for their institutions tuition reimbursement programs can then receive an additional 30% discount in any SVSU program. We are excited and are now working to help promote the newest partners. In addition, we have formally collaborated with Alpena Community College, Kirtland Community College, and Bay College in the Upper Peninsula with the State of Michigan's grant that will support the smooth transition from their ADN at their community college to complete their BSN at SVSU. SVSU, as their preferred partner, allows for a well-prepared associate degree nursing student the ability to seamlessly transition into a highly recognized BSN program for degree advancement. This collaborative partnership supports the national nursing shortage initiatives and recognizes our commitment to excellence in nursing practice and education. It is our hope to continue to foster these partners and add more partners in the future. SVSU is committed to developing innovative programs that will allow for students in more rural areas to remain at home which seeking and obtaining a 4-year degree.

SOCIAL WORK PUBLICATION

Dr. Mark Giesler published an article entitled: *Photovoice and shared traumatic reality: A case study of a social work classroom in the first year of COVID-19* in the Journal of Ethnographic and Qualitative Research. The article details Photovoice and shared traumatic reality: A case study of a social work classroom in the first year of COVID-19. This article focused on the experiences of the students enrolled in Mark's "Photovoice for Marginalized Communities" elective offered in 2021. The course, which was designed to help students develop an understanding of the viability of using Photovoice as social work research, became a forum for them to participate in and reflect on their shared trauma due to the social isolation of the first year of COVID. I included recommendations for the methodology's use of Photovoice in general in the social work classroom. Congratulations Mark!

SOCIAL WORK FIELD PLACEMENT DAY

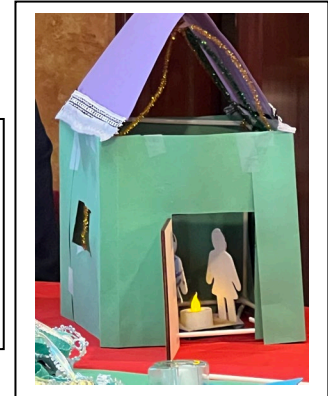
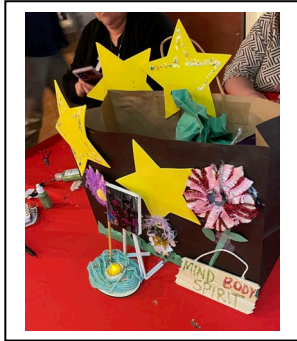
On March 24, 2023, Field Placement Day was held for Social Work students. It was a great success. Both BSW and MSW students were able to meet with agencies looking for placements. We were so thrilled that so many agencies were present to talk to students and find the right match for them.



In addition, On April 14, 2023, the Exercise Science Department held their fieldwork day as well. This was also a tremendous success for our students.

ARTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

On April 27, 2023, Drs Ditmyer and Macomber presented at the 1st annual Arts for Mental Health Conference held at Pit and Balcony Community Theatre. The conference focused on personal health and wellness as a key to success. The program featured two key notes and 4 breakouts. The pictures below are from the breakout entitled, “How unleashing creativity fosters creative wellness.”



FINAL EXAM WEEK MINDFULNESS TABLE

Many students find themselves mentally and physically overworked during final exams, and they don't always know how to deal with increased stress levels. Getting sufficient sleep, exercise, and nutrition are all vital to overall well-being and can impact student success. Hours of non-stop work can lead to burnout and frustration. As stress levels rise, faculty and staff remind students to take a break – even a short one – to relax and recharge. Faculty and staff are showing their support by having a snack table with trinkets to help reduce the anxiety of our students before (and after) their exams. The table was set up in the Bachand Hall lobby.



NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION

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

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 July/August edition is June 28, 2023