

REFLECTIONS

THE MAGAZINE OF SVSU

FALL 2017

Red Pride!

A photo essay



SVSU

THE CARDINAL PLEDGE



We award.

At SVSU, we are invested in our students' success, and we are committed to maintaining a supportive environment that allows them to excel. I am proud of the fact that we have — for decades — worked hard to remain affordable without sacrificing quality, but as we look to the future, we have taken action to provide more financial assistance to students and families.

State and federal resources for higher education have dwindled, placing a greater financial burden on families, especially those in the middle class. If you graduated from SVSU in the 1970s or 1980s, state funding covered 70 percent or more of the cost of your education; today, state funding provides about 22 percent. While we lament this disinvestment and work to restore public funding for public universities, we see the real challenges our students face. I admire their remarkable determination, and all of us should feel inspired to match their resolve. That is why we have made a major investment in our scholarships and financial aid to increase them to their highest levels ever.

We have not done this alone. In addition to increasing the financial support SVSU will provide, we have worked with private donors, alumni and community partners to expand our diverse scholarship and financial aid offerings. Many of our students qualify for one or more of these programs. Through a combination of merit and private scholarships, and opportunity grants — which include many middle class families — nearly all students will find that an SVSU education is within their reach financially.

Our future as a university depends on the success of our students and alumni, and many graduates who arrived here from modest means have achieved incredible professional success. We embrace our opportunity to continue to provide such opportunities for bright, deserving students.

In closing, I ask one favor of you: Share this information with friends and family who are or soon will be going through the college search process. Together, we can show them the extraordinary value of an SVSU degree.

-Donald Bachand
President

SV
SU **SAGINAW VALLEY**
STATE UNIVERSITY

LEGACY \$1,000 AWARD OF TUITION + FEES

The SVSU Legacy Scholarship is available to incoming freshmen who are children/stepchildren of SVSU graduates. For more information, visit alumni.svsu.edu/legacy.

SAGINAW VALLEY OPPORTUNITY GRANT

Additional need-based aid may be available — for qualification, submit your FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov). Learn more about what size grant you may be eligible to receive with our Net Price Calculator at go.svsu.edu.

OVER 450 PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS \$500-\$10,000

Eligibility: High school participation in extracurricular activities (such as music and theatre), leadership, character, diversity, and/or academic achievement. Applications available online: Dec. 1 – Jan. 15. Apply to SVSU for consideration at go.svsu.edu.

UNIVERSITY \$2,000 AWARD OF TUITION + FEES

The SVSU University Scholarship is renewable for up to four years. Apply for admission by Dec. 1 for priority consideration. The eligibility criterion is one of the following: (1) 3.0+ GPA and 18-21 ACT or 900-1050 SAT or (2) 3.7+ GPA with admissible ACT or SAT score.

CARDINAL \$3,000 AWARD OF TUITION + FEES

The SVSU Cardinal Scholarship is renewable for up to four years. Apply for admission by Dec. 1 for priority consideration. The eligibility criteria are: 3.0+ GPA and 22-23 ACT or 1060-1110 SAT.

DEANS \$4,000 AWARD OF TUITION + FEES

The SVSU Dean's Scholarship is renewable for up to four years. Apply for admission by Dec. 1 for priority consideration. The eligibility criteria are: 3.0+ GPA and 24+ ACT or 1120+ SAT.

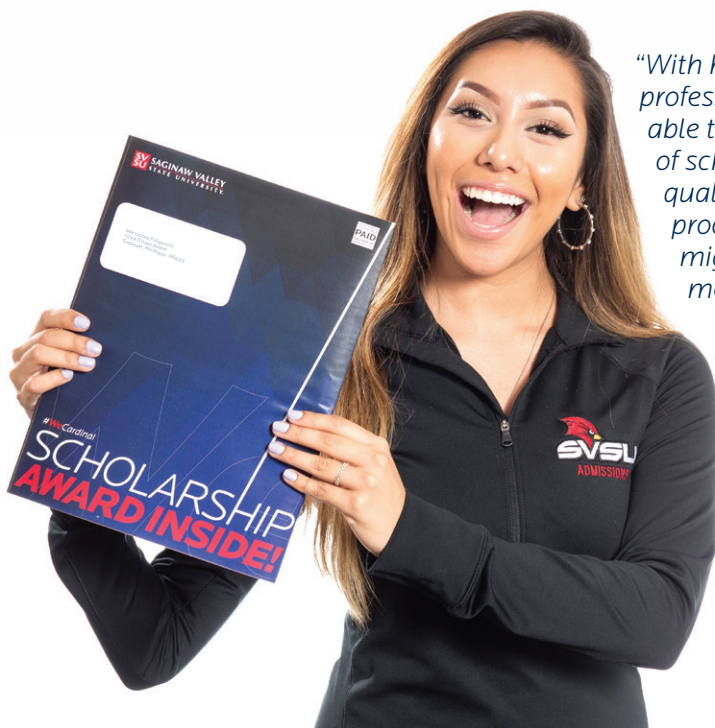
FOUNDERS \$5,000 AWARD OF TUITION + FEES

The SVSU Founder's Scholarship is renewable for up to four years. Apply for admission by Dec. 1 for priority consideration. The eligibility criteria are: 3.6+ GPA and 26+ ACT or 1200+ SAT.

PRESIDENT'S 100% COVERAGE OF TUITION + FEES

The President's Scholarship is renewable for up to four years. Those who qualify participate in an on-campus competition to be selected as a recipient. Recipients are guaranteed a place in the Honors Program. To qualify, students must apply for admission by Dec. 1. The eligibility criteria to compete include one of the following: (1) 3.9+ GPA and 28+ ACT or 1270+ SAT or (2) 30+ ACT or 1350+ SAT and minimum 3.0+ GPA or (3) Ranked 1 or 2 in high school class.

Students may qualify for *one or more* of these scholarships. Help a new Cardinal discover SVSU — the best value choice. Call to learn more: 989.964.4200



"With help from the financial aid professionals at SVSU, I was able to receive a combination of scholarships based on my qualifications. It was a simple process — easier than you might think — and will benefit me financially for years."

Marcelina Fulgencio,
social work major

A meditation on my return to SVSU... *u.k.u.* *home!*

Three years removed from graduation, I returned to SVSU's campus again in 2014. Passing beneath that bold arched entrance sign and moving between the twin ponds just beyond, a familiar feeling immediately began to warm my heart:

I was home again.

This was *home*.

When you're a student living on campus — as I was from 2008 to 2011 — that sense of home is very literal. You share a mailing address with the university, after all. But eventually you graduate, move away and life tends to happen. "The college years" can become a cherished memory ... but one that can grow more distant for people who are pursuing professional careers or considering raising families.

For a time after graduation, SVSU was simply a cherished memory for me. After graduation, I moved back home; first to pursue a postgraduate degree and later to start my job writing state and federal grant applications for the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District. Life happened. I loved SVSU, but it was behind me.

Then in 2014, I was asked to serve as the adviser for SVSU's chapter of Alpha Sigma Alpha, a Greek sorority and powerful staple of female leadership at the university for 20 years. As a student, I was a proud member. When, as an alumna, I was called on to help uphold that sorority's tradition, of course the answer was, "Yes." Yes, yes, yes.

I knew that response would reconnect me with one aspect of my college life. I didn't anticipate anything more than that. Aside

from the nostalgic reverie of being near my old haunts, I couldn't imagine there would be much left for me to experience at SVSU now that I was no longer a student.

I was wrong.

Despite my years away, staff and faculty members greeted me as if I had returned from a brief holiday break between semesters. With such a tight, close-knit campus community, making friends was easy when I was a student. What I learned upon my return was that, at this university, reconnecting those bonds of friendships was even easier.

I also was amazed by how the university continued to grow. That expansion was obvious in physical growth, academic program developments and in community impact. For example, in my three-year absence: A beautiful new fieldhouse was built alongside the Ryder Center; several STEM programs were created in tandem with some of the most successful international companies in the industry; and the level of student engagement with the surrounding region was just as active as ever.

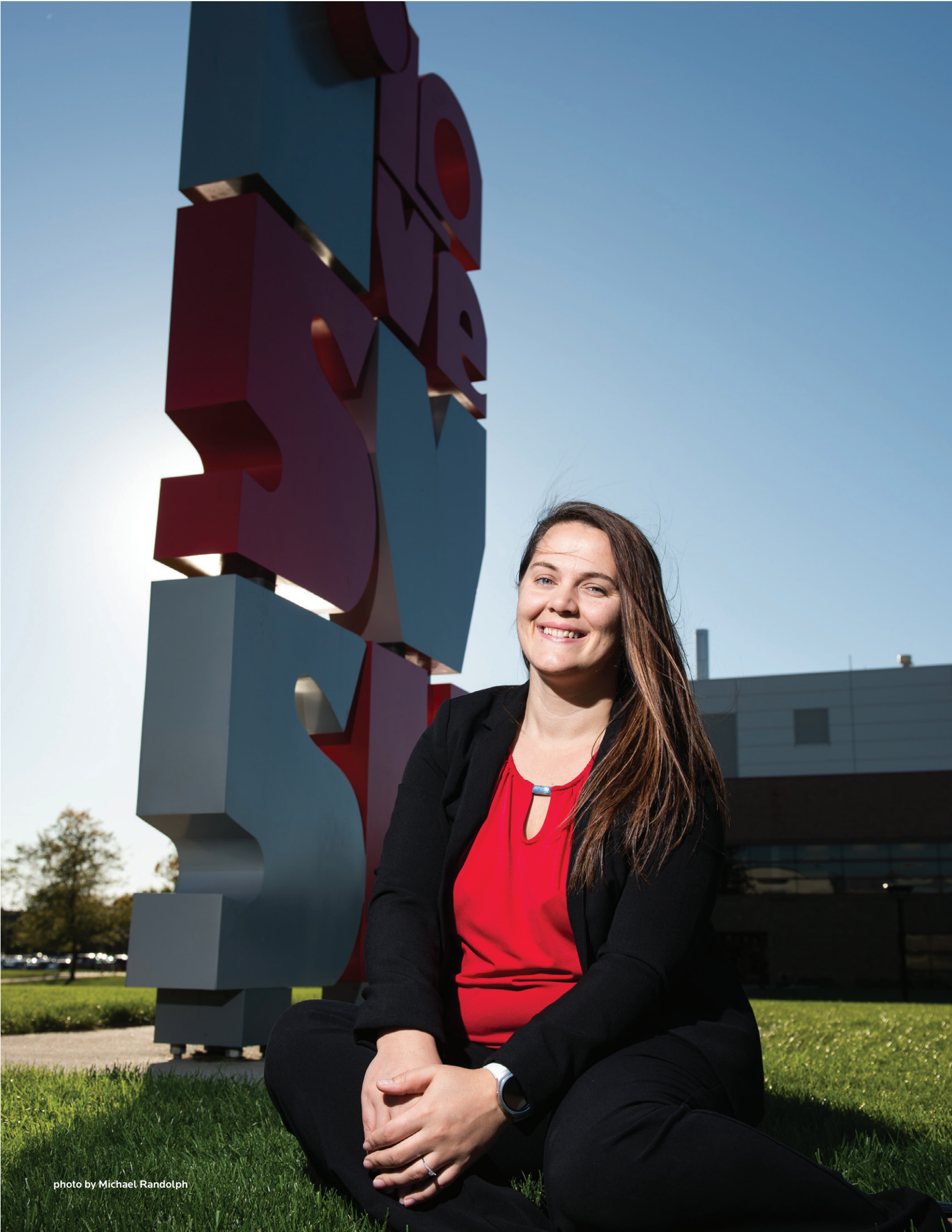
And there was another significant change that caught my attention. With a new mission and more resources, SVSU's Alumni Relations office strengthened its commitment to reintroducing long-absent graduates both to the campus and their Cardinal family. That initiative involved creating opportunities for alumni to meet at on- and off-campus gatherings, enjoy the many new perks available to them, and build a powerful network of people with one common connection: SVSU empowered

them. I began attending these alumni functions and quickly learned two powerful benefits of such a network.

On an institutional level, an active and engaged alumni raised the esteem of the university which, in turn, raised the esteem of its alumni. We shared our stories of success with each other, and eventually, with others outside the SVSU community. The result was a growing network of people who could reinforce the value of each other's education at this university by acting as ambassadors of its successes.

On a personal level, I gained new friends. Whether it was during a dinner on campus or at an outing organized by Alumni Relations at a Detroit Tigers game, strangers suddenly felt like longtime acquaintances after we spoke about our college experiences. Even when I was chatting to a member of a graduating class from decades ago, we could quickly build a strong rapport over a mutual affection for the many campus sights and SVSU traditions that spanned both our generations. In fact, 50 of the campus sights and traditions beloved by alumni are featured in a special photo essay beginning on page 14 of this magazine.

The photo essay's contents offer a glimpse at the timeless nature of Red Pride. While SVSU's campus evolved over the years, so much of its heritage stood the test of time. When my fellow alumni and I first returned to this place after years away, we worried we would discover some strange place that replaced what we remembered. Instead, we rediscovered home.



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Q+A WITH REBECCA HARRIS-BURNS

Charged with overseeing General Motors' social media customer communications worldwide, the SVSU alumna is a busy body ... so REFLECTIONS met her in cyberspace for a one-on-one interview.

ON THE COVER

OUR HERITAGE, RICH AND RED

REFLECTIONS asked both longtime and new alumni to list the campus sights and traditions that continue to resonate with them. In a special photo essay, we capture 50 of those items in images that frames a portrait of Red Pride.

cover photo by Michael Randolph

THE CURIOUS CASE OF STUDENT 001 AND STUDENT 002

Bert Schafer is recognized as SVSU's first student. How he earned that distinction involved a comedy of coincidences.

REBOUND

After a devastating knee injury, Emily Wendling (pictured here) could have abandoned her collegiate basketball career. Instead, she aimed for SVSU's record books.

ROBOTICS REIGN IN KINGSTON

Resourceful and motivated, one teacher is introducing tomorrow's tech to rural-raised students.

**EMILY WENDLING, RECOVERED FROM A KNEE INJURY,
TELLS HER STORY OF PERSEVERANCE ON PAGE 36.**

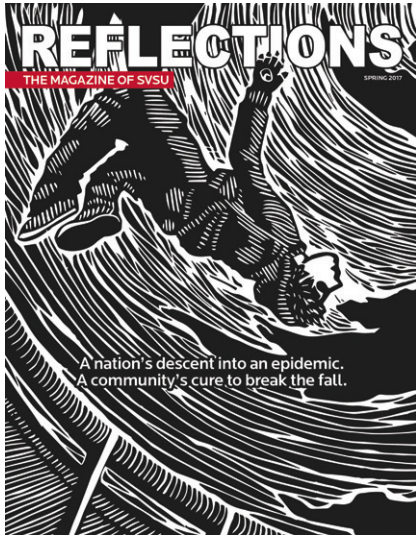
photo by Michael Randolph





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Health center to serve rural Michigan



FLASHBACK

REFLECTIONS last covered SVSU's health care outreach efforts in spring 2017. That feature focused on the Bay Community Health Clinic's work helping victims of opioid abuse. To revisit the original story, go to SVSUreflections.com.

A \$1.39 million grant and regional partnership is enabling SVSU to offer health care services to surrounding rural communities.

The initiative places graduate students in SVSU's nurse practitioner program into the field to provide patient care.

SVSU is partnering with the Sterling Area Health Center, a federally qualified health center that encompasses five rural clinics. The project is benefiting 21 rural counties in northern lower Michigan, and is most directly impacting Arenac, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw and Oscoda counties.

"The shortage and distribution of primary care providers in Michigan has contributed to health disparities, particularly in northern Michigan, where pockets of rural and underserved populations reside," said Kathleen Schachman, the Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Chair in Nursing at SVSU.

Out of the 83 Michigan counties that were ranked in 2016 by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings, Iosco (No. 82) and Arenac counties (No. 81) were near the bottom in terms of health outcomes, and Gladwin, Ogemaw and Oscoda

counties were all ranked in the bottom third, Schachman said.

"Like many rural communities, they struggle to maintain access to quality health care services," she said. "In many rural settings, nurses are often faced with working with older and outdated equipment — if it is available at all."

The 2-year grant is provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Over the program's life span, SVSU expects 33 family nurse practitioner students to be supported through traineeships and complete the residency. Each will receive an \$11,000 stipend.

The program's efforts in some ways mirror those of the Bay Community Health Clinic (formerly The University Clinic), an SVSU health care outreach program housed in the Bay County Health Department. Opening its doors in January 2015, the clinic offers primary health care services to largely underserved patients. The staff features faculty members and student interns from a variety of health care-related disciplines at SVSU.

Archived collections

Roethke widow's letters humanize late poet

Saginaw-born poet Theodore Roethke once announced his intention to use himself as "the material" for his art. SVSU alumnus Brandon Rushton could relate to Roethke's interest: After all, his interests involve examining Roethke's life, too.

Rushton returned to his alma mater in July 2017 for that pursuit. The recipient of this year's Fredericks-Follett-Roethke Graduate Fellowship in the Arts & Humanities, he accessed the late poet's work and letters in SVSU's Zahnow Library-based archives.

"I thought the collection would include some of his letters, some of his correspondences, but what you have here is largely everything from his wife," said Rushton, a Flint native now working as a lecturer of English at the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

Rushton combed through accounts from both Roethke's wife and sister.

"Roethke's wife and sister aren't concerned with creating a critical narrative," Rushton said. "They're not thinking about their letters being important to somebody creating that narrative, so you end up getting this really humanizing portrait."

He was pleased with what he was able to glean from the materials on hand. Letters from those closest to Roethke allowed for a more intimate look at his life, Rushton said.

"I think what SVSU has could be one of the most valuable things that exists out there on Roethke in terms of giving us a different look at him in a way that we haven't yet had with both the critical study of his work and the biographical study of his life," Rushton said.

He plans to use Roethke's research as inspiration for a poetry manuscript.

Roethke, winner of two National Book Awards and a Pulitzer Prize, is considered one of the most influential American poets of the 20th century. In 2005, Roethke's widow, Beatrice Roethke Lushington, enhanced the existing Theodore Roethke collection at SVSU by donating her personal collection of her husband's first editions and 10 books of literary criticism.

SVSU also helps coordinate the Roethke Poetry and Arts Festival. The 2018 festival is scheduled from Friday to Wednesday, March 23-28. When scheduled, details will be available at svsu.edu/Roethke/events.



Author earns national prize for book about 19th-century black periodical



courtesy Library of Congress

UNION SOLDIERS, CIRCA 1865, ARE SHOWN HOLDING COPIES OF THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER, A RELIGIOUS WEEKLY PUBLISHED BY THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.



photo by Tim Inman

ERIC GARDNER HAS WON TWO BOOK PRIZE AWARDS FROM THE RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AMERICAN PERIODICALS.

Eric Gardner had a hard time putting down his book. Not a book he was reading; the book he was writing.

The subject matter behind his latest writing was compelling for the SVSU professor of English. After its publication in 2015, readers agreed. “Black Print Unbound: The Christian Recorder, African American Literature, and Periodical Culture” in April 2017 received the Book Prize Award from The Research Society of American Periodicals, recognizing the work as the top scholarly book on American periodicals published in 2015-16. Gardner also received the Saginaw chapter of the NAACP’s 2017 Regional Heroes Award in part for his work on the book.

“Black Print Unbound” examined The Christian Recorder, a 19th-century religious weekly produced by black Americans during a time when their peers were fighting for freedom from slavery and later struggling during the nation’s post-Reconstruction years.

For Gardner, exploring the Recorder’s cultural significance was both thrilling and important.

“I think we make better decisions about our present and our future when we know more about our past,” he said.

“I realized just how little scholarship had been done on The Recorder — and early black periodicals in general — and how desperately we needed such work.”

To aid in this effort, he set to work researching the staff and subscribers of the Recorder, which was associated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

“The paper’s content is simply amazing: fascinating letters and essays, stunning poems, exciting fiction, including a serialized novel just rediscovered in 2006,” he said.

“The paper’s operational story — including the stories of its staff, its struggles and its impact — is just as exciting. To be able to pair that with glimpses of the life stories of some of the paper’s readers ... well, it was hard to stop writing the book.”

The Book Prize was Gardner’s second. He received the award for an earlier publication focusing on a similar topic.

That book, titled “Unexpected Places: Relocating Nineteenth Century African American Literature,” was published in September 2011.

Gardner’s work can be purchased through online venues such as Amazon. His books also are available at SVSU’s Melvin J. Zahnow Library.

TO READ AN EXCERPT FROM THE OPENING CHAPTER OF ERIC GARDNER’S “BLACK PRINT UNBOUND,” GO TO SVSUREFLECTIONS.COM.



photo by Tim Inman

GOV. RICK SNYDER ADDRESSES THE RYDER CENTER CROWD DURING THE FIRST ROBOTICS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN APRIL 2017. THE COMPETITION WILL RETURN TO SVSU IN 2018.

STEM

SVSU to host massive Robotics tourney again

One of the largest events hosted in SVSU's Ryder Center will earn at least one encore. FIRST Robotics, an international organization that encourages technology-savvy high school students to compete against each other in tournaments, will host its Michigan tournament at SVSU for the second consecutive year in April 2018.

The first tournament at SVSU attracted over 7,000 visitors to the Ryder Center in April 2017. The event brought high school students, parents and volunteers to the O'Neill Arena, where intense competition played out like a high-stakes athletics tournament over the course of three days.

"I wanted to make sure FIRST Robotics was the best experience for these first-time guests, and that the university would shine," said Sue Brasseur, senior director for events and athletics marketing, who helped coordinate the Robotics event.

The 2017 competition was organized in relatively short fashion. By the time FIRST Robotics officials chose SVSU as the state tournament's host, the competition was 17 weeks away. Hosting an event the size of FIRST Robotics ideally involves two years of preparation time and planning. The difficulty of that quick turnaround was compounded by the fact that FIRST Robotics

represented what Brasseur considered the most complex event planning operation in university history.

"Bigger than the Lions," said Brasseur, referring to the Detroit NFL franchise that hosted its training camps at SVSU's campus in the late 1990s.

The FIRST Robotics competition also featured high-profile guests Gov. Rick Snyder and U.S. Senator Gary Peters.

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau estimated the event contributed at least \$1 million in spending in the region by FIRST Robotics competitors and visitors.

Community engagement

5K fundraiser benefits cause of fallen Navy hero

Not long after Aaron Ullom was deployed to Afghanistan in February 2011, the U.S. Navy hospital corpsman noticed the discrepancy between the number of items he and his military peers received from loved ones stateside.

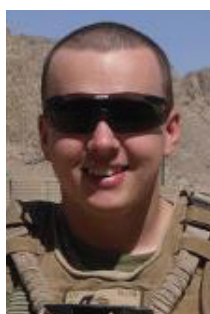
"It really bothered him when others wouldn't receive any packages from back home," his mother, Debi Bartley-Ullom, said of their telephone conversations.

So after her son was killed by enemy fire in July 2011, Bartley-Ullom and her family decided to honor their late loved one by founding Aaron's Gifts From Home. The Midland-based nonprofit sends morale-lifting care packages to military service

members serving overseas.

It's a pricey endeavor, but the community support for Ullom's cause has helped the nonprofit to send 12,000 care packages stuffed with items such as food, clothing and DVDs to military service members in locations such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

Bartley-Ullom said each package averages \$50 in costs, including hefty overseas



AARON ULLOM

shipping prices.

SVSU supported the cause in September 2017, when the campus hosted its fifth 9/11 Heroes Run.

In all, 134 people participated. Registration fees for the 5K competition benefited both Aaron's Gifts From Home as well as The Travis Manion Foundation, the national nonprofit organization that helps coordinate other 9/11 Heroes Run events across the United States.

"He would be so proud of this," Bartley-Ullom said of her son's likely reaction to community support for a cause he championed while alive.

"I just know he's smiling down on us."

Cards score on Aussie connection

Caleb Davis epitomizes the latest recruitment strategy putting SVSU men's basketball program on the map — and in more than one hemisphere: He was one of the first of several players head coach Randy Baruth recruited from Australia. This fall, Davis plans to become the latest Cardinal alumnus to compete professionally in the land down under.

"Coach Baruth and SVSU have slowly been building a strong connection to Australia over the last five seasons," Davis said.

Since Baruth's hiring at SVSU in 2013, five Australian players have committed to playing at SVSU, while three Cardinals have signed contracts with Australian teams after their Ryder Center playing days.

The coach said the pipeline between SVSU and Australia has been aided by his network of Australia-based friends who help him recruit players and later assist former Cardinals interested in playing professionally in the country.

That Australian connection has coincided with one of the winningest stretches in the SVSU program's history, including the team's advancement to the NCAA Division II tournament's Elite Eight in 2016.

"We needed to find a niche to compete with the rest of the GLIAC," Baruth said of the Australian recruitment strategy.

That niche worked out well for several student-athletes, including Davis, who moved from



photos by Michael Randolph

DAMON BOZEMAN ATTACKS SVSU'S DEFENSE DURING A GAME AT SVSU IN 2016. BOZEMAN NOW PLAYS IN AUSTRALIA.

Australia to join SVSU's team during Baruth's first season. By the time Davis finished his last class at SVSU in June 2017, the finance major had already signed a deal to play with the Adelaide 36ers of Australia's National Basketball League.

"Just through mutual contacts, I was lucky enough to have an agent and a coach reach out to me and pull to get me over there as soon as possible," Davis said.

Other former Cardinals who signed to play professionally in Australia include Damon Bozeman and Kellen Smith.

Smith, a criminal justice major who graduated in 2016, inked a contract with the Norwood Flames Basketball Club in May 2017. The Covington, Kentucky, native was the Cardinals' all-time leader in assists.

Bozeman, a health science major who graduated in December 2016, signed

a deal to play with the Bulleen Boomers of the Australia-State League. The Detroit native led the league in scoring this year with 30.1 points per game.

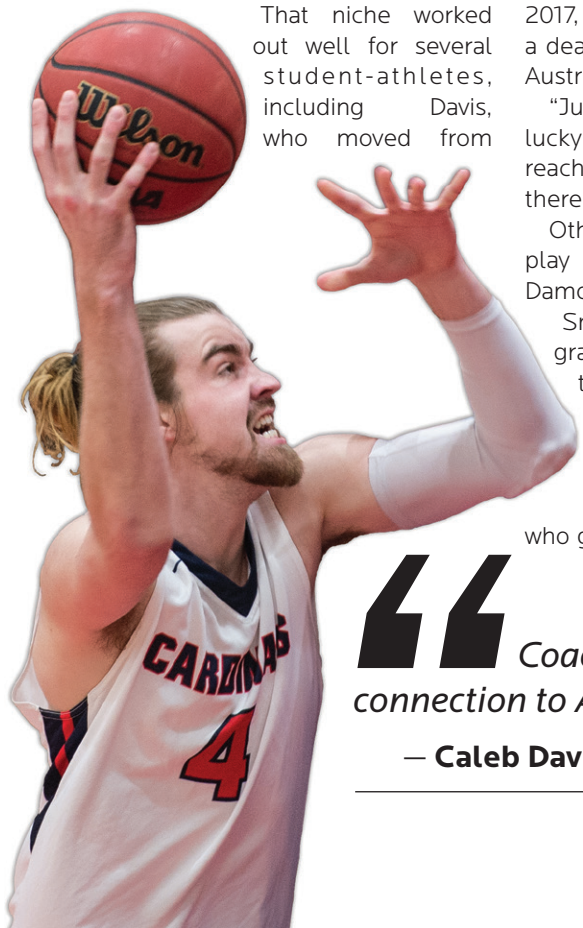
"It's a great experience to be able to travel the world and do something I love, which is play basketball," Bozeman said.

Meanwhile, the 2017-18 SVSU team will feature four native Australians including Sebastiano Lamonato, Liam Evans, James Toohey and Lachlan Anthony.

Davis said his fellow Aussies came to the right program.

"SVSU's men's basketball is a great program to prepare athletes for life after college, whether you want to play basketball professionally or not," Davis said.

The team kicks off its 2017-18 season home schedule vs. Olivet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15. The Cardinals went 17-11 during the 2016-17 season.



“Coach Baruth and SVSU have slowly been building a strong connection to Australia over the last five seasons.”

— Caleb Davis, Cardinal-turned-professional basketball player in Australia

A Twitter-view with **Rebecca Harris-Burns**

Charged with overseeing General Motors' social media customer communications worldwide, the SVSU alumna is a busy body ... so REFLECTIONS met her on the Internet for a one-on-one interview



Tweets **603** Following **1,991** Followers **2,202**

Following

Rebecca Harris

@RebeccaHarrisDr Follows you

Social Media COE at General Motors (All thoughts are my own). Love kids, husband, going upnorth, beading, knitting and malibu rum. Not necessarily in that ord

📍 Detroit, MI

📅 Joined May 2009



Justin Engel @thejustinengel · Jul 17

@RebeccaHarrisDr Was GM your dream company while at SVSU?



Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr

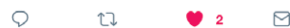
Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

I've always bled @GM blue. My grandfather & father worked here. It was always where I wanted to work. #iworkforGM

8:12 AM - 17 Jul 2017

2 Likes



Justin Engel @thejustinengel · Jul 17

@RebeccaHarrisDr Describe your first role at GM. What did you learn?



Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr

Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

I joined as first line supervisor at Saginaw Steering Gear. It taught me about manufacturing and management. #iworkforGM

8:23 AM - 17 Jul 2017

2 Likes



As a pitcher for SVSU's softball team, Rebecca Harris-Burns was accustomed to sizing up the playing field and its athletes before delivering the next pitch. Being a collegiate athlete taught her lessons in the power of boldness and leading a talented team toward a common goal. The wrong move could cost her team the game, after all.

It's been three decades since her time on the SVSU field, and Harris-Burns still has that keen sense of her surroundings and the ability to deliver the right pitch — albeit now in the business world. Joining General Motors in 1992 as a first-line supervisor, she made her way from manufacturing to communications, where she recognized the growing role of social media in connecting customers with companies. Together with her team, Rebecca approached leadership with an idea. In 2013, the automotive giant's Social Center of Expertise was founded, with Harris-Burns as its leader.

The role puts Harris-Burns in charge of more than 450 global GM social media channels and 800 social media-savvy employees whose job involves interacting with customers and the general public through accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, to name a few.

Harris-Burns, who received a bachelor's degree in communication from SVSU in 1990, discussed her work, passions and experience with REFLECTIONS editor Justin Engel. This was no normal Q&A sit-down. Instead, the interview took place in one of the environments where Harris-Burns has demonstrated an acute awareness: Twitter.



Justin Engel @thejustinengel · Jul 17

@RebeccaHarrisDr You've worn many hats in your 25+ years at GM. How have those roles prepared you for today's challenges?



Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr

Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

Yes, many hats! It has helped me build my understanding of @GM's operations. #iworkforGM

8:28 AM - 17 Jul 2017

2 Likes



Justin Engel @thejustinengel · Jul 17
 @RebeccaHarrisDr Would you rather have to attend back-to-back meetings or retake your college finals?

Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr
 Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

Meetings! I'm still not a good test taker! The @GM culture is meeting heavy. It's how we accomplish big tasks. #iworkforGM

8:32 AM - 17 Jul 2017

2 Likes

Justin Engel @thejustinengel · Jul 17
 @RebeccaHarrisDr What led you to help create the GM Global Social Center of Expertise?

Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr
 Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

I saw customers needing help, but no efficient way for our teams to align internally to provide it. #iworkforGM (1/2)

8:36 AM - 17 Jul 2017

2 Likes

Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr
 Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

Now we work to integrate, align and maximize our global teams to exceed customer expectations. #iworkforGM #dreamjob (2/2)

8:36 AM - 17 Jul 2017

1 Like

Justin Engel @thejustinengel · Jul 17
 @RebeccaHarrisDr What has been your proudest moment at GM so far?

Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr
 Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

Every day we lead the transformation & focus on the customer. My proudest moment has been building Social CoE. #iworkforGM

8:39 AM - 17 Jul 2017

1 Like

Justin Engel @thejustinengel · Jul 17
 @RebeccaHarrisDr Can you share how GM plans to stay relevant among customers?

Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr
 Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

We grow the business based on customer needs, like ride sharing @DriveMaven & autonomous vehicles. #iworkforGM

8:41 AM - 17 Jul 2017

1 Like

Justin Engel @thejustinengel · Jul 17
 @RebeccaHarrisDr Do you have a favorite GM car model?

Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr
 Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

I LOVE the @Cadillac Escalade, the @Chevrolet Suburban & the @GMC Yukon XL. They drive like a dream #iworkforGM

8:43 AM - 17 Jul 2017

4 Likes

Justin Engel @thejustinengel · Jul 17
 @RebeccaHarrisDr Do you remember your first experience using social media, and on what platform?

Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr
 Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

A while ago, our social media team helped me set up Twitter. Looking back, I think I could have had more fun with my handle! #iworkforGM

8:50 AM - 17 Jul 2017

1 Like

Justin Engel @thejustinengel · Jul 17
 @RebeccaHarrisDr Tell us about your favorite social media experience in your personal life.

Rebecca Harris @RebeccaHarrisDr
 Following

Replying to @thejustinengel

Social empowers me to be a part of family & friends' lives. It's awesome to build relships digitally & be connected everyday #iworkforGM

8:55 AM - 17 Jul 2017

1 Like



our heritage, rich and **RED**

As the university continues its initiative to reintroduce alumni to their alma mater, REFLECTIONS recently asked both longtime and fresh-from-commencement Cardinal graduates to list the campus sights and traditions that continue to resonate with them. We share 50 of those items in a photo essay that frames an enduring portrait of Red Pride.



1) AXE BOWL TROPHY *This is the prized possession of the winner of the annual football matchup between SVSU and Northwood University. Since the teams first faced off in 1975, the trophy largely has remained at SVSU, which owns a 26-15-1 series lead. The matchup mostly was even until the Cardinals took command for a period beginning in 1983. SVSU then kept the axe on its campus for 14 out of 15 years. The Timberwolves' longest win-streak — three games — stretched from 1998-2000. Inscribed on the left cheek of the axe are SVSU's years of victory against Northwood. The right cheek of the axe is inscribed with Northwood's years of victory.*

2) THE PRESIDENT'S COURTYARD *The centerpiece of the campus features some of its most scenic features and heaviest foot traffic. Students often study on benches, lounge in hammocks between trees and host events here.*

3) INTERCULTURAL NIGHT *First organized by international students in 2001, this annual event features colorful showcases, comedy sketches and customary dances native to the home nations of SVSU students. And the number of nations represented at SVSU has grown substantially since that inaugural performance. In fall 2017, 630 international students enrolled at SVSU from a record 54 different nations.*

4) THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. REGIONAL CELEBRATION *SVSU's traditions include its annual lecture events featuring high-profile guest speakers. This lineup of recurring lecture series includes the Great Lakes Bay Regional Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, hosted on campus near each MLK holiday. Eric Holder, former U.S. attorney general under President Barack Obama, served as the event's keynote speaker in 2017. He was interviewed by the keynote speaker from 2015, 70th Judicial Court Judge Terry L. Clark. Other notable speakers from past years include Stedman Graham in 2011 and N. Cornell Boggs III in 2016.*





5) THE "I LOVE SVSU" SCULPTURE *This popular backdrop for photos was designed in 2014 by Thomas Canale, art professor.*

6) THE CEREMONIAL MACE *Wielded during commencement by the ceremony's honorary marshal, the mace is considered a symbol of authority. SVSU's mace is a 3-foot staff designed by Victoria Gillespie, wife of the late Thomas Gillespie, former professor of mechanical engineering.*

7) THE FIELDHOUSE *Opened in fall 2014, this facility added a synthetic turf field and 300-meter indoor track to campus.*

8) THE MOVE-IN DAY GOLF CART PROCESSION *It has become a tradition for SVSU faculty, staff and students to help the latest freshmen class move in to campus housing each August.*

9) THE SVSU INSIGNIA *Engraved in locations across campus, SVSU's seal was chosen by Board of Control members in the 1960s. Its triangular motif is meant to represent the institution's three surrounding counties: Bay, Midland and Saginaw. Its three Egyptian hieroglyphics-based symbols — from top, then counter-clockwise — represent "truth," "inner light" and "strength."*

10) SOUTH ENTRANCE DRIVE *In recent years, developers have beautified this increasingly-busy thoroughfare — which connects the campus to nearby townhomes and Pierce Road commercial district — with attractive greenery, signage and brickwork.*

11) THE LEAPING GAZELLE FOUNTAIN *The Leaping Gazelle sculpture, designed by Marshall M. Fredericks, is one of the most iconic campus landmarks. This particular sculpture was donated to SVSU in 1988 and added to an existing courtyard fountain.*

12) THE EATON WAR MEMORIAL EAGLE *Originally designed by Fredericks for the Eaton Manufacturing Plant in Saginaw in the 1940s, this memorial was moved to SVSU in 2008 after the plant closed. The names of Eaton employees who died in battle during WWII are inscribed on its marble. SVSU — recognized nationally for supporting military veterans and their families — surrounds the site with American flags on Memorial Day.*





13) THE ENTRYWAY PONDS Built for practical purposes — as retention basins to prevent flooding — the twin ponds at the campus' Bay Road entrance also were designed for aesthetic appeal.

14) THE ENTRY SIGNAGE The sign that greets visitors at the Bay Road entrance to the university has received several makeovers during the campus' 50-year existence. The current sign — a sweeping, curving structure — was built at the same time the Michigan Department of Transportation widened Bay Road to a four-lane boulevard in the 2000s. The newest version replaced a 3-foot masonry sign that welcomed guests beginning in 1991.

15) JULIA EDWARDS BELL TOWER Dedicated in 1998, this structure has become an iconic edifice at SVSU, serving as a site for outdoor ceremonies and memorials alike.

16) ROBERT AND AMY YIEN INTERNATIONAL GARDEN This Chinese-style garden was dedicated in June 2008. The 14,000-square-foot terrace features two waterfalls, a limestone walkway and 40 types of plants.

17) THE LILLIAN R. ZAHNOW AMPHITHEATRE Built to emulate Ancient Greek-style theatrical venues, the amphitheatre was dedicated in June 1999.



15



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17



18

Saginaw Valley State University



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22





18) GROENING COMMONS This spacious entrance to Curtiss Hall houses many fine arts elements — theaters, sculptures and paintings — and is a popular hangout for students.

19) THE SIMULATION CENTER Housed in the Health & Human Services building, this makeshift medical establishment provides hands-on training with modern equipment used in health care. Among the most common users of the center are students in SVSU's undergraduate nursing program.

20) SPIRIT ROCK Brought to campus in June 2001, The Spirit Rock has served as a canvas for students who paint school pride-inspired messages on its surface.

21) COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES Beginning in 2015, campus leaders doubled the number of commencement ceremonies to four annually — two in December and two in May — in order to accommodate the growing attendance of this solemn occasion.

22) THE SVSU BRICK Campus developers in the late 1960s decided a brownish-tan brick would become a signature facade for SVSU's structures.

23) TWO BEARS Marshall M. Fredericks created the original plaster for this sculpture in the 1960s. Two Bears was added to SVSU's campus in 1991.

24) THE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY Housed inside the Arbury Fine Arts Center since both opened in 1988, this gallery showcases paintings, sculptures, photography and other artwork from students, faculty, staff and visiting artists.

25) MELVIN J. ZAHNOW LIBRARY One of the cornerstone spaces on campus, the four-story library in 2017 received a \$9.5 million renovation that modernized its resources.

24

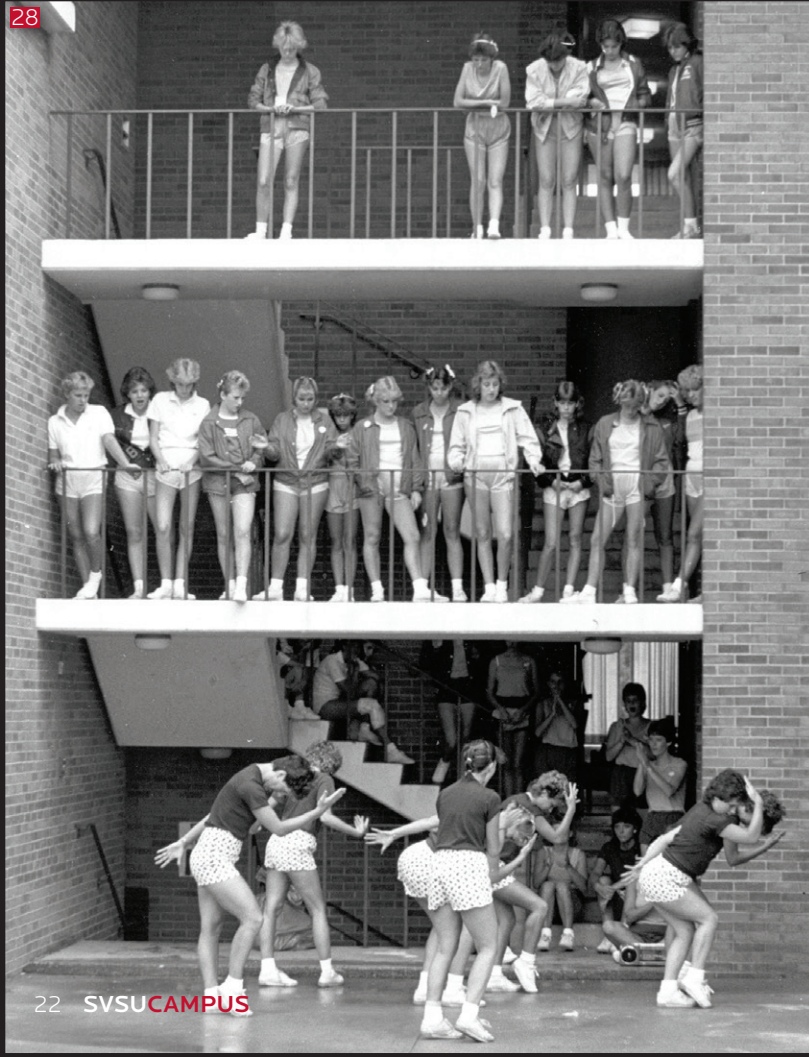




26) THE STUDENT LIFE CENTER After moving from Curtiss Hall to the Student Center building in the early 2000s, The Student Life Center used its new space to host a game room and large meeting spaces available to SVSU's 150 registered student organizations.

27) MALCOLM FIELD THEATRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS The theater is one of the most-visited settings on campus for community guests who attend SVSU's speakers series and plays.

28) "THE ZOO" In 1969, the first residential students moved into a facility known as Great Lakes Hall. Informally dubbed "The Zoo," the complex housed 350 students. Nearly five decades later, the facility still stands and is part of a larger network of apartments that accommodate 2,700 residents. Using data from the U.S. Department of Education as well as surveys, the website Niche in 2015 and '17 ranked SVSU housing facilities No. 1 among the state's higher education institutions.



30



29) RHEA MILLER RECITAL HALL Equipped with sound cloud reflectors, a choir balcony and recital stage, this venue has played host to singers and symphonies alike.

30) THE C-STORE While Meijer, Walmart and other popular grocery markets are located near campus, the Student Center-based C-Store has become a fixture in the lives of residential students seeking orange juice, Cheerios, toothpaste, M&Ms and the other goods for sale there.

31) MARKETPLACE AT DOAN The campus' largest dining establishment has evolved over the decades. One of the largest and latest upgrades included the installation of a wood-fired pizza oven and Mongolian-style grill.

32) MOVIE NIGHTS Now known as the Valley Nights film series, SVSU's tradition of campus movie viewings extends back to the 1970s, when a viewing of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* turned into a massive snowball fight outdoors.

31



32







33) ANNUAL RING Located north of Ryder Center, this dome-shaped structure was created by sculptor Nancy Holt. At noon every summer solstice, four openings in the structure cast four beams of sunlight into a single circle on the ground beneath them.

34) JO ANNE AND DONALD PETERSEN SCULPTURE GARDEN

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, opened at SVSU in May 1988, houses most of the campus' 2,000-plus pieces of Fredericks' art. Some of the most recent additions were installed outside in the garden entrance of the museum, dedicated in 2014.

35) WETLANDS PRESERVES About 13 acres of wetlands preserves exist on campus — one patch near Founders Hall and another north of the Health & Human Services building. Both sites host vegetation that grew in the region prior to European settlement.

36) FOUNDERS HALL Opened in 1995, this church-like venue north of Wickes Hall plays host to lectures, recitals, poetry readings, Honors Society gatherings and weddings.







37) WILDLIFE Not all of SVSU's inhabitants are enrolled in classes. Wild turkey, geese, ducks and cranes frequent the property's ponds. Inside the human-built ponds swim fish, possibly dropped there by birds. Deer sometimes wander onto the grounds in the late evening and early morning.

38) AUSTRIAN PINES Early on in the campus' history, developers planted groves of Austrian Pines across the property. While many were eliminated to make room for new buildings, some of those original trees still stand.

39) NATURE TRAIL Joggers and nature-seekers alike enjoy this winding walkway along the quiet outskirts of SVSU's property.

40) BOUTELL MEMORIAL GREENHOUSE The 1,500-square-foot research facility — and tour stop — utilizes minimal space, energy and material to grow food and other resources.

41) OWSLEY GROVE West of Arbury Fine Arts Center, this site is popular for official outdoors functions, including the Welcome Back Picnic that kicks off each academic year for alumni, students, staff and faculty.

42) DOW/SVSU MOBILE RESEARCH LAB Perhaps the campus' most recognizable vehicle, this lab-in-a-bus largely has been used to promote STEM studies to K-12 students since 2016. The research lab was funded in part by The Dow Chemical Company Foundation.







43) GERSTACKER REGIONAL AQUATIC CENTER The 8-lane, Olympic-sized pool hosts regional aquatic events. SVSU also added its own women's and men's swim teams in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

44) THE INFLATABLE "COOP" HEAD Based on Coop, SVSU's mascot, this cardinal head-shaped inflatable is a popular feature at sporting and prospective student events. At football and basketball games, student-athletes enter the playing field by running through Coop's open beak, which doubles as a 10-foot-long tunnel.

45) WICKES MEMORIAL STADIUM Home to football games since 1975, this venue — once known as Cardinal Stadium — received a \$1.2 million makeover in 1991. Stadium lights were installed in 2011.

46) INTRAMURAL FIELDS Flag football for years was played on a field between Curtiss Hall and the south entryway pond. New fields were opened near Ryder Center in 2017. Flag football is among the most popular of SVSU's intramural sports. More than 1,500 students participated in intramurals during the 2016-17 academic year.

47) JAMES E. O'NEILL ARENA Along with hosting SVSU basketball games and commencement ceremonies, this 60,000-square-foot space has served as a stage for hot-ticket events including the Detroit Pistons training camp from 1991-92; a campaign rally led by George W. Bush four days before his election as president in 2000; and concerts featuring musicians such as Ludacris, Michelle Branch, Moby, Neal McCoy and Sugar Ray. The arena also hosts some of the SVSU Cardinal Kids Club events aimed at offering sports clinics to children.

48) THE HOMECOMING PARADE Students, alumni, faculty, staff and local leaders alike participate in this annual campus tradition.

49) THE CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER Opened in 2011, this two-story facility features weight lifting equipment, elliptical machines, cycles, a track, basketball courts and space for physical fitness workout sessions for the community.





50) VICTORIA *This 3-foot trophy stays on the campus of the institution that fundraises the most money during the annual Battle of the Valleys charity competition between SVSU and rival Grand Valley State University. Since 2003, student leaders from each institution have annually chosen a local charity partner, then spend a week raising funds for their respective organizations. Both universities have raised \$601,282 over the course of the competition. SVSU students alone have raised \$389,444 of that total, keeping Victoria at SVSU's campus for 12 out of 15 years. In September 2017, SVSU raised \$32,115 for Mustard Seed Shelter, which provides housing and services for homeless women and children in Saginaw.*

BATTLE OF THE VALLEYS
DECLARED ON OCTOBER 18, 2003
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
vs.
SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
"KICKIN' ASS & RAISIN' CASH"

The "Our Heritage, Rich and Red" photo essay comes from the lenses of Michael Randolph, Tim Inman and SVSU's archives.

REDISCOVER SVSU

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A GRAND TOUR + LUNCH: ALL ON US

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Alumni and guests: Maybe it has been years — maybe even 50 years — since you last laid eyes on SVSU's campus. With a diversifying student body, expanding services, construction and renovation, chances are that there are plenty of new elements for you to explore and enjoy. SVSU invites you to attend Cardinal College Days, where you can tour and explore the campus alongside prospective students and their families. Free SVSU clothing, merchandise and lunch are included. *Call Alumni Relations at (989) 964-4196 to sign up.*

SATURDAY, JAN. 20 & APRIL 21, 2018

WEEKDAY TOURS – EXPERIENCE CAMPUS, ONE-ON-ONE

For a more intimate exploration of the university, staff are happy to give alumni and guests one-on-one tours of every corner on campus, from the newly-renovated sports fields to the dynamic renovations of Zahnow Library to the bustling student life activities underway in the Student Center and housing complexes. And, yes, free swag and lunch still are on the house. *Call Alumni Relations at (989) 964-4196 to sign up.*

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

EVENTS – EXPERIENCE A PLAY, PERFORMANCE OR LECTURE

Not every visit needs a tour guide. SVSU offers a variety of free public events for guests with all types of interests.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS WEBSITE: SVSU.EDU/CALENDAR



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One year ago, we asked you to tell your story. **WOW, YOU HAVE SPOKEN!**

The exciting new social media network, SVSU CONNECT, was launched in 2016 to link alumni, students, staff and faculty. Since then, the numbers have been impressive!



SVSUCONNECT.com

And the connection continues to grow. If you are an SVSU CONNECT member, stay involved in this unique online family. If you are new to the party, join SVSU CONNECT at svsuconnect.com. Users can join through Facebook or LinkedIn.

Over 3,000
people have
joined the
network



Almost 75
percent have
signed up to
help and
mentor
students



Over 120,000
page views



Members have
built 1,600 unique
networking
relationships



Career Navigation + Network + Mentor

The Curious Case of Student 001 and Student 002

(or how a college crush caused Bert Schafer to become a significant footnote in SVSU history)

by Justin Engel

By Bert Schafer's account, he was being a perfect gentleman the day he cheated his childhood friend, Roselyn Argyle, out of becoming SVSU's very first enrolled student.

"I may have stolen that title from her," Schafer said, his tone hinting at a tongue placed firmly in cheek. "But she's still No. 1 in my book."

The comic tale of Schafer's road to becoming an interesting anecdote in SVSU history began decades earlier, in 1940s-era Old Town Saginaw.

There, he and Argyle lived across the street from each other as children. The pair was part of a larger group of neighborhood buddies who played baseball in nearby parks and walked to school together. Eventually, they grew apart, as childhood friends sometimes do. Life happened.

About two decades later, SVSU happened. There, the then-20-somethings crossed paths again during a day that remains fresh in Schafer's memory. The exact month

and date is lost upon Schafer nowadays, but it likely would have been late summer or early fall in 1964. That's when SVSU scheduled its first class sign-up session in the basement of Delta College, which housed SVSU's operations in its initial years.

In 1964, Schafer planned to sign up for those first classes. At the time, he was dating one of the secretaries charged with organizing the registration. Deciding to swing by her office first that day, he discovered massive



amounts of material she and the registration team still needed to carry to the event, which was scheduled on the other side of campus in a basement hallway.

With chivalry in mind, Schafer scooped up as much material — paperwork, folders, pencils, etc. — as he could fit in his arms, then helped the registration team carry the load to the event. He helped organize the sign-up table and extended his offer to help even further.

"I said, 'I can help sign up some of these people,'" Schafer said, referring to the growing line of students waiting for the proceedings to begin.

Again, his offer was accepted. To enlist his services immediately, he was given the first registration sheet to fill out for himself.

"It wasn't a very fancy form," he said. "You just put your name here, your address here, sign this there,

and that was it."

And he signed it. An employee certified both the form and Schafer's place in SVSU's history, writing "Student 001" in the corner of the sheet for record's sake. On the next sheet, labeled "Student 002," the next person in line applied a signature. The name signed:

Roselyn Argyle.

"I should have clocked Bert in the nose for cutting in line," Argyle said, tongue definitely in cheek.

In truth, Argyle said she does not remember the occasion all these decades later, but believes Schafer's account of how he became "Student 001." Schafer, for his part, expressed regret for essentially cutting in line and taking his place in SVSU history.

"She might have been waiting there for hours, so I felt bad about that," Schafer said. "I had no clue about the significance of what I was

doing, though. I didn't think about it at the time. Back then, virtually everything you did was a first for SVSU."

Indeed. Despite the friendly folly that bumped Argyle from recognition as the first enrolled student, she later claimed her own standing among SVSU's "firsts." During the commencement ceremony for the institution's original 10 graduates in April 1966, Argyle's name was read before her classmates, including Schafer. His last name at an alphabetical disadvantage, he was unable to deny Argyle that day's distinction.

"She got me on that one," said Schafer, whose name was read eighth. ■

Bert Schafer is now a retired state utility employee living in North Carolina. Roselyn Argyle is president and owner of A&D Home Care in Saginaw Township.





REBOUND

*After a devastating knee injury, **Emily Wendling** could have abandoned her college basketball career. Instead, she aimed for SVSU's record books.*

by Jill Allardyce

The summer following her freshman year as a basketball player at SVSU, Emily Wendling returned home to Swartz Creek to hone her game at The Cage, an indoor sports facility where many of her peers improved their skills.

She had just completed her first season as a Cardinal in 2012-13. Wendling was the team's leader in points, rebounds, field goal and three-point percentage. Largely due to her productivity, the Cardinals finished the year with a 13-14 record, a significant improvement over the team's 6-20 record the previous season.

That summer, things were looking up. And then she fell down.

Midway through a game at The Cage, while driving to the basket in an attempt to score, Wendling felt a sudden, sharp pain in her left knee that sent her collapsing to the floor.

"It simply gave out," Wendling said of the knee. "I knew right away what I had done."

She could not walk. Others carried her off the floor and drove her to a nearby emergency room. Tests taken there confirmed what she already suspected: Her left ACL — a piece of ligament tissue that keeps the shin bone from sliding in front of the thigh bone during the simplest of leg motions — was torn.

It was the kind of injury that could end athletic careers and leave athletes with lifelong limps.

"I was so upset," she said.

But while some may have seen her collapse on The Cage floor that day as the possible end of her outstanding promise as an athlete, Wendling knew something they did not. Playing basketball, after all, was not the only skill she had mastered by that summer.

Behind the story of her outstanding freshman season as a collegian was an earlier rise from adversity that helped shape her life ambitions. Still ahead was a sequel to her story of overcoming setbacks that would see her break records.



Wendling was only in eighth grade when she tore her right ACL, coincidentally while performing the same move that would injure her other knee years later. The months-long physical therapy that followed her first ACL tear gave her an appreciation of the hard work necessary to overcome such challenges, as well as the support of the professionals who helped her recover. The next year, her high

school aptitude test revealed that occupational therapy would be a good career fit for her.

The physical therapy sessions had made her "good as new." She was able to join the Flushing High School varsity squad as a freshman. During her prep career, she led her team to three Big Nine conference titles.

Jamie Pewinski, SVSU women's basketball coach, scouted Wendling and immediately saw star potential.

"Wendling was 6-foot, 3-inches, with great ball handling skills," Pewinski said. "After watching her dominate the court, I could tell right away she would be an asset to our team."

Attracted both by the opportunity to play collegiate basketball and SVSU's occupational therapy program, Wendling enrolled at SVSU in 2012. She was named GLIAC Freshman of the Year and made the First Team All-Conference roster — all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

The ACL injury that occurred the following summer put her basketball life on pause, causing her to miss the entire 2013-14 season. Although devastated, Wendling showed her determination in other ways, turning an unfortunate situation into a positive period of growth. It was common to see her exercising aggressively in Ryder Center facilities, vigorously pursuing a comeback even before doctors removed the body casts from her leg.

"She couldn't do anything on her feet at first," Pewinski said.

"She wore a massive leg brace and had to use crutches. While the team practiced, Wendling would sit in a chair on the sidelines and dribble under her legs and behind the chair to hone her ball-handling skills."

Despite being sidelined, Wendling attended every practice her sophomore season.

"She embraced her physical therapy and did every single thing she could to get stronger," Pewinski said. "Not only was she a 4.0 student, but she pushed herself to another level physically."

Wendling's teammates leaned on her for support during practices and games. She would watch and learn the game, seeing opportunities for her teammates to improve.

"When you focus on what everyone else is doing, you see the game in a different way," Pewinski said.

Although on the sidelines, Wendling was not dwelling on her injury; she was learning. She was not sulking; she was encouraging others. She was not resigning herself to never again participating;



(ABOVE) EMILY WENDLING FIGHTS TO SCORE OVER THE OUTSTRETCHED HANDS OF HER OPPONENTS DURING A FEBRUARY 2016 GAME VS. HILLSDALE COLLEGE. (RIGHT) WENDLING HELPS CUT DOWN THE HOME NET AFTER THAT SAME GAME, A VICTORY THAT CLINCHED SVSU'S FIRST-EVER GLIAC NORTH DIVISION TITLE.

she was growing as an athlete, a teammate and a future health care professional.



"Her freshman year, Wendling was very talented," Pewinski said, "but after recovering throughout her sophomore year, her fitness took a serious step up her junior year. When Wendling came back to the game, she was extremely athletic and fit — even more so than before."

Everyone seemed to notice the change. Her physical appearance was more "cut" and she had a look of determination in her eyes. "I've never seen a kid work harder than when she was injured," Pewinski said.

When Wendling returned to the court during the 2014-15 season, it was time to see if all her hard work

would pay off. Again, she led the team in several categories, improving on many of her numbers from her freshman season.

In her third season, her scoring average improved to 18 points per game (from 15.7). More impressively, though, she led her team to one of its winningest seasons. The Cardinals advanced to the NCAA Division II Elite 8 tournament during a 22-9 campaign. It represented the team's best record since 1987.

Wendling's final season in 2016-17 included other impressive milestones. During a victory over Northern Michigan University in February, Wendling eclipsed a 30-year-old record to become the team's all-time scoring leader. By season's end, she finished with 1,973 points in her SVSU career — with 1,568 of those points coming after her ACL injury.



photos by Michael Randolph

Along with the records broken, she received several individual awards during her career, including her inclusion on two CoSIDA Academic All-America and three First Team All-GLIAC teams. Coaches and teammates, though, say Wendling's perseverance, leadership and example may define her Cardinal legacy.

Katelyn Carriere, an exercise science major and Cardinal teammate, is proof that Wendling's perseverance rubbed off on her teammates.

Carriere injured her foot during her sophomore year, resulting in her sitting out the following season. Wendling was a guiding force as Carriere attempted her own comeback.

"My worst fear was coming back and not being as good as I was before," Carriere said. "I had watched Wendling get into even better shape than she had been

before her injury. She motivated me to do the same, and we were able to finish our senior year together and end on a great note. She was there for me."

Carriere graduated shortly thereafter, earning her bachelor's degree in exercise science in May 2017. And Wendling is not far behind. To earn her master's degree in occupational therapy, she needs to complete her field study requirement by working at the Medilodge of Montrose rehabilitation at the end of the fall 2017 semester.

Wendling looks forward to walking across the stage in the December 2017 commencement ceremony that will take place in the Ryder Center's James E. O'Neill Arena, within view of the same basketball rims where she set new school records and where she proved — yet again — that she could bounce back from adversity. ■

robotics reign in Kingston

Resourceful and motivated, teacher *Matt Ferguson* is introducing tomorrow's technology to his rural-raised students

by Maria Vos



Kingston High School — a rural institution in Kingston, Michigan — boasts an enrollment of about 200 students. Surrounded by rolling farmland, one would seldom associate Kingston High School with a bustling hub of technological advancement, but that is exactly what you would find in Matt Ferguson's Robotics class.

The work begins before the bell. It is common to see his students working through their lunch breaks, and if they are not in the classroom for lunch, they are cutting their lunch hours short to get a jump on the work that needs to be done — work that includes electrical and mechanical engineering, computer programming and design. All of this culminates in a year-long project of building a humanoid robot called InMoov, whose design specifications are provided publicly by inventors hoping to empower educators and amateur engineers to create lifelike machines.

InMoov's polished frame took shape in Ferguson's classroom, first with the construction of the 3-D printers that would make its creation possible, then with the mechanical and electrical engineering expertise of Ferguson's Robotics students. The printers were constructed in the early fall of last school year; by spring, InMoov was not only built, but had learned to move its eyes and head.

At the end of the school year, InMoov was learning facial movements via voice command. The same students who worked on InMoov — largely the children of blue-collar families — divided their time between InMoov and Robotics from January to April. Ferguson continually advocates for experiential learning opportunities like these, first through his long-time passion for STEM, as well as through his experiences as an SVSU alumnus and, most recently, a member of the Dow Corning Foundation Fellowship.

A 2005 alumnus of SVSU's College of Education, Ferguson remembers that he was always "techy," and was able to engage his talent for technology and design in the content courses that prepared him for the teaching career he has today. In fact, he cites his background in graphic design and art as a driving force behind his ability to work so innovatively with his students.

In 2016, Ferguson took further advantage of the opportunities available through SVSU to provide innovative experiences for his students, becoming a member of the second class of the Dow Corning Foundation Fellowship. Established in 2014, the fellowship was created with the intention of supporting regional middle and high school teachers in improving students' perceptions of STEM education. This was accomplished through a two-week summer research institute, a \$1,000 stipend and up to \$2,000 in materials for the Fellows' projects of choice. When selected as a Fellow, Ferguson used this opportunity to purchase the InMoov project, but the Dow Foundation's generosity did not stop there.

"I knew that the entire project would cost a lot more than \$2,000," he said, "but the Foundation provided resources for grant writing, which I used to connect directly with the manufacturer of the parts that would be needed."

Through this outreach, Ferguson acquired enough "servos" — the small and very expensive motors needed to construct In-

Moov — to complete the project at no cost to his school district.

With the Foundation's support and academic preparation behind him, he provides unique experiences to the STEM leaders of tomorrow.

InMoov, for example, has inspired the students in Ferguson's classroom to take ownership of a high-tech project. Ferguson recalls that, during a recent visit from members of the Dow Corning Foundation, two of his typically shy students opened up about the process of building InMoov and the 3-D printers.

"It was like they did a presentation on the spot," Ferguson remembers. These same two students were invited to bring InMoov to SVSU professor George Corser's summer programming camp to engage with other bright minds in STEM.

Ferguson continues to develop students' expertise through their involvement with his Robotics team — the Kingston Robo-Cards. The team participates in games hosted by FIRST Robotics, an organization that promotes contests between high school teams competing to build the strongest and most efficient robots based on engineering design blueprints provided by organizers, and the teams have only six weeks to do it. The competition begins locally, extends to include state contests, then culminates in a national championship each April.

Kingston's Robo-Cards, established by Ferguson in 2013, placed 14th out of 40 teams at a Kettering Robotics tournament earlier this year, and consistently placed high in subsequent competitions, often with fewer resources than teams from more affluent schools.

While greater funding could help Ferguson's team afford better equipment for more efficient, smoothly running robots, the team stands behind their productions.

"The students take tremendous pride in the work they do, knowing that they did it," Ferguson says, but "they understand what other teams are going through" and so are willing to offer help to other teams; it would be likely to see Robo-Cards team members loaning parts or offering assistance when they see a team in need.

Ferguson and his students reflect on the impact that courses like his can have. They look forward to competing in FIRST Robotics. This competition brought roughly 5,000 high schools students from 160 teams to the state tournament hosted by SVSU in April.

Many of his students have expressed that everyone should take a Robotics course; Ferguson would like to see it replace some of the required STEM content, as it touches on all fields of education — physics, math, business and the humanities.

And with a classroom of 10 last school year, it certainly seems other students are catching on to the excitement of Robotics. Ferguson's class size more than doubled in the 2017-2018 school year, and 65 students showed interest in taking the course (about a third of the entire high school population), supporting Ferguson's belief that what these students are involved in "is the future" and will only continue to grow in popularity.

STEM initiatives like InMoov and Robotics competitions will continue to grow in size and significance, and at Kingston High School, Matt Ferguson is working hard to contribute to this exciting and limitless field. ■



SCAFFOLDING STOOD TALL IN THE COURTYARD DURING THE MONTHS LEADING UP TO THE DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE JULIA EDWARDS BELL TOWER IN OCTOBER 1998.

1970s

Catherine Baase, 1977, B.S., was honored with the Lifetime Achievement in Occupational and Environmental Medicine Award

from the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

1980s

Jo Brownlie, 1985, M.B.A., was given the Ruben Daniels Community Service Award at SVSU's 2017 All University Awards Banquet.

Zita Burton, 1981, M.A.T., was named the 2017 Utica Community Schools Teacher of the Year. She was then honored by the Utica City Council by proclaiming June 15, the day of her retirement, as Zita Burton Day.

Donald Haskin, 1984, B.A.; 1991, B.A.; 2006, M.Ed., was named the athletic director as well as men's and women's cross-country coach at Kirtland College.

Linda Pearson, 1986, B.B.A., was hired as vice president of commercial lending for Lake Michigan Credit Union.

1990s

Teresa Close, 1990, B.B.A., was appointed supervisor of Hampton Township.

Christine Greve, 1992, B.B.A.,

retired after more than two decades of service as the regional director of the Michigan Small Business Development Center.

David C. Maurer, 1995, B.A., was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International for his longtime coverage of humanitarian causes as a newscaster at WSGW Radio.

Daniel Phillips, 1995, B.A., was promoted to sergeant for Platoon 3 at the Bloomfield Hills Department of Public Safety.

Kolleen Smith, 1992, M.A., was given the 2017 Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Award from Midland Public Schools.

2000s

Jill Allardyce, 2006, M.A., was given the SVSU Outstanding Performance Award at SVSU's 2017 All University Awards Banquet.

Susan Crane, 2006, M.B.A., was named Special Olympics Area 30 Outstanding Coach of the Year.

Pasquale Cusumano, 2005, M.Ed., is the new principal for Rochester Adams High School.

Elizabeth (VandenBrooks) Ducolon, 1991, B.A.; 2002, M.A., was inducted into the Bay County Sports Hall of Fame for her time playing softball at All Saints High School and SVSU.

Lori Gensch, 2008, M.Ed., was selected as the new principal of Hemlock Elementary School.

Katy Hughes, 2000, B.A., was named Downtown Development Authority director and assistant village manager for the Village of Holly.

Kimberly Knoll, 2002, B.S.N., was hired as a nurse practitioner at Family Healthcare of Cass City.

Ashley (Buchholz) Lister, 2008, B.A., married Ryan Lister on Nov. 5, 2016. The couple met on the SVSU campus in The Zoo freshmen residence halls in 2003.

Michael Mahar, 1999, B.A.; 2005, M.Ed., was chosen as the new football coach for Roseville Community Schools.

Michael Major, 1999, B.A.; 2001, T.C.; 2008, M.A., was given the Terry Ishihara Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Involvement at SVSU's 2017 All University Awards Banquet.

Shannon Mallek, 2006, B.B.A., was promoted to assistant vice president for Honor Bank.

Christopher Mausolf, 2004, B.A., was appointed undersheriff for the Bay County Sheriff's Department.

Adam McCauley, 2003, B.A., owns Sandlot Sports, LLC, a screen-printing business in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The business was recently honored with the Best Small Business award and was named a Main Street USA honoree from the Michigan Small Business Development Center.

Lindsay Oswald, 2002, B.B.A., earned her Master of Business Administration from Trine University.

Karl Rishe, 2002, B.A., was appointed vice president of Student Affairs for Alma College.

Eric Romzek, 2006, B.S., was promoted to vice president-director of IT at First State Bank.

Rebecca Schlaff, 2008, B.S., was given the Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award at SVSU's 2017 All University Awards Banquet.

Kathleen Sherwood, 2008, B.A., was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument Fund Commission.

Marcus Smetka, 2009, B.S.M.E., has joined Howard & Howard Attorneys in Royal Oak.

Jennifer Thunberg, 2001, B.S.; 2003, M.Ed., is the new athletic director for Bay City Central High School.

Jessica Averill-Hammond, 2011, B.A., was promoted to chief of staff for state Sen. Rick Jones.

2010s

Steven Avery, 2013, B.B.A., was hired as the director of marketing for Northwestern Mutual in Saginaw.

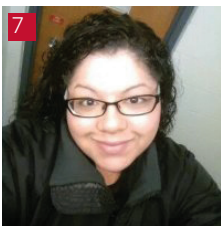
Justin Bell, 2016, B.A., was hired as a graphic designer for Perrin Brewing Company in Grand Rapids.

Bridget Billin, 2014, B.S.N., is engaged to Keith Emery of Shelby Township.

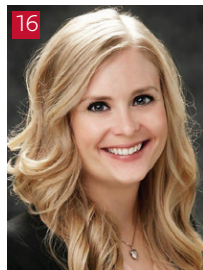
Stacy Bond, 2012, B.A., joined Leapfrog as an SEM specialist in the Media Department.

Justin Brouckaert, 2013, B.A., and Lisa (Coffell)

Brouckaert, 2012, B.A., married on July 29, 2016, at Founders Hall at SVSU. Justin also earned his Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of South Carolina in 2016. He now works in the USC Scholastic Media Office. Lisa teaches third grade at Manchester Elementary School in Pinewood, South Carolina.



- 1) Linda Pearson, 1986, B.B.A.
- 2) Natalie Chmiko (shown second from the left, receiving recognition for the President's "E" Award), 2012, B.B.A.
- 3) Kevin Finley, 2017, B.P.A.
- 4) Marion Stewart (shown in the center with a red jacket), 2010, B.S.W.
- 5) Bridget Billin (shown to the right of fiancé Keith Emery), 2014, B.S.N.
- 6) Benjamin Younkin, 2010, B.S.; 2014, M.A.
- 7) Amy Chumah, 2014, B.S.W.
- 8) Blake Putman, 2010, B.S.
- 9) Iridian Juarez, 2017, B.S.W.
- 10) Tricia Raquepaw, 2010, M.B.A.
- 11) Kayle Polega (shown to the right of fiancé Corey Krinkle), 2015, M.S.O.T.
- 12) Adam McCauley (shown to the right of Sandlot Sports co-founder Ryan Dost), 2003, B.A.
- 13) Christine Greve (shown to the right), 1992, B.B.A.
- 14) Jennifer Thunberg, 2001, B.S.; 2003, M.Ed.
- 15) Zackary Lechner, 2015, B.B.A.
- 16) Shannon Mallek, 2006, B.B.A.



Charity Caverly, 2016, M.S.N., was hired as a nurse practitioner at Family Healthcare of Cass City.

Trisha Charbonneau-Ivey, 2015, M.S., was hired by the Michigan Health Improvement Alliance, Inc., as its new associate director.

Natalie Chmiko, 2012, B.B.A., and her team at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's International Trade Program, were awarded the President's "E" Award, which is the highest recognition any U.S. entity can receive for making a significant contribution to the expansion of U.S. exports.

Amy Chumah, 2014, B.S.W., was hired as a social worker for the Disability Network of Mid-Michigan's Independent Living Program.

Caleb Davis, 2017, B.B.A., has signed to play basketball for the Adelaide 36ers in Australia.

Anthony Filipek, 2011, B.S., won the Annual Stafford Community Marathon race with a time of 2:52:53.

Kevin Finley, 2017, B.P.A., accepted a full-time job in the accounting department with The Dow Chemical Co. before graduating in May 2017.

Kaleb Forr, 2014, B.A., was hired as the varsity football coach for Kearsley Community Schools.

Anthony Garant, 2016, B.B.A., was promoted to group sales coordinator for the Great Lakes Loons.

John Jacobs, 2010, B.S., was elected to the Cardinal Athletic Hall of Fame for his football career at SVSU.

Brandon Jerashen, 2011, B.A., was appointed band conductor for the Mid-Michigan Brass Band.

Iridian Juarez, 2017, B.S.W., in the spring began a yearlong program at Detroit-based Quicken Loans, where she is participating in work relating to different career paths including client care and mortgage banking.

Dennis Kan, 2016, B.S.W., was hired as a counselor at BASES Recovery Center.

Zackary Lechner, 2015, B.B.A., has joined the Wells Fargo Advisors' Saginaw branch as vice president of investments.

Diane Middleton, 2004, M.A., has been promoted to the position of executive director at the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Darby Oswald, 2017, B.A., was appointed Creative Lead at Xtend, Inc., in Grand Rapids.

Kayle Polega, 2015, M.S.O.T., announced her engagement to Corey Krinkie.

Shannon Popham, 2017, B.A., was hired as a first grade teacher at Laker Elementary.

Blake Putman, 2010, B.S., plans to open a family medical practice in Caro this fall.

Tricia Raquepaw, 2010, M.B.A., was promoted to senior vice president and director of marketing at Independent Bank.

Olivia Steffke, 2013, B.S., is engaged to **Andrew Thiel, 2014, B.S.**

Marion Stewart, 2010, B.S.W., was hired as the basketball coach for Port Huron High School.

Kyle Thayer, 2016, B.S., recently accepted the position of Human Resources director for HCR ManorCare in Bay City.

Benjamin Younkin, 2010, B.S.; 2014, M.A., coached team 5509 "Like A Boss" out of Midland High School in the FIRST Robotics State and World Championship.

Albert Plaush — April 18, 2017

Albert “Bert” Plaush, 83, was the longest-serving employee in SVSU’s history. Plaush was one of the founding members of the institution’s Department of Chemistry when he arrived at SVSU in 1967. He continued to teach for 50 years until his death during the 2017 winter semester.

The professor of chemistry influenced generations of students and colleagues along the way.

David Karpovich, SVSU’s Herbert H. Dow Endowed Professor of Chemistry, studied under Plaush as an undergraduate. He remembered Plaush’s passion for science in the classroom as well as his dedication to student success long after grades were finalized.

Graduating from SVSU with a bach-

elor’s degree in 1992, Karpovich felt homesick early on while attending graduate school at Michigan State University. One day, Plaush showed up unannounced to lift his former student’s spirits.

“He found me in my laboratory and asked me to show him around campus,” Karpovich said. “I was excited to see him and he seemed excited to see me. It meant a lot to me that he would do that. That was Bert, every day to everyone.”

SVSU memorialized Plaush by naming a lab for him in Dow Doan Science East. Room 228, where he taught many courses over the years, was dedicated as “Albert Plaush Laboratory” during an August ceremony attended by family, friends and colleagues.



1960s

Constance Ballard, 1968, B.A. — June 4, 2017

Age 89, Ballard was born in Passaic, New Jersey, and spent many years teaching Sunday school and working with the Cub Scouts and Brownies. She was an antique dealer and avid supporter of the Interlochen Arts Academy.

James Brown, 1969, B.A. — Jan. 13, 2017

Brown, 86, was a military policeman before attending SVSU to pursue an accounting degree. He served many years as a CPA before dedicating his time to music. He was a well-known pianist in the Great Lakes Bay Region, playing for the Dick Jessup Band.

Janice Spivey, 1969, B.A. — May 15, 2017

Spivey, 71, attended a one-room school house in North Dakota for her elementary years. Upon moving to Michigan, she attended SVSU before moving to Kentucky and Illinois. She worked as a litigation case manager at KONE, Inc.

1970s

Vincente Castellanos, 1975, B.S. — May 22, 2017

Castellanos, 74, served his country in the U.S. Air Force. He served proudly on the SVSU Alumni Board of Directors, SVSU Board of Fellows, and Child Abuse & Neglect Council. He established the Hispanic American Community Endowed Scholarship at SVSU.

Rolland DeJohn, 1970, B.A. — Feb. 7, 2017

DeJohn, 94, was born in New York and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II as a gunner on a B-24 liberator. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict and retired in 1966 as master sergeant. He began teaching junior high school in 1966 and was an avid bowler.

Mary Dyer, 1979, M.A.T. — June 14, 2017

Retired from the Saginaw Public School District after 20 years, Dyer, 90, performed with the Eddy Band during summer concerts. She was a member of the YMCA and Saginaw Choral Society.

Gary Gazimek, 1973, B.S. — July 11, 2017

Gazimek, 66, began his career at the The Dow Chemical Co. and eventually moved into the pharmaceutical field, retiring from Pfizer in 2010.

Rose Guevara, 1976, B.A. — May 31, 2017

Guevara, 81, was employed by the State of Michigan as a medical case manager and spent time as a substitute teacher at Nouvel Catholic Central High School in Saginaw Township. She also was a member of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary and Moose Lodge.

Darrell Kozman, 1979, B.A. — June 23, 2017

Kozman, 69, was a Vietnam War veteran and state director for the AMVETs, dedicated to helping veterans in the upper peninsula of Michigan. He received numerous awards — including Citizen of the Year — and was an avid sportsman.

Kaye LaRocque, 1972, B.S. — March 11, 2017

LaRocque, 67, resided in Florida and retired from The Villages Regional Hospital as a respiratory therapist. She enjoyed genealogy, traveling and painting.

Gale Pretzer, 1977, B.S. — May 5, 2017

Pretzer, 64, was a mechanical engineer for Dow Corning Corp. for 32 years and later was employed by Saginaw Manufacturing, Inc. He purchased his family farm, initiated a faith-based support group called Living With Cancer Together, and participated in many humanitarian missions.

Fred Retlewski, 1978, B.S. — Jan. 22, 2017

Retlewski, 61, worked in Information Technology at SVSU, Citizen’s Bank and HealthSource. He also was a teacher at Bay and Saginaw career complexes.

Jeanne Ross, 1977, B.A. — March 8, 2017

A retired social worker for the American Red Cross and Caro Community Hospital, Ross, 84, enjoyed traveling with her family. She had a gift of quickly turning a stranger into a friend wherever she went.

Gail Shaw, 1977, M.A.T. – March 1, 2017

Shaw, 67, taught English for many years in Bay City and Vassar. She traveled the world and enjoyed the outdoors, music and classic literature.

Joyce Vescio, 1975, B.A. – April 16, 2017

Vescio, 70, retired from Saginaw Public Schools as a special education teacher and coordinator with 26 years of service. She was a Saginaw Valley Master Gardener and a 3rd Degree Reiki Master.

John Wesolek, 1977, B.S. – May 8, 2017

Wesolek, 62, was a member of SVSU's first football team. He later served as the team's defensive line coordinator for many years. He was an adjunct professor at SVSU and Delta College. He was an avid cyclist and loved spending time with his family.

1980s

Ruth Averill, 1985, B.A. – June 13, 2017

Averill, 83, enjoyed classroom teaching, piano, singing, reading, the P.E.O. Sisterhood and volunteering.

Jeanne Chipman, 1988, M.A.T.; 2009, M.A. – June 7, 2017

Retiring from SVSU after 20 years of service, Chipman, 75, enjoyed helping students. She taught school prior to her career at SVSU.

Diane Cooper, 1989, B.A. – May 3, 2017

Cooper, 84, was a passionate educator and philanthropist who enjoyed being active in her community and spending time with loved ones. She made her mark on the world as an activist for justice in the Middle East and as a connection between jailed mothers and their children during their separation.

Linda Corder, 1987, B.A. – June 18, 2017

Corder, 73, was a member of the American GI Forum and resided in Texas. She began her career with General Motors in 1966 and was the first woman of Hispanic descent to be promoted to the first line supervisor position at Saginaw Steering Gear. She retired after 31 years of service and enjoyed following genealogical societies.

Mary Doerr, 1989, B.A. – Jan. 4, 2017

Doerr, 54, spent her years in childhood education and child care, which was her passion.

Pamela Hodge, 1985, B.A. – July 9, 2017

Named to College All American 1st Team status while an SVSU softball player, Hodge, 54, loved coaching and playing the sport. She was inducted into the Michigan Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame and participated in several amateur Softball Association National Championships.

Heidi Neumann, 1988, B.A. – Feb. 25, 2017

Neumann, 52, was a true lifelong learner and teacher, never lecturing but teaching by example. Topics of her lessons included cheerfulness, patience, hard work, focusing on the positive and treating everyone with kindness and respect.

Marlene Peckham, 1982, B.A. – March 14, 2017

Peckham, 77, pursued a social work degree at SVSU and was a devoted parent to her children.

Lauren Saxon, 1985, B.S.N.; 2010, M.S.N. – July 13, 2017

Saxon, 54, dedicated her life to health care with 33 years in the industry. She was musically inclined, playing the piano, guitar and clarinet. She enjoyed pottery, boating, camping and working on crafts projects.

Gail Struble, 1984, B.B.A. – May 23, 2017

With a pen in hand, Struble, 63, could be found writing often. "Find your passion and pursue it with every waking breath, never succumbing to the mockery of others. And, lastly, tread lightly on this Earth, leaving only the slightest scent of your existence as you embark upon life's quest," she wrote.

1990s

Marsha Goward, 1999, B.A. – Dec. 11, 2016

Goward, 65, was a homemaker until 1999, when she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from SVSU, which gave her a new purpose. She worked for several years as a substitute teacher for Chesaning Union Schools and worked summers at Hehr Glass.

Charlotte McCullough, 1993, B.S.W. – Jan. 9, 2017

McCullough, 79, was a realtor and antique dealer in the Midland area for many years. She performed volunteer work for the Midland Crisis Hot Line and the Midland Literacy Council and was a member of the Midland Antique Society.

James Leonard, 1991, B.B.A. – Jan. 21, 2017

Leonard, 58, was on the Ruhland Sailing Team in the Chicago-to-Mackinac Race on the "Dolphin." He was employed at Vila Health Care of Petoskey.

Lori Lipinski, 1995, B.B.A.; 2001, M.A. – May 29, 2017

Lipinski, 54, was the operations manager and compliance officer for SVSU's Police Department. She was a member of the Bay City Yacht Club and enjoyed many outdoor activities. She enjoyed her long career at SVSU working with students, faculty and staff.

Mary Ellen Roethke, 1991, B.S.W. – April 13, 2017

Roethke, 73, was co-founder and operator of the Pine River Country Club Ranch Golf Course in Standish. She worked for Bay Psychological Associates and maintained a private practice in Standish. She was co-founder of the Friends of Theodore Roethke, and bred and raised Arabian horses. While at SVSU, she was a member of Alpha Chi Honor Society and the Student Social Work Organization.

Christopher Slusser, 1999, B.F.A. – Dec. 27, 2016

Slusser, 40, was an SVSU athlete on both the football and men's cross country teams. He was a graphic designer and production manager at GM Financial, where he played an integral role in building the branding and creative services team.

Mina Sykes, 1996, B.A. – June 8, 2017

Age 62, Sykes was pursuing a doctorate in education at the time of her death. She was employed for many years in the Saginaw Public School District as a substitute teacher.

2010s

Rehana Khan-Brown, 2013, B.A.; 2017, M.P.A. – July 9, 2017

Khan-Brown, 46, was a graphic designer and an active community member, dedicating her time to causes that embrace racial harmony and equality. She was a board member for the YWCA and Bridge Center for Racial Harmony. She studied as a Roberts Fellow at SVSU, where she was able to travel abroad to Asia.

Linda Love, 2015, B.S.W. – March 20, 2017

Love, 57, was a lifelong resident of Saginaw and was employed by SVRC Industries. Her hobbies included skating, swimming, cooking and spending time with her family.



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