

SVSU honors friends and employees at All-University Awards Banquet

An investment banker and a retired Dow Corning executive were honored along with a Michigan author and several SVSU faculty and staff members during SVSU's All-University Awards Banquet Friday, April 20.

Two individuals were

chosen to receive the Distinguished Service Award for their service to the University and community: **Carl Fredericks**, president of Fredericks & Associates, a California investment banking firm; and **Burnett Kelly**, former vice president and

chief human resources officer for Dow Corning Corp.

Author **Liesel Litzenburger** received the Stuart D. and Vernice M. Gross Award for Literature for her novel, "The Widower." The award recognizes exceptional works in regional history or

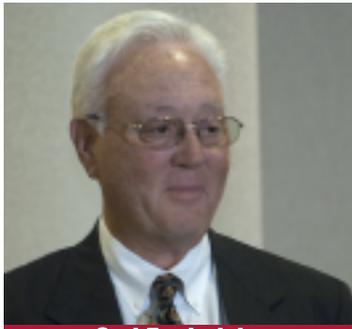
historical fiction/drama.

Several SVSU faculty and staff members also received recognition for outstanding achievement and dedicated service during the 18th annual ceremony.

The list of faculty winners is led by **Anne Tapp**, associate professor of teacher education, who received the prestigious Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award. The Earl L. Warrick Award for Excellence in Research was presented to the late **Hamza Ahmad**, professor of mathematics. The House Family Award for Teacher Impact was given to **Drew Hinderer**, professor of philosophy. **Phyllis Lietzke** received the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award for her part-time teaching role in the College of Business & Management.

The LaSalle Bank/Ruben Daniels Community Service Award was presented to **Shaun Bangert**, associate professor of art. The award is SVSU's highest recognition of community service and involvement by an employee. Two recipients shared the Terry Ishihara Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Involvement: **John Flores**, assistant director of Minority Student Services, and **James G. Royle**, associate professor of teacher education. The Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award was given to **Kenneth Jolly**, assistant professor of history.

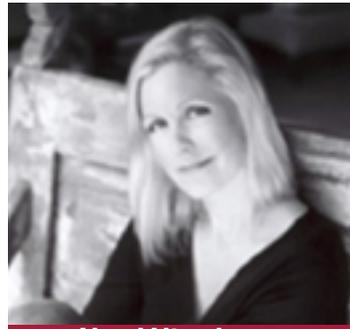
The inaugural Outstanding Performance Award was presented to **Trisha Stantz**, associate director of Scholarships & Financial Aid.



Carl Fredericks



Burnett Kelly



Liesel Litzenburger



Anne Tapp



Hamza Ahmad



Drew Hinderer



Phyllis Lietzke



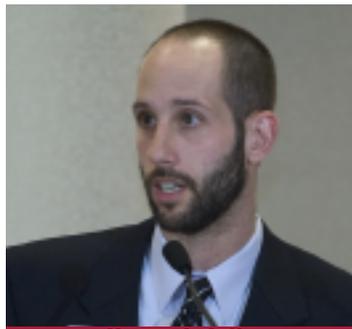
Shaun Bangert



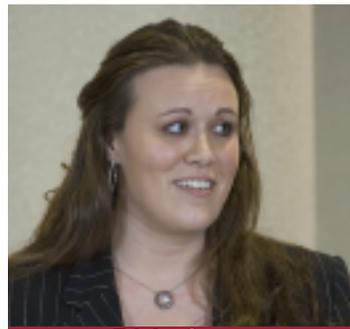
John Flores



James Royle



Kenneth Jolly



Trisha Stantz

Ming-Tie Huang

Assistant Professor of Physics

The atom. Science has learned much about the small component at the core of all elements, but much remains unanswered. Assistant professor of physics Ming-Tie Huang hopes to improve our understanding.

“I study electron correlations and how the electrons in atoms interact with each other,” he said. “It may sound weird, but this isn’t fully understood.”

How electrons interact was identified as a fundamental question within physics a few years ago. The research process is complex, but in simple terms, Huang uses lasers to cool down and capture atoms, reducing atoms’ temperature to near absolute zero and confining them to a 1mm space in order to examine them. “The advantage (of doing this) is that you have a longer time to look at them and study their interactions,” he said.

Huang has always been interested in physics; he cannot explain his fascination with electron interaction, but like many interests, “when you see it, you know it.” This summer, Huang will take his work to a research facility in Wisconsin that is in high demand. He was chosen through a competitive selection process. “I was lucky enough to get two periods of three weeks each,” he said.

Going with him will be equipment from SVSU’s physics lab,

much of which has been built here by instrument repair technician John Leonard or SVSU students. Some instruments could have been purchased, but Huang says making them enhances students’ learning.

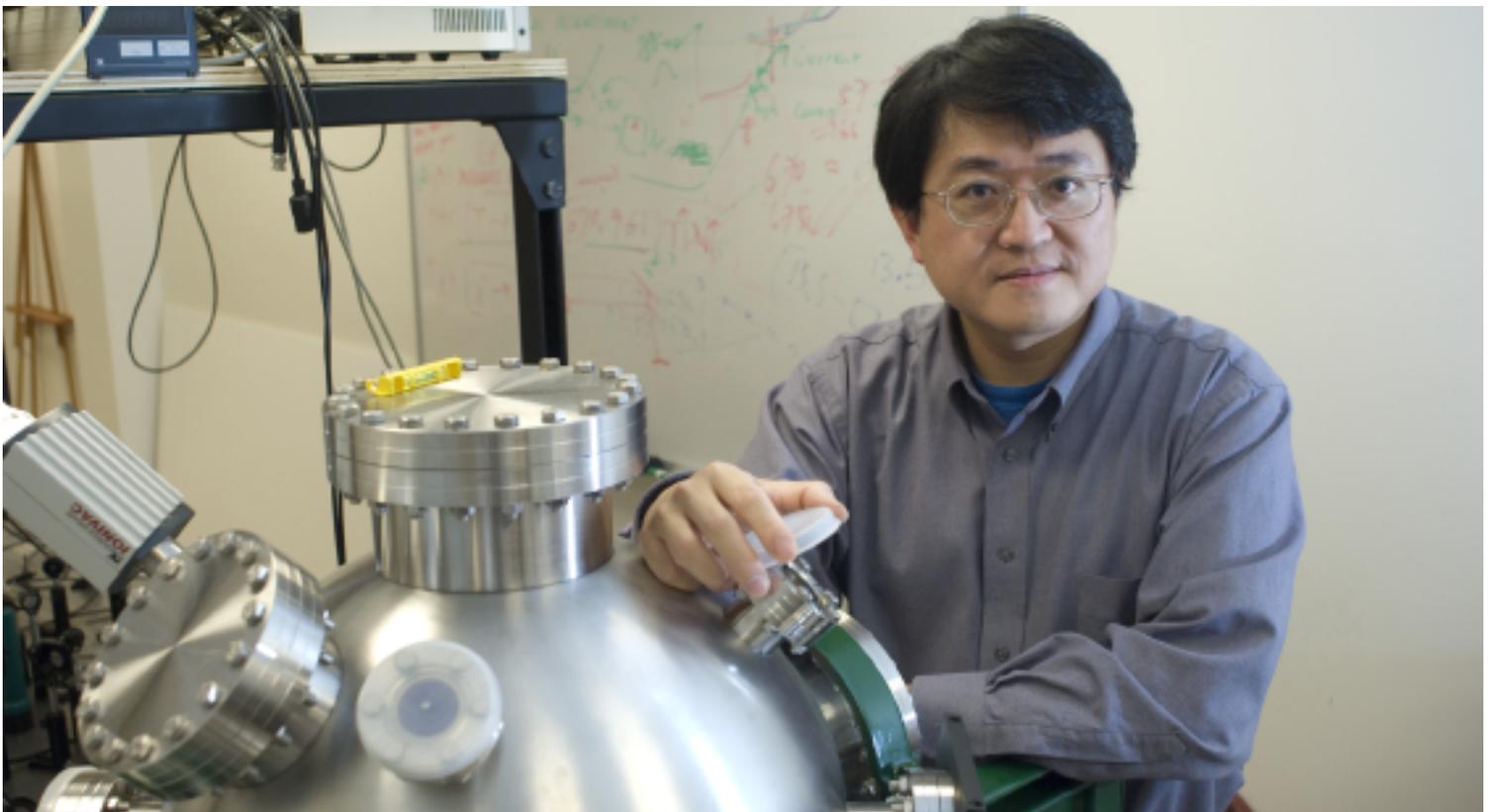
“I think it’s an advantage for students because they get involved in the whole process; they see what’s inside. Part of the reason we have a lab is to help students.”

While Huang has published articles on his research activities, he recently received considerable news attention for his role with the Chinese Cultural Ongoing Program, which seeks to increase the understanding of Chinese culture in mid-Michigan. More than 600 people attended their most recent event.

China’s burgeoning economy makes its culture intriguing to many, according to Huang. The non-profit group is seeking funds to host future events such as a taste of authentic Chinese dishes and a performance of Chinese classical music.

As a man who studies atomic reactions, Huang knows his group – with members from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the U.S. – must avoid the volatile topic of politics.

“We try to stick to cultural aspects, language, culture, music, dance. That’s the only way we get along well,” he said with a chuckle.



Jon Essex

Groundskeeper • May 2007

Three members of the SVSU grounds crew have an especially difficult job: painting.

The self-described “alpha dog” of the trio, Jon Essex, says that painting the lines and stencils on the athletic fields is a job that is often overlooked.

“A lot of people don’t realize it takes three guys to paint a field,” he said, adding it can take nearly two and a half days to paint the football field. “We have to stretch the strings out so that we’re following a straight line and find the markers in the field so that the field is in the same place every time.

“Lately, with the football team being in the playoffs every year, it seems that we’re over there until mid-December by the time we get all the fields fertilized for the winter and put to sleep so we can get a quick jump on the spring,” he explained.

“We have a lot of visiting coaches that come and say, ‘How do you get your fields so green?’ They come in mid-March and their fields are still dormant and we’re ready to mow ours.”

Spring is the most difficult season for Essex when six different teams all begin to use their fields. Moles present one of the biggest challenges to keeping the fields in tip-top shape.

“Every year it seems something else comes out to try to rectify the situation,” he said. “They tend to like grubs, but we’ve found they like earthworms even more.”

In September, Essex will celebrate his 21st year as an SVSU employee. He spent his first nine years as a custodian before moving to the grounds department, where he instantly began working on the fields and learning from his predecessors.

“We get along with sharing information because everybody’s not concerned with keeping a secret to have the upper hand,” he says. “Everybody works hand-in-hand over here.”

Essex and his wife Marla enjoy taking their three dogs camping. He also is halfway through a three-year process of becoming a commissioner lay pastor.

Like any other employee, Essex deals with complaints, but he also appreciates the praise he receives.

“I really enjoy working for all of the coaches, who are all very helpful and appreciative,” he said. “That’s the biggest thing. If you put all the effort that we do into our fields and the coaches didn’t appreciate it, it wouldn’t be worth it.”



Professional Profile

- **Cyrus Aryana**, associate professor of mathematics and faculty advisor for the SVSU Math Club, announced that a team of SVSU students placed in the top three in the annual Lower Michigan Mathematics Competition, March 31 at Calvin College. Gordon Aiello, Kerrie Clark, and Khai Huu Nguyen finished tied for third place with Kalamazoo College in the statewide math competition. A total of 40 teams were entered in the competition, which is held every spring at an institution in the lower peninsula. The contestants are from four-year colleges and universities from the state. The team received generous support from the College of Science, Engineering & Technology, and the Department of Mathematical Sciences.
- **Brooks Byam**, associate professor of mechanical engineering at Saginaw Valley State University, was selected to receive the Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International. Byam was presented the award during the SAE 2007 World Congress, April 16-19 in Detroit. He is one of 10 professors that were internationally selected for the honor.
- **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, has an article titled "African American Women's Poetry in the *Christian Recorder*, 1855-1865: A Bio-Bibliography with Sample Poems" in the current issue of *African American Review* (40.4: 813-831). The issue celebrates the publication of Julia C. Collins's rediscovered novel *The Curse of Caste*. Gardner's work recovers poems by her contemporaries.
- **Abigail Jewkes**, assistant professor of teacher education, chaired an Early Childhood and Child Development Special Interest Group paper session titled "Developmental Issues in Early Childhood Education" in which she also presented her paper "Early Self-Regulation, Literacy, and Cognitive Development: The Influence of Preschool" at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, April 9-13 in Chicago.
- **Lucy R. Mercier**, associate professor of social work, published a book titled *Smooth sailing or stormy waters: Family transitions through adolescence and their implications for practice and policy* (Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates).
- **Michael Mosher**, associate professor of art/communication & multimedia, presented at the Michigan Academy of Sciences, Arts and Literature, March 9 at Ferris State University. His presentation, "Digital Technology Use by California Community Muralists," was based on his August 2006 research trip to San Francisco and San José that was funded by an SVSU Unit Committee grant.
- **Joseph Ofori-Dankwa**, professor of marketing & management, and **Scott Julian**, associate professor of marketing & management, had their research paper titled "Towards a cartography of two strategic issue diagnosis frameworks" accepted for publication in the *Strategic Management Journal*.

- **Gerald L. Peterson**, professor of psychology, co-authored a paper, "An existential-phenomenological framework for understanding leadership development experiences" in *Leadership and Organization Development Journal*. The article was co-authored with Orlando J. Olivares and Kathleen P. Hess of Aptima Inc., Woburn, Mass.

- **Stephen W. Taber**, assistant professor of biology, and biology major Jennifer L. Maloney, had a paper accepted for publication in *The Great Lakes Entomologist*. The article is titled "The Egg of *Stylogaster neglecta* Williston (Diptera: Conopidae)."

New Cardinals

- **Rebecca Clifford**, administrative secretary in Academic Affairs, had a baby girl; Allyse Isabel (7 lbs., 13 oz.) was born March 27.

Condolences

- To **Kathy Kalmar**, associate professor of teacher education – elementary and special education, on the loss of her mother, Margaret Robertson.

Briefly Speaking

- Congressman **Bart Stupak** will address graduates during Commencement exercises Saturday, May 12 at 1:30 p.m. in O'Neill Arena. The graduating class consists of 662 individuals expected to complete degree requirements who have indicated that they intend to don regalia and march in the ceremony. In all, 860 students are expected to graduate, including 630 who will receive bachelor's degrees and 230 who will receive graduate degrees. Faculty and staff may present the Alumni Scroll to graduating members of their immediate family during the Commencement ceremony at 1:30 p.m., May 12. Call Norma Zivich at ext. 4075 to make arrangements.

- SVSU has hired **Alan D. Freed** as the Clifford H. Spicer Endowed Chair in Engineering. Freed's expertise involves modeling materials under extreme conditions, ranging from space shuttle engines to human heart valves. He comes to SVSU from NASA's John H. Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, where he has been an active researcher for more than 20 years. Freed also has collaborated for the past eight years with researchers at the Cleveland Clinic, one of the nation's top hospitals. Freed will begin his new duties July 1.

- Update your information, and state your photo preferences, by logging on to svsu.edu/lookup. For a directory portrait appointment, call ext. 4086 or email tmi@svsu.edu.

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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Noon on Wednesday before the publication date.

Please send items by e-mail to: tmi@svsu.edu.