

INTERIOR



Robert J. Vitito



Jerry Dennis



Andrew Swihart



Sam Sarkar



Vanessa Herd



William Bowen



Phyllis Hastings



Christopher Schilling



Deborah Martin

SVSU Recognizes Outstanding Achievement and Service at Annual Banquet

A retired banking executive and a distinguished Michigan author were honored along with several Saginaw Valley State University faculty and staff members during SVSU's All-University Awards Banquet, Friday, April 16.

Robert J. Vitito of Freeland received the Distinguished Service Award for his service to the University and community. Jerry Dennis of Traverse City, author of *The Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas*, received the Stuart D. and Vernice M. Gross Award for Literature. The award recognizes exceptional works in regional history or historical fiction/drama.

Several SVSU faculty and staff members also received recognition for outstanding achievement and dedicated service during the 15th annual All-University Awards Banquet in Curtiss Hall.

The list of faculty winners is led by Andrew A. Swihart, associate professor of psychology, who received the prestigious Franc A. Landee Teaching

Excellence Award. The Earl L. Warrick Award for Excellence in Research was presented to Sam Sarkar, professor of economics. The House Family Award for Teacher Impact was given to Vanessa Brooks Herd, instructor of social work. William R. Bowen received the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award for his part-time teaching role in the College of Business and Management.

The Ruben Daniels Community Service Award was presented to Phyllis Hastings, professor of English. The award is SVSU's highest recognition of community service and involvement by an employee. Co-recipients of the Terry Ishihara Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Involvement were Christopher Schilling, Charles J. Strosacker Chair in Engineering, and Deborah Martin, office coordinator for the Office of International Programs.

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April 27, 2004

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Up Close & Personal

Professional Profile

- **Lynne R. Graft** and **Ruth M. Sawyers**, English lecturers, published an article titled “Celebrating Great Lakes Literature” in the Fall 2003 *Language Arts Journal of Michigan*. The article encouraged educators throughout the state, primary to college level, to incorporate the rich, regional literature of the state of Michigan into their curriculum. It shared ideas from Graft and Sawyers’ recently created General Education literature offering, Great Lakes Writers, to suggest authors of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, oral history, and film to consider in classrooms along with various teaching approaches.
- **Tai-Chi Lee**, professor of computer science, recently had an article titled “Framework for Executing VHDL (Verilog Hardware Definition Language) Code on FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array)” accepted for presentation at the 2004 International Multi-conference on Computer Science and Computer Engineering, June 21 through 24, Las Vegas, Nev.
- **Mike Mosher**, assistant professor of art/communication & multimedia, was a co-editor for the recent issue of *Family (does not equal) Nation*, a series of online essays that examines a range of topics, including post-9/11 US as seen from eastern Europe, the 1993 siege of Waco, two writers’ relationships to Israeli citizenship, the Iowa Democratic caucus, married names, progressive fatherhood, San Francisco gay marriages by one writer who took the vows and another who said no thanks, nationalistic artworks in Canada, MTV’s Osbourne family, and a continued dialogue on Black Panther artist Emory Douglas. Also included are two galleries of paintings and woodcuts on themes of family and nation by artists from the US and from Australia. One of the two artists featured is **Andrea Ondish**, Curator of Education at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, producing American Graffiti on domestic and social issues. The essay on the Osbournes was written by Communication and Multimedia graduate student Tamara Watkins. Mosher argues that an earlier essay by Professor Gaiter of Columbia College neglected Emory Douglas as a California underground cartoonist, and she replies.
- **Dee Storey**, professor of teacher education, gave two presentations at the 2004 state conference of the Michigan Reading Association, April 2004 in Detroit. The presentations were titled “Fictional Readers and Writers in Children’s and Young Adult Literature” and “A Matter of View and Voice: Multiple Narrators in Children’s and Young Adult Literature.”

The *Interior* is published biweekly when classes are in session fall and winter semesters and periodically through the summer. University departments sponsoring activities or events listed in the *Interior* will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities when contacted at least three days in advance.

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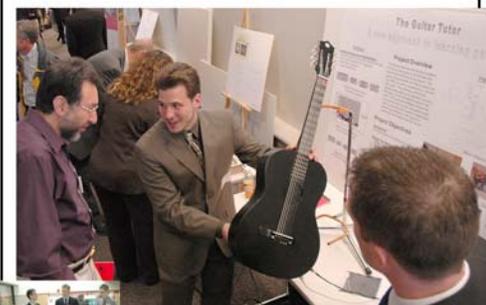
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Interior Publication Schedule

April 27 • May 11

Items should be submitted by noon on the Friday before the publication date to the Office of University Communications, 389 Wickes Hall, (989) 964-4086, or E-mail: tmi@svsu.edu.

Student science projects displayed at symposium



Students in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology displayed and explained their senior research projects at the Dow Corning Symposium in Science and Engineering, Friday, April 23 in the Dow Doan Science Building East. Safely removing soil contaminants, testing technology for a wireless restaurant, a fire fighting robot, and a lift system for dirt bikes were among the nearly 50 student research projects that were featured.



The SVSU Ablers Club recognized five faculty for their efforts to accommodate students with disabilities. Presented with a certificate of appreciation at an April 23 reception were, from left, Kerry Segal, Nyk Bartikiw, Elson Boles, Lucy Mercier, and Joni Boye-Beaman. (Photo by Tim Inman)

SVSU Foundation announces grants to help fund projects that benefit students

In April 2004, the SVSU Foundation Board of Directors awarded more than \$23,000 for 10 grants to faculty and staff who applied for funding of projects to benefit SVSU students.

The SVSU Foundation grants are awarded from monies earned by an endowment established for this purpose. The evaluation committee includes seven community members from the SVSU Foundation Board.

Dining Services sets hours for spring and summer semesters

All campus dining locations will be closed the week of May 3, and will reopen Monday, May 10. For the first time, three locations will be open during spring and summer.

Einstein's Eatery, located in Science East, will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Apple Slice, located in the Regional Education Center, will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The Book Nook, located on the third floor in Zahnow Library, will be closed.

Nearly 600 expected at SVSU Commencement ceremonies

Nearly 600 students are expected to participate in the University's Commencement program, which will be held in Ryder Center's O'Neill Arena Saturday, May 8 at 1:30 p.m.

The graduating class consists of 597 individuals expected to complete degree requirements who have indicated that they intend to don regalia and march in the ceremony. In all, 756 students are expected to graduate, including 529 who will receive bachelor's degrees and 227 who will receive master's degrees or education specialist degrees.

Michigan Lieutenant Governor John D. Cherry will deliver the keynote address. Cherry will speak to graduates about exhibiting an entrepreneurial spirit and taking risks, as well as the importance of education in moving Michigan forward.

Cherry has served as lieutenant governor to Governor Jennifer M.

The following grants were selected for funding:

- **SVSU Choir Trip to Spain**; Eric Nisula, Department of Music; \$6,000; To provide financial support to student performers to travel to Barcelona, Spain during Spring Break 2005 to perform.

- **Student Nursing Assessment Simulations**; Marcia Shannon, Nursing & Health Sciences; \$531; To enhance

The C-Store and Java City will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. In addition, the C-Store will be open later when SVSU is hosting overnight camps.

Doan Café will be closed, except when it is open for camps. Everyone will be welcome to eat at Doan Café with the camps, at camp pricing (all you can eat). A schedule with camp dates and meal times will be made available in the near future.

For further information, call Dining Services at ext. 4252.

learning of Nursing and Theatre students through simulated patient situations.

- **Purchase of Testing Materials for TE 482**; Ginny Muller & Debbie Lively, Teacher Education; \$1,578.45; To purchase copyrighted standard tests administered to young children to provide Education students hands-on experience.

- **Academic Integrity Program**; Francis Dane, Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics (with Diane Boehm & Melissa Seitz); \$1,500; Funding for research, and the development of a website and workshops addressing academic integrity within the SVSU culture.

- **Annual Intercultural Night**; Deborah Martin, International Programs; \$1,100; To provide support for the third annual event, an evening of dance, drama, music and fashion from different cultures.

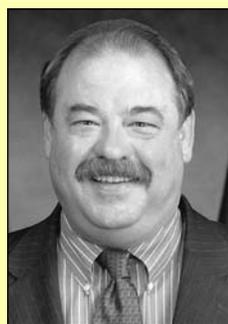
- **Firefighting Robot Competition**; Russell Clark, Electrical & Computer Engineering; \$2,460; To provide funding for Engineering students to build a robot for entry in international competition.

- **Zahnow Library Paperback Collection**; Linda Farynk, Library Director; \$4,200; To purchase paperbacks for a pleasure reading collection.

- **Interdisciplinary Research Project**; Andrew Chubb, Chemistry; \$1,550; Funding for a research project involving students from the fields of chemistry, biology, and engineering.

- **Leadership "Kickstart" Camp**; Merry Jo Brandimore, Student Services & Enrollment Management; \$2,960; Residential leadership program for freshman students.

- **Digital Community Mural Workshop**; Mike Mosher, Art; \$1,600; Project in which four SVSU art students will work with neighborhood children on Saginaw's East Side on a mural project, using digital imaging tools.



John D. Cherry

The Detroit News as one of Michigan's Most Effective Legislators.

Cherry received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan in 1973 and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan, Flint in 1984.

For those unable to attend Commencement, there will be live, streaming video of the event available at www.svsu.edu/stream/grad.htm.

All-University Awards Banquet (Continued from Page 1)

Vitito has a long history of service to SVSU. He served on the SVSU Board of Control from 1995 to 2003, including a term as chairman. Vitito has been a member of the SVSU Board of Fellows for 20 years. He continues to sit on the board of the SVSU Foundation, as he has done since 1991, including two terms as chairman. Vitito also remains active on the Foundation's annual fund committee, to which he was appointed in 2001. He co-chaired the Campaign for Distinction, which raised \$13 million for SVSU.

Vitito and his wife, Bobbi, established an endowment that supports annual student leadership and service awards at SVSU.

Vitito is a former president and chief executive officer of Citizens Bank. He retired in 2003. Vitito has received the Spirit of Saginaw Award from the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and the Whitney M. Young Distinguished Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

Swihart began teaching at SVSU as a part-time instructor in 1993. He joined the faculty full time in 1998. Swihart's area of specialty is clinical neuropsychology.

Swihart is highly regarded for challenging his students to excel in the classroom. He shares his genuine excitement about psychology and encourages students to think critically. Swihart's goal is to have his students understand and appreciate the contributions scientific psychology makes in people's lives.

Swihart received his doctorate and master's degree from the University of Houston, and his bachelor's degree from Earlham College in Richmond, Ind.

Sarkar has been a member of the SVSU faculty since 1969. He is presently involved in three major research projects: the development of a pricing model for e-business; economic factors affecting the success or failure of e-business; and a book on the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement. Sarkar's research has been published in seven refereed journals within the past four years.

Sarkar previously received the Landee Teaching Excellence Award in 1986. During his tenure, he has introduced seven new courses in economics to the SVSU curriculum.

Sarkar holds a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ranchi University in Bihar, India.

Herd, who joined the SVSU faculty in 2001, also serves as the faculty advisor for the Student Social Work Organization. Herd is active in many community organizations, including the Girl Scouts of Mitten Bay; the City of Saginaw Human Relations Committee; Leadership Saginaw; Underground Railroad; Bethel Educational Center; the National Black Child Development Institute; and Literacy Volunteers of America.

Herd is pursuing a doctorate from Wayne State University, where she received her master's and bachelor's degrees.

Bowen has taught part time in the College of Business and Management for four years, sharing the insights and experiences of his long career in industry. In one of his courses,

"Factors in Management Success," he instructs students on how to critically evaluate the image they project and how to improve it before they enter the job market.

Bowen retired as plant manager of General Motors Bay City Powertrain facility in 1999, concluding a career of nearly 40 years in the automotive industry. He holds a master's degree from the University of Detroit and a bachelor's degree from Alma College.

Hastings has been a member of the English faculty at SVSU since 1975. She has been a volunteer instructor at the Saginaw Correctional Facility in Freeland for the past four years, providing instruction in composition and literature to inmates.

Hastings received a doctorate from the University of Michigan, a master's degree from Wayne State University and a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University. She received SVSU's Terry Ishihara Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Involvement in 2001. Hastings also was awarded a Fulbright lectureship from 1987 to 1989 at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria.

Schilling was named the Charles J. Strosacker Chair in Engineering at SVSU in 2001. His primary focus is research on the conversion of agricultural waste products to biofuels and biodegradable plastics. Schilling has collaborated with faculty and students from a variety of departments outside of engineering on projects, including the installation of a corn-burning stove at the Good Neighbors Mission in Saginaw.

Schilling received a Ph.D. from the University of Washington, a master's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a bachelor's degree from California State Polytechnic University.

Martin joined SVSU as office coordinator in the Office of International Programs in 1999. Her role encompasses a range of activities and responsibilities, assisting international students in making a successful transition to American higher education. Martin has coordinated SVSU choir trips overseas, as well as international events on campus, such as Intercultural Night and the International Food Festival. She has been an advisor to the International Students Club for four years.

Dennis' book, *The Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas*, is one of the most complete books ever written about the history, nature and science of these remarkable lakes at the heart of North America. From the geological forces that formed them to the industrial policies that damaged them, to the greatest environmental success stories of our time, the lakes are portrayed in all their complexity.

The book, however, is much more than just history. It is the story of the lakes as told by biologists, fishermen, sailors, and others whom Dennis grew to know while traveling with them on boats and hiking with them on beaches and islands. It also tells the story of his personal adventure traveling the Great Lakes on a schooner, including the passage through a powerful storm.

Staff Member

OF THE MONTH

Diane Boehm

Director, Instructional Support Programs • May 2004

The end of an academic year tends to quicken the pace and increase the activity on a college campus. From her office, Diane Boehm observes students parade into SVSU's Writing Center for assistance with research papers, take-home exams and other assignments.

"It is always especially hectic the last two weeks of the semester," Boehm said, having just finished a consultation with a student herself and noting that every one of her student tutors was occupied.

During a typical week, The Writing Center will log between 75 and 80 student visits. During the last two weeks of a term, that number jumps to around 125.

"It really taxes us," Boehm said.

Boehm has a team of trained student tutors that she describes as "remarkable," particularly considering the challenge of working with fellow students.

"There is both a science and an art to being a good mentor," Boehm said. "The science is understanding the principles of writing and grammar, and analyzing assignments. The art comes in motivating students to do

good work and explaining the science in such a way that they get it."

Occasionally, Boehm will have advance warning of what to expect.

"Sometimes, faculty members will send us an advance copy of a project so the tutors know what they're working with," she said. "That helps us a great deal."

Away from work, Boehm toils in the soil, returning to her Wisconsin farm roots.

"I bring flowers from my garden to the office whenever something is in bloom," she said.

Boehm also enjoys international travel. In May, she will join a group of SVSU business students and faculty who will be touring countries in the former Eastern bloc.

"The thing I like best is getting to know people and their heritage, and see how history shapes their lives," Boehm said.

Two years of Boehm's history have been defined by researching and writing the University's self-study report with Mary Hedberg, assistant vice president for academic affairs. Neither of them had tackled anything quite like it before.

"It's the ultimate research project," Boehm said. "We had a slogan: 'We don't know what we don't know.'"

The report was prepared for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, which had an evaluation team visit in March to evaluate SVSU's petition for re-accreditation. While the official review had not been received as of press time, the exit interview was generally favorable.

For Boehm, the process was exhausting and a learning experience.

"I had no way of knowing when I started what it would take to produce a document that would meet my standards and represent the University well," she said.

Boehm hopes others find the report to be a valuable resource.

"The primary audience of a self-study is supposed to be your own institution," she said.

Boehm also learned about herself.

"It's like John Donne's poetry when he wrote: 'No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.' I always need to see my work in a larger context."

