



Fall Semester
Activities



COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Dean's Message. Fall has gotten off to a great start. We are working on many new projects which looks to be very successful. First, we continue to work with the community partnerships. We have secured tuition discount affiliations with MyMichigan, Covenant, McLaren Health, and Ascension St. Mary's. We are currently working with Memorial Health in Owosso as well. Our goal is to help employees from these health systems to return to college to complete their bachelor's degree or attain a graduate degree. We are also working to finalize the partnerships with the community colleges which will provide pipelines for students through community colleges to SVSU for completion of their bachelor's degree. These colleges include Delta, Kirtland, Alpena, Bay, and Montcalm. This allows for SVSU to gain a broader reach within the rural areas in Michigan.

SVSU has demonstrated that we want to help improve the education of those in rural or underserved areas in Michigan. In addition to the grants that were highlighted in the previous newsletter, SVSU HHS has also attained another grant that will help support the education of master's in social work students (see highlights below). We are excited to continue to work with areas, such as the Thumb Region and the Upper Peninsula where the need for healthcare workers is so high. We will continue to keep everyone posted.

We are also continuing our focus on 'institutional wellbeing' this academic year. This is very important initiative to me. We will be conducting surveys and focus groups with faculty and students to see where we should shift our attention in both the short term and long term. As a reminder, 'institutional wellbeing' addresses individual and systemic factors that impact healthy functioning and is predicated on the awareness of our interconnectedness. By focusing on the entire collective, it allows for shared accountability for the wellbeing of the community in which each member leads by example, informed by shared values that support the University's mission, and by collectively building a community of trust and collaboration. Please be on the look out for the faculty and staff survey that will be sent out later this month.

As you all know, the fall semester is full of many activities. Below is a reminder of those activities. I hope to see you at some (or all) of them.

- ✓ Homecoming Game (October 21 – help celebrate Social Work's 50th anniversary)
- ✓ HHS Halloween Luncheon (October 31 – Chili-cookoff event and costume contest -11:30am to 1:30pm – 2nd floor HHS faculty hallway)
- ✓ Thanksgiving Recess (November 22-24)
- ✓ HHS Holiday party (December 1st - 11:30am to 1:30pm – 2nd floor HHS faculty hallway)
- ✓ Classes end (December 9th with Final Exams the week of December 11th)

Below are Admissions Events:

- ✓ Fall Open House (Saturday, October 28th 9am to 1pm – HHS lobby)
- ✓ President's Scholarship Date (Friday, Nov 10)

As we approach the end of the year (can't believe I am saying that), I wanted to share a few thoughts. I am beyond thankful to each and everyone of you for all the hard work you do. We continue to persevere, and I appreciate that. I appreciate the forward thinking by departments to help increase student enrollment and help with retention. I hope we can continue the forward momentum to help increase our numbers while maintaining the high quality we are known for. I am so proud and honored to be the Dean of such as wonderful college.

NAME CHANGE – DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SCIENCES

In order to continue to be competitive, the Department of Health Sciences has officially changed their name to the Department of Public Health and Health Sciences. This will allow for more visibility of the Public Health programs within the department. In keeping with this, the faculty have some title changes.

Margot Alvey, Assistant Professor of Medical Lab Sciences
Meghan Baruth, Professor of Public Health
Rene Hernandez, Associate Professor of Health Sciences
Maureen Muchimba, Associate Professor of Health Sciences
Christine Noller, Professor of Public Health
Marilyn Skrocki, Professor of Health Sciences
Charles Weaver, Professor of Neuroscience



CONGRATULATIONS



Associate Professor Teresa J Coker (Social Work) and her husband welcomes a new addition to their family this summer.

Welcome Winona Lake Coker

Congratulations!

AMIGO MOBILITY DONATION



Early this semester, the Department of Occupational received a gracious donation from Amigo Mobility. An Amigo® is more than just a scooter. Every Amigo comes built with more than 50 years of experience and knowledge to restore personal mobility, offer customers a better shopping experience, provide proper and safe patient transfer and give your team an edge with unique material handling solutions. There is an Amigo waiting for you.

We would like to thank Al and Beth Thieme for their donation and support of SVSU!

Faculty-Staff Highlights



Mark Giesler
Professor, Social Work

The article, co-written with Sarah C. Johnson from the University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign and Margaret Ann Paauw from Eastern Michigan University, is entitled "Spending a Year in the Library Will Prepare You for Anything!: Experiences of Social Work Interns at Public Library Field Placements." Many public libraries across the country have looked to the field of social work to assist in meeting the needs of patrons. Oftentimes, libraries have limited resources to provide a social worker, so they are partnering with local universities to provide social work interns. The purpose of this study was to hear from the library social work interns themselves about their experiences of completing their social work field placement in a library setting. This study was conducted in two parts: an online survey with 35 respondents and semi-structured qualitative interviews with 14 participants. The findings speak to the importance of role clarity, physical space, confidentiality, and supervision arrangements in library social work intern settings. This study also found that, regardless of the challenges of these placements, interns overall had positive experiences and spoke highly of their library-based field experiences. Recommendations include identifying field-specific challenges in a library-social work partnership for those who are in the field as well as future research involving other stakeholders, such as librarians, university staff, and supervisors. **Congratulations!**



Carol Essenmacher
Assistant Professor,
Nursing

Carol Essenmacher DNP, PMHCNS-BC was elected as a member to the board of directors for the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA). APNA is the premiere professional nursing organization for over 15,000 psychiatric registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), nurse educators, and nurse policymakers. APNA is regularly consulted by the White House, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Providers Clinical Support System (APNA developed the 40 hours of education that was required to become certified as a Buprenorphine prescriber), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other large organizations. Carol will serve a three-year term of office, starting October 8, 2023.

Additionally, Carol was recruited by a founding member of Motivational Interviewing (MI) to serve as an author of a text on how nurses can use MI. MI is a method of communicating with patients to establish a therapeutic rapport. This has been shown to increase treatment adherence, patient satisfaction, and decrease burn out amongst clinicians. Since its early development in the late 1980's, MI has been heavily researched and validated. There are currently 19 books that have been authored or edited on the topic of MI and thousands of journal articles written about the use of MI. This text will fill a unique resource niche in providing education and guidance to the approximately 5.2 million registered nurses in the U.S. as well as providing real world learning resource for APRNs who are helping people change their behaviors. **Congratulations!**

Faculty-Staff Highlights



Tami Pobocik

Congratulations to Nursing Department Chair and Professor of Nursing, Tami Pobocik! She successfully passed the national certification and is now board-certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP).

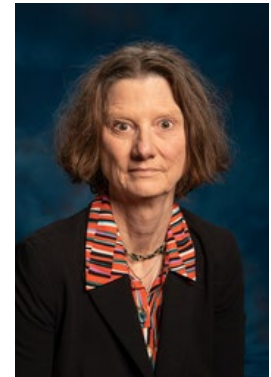


Marilyn Skrocki
Professor of Health
Sciences

Marilyn and Chris presented at the Michigan Society of Radiologic Technologist (MSRT) 68th Annual Business Meeting and Educational Conference in Bay City, Michigan.

Marilyn presentation: “Will we have a complete medical record to defend a medical malpractice case if AI is used to diagnose and treat.”

Chris’ presentation: “Implicit Bias in Healthcare.” **Congratulations!**



Chris Noller
Associate Professor of
Public Health

“The MI Babies Project has been attending several outreach events in local communities in an effort to disseminate educational materials on Substance Use during pregnancy as well as outreach for the PMHNP Post graduate certificate program and Project ECHO. In this picture, Trisha Charbonneau-Ivey and Kimberly Martini attended Sterling Area Health Center’s Rural Health Center Week’s health fair. “



Trisha Charbonneau-Ivey

HHS STUDENT IMPACT

SOCIAL WORK ADVOCACY PROJECT: Social work student, Morgan Barnhart who recently graduated in May 2023 impacted the SVSU campus with a community advocacy project. She recently received word from Ron Portwine and SVSU Administration that their project received funding from the state to install 10 sharps containers in gender neutral bathrooms throughout campus. While the assignment was earlier in the program, it demonstrates what perseverance will yield. ***Congratulations!***

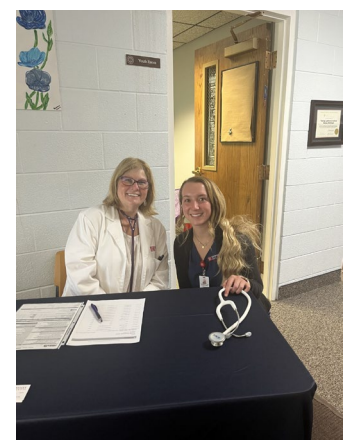
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CAPSTONE: The latest group of MSOT students published their capstone project in the latest edition of OT Practice. *Promoting resilience in the face of burnout.* Gracie Lefler, Courtney Vanest, Saige Wagner, Ellen Herlache-Pretzer, and Stacey Webster, Volume 28 • Issue 10 • October 2023, pp. 24–26 10/01/2023. ***Congratulations!***

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY VOLUNTEER PROJECT: This past spring semester Dr. Lisa Brewer and Jill Ewend, Department of Occupational Therapy took a group of 8 MSOT students to Central Michigan University for a collaborative volunteer opportunity. The Speech-Language Pathology program at CMU requested assistance from the SVSU MSOT program to conduct sensory assessments for children enrolled in their annual communication camp, with ages ranging from 3 years old to 14 years of age. The MSOT program has collaborated with the CMU SLP program in the past to complete developmental screenings at various community sites, but this was the first time we have collaborated on the communication camp evaluations. The MSOT students spent 2 days on the CMU campus completing sensory profile assessments to better understand specific needs of the campers. Once the assessment information was scored and interpreted, recommended activities for specific sensory diets were provided to support positive behaviors and self-regulation. Sensory diets include activities with specific types of stimuli (tactile, vestibular, auditory, proprioceptive, etc.) that can be utilized in daily routines; for example, if a child needs more vestibular stimuli or less tactile input, a sensory diet can provide strategies for appropriate levels of input at specific intervals and times of day. The group of volunteers received positive feedback from AnnMarie Bates, a Speech Language Pathologist and master clinical educator at CMU who stated, "I wanted to thank you SO much for the OT input for SSC campers. The individualized sensory kits developed for each camper you screened made a HUGE difference this year. In fact, I cannot think of any camper that was ever in sensory overload this summer- which is a very big change for us!" The MSOT department was invited to come back again next summer to participate in the communication camp and we look forward to further interprofessional collaboration with the CMU SLP department! ***Congratulations and well done!***

NURSING VOLUNTEERS: Dr. Sherry Kaufman, along with SVSU student nurses participated in providing physicals for students within the Reese School District. Great Job!

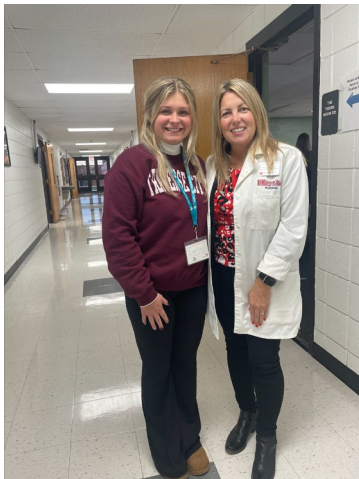


Left to Right, Jenna Powell, Josie Butterfield, and Natalie Aldrich



Dr. Kaufman and Sydney Merrihew

HHS STUDENT IMPACT (Cont.)



An N4 student and SNA member, Emily Drouin and I participated in the Tuscola's Health and Human Service Career Pipeline Program at the Tuscola Technology Center in Caro this week. It is a program for 9th and 10th grade students to learn more about a career in Health and Human services.

There are mentors including college students and professionals from the community. Emily spoke about what it is like from a nursing student perspective, and I spoke about what it was like to be a nursing professor and nurse practitioner as well as how our program at SVSU was structured.

Ashley Robinette Nursing Graduate Today I discovered I received the Rookie of the Year award from Corewell Health, given to 10 nurses with less than 1-2 years of experience each year. I was nominated by a few coworkers for going above and beyond in my role. I wanted to thank you both for all you did to get me to this point, your education was instrumental in my success as a new grad! I got to brag a bit about our nursing program and how much I enjoyed it, and the CNO was the one to present the award to me (meaning I also bragged about SVSU to her)! Hope you both are doing well, and thank you again for all you do.



Sydney Merrihew, Nursing Student. I chose SVSU primarily based on their reputation surrounding their nursing program! I live in Frankenmuth, close to SVSU, and as I commute, this was a huge benefit. When compared to other schools, SVSU has amazing scholarship opportunities that have helped immensely! Beyond some of those obvious draws to SVSU, my mother, grandfather, and aunt all went and obtained degrees from SVSU as well, so it felt right to continue that legacy. Following my graduation from SVSU in May, I hope to get a job working in one of the local hospitals as a RN, BSN after successful completion of my NCLEX. I hope to gain experience working as a RN, BSN and then would love to go on to CRNA school!

MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

SVSU's Department of Public Health and Health Sciences is one of several Michigan colleges and universities involved in a grant awarded from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. The main goal of the grant and MiHIVE is to coordinate the expertise and best-practices of health informatics instructors at many Michigan colleges and universities, while also leveraging that of industry stakeholders, to create cutting-edge curricula and develop a shared state-of-the-art Health Interoperability Virtual eLaboratory (MiHIVE) platform that students can access online. As a virtual eLaboratory, MiHIVE will bring together people, technical capabilities, software tools, and instructional materials — thereby serving as an “open resource” for instructors and students. ***Congratulations!***

LOTUS Project Room

A room dedicated to wellness officially opened on September 13, 2023, with a grand opening celebration. The Lotus Project was created by students, and honors those impacted by the deadly shooting at Oxford High School. Finding people and finding peace, the founders (Anna Peruski and Abigail Lange [Poletti]) hope anyone who uses the room will know when they step inside, they are not alone. “Lotus is all about helping students that are hurting. There are so many students on campus that are stressed, anxious and really just need help,” said Anna Peruski, an SVSU student. “Lotus is starting to meet people where they are at and provide a safe space and community on campus where they can just be at peace and be still.”

Students can go through the room, visit different stations and the resource wall which focuses on mental and physical health. There are books, fidget devices, cards, healthy meal recipes and more. “I’m so overwhelmed with nothing but joy. I’m so excited,” said Abigail Poletti, who shares Peruski’s vision. “It won’t just be here, but it’ll be a community outside of here too.” It’s a place where everyone is welcome. The Lotus Project room is located in the Wickes building on SVSU’s campus in room 267.

For more information view the [news clip](#).



PROJECT ECHO



PROJECT ECHO
FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS
<http://svsu.edu/echo>



The Center for Rural Behavioral Health and Addiction Studies is pleased to announce that Substance Use Disorder Project ECHO will be launching their 7th cycle of free educational sessions.

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) is a virtual, case-based learning model that offers free Continuing Medical Education, Social Work and Substance Use Focused credits! The sessions also meet the new DEA training requirements. This FREE, ongoing education opportunity provides primary care providers, social workers, peer recovery support team members, allied health professionals and administrators with case-based learning and informative presentations on the topic of substance use disorders. CME's will be provided through the generosity of MyMichigan Health*, CEU's will be provided through the generosity of Saginaw Valley State University** and Mid-State Health Network at no charge to participants. These sessions provide an opportunity for healthcare professionals to gain confidence in identifying and treating substance use disorders in their practice. The SVSU ECHO team is inviting you and your team to join us!

Our sessions are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm via Zoom.

[Registration](#) is easy and takes no more than five minutes. You *only need to register once*, and you will begin receiving a reminder of the upcoming ECHO session that will include connection instructions, topic highlights, presentation updates, and links to practice resources.

Should you have any questions, please contact our team by email at echo@svsu.edu or by phone at 989-964-2883.

MyMichigan Health is accredited by the Michigan State Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians. MyMichigan Health designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Saginaw Valley State University is an approved provider of social work continuing education. Each ECHO Session is approved for 1.5 CE's. *Each ECHO Session is approved for 1.5 substance use focused CE's by Mid-State Health Network

NAMING AND B'DAY PARTY FOR 'CHARLIE'



Mary G. Spocacy (right) she is an education major. Her twin sister Emily Spocacy is the President of the Student Nurse Association (left).

NAMING AND B'DAY PARTY FOR 'CHARLIE' (Cont.)

The birthday and naming party for the new pediatric manikin in the nursing simulation center took place this past month. Due to generous contributions of Covenant Hospital, we were able to secure this teaching manikin which is amazing. We cannot thank the administration of Covenant enough for this contribution. A weeklong celebration culminated in a birthday party on Wednesday.

In addition to the birthday party for our new manikin, the nursing simulation staff hosted a naming contest. The winning name (out of 171 responses) was 'Charlie.' Congratulations to Mary G. Spocacy who was our winner.

See pictures of the event below.



NEW RENOVATIONS IN BACHAND HALL COMPLETE

With funding secured from the State of Michigan, renovations were completed this fall on the new larger classroom and additional case study suites. While we have begun using these rooms, we will begin scheduling classes in Winter Semester.



SOCIAL WORK SECURES \$1M GRANT FROM HRSA

With support from a two-year, \$1.06 million federal grant, the Social Work Department will prepare more master's-level social workers to treat children, adolescents and young adults in rural communities in Michigan. The grant was awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration under the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training – Children, Adolescents, and Young Adult Program for Professionals (BHWET-CAY). Catherine Macomber, SVSU professor of social work, applied for the grant and will serve as the project director.

The purpose of the grant is to expand access to mental health care for young people. SVSU will use the grant funds to support a new project, “YouthWISE: Youth Work in Social Work Education – Growing Behavioral Health in Rural Michigan for Children, Adolescents and Young Adults.” Under this project, SVSU’s Master of Social Work program will increase the numbers, diversity and skill of MSW graduates employed in rural and underserved settings in the Great Lakes Bay Region as well as the northeast lower peninsula and thumb areas.

YouthWISE will formalize and expand efforts to grow behavioral health services to rural and underserved areas in Michigan. Students in SVSU’s Department of Social Work and Youth Services have been completing field work in these communities since the MSW program was introduced in 2017.

This grant and the important work it will support reflects the vision and mission of our college by engaging our MSW students in experiential learning and preparing a diverse community of professionals. I am thrilled and congratulate Dr. Cathy Macomber on this great achievement.

The announcement was made at an open press conference in Lansing where three of our social work students participated. Their appearance was noticed by Senator Stabenow whose support for this funding was instrumental.



SVSU Social Work students, Austin Clark, Conner McCoy, and Isabelle Ferguson. Great Job!



WHITE COAT CEREMONY for FNP STUDENTS

The Department of Nursing recently celebrated the advancement of nurses taking their final steps to becoming primary care family nurse practitioners. On August 28, 27 SVSU Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students received white coats and recited the white coat pledge, signifying their advancement into clinical work. The **white coat ceremony** reaffirms the science and healthcare community's support of the educational process that prepares future health providers for practice.

The FNP students live and work in communities throughout Michigan. SVSU's hybrid program, combining online courses with less-frequent face-to-face classes, enables them to pursue their advanced degree while maintaining their commitments to work and family. Twenty-six of the 27 students in SVSU's Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner Program are pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing. They are listed below with their city of residence:

1. Trisha Ameal, Sandusky
2. Jane Ballard, Cass City
3. Grace Barrientes, Saginaw
4. Andrea Boehm, Bridgeport
5. Caitlyn Crouse, Freeland
6. Alycia Dzierwa, Williamsburg
7. Courney Graves, New Hudson
8. Leana Hall, Mio
9. Ashley Hawthorne, Caseville
10. Emily Hotchkiss, Birch Run
11. Glenda Lambert, Saginaw
12. Sadie Milbrath, Walker
13. Bilye Morrow, Midland
14. Kelsey Nelson, Munger
15. Megan Ohmer, Highland
16. Kotryna Paalksnyte, Rockford
17. Katie Powell, Rosebush
18. Lauren Quinnell, Freeland
19. Corby Reif, Saginaw
20. Brittney Schwab, Bay City
21. Maria Shemit, Sterling
22. Karensa Stein, Freeland
23. Kaitlyn Tolonen, Highland
24. Rachel Webb, Holly
25. Mckenzie Wilkinson, Bay City
26. Kersten Wood, Brown City

Brenna Spencer-Castanon, of Grayling, is earning a post-graduate certificate.

Saginaw Valley State University's family nurse practitioner program was developed by Sachiko Claus, who taught at SVSU for 29 years. Claus served as the lead faculty for the FNP program between 1995 and 2009. She passed away in August of this year.



B-WELL SAGINAW WALK

The 2023 BWell Saginaw Race Series was held on September 30th. There was a 10K, 5K and a Community 1 Mile walk. The event was started and ended at the Saginaw YMCA on Fordney Road. BWell Saginaw is a community-wide initiative lead by Saginaw County's BWell Saginaw Partner Coalition: Ascension St. Mary's, CMU Medical Education Partners, Covenant HealthCare, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, HealthSource Saginaw, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services-Saginaw, MiHIA, Saginaw Community Foundation, Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, Saginaw County Health Department, Saginaw Intermediate School District, United Way of Saginaw County, and SVSU. There were over 300 participants. Several folks from SVSU were there to support the event.



Ava Lewis (Nursing) and James Hernandez (SVSU Financial Aid). Volunteers



L-R, Jason Jaime and Cathy Macomber, Social work, Coop, Marcia Ditmyer, and Gena Guerin, Kinesiology. Jason completed the Community 1 Mile.



Meghan Baruth and her kids were there to complete the community 1 Mile.

UPCOMING EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Important events you don't want to miss.

- ✓ Homecoming Game (October 21 – help celebrate Social Work's 50th anniversary celebration)
- ✓ Fall Open House (Saturday, October 28th 9am to 1pm – HHS lobby)
- ✓ HHS Halloween Luncheon (October 31 – Chili-cookoff event and costume contest -11:30am to 1:30pm – 2nd floor HHS faculty hallway)
- ✓ HHS Holiday party (December 1st - 11:30am to 1:30pm – 2nd floor HHS faculty hallway)
- ✓ Fall Commencement, Saturday December 16, 2023, at 2:30 Ryder Center
- ✓ Fall BSN Symposium, Friday, December 15, 2023, at 4:00pm Ryder Center
- ✓ Fall Graduate Recognition Ceremony, Friday, December 15, 2023, at 7:00pm, Malcolm Field Theatre.
- ✓ Burning Bluebeard, October 25-29, Malcolm Field Theatre (<https://www.svsu.edu/theatre/showschedule/>)

NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION

Submit any newsworthy items for the next edition of the January-March 2024 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

Deadline for Sept/Oct edition is December 8, 2023