

Halloween, service and scholarship celebrated at annual faculty banquet

The Faculty Association recognized professors for outstanding scholarship and service at its Annual Awards Banquet, Friday, Oct. 13.

The Faculty Recognition Award for Scholarship was presented to **Hamza Ahmad**, who was nominated by the entire Department of Mathematical Sciences. Ahmad is a professor of mathematics. The award was presented by Gretchen Mooningham as a representative of the mathematics department.

Professor of English **Basil Clark** received the Faculty

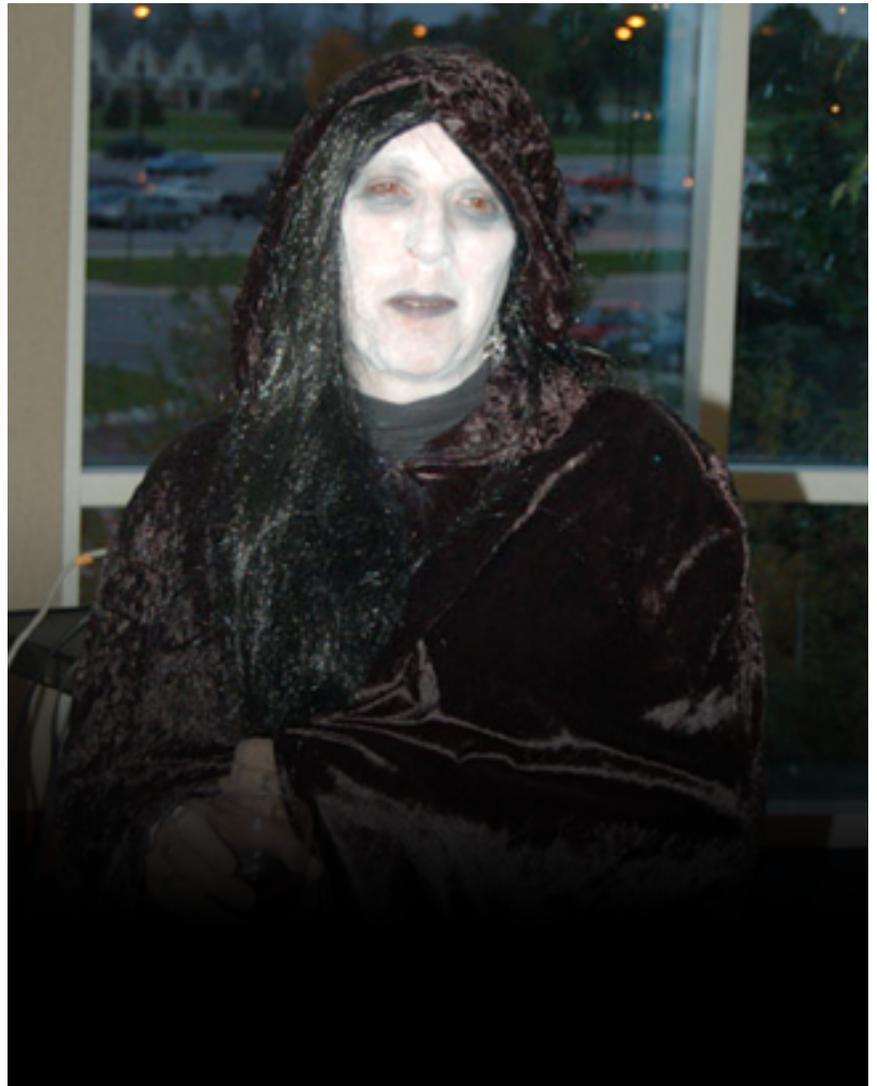
Recognition Award for Service. He was nominated by Kay Harley, Judy Kerman, Kerry Segel, Paul Munn, Moe Bidgoli, Erv Sparapani, Gail Sype, Marcia Shannon and Janice Wolff; and the award was presented by Gary Thompson.

Faculty Association Endowed Scholarship winners also were named: **Mazin James Khlaif** (Mohamed El-Kasabi, faculty mentor); **Ashley Talley** (Margaret McCue-Enser, faculty mentor); and **Brian Wiesenauer** (Andrew Chubb, faculty mentor).

Also presented were the

Chrysallis Scholarship winners: Pamela Deming and Paula Louchart-Schuchardt.

The students were introduced by Mark Nicol, a member of the selection committee.



This year's banquet theme was not for the faint of heart, as several SVSUFAs members donned Halloween costumes. Clockwise, from top right: Elizabeth Hansen and Donna Helmreich as a pair of witches; Shaun Bangert made sure the Grim Reaper made an appearance; Basil Clark and his wife Margaret Ann enjoyed themselves; and several SVSU administrators had their "grave stones" on display in Curtiss Hall.

Byung-In Seo

Assistant Professor of Teacher Education

Byung-In Seo was meant to be an educator – she just didn't know it. The daughter of parents who are “science and math people,” she went to college planning to follow suit before changing her major multiple times and eventually getting her degree in English.

Seo tried her hand as a writer but found that wasn't for her, so she became a substitute teacher.

“I loved it,” she said. “I thought, ‘if I love the most difficult job in the world, I need to be a teacher.’”

Seo had done some one-on-one tutoring, her “favorite kind of teaching,” but she saw it as community service, not a career.

“I've been in the educational business for most of my life, but I thought that being a tutor would be a nice hobby,” she said. “It never occurred to me that it would be a profession.”

Seo landed her first full-time teaching job in 1994. Over the next several years, she taught throughout the Chicago area in suburban districts, as well as those in the inner city. Those experiences help Seo relate to a broad cross-section of SVSU students, and she has found them to be eager to hear what she has to say.

“Students here have a yen to learn,” she said.

Seo is especially intent on teaching about urban schools.

“Kids are kids,” she said, “but the average individual does not understand the obstacles urban kids have to endure.”

Seo shared examples of students who were absent because they were afraid of being shot on their way to school and another who was consistently tardy because he worked a third-shift job to support his family.

In all schools, two-parent households are increasingly uncommon, and that has increased expectations of teachers, according to Seo.

“I stress to my students that they have an awesome responsibility as teachers,” she said. “They are with kids for eight hours a day. That's where teachers are vital; they are the most stable adults many students have.”

Seo does not want to lose touch with what teachers face in the classroom. She will spend part of her summer doing a writer's workshop for eighth grade students in Chicago.

“I am making a conscious choice to stay in the daily grind,” she said.

After completing her doctorate, Seo applied to many universities, but she feels as though she was destined to be a Cardinal.

“This job was chosen for me; I didn't choose the job.”



Jim Leming

Gerstacker Endowed Chair in Education

One of the most memorable moments of James Leming's career came not in a classroom, but an elevator. During a conference, a man riding with Leming shared that his school district had changed its organizational structure based on an article Leming had written. Such experiences are why Leming left his public school teaching career to enter higher education.

"I wanted to have a bigger impact on the field of education," he said.

Leming is a leading voice on character education.

"My career has been focused on trying to figure out how we teach values in schools," he said. "We have a crisis of character among young people today."

As he sees it, Leming's other scholarly emphasis, social studies and economics education, goes hand in hand.

"I have become increasingly interested in how central it is to the survival of this country to ensure that young people have a deep understanding of our traditions and our values. I see signs that we're starting to lose that.

"I feel that there are certain core principles and core values that make the American people distinctive – envied and hated around the world. When you lose that national sense of identity, you don't know where you're going."



While Leming teaches undergraduate and graduate courses, his most popular contribution to the College of Education is a one-hour seminar he gives to nearly all students preparing to graduate. It is titled "Teachers can be millionaires, too." He hopes they carry that lesson with them into their future classrooms.

"My feeling is that if kids are going to live a good life, they need to know how to participate and be successful in the economic aspect of their lives," Leming said.

Leming admits that most people would find his work "boring," but having a voice in national debates has value.

"It reflects well on the University," he said. "Everything you write has your institutional affiliation, so it brings some recognition to the University and to some extent, the Saginaw Valley region."

After more than 30 years in the field, Leming finds personal satisfaction in having contributed to the ongoing dialog about American education.

"I care deeply about education in this country; it's what I've dedicated my life to. To be part of that discussion makes me feel good about my life."

SVSU Professional Service*

- Evaluator for the Transition to Teaching Project at SVSU, funded through the U. S. Department of Education -Teacher Quality Programs.
- Director of SVSU's Center on Economic Education.
- Advisory Committee on civics teacher certification standards for the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence
- Evaluation consultant for The Heartwood Institute's Middle School Ethics Curriculum Project
- Curriculum Committee for the Learning for Life Character Education Program

Scholarly Activity*

- "Research methods for moral and character education," a chapter to appear in the forthcoming book, *Handbook on Moral and Character Education*.
- "The state of social studies: A national random survey of elementary and middle school social studies teachers" was published in *Social Education*.
- "Character Education" appeared as a chapter in *Encyclopedia of Education and Human Development*.
- "Character education and the religious impulse: Historical and contemporary perspectives" was presented in 2004 at the annual meeting of the Association for Moral Education.
- "Experiencing character education: Student and teacher voices" was published in *Journal of Research in Character Education*.
- "Teaching core democratic values" was presented in 2004 at the Core Knowledge National Conference.
- "Ignorant activists: Social change, 'higher order thinking' and the failure of social studies" was included as a chapter in *Where Did Social Studies Go Wrong?*, a book for which Leming was also an editor.

*Lists are representative, not all inclusive

Jerry Wallaert

Delivery Clerk • November 2006

People are communicating in new ways every day, it seems. A brief stroll around campus will show students checking e-mail, sending instant messages, and generally using the written word in more ways than ever before.

But modern communication is far from paperless. Just ask Jerry Wallaert, who has spent most of the past 30 years in the SVSU mail room.

“We thought (technology) would change things, especially e-mail, but it turns out, when all is said and done, people still like that hard copy,” he said.

The University has around \$250,000 in outgoing mail each year; some 30,000 to 40,000 pieces of mail are delivered daily.

“It’s a beat-the-clock kind of job through the course of the day,” Wallaert said. “People notice if you’re 10 or 15 minutes late on a route.”

All incoming mail goes first to Delta College, which shares the University Center postal designation, so that is Wallaert’s first stop each day. He “loves” his job, but it is not without its challenges, such as personnel turnover and staff relocations.

“You keep up with the times and the people, the constant changes,” he said. “It’s much harder on my students. They have to learn all the names, and we have approximately a thousand employees.”

“The biggest one (lately) has been the Pioneer move. You’ve got the dean on one side of campus and the rest of the staff on the other side.”

Away from work, Wallaert likes to have a pencil and scorecard in hand. “I’m a golf fanatic,” he said, estimating that he plays 40 to 50 rounds each summer.

Wallaert, his wife Lori, and their daughter Janie, like to stay active. “We’re not sit-still kind of people,” he said.

The holiday season is a special time for them. They have been going to a resort near Cadillac for the past 20 years.

“It’s a tradition – weather permitting – to go canoeing the day after Christmas. It’s quite beautiful if there’s snow on the ground.”

Wallaert says the favorite part of his job is when he hears from former student employees ... but they rarely send letters.

“No, they stop by mostly. That would be ironic, though, wouldn’t it,” he asked rhetorically. “It’s nice to see the kids grow up, mature and move on.”

Wallaert has watched SVSU grow from a few buildings to a sprawling campus, but his role is largely unchanged.

“We keep getting bigger,” he chuckled, “but the mail room stays the same.”



Jerry Stuart

Director of Construction and Maintenance Operations • December 2006

Forgive Jerry Stuart if you catch him taking a moment from time to time to admire Curtiss Hall. Being hired as project manager in 1994 to oversee its construction is what brought him to SVSU.

“I know that building better than any building on campus,” he said. “When you’re project manager on a job, you know that job better than anyone else, other than maybe the general contractor.”

The responsibility extends to the smallest detail, such as the fireplace in the Emeriti Room. “It would not stay lit,” Stuart recalled. It turned out the supplier had provided the wrong model.

The constant growth of the University leaves no shortage of things for Stuart to do. “I like being busy,” he said. “Since I’ve been here, that hasn’t been a problem. I can’t recall a year without a major project.”

Stuart was at his busiest when five major construction projects were underway simultaneously and all had to be ready to open in fall 2003. That time was “pretty much impossible.”

Stuart says his coworkers make those trying times tolerable. “We have a good group in our department,” he said.

Current building efforts include the \$16 million renovation

and expansion of Pioneer Hall scheduled to finish next August, and upgrades to the baseball and softball fields.

“They’re going to be ready by spring,” Stuart said. “It will be a huge improvement. It will be the nicest stadium complex that I’m aware of in the conference.”

Stuart enjoys athletics himself, regularly playing basketball on his lunch hour. Playing golf is his “favorite thing to do,” and he also has begun running with his wife, Kathy. “She was getting skinnier as I was getting fatter,” he quipped.

Stuart added that he was also motivated by SVSU’s wellness program.

Camping is a popular family activity for Stuart, his wife and their three grown children, one of whom lives in Seattle. Eschewing the interstate, a recent trip west resulted in four days of driving along U.S. Highway 2. “There’s a lot of history along there,” he said.

Stuart appreciates the role he and his colleagues play in building SVSU’s physical history. “We try to get it right – heavy on the try,” he said. “It’s not like building cars where you make a million of the same thing. Each building is unique, so it’s like a brand new model every year.”

And Stuart will inspect every part, right down to the ignition.



Professional Profile

- **Clifford Dorne**, associate vice president for program development/graduate recruitment and professor of criminal justice, presented a paper titled “Theoretical Roots of Restorative Justice” on a panel dealing with Advanced Mediation Practice in Restorative Justice at the Association for Conflict Resolution conference in Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 28.
- **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, gave a paper titled “Not-So-Tragic Mulattas” at the Third International Conference of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers, held in Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 8-11.
- **M. Yousef Jabbari**, associate professor of mechanical engineering, was the lead author on a paper titled “Film Cooling Effect of the Leakage through the Seam of Adjacent Turbine Plate Platforms.” The paper was presented at the 13th International Heat Transfer Conference held in Sidney, Australia, Aug. 13-18; and it is to be published in the conference proceedings.
- **Tai-Chi Lee**, professor of computer science, recently had an article titled “SGNID (Signature-Graph based Network Intrusion Detection System) Design with NMS (Network Monitoring System) using SNMP” accepted for publication in the forthcoming edition of *Lecture Series on Computer Science and Computational Science* by VSP/Bill Publishing Company, in conjunction with the International e-Conference on Computer

SVSU faculty and staff receive grants

Mary Hedberg, interim dean of the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences, received \$143,678 from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth to provide digital portfolio components, seminars, and year-long workshops and mentoring to boost SVSU’s overall graduation rate for primarily academically disadvantaged and/or economically disadvantaged students, with a special emphasis on underrepresented 4-S students.

George Puia, Dow Chemical Company Centennial Chair in Global Business, received \$6,000 from the Michigan Energy Office/Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth to fund a speaker series on green buildings. The series will examine the economic viability and costs of implementing green technology into project construction, demolition, and overall techniques and concepts.

David Stanton, associate professor of biology, received \$52,101 from LI-COR Biosciences to bring new genetics technology to campus. The technology will be used in conjunction with existing genetics laboratories, and will also be used to start up laboratories in some upper-level genetics classes.

Ronald Williams, dean of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology, received \$102,202 from Solidica funded by the 21st Century Jobs Fund to extend SVSU’s partnership with Solidica into the high-value area of medical devices. The partnership will apply Solidica’s ultrasonic consolidation technique to the fabrication of medical devices.

Science at Athens, Greece, June 28-July 8; ByungKwan Lee co-authored the article.

• **Paul Teed**, professor of history, has recently published a book titled *John Quincy Adams: Yankee Nationalist*. It is a volume in the *First Men: America’s Presidents* series published by NOVA Press. He also recently presented a paper titled “An Elite Gospel of Progress in the British Raj: J.T. Sunderland and the Unitarian Movement in India,” at the Conference on Faith and History in Shawnee, Okla.

Condolences

- To **Jim Dwyer**, assistant vice president for student services and enrollment management and director of admissions, whose father, James Dwyer, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 8.
- To **Doug Hansen**, professor of educational technology and development, whose mother, Dorothy B. Hansen, passed away Saturday, Nov. 11.
- To **Bob Meadows**, retired professor of educational leadership, whose wife, Nancy Meadows, passed away Thursday, Nov. 2. Nancy was coordinator of clinical experiences in the College of Education.

Directory Change

- **John Lesko**, assistant professor of English, can be reached at ext. 2067.

Laura Peil, regional education center coordinator, received \$1,500 from the Dollar General Community Grant Program to expand the services of the Literacy Center and to increase the College of Education’s library collection used in on-site assessment of youth. The program places graduate student mentors in Carrollton Public Schools to work with low-income and disadvantaged youth.

John Flores, assistant director of Minority Student Services, received \$25,688 from the Michigan Department of Education: Department of Labor and Economic Growth to implement a pre-college program in Saginaw middle schools. The program will raise the number of low-income students matriculating and succeeding in college.

Robert Schooks, director of the Center for Manufacturing Improvement, received \$158,750 from the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center to increase the competitiveness of mid-Michigan’s small and mid-sized manufacturers.

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