

Interior

April 25, 2006

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Judge, utility exec, author and SVSU employees honored

A local jurist and a utility executive were honored along with a Michigan author and several SVSU faculty and staff members during SVSU's 17th annual All-University Awards Banquet, Friday, April 21.

Recipients of the Distinguished Service Award were **Thomas L. Ludington**, chief judge of the 42nd Circuit Court for the State of Michigan, and **Linda L. Sims**, director of community services

for Consumers Energy's gas and electric divisions. Author **Richard Bak** received the Stuart D. and Vernice M. Gross Award for Literature for his book, *A Distant Thunder: Michigan in the Civil War*.

Several SVSU faculty and staff members also received recognition for outstanding achievement and dedicated service.

The list of faculty winners is led by **Gladys A. Hernandez**,

professor of modern foreign languages, who received the prestigious Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award. The Earl L. Warrick Award for Excellence in Research was presented to **Deborah Huntley**, associate professor of chemistry. The House Family Award for Teacher Impact was given to **Mark W. McCartney**, professor of accounting. **Stephen W. Froelicher** received the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct

Faculty Award for his part-time teaching role in the Department of Chemistry.

The LaSalle Bank/Ruben Daniels Community Service Award was presented to **Elizabeth A. Roe**, assistant professor of nursing. Two recipients shared the Terry Ishihara Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Involvement: **Nick Badalamenti** (not pictured), electrician/ working foreman, and **Kenneth Jolly**, assistant professor of history.

The Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award was given to **Robert S.P. Yien**, vice president for academic affairs, and his wife, **Amy**.

For complete bios on each award recipient, visit www.svsu.edu/newsevents.



Thomas L. Ludington



Linda L. Sims



Richard Bak



Gladys A. Hernandez



Deborah Huntley



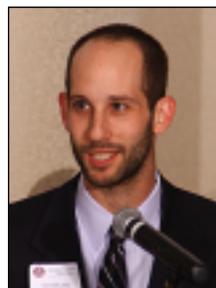
Mark W. McCartney



Stephen W. Froelicher



Elizabeth A. Roe



Kenneth Jolly



Robert S.P. Yien

Marty Arford

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY

Ask Marty Arford what he does for a living and without hesitation, and with more than a touch of pride, he will tell you, “I play with mud.”

Further conversation will reveal that Arford’s real interest lies in studying plant life and climate history by examining lake sediments.

“As the sediments are deposited, they record what’s going on with the landscape around the lake,” Arford explained. “In particular, I look at pollen and microscopic charcoal. By identifying the pollen, we can identify the vegetation that was growing there.”

Arford’s most intensive research has been in Costa Rica, studying six lakes on the slope of a volcano. Each is estimated to be 8,000 years old and can provide insight into the lives of prehistoric Native Americans.

Arford notes that Michigan has “no shortage of lakes,” and while much is already known about them, he plans to further study those closest to home.

“What I’m hoping to do is take a more local view of the Saginaw Valley area and look at more and more lakes over time, including tying it to the archaeological past,” he said.

Arford intends to include students in his field expeditions. “It’s easy to get students involved when travel doesn’t cost

thousands of dollars,” he said – although he and geography colleague Evelyn Ravuri do have plans to take students to Costa Rica next spring.

Arford continued, “I wanted to go to a university where undergraduate education is an emphasis, and to get more undergraduates involved in research and working in the field, because that’s the experience I had.”

During his first year at SVSU, Arford has observed students who take their studies seriously, though they have many demands on their time.

“Students here are so busy,” he said. “They are people with families, people with full- or part-time jobs, and it seems like they are trying to fit education into an already full life.”

Arford can relate. After working for many years as a full-time paramedic, he worked three part-time jobs after returning to school full time.

“I like the small class sizes here,” Arford added. “It’s much easier to get to know students and interact with them on a personal level.”

Arford also enjoys his fellow faculty.

“I’m happy here. There really is a culture of taking undergraduate education seriously. I’m glad to be at a place where the priorities are in order.”



Michael Holliday

MANAGER, ITS SUPPORT CENTER • MAY 2006

Computers have become nearly indispensable on a modern college campus. Mike Holliday has watched the reliance on technology grow rapidly during his time at SVSU.

"I've gone from being the only tech to having eight people under me," he remarked.

Holliday enjoys the personnel aspects of his job, but he finds staying current on the latest technology is more difficult.

"Technology has grown to the point where it's very difficult to keep up with all the different varieties," he said. "It's a love-hate relationship. I love to work with people and I want to do it, but now I can't remember all of the different changes in technology because I don't have time to focus on that any more."

As hard as they may try, Holliday says IT people cannot be experts in everything.

"We can't know it all," he said. "We're learning as much as the users are."

That includes the latest version of SVSU's e-mail software.

"There is no training available for Groupwise 7," Holliday said. "We have to learn on our own."

One area where Holliday has used his experience to make changes is in the operation of the help desk, which can be a stressful position, often receiving more than 200 calls per day.

"People tend to burn out in a help desk function," he said, "so we went from having everyone answer the phone whenever it rang to having specific people on a rotating basis."

Holliday says the rotations last two weeks and have worked out well, adding that colleagues from other universities are impressed when they hear about the novel approach.

"We're doing things right," Holliday said. "We're ahead of the game."

Holliday rotates machines, too. Each summer, between 200 and 250 terminals are replaced in the heavily-used computer labs across campus, and faculty computers are updated, too. Typically, the units are replaced every three or four years.

Away from the office, Holliday is "learning homeowner life" and all of its demands. He also enjoys spending time with his family and playing softball over the summer.

Although admittedly "not a huge computer user at home," Holliday said he puts his technology skills to use in other ways. Active in his church, he handles the multimedia aspects of worship services.

Holliday finds his job very satisfying, in large measure because of the teamwork and camaraderie among ITS staff.

"We have a good group of people who enjoy what they do."



Professional Profile

• **Joseph Ofori-Dankwa** and **Surender Reddy**, professors of management and marketing, published a paper titled “Diversity Management Using the Diversimilarity Paradigm: A Case Study of the D&W Food Centers” in the summer edition of the *Journal of Diversity Management*.

Reddy also published a paper titled “The International BPO Location Model and Its Applications” in the *International Journal of Business Research*.

• **Altat U. Rahman**, professor and department chair of electrical and computer engineering, attended the 22nd annual Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Heads Association (ECEDHA) meeting, organized by the International Engineering Consortium (IEC) and ECEDHA, in Kahuku, Oahu, Hawaii, March 10-14. Rahman discussed the impact of globalization on electrical and computer engineering curricula of the future in the plenary session. Rahman was elected chairman of the Great Lakes Region and chaired the regional department heads meeting, interacting with colleagues from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

• **Beth Rusch**, University Police sergeant, was named Officer of the Year by the Saginaw Exchange Club. She was selected as the 2006 recipient from the Saginaw Police Chief's Association, which represents 12 of Saginaw County's smaller police departments. Rusch formally received her award April 11.

• **Jill Wetmore**, professor of finance, published an article titled “Mortgage Refinancing Activity: An Explanation [1990-2001]” in *The Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, and published a second article titled “Comparative Performance Evaluation of Small, Medium, and Large U.S. Banks” in *Banks and Bank Systems*.

New Cardinals

• **Debra Storch**, senior secretary in campus facilities/continuing education, had a baby girl, McKenzie LeAnn Storch (5 lbs., 14 oz., 18 in.), Tuesday, March 21.

• **Brian J. Thomas**, instructor of sociology, and his wife Holli had a baby boy, Elliott James Thomas (7 lbs., 5 oz., 19.5 in.), Friday, March 24.

Briefly Speaking

• **Rosalyn Sweeting**, lecturer of biology, changed her office from SW239 to SW254; her phone number is unchanged.

• Einstein's Eatery and Java City will close at 2 p.m., and the RFoC and Freshens/C-Store will close at 5 p.m., Friday, April 28. Beginning Monday, May 15, Einstein's Eatery will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., with Quizonos staying open until 8 p.m. Java City will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Freshens and the C-Store will be open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Robert S.P. Yien will retire from the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs at the end of June 2006 and will return to teaching. A campus reception is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Roberta Allen Reading Room, at which time a special “memory book” will be presented.

SVSU employees are invited to submit a personal letter of remembrance of your association with Dr. Yien for inclusion in this memory book. Please send your letters to Kristen Gregory, 338 Wickes Hall, by Wednesday, May 10.

Condolences

• To **Judy Berglund**, assistant professor of social work, on the loss of her father, Wayne (Whitey) Earl Dearing, who passed away April 9.

• To **Moe Bidgoli**, associate professor of computer science, on the loss of his mother, Zahra Bidgoli, who passed away April 3.

• To **K.J. Foster**, coordinator of campus recreation & summer athletic camps, on the loss of his father, Jerome Foster, who passed away April 5.

• To **Barbara Jean Jones**, associate professor of teacher education, on the loss of her mother-in-law, Central Jones, who passed away March 31.

• To **Lucy Mercier**, associate professor of social work and youth services, on the loss of her mother, Iva Mercier, who passed away March 29.

• To **Nancy Rood**, faculty secretary, on the loss of her mother, Alice (Jean) Wolinski, who passed away April 6.

• To **Carrie Sorensen**, professor of teacher education, on the loss of her father, George Sorensen, who passed away March 31.

• To **Ann-Catherine Sullivan**, associate professor of teacher education, on the loss of her mother, Jeanne Sullivan, who passed away March 22.

• To **Kathleen Theiler Lanza**, administrative secretary in admissions, on the loss of her mother, Dorothy C. Theiler, who passed away Feb. 18.

• To **Jerry Wallaert**, delivery clerk, on the loss of his mother-in-law, Eva Landman, who passed away April 7.

The Interior is published on the last Tuesday of each month for faculty and staff at SVSU. 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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