Congressman and SVSU alumnus delivers Commencement address

SVSU has grown considerably since 1977 when criminal justice major Bart Stupak received his bachelor’s degree. In all, 141 students received bachelor’s degrees and 52 completed master’s degrees that year.

By comparison, 860 students graduated (including 630 who received bachelor’s degrees and 230 who received graduate degrees) when Congressman Bart Stupak delivered the address at Commencement Saturday, May 12. He also received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree during the ceremony.

Stupak was elected in 1992 to represent Michigan’s First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Since the Energy and Commerce Committee is an exclusive committee, it is the only committee on which he serves.

Stupak’s law enforcement background and his work as an attorney make him uniquely qualified to chair the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, a position he obtained in January of 2007. Throughout 2006, as the top Democrat on the Subcommittee, Stupak helped spearhead investigations into high-profile issues such as online child pornography, security breaches at U.S. nuclear labs, the 2006 Hewlett-Packard pretexting scandal and the BP pipeline rupture at Prudhoe Bay.


A graduate of Gladstone High School, Stupak holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He also earned an associate’s degree from Northwestern Michigan Community College.

The SVSU Board of Control approved a resolution Saturday, May 12 to grant an honorary degree to U.S. Representative Bart Stupak (see story, above). The Board also approved several capital projects, approved faculty promotions and tenure, and elected officers for 2007-08. In addition, the Board approved a series of capital projects, including:

- The purchase of administrative software at a cost of up to $400,000.
- Multiple improvements to the University’s athletic complex, including the addition of an entrance plaza, and improvements to and the relocation of the primary soccer field to the east side of Davis Road from the west side. Total cost for the projects is $760,000.
- Campus dining improvements, including the addition of a Starbucks franchise, at a cost of up to $325,000.
- The resurfacing of Davis Road from Pierce Road to College Drive at a cost of up to $650,000. Work is expected to begin in 2008.
- The resurfacing of parking lot A and Tower Drive at a cost of up to $250,000.
- The construction of an international sculpture garden at a cost of up to $300,000.
- David R. Gamez of Saginaw was elected by Board members to serve as chair. Dr. K.P. Karunakaran of Saginaw was named vice chair. Lawrence E. Sedrowski of Midland will serve as secretary and D. Brian Law of Essexville will continue as treasurer.

Promotions were granted to 13 SVSU faculty members, effective July 1. Promoted to assistant professor were:
- Anthony Crachiola, mathematical sciences
- Todorka Nedeva, mathematical sciences
- Mark Nicol, political science

Nicol was also granted tenure, effective July 1. The following were promoted to associate professor:
- Thomas Canale, art
- Ming-Tie Huang, physics
- John Lesko, English
- Julie Lynch, psychology
- Elizabeth Roe, nursing
- Stephen Taber, biology

Those promoted to professor were:
- Jesse Donahue, political science
- Jeffrey Koperski, philosophy
- Poonam Kumar, educational technology and development
- Erik Trump, political science

In other action, the Board:
- Passed a resolution to thank Andy Suszek, President, and the elected representatives of Student Association for their service during the 2006-07 academic year.
- Passed a resolution to congratulate Jeremiah Stanghini, President, and representatives elected to serve on Student Association during the 2007-08 academic year.
- Passed a resolution to commend Walt Head, baseball coach, for his 700th career victory.
- Passed a resolution to congratulate the 2006-07 SVSU bowling team for winning its fourth national championship.
- Passed a resolution to grant undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- Established the Board calendar for 2007-08.
- Approved a construction and completion agreement, a conveyance of property, a lease, and an easement agreement, if necessary, for Pioneer Hall.
- Approved a modification of the general fund operating budget for fiscal year 2007.
Only a few weeks into his first semester at SVSU, Brad Jarvis’ students made him feel especially welcome — they booed him. Of course, the Minnesota native did walk into class wearing a Twins jersey the day after the team had beaten out the Detroit Tigers for the Central Division title.

"I took a lot of flack that day," he recalled, adding that it was all good natured and one more indication that he had made a wise career decision.

"This is the exact sort of place I wanted to end up," Jarvis said. "I always wanted to be a teacher, so I like the emphasis placed here on education and teaching, and I like the fact that you get to know your students."

Himself a first-generation college student, Jarvis says many students "remind me of me. They’re uncertain as to what college is all about, but they’re bright, they’re willing to work and they’re eager to learn."

Jarvis is learning about his new home and enjoys getting to know his colleagues, citing a recent chance lunch encounter with President Gilbertson as an example.

"I like stuff like that," Jarvis said. "Faculty and staff across the University have a chance to get to know each other. It builds a collegial environment."

Jarvis is quickly acclimating to his new environment, having already joined the leadership team for Michigan History Day, which has its local district headquartered at the Bay County Historical Museum. He wants to increase the use of the facility as an educational resource.

"Students can learn about investigating primary sources and write papers, create documentaries, do performances or make a museum-style exhibit," he said.

Jarvis originally went to graduate school to become an archaeologist but a professor gave him a copy of the book The Middle Ground by Richard White.

"It changed my life," Jarvis said. "It made history interesting and intriguing to me."

The text sparked his research interests in the study of the fur trade and relations between Native Americans and European settlers.

The fur trade "drove the Michigan economy" before giving way to the lumber and auto industries. Jarvis concluded a recent U.S. survey course by asking students where Michigan’s economy might move next.

"The theme that ran through the course was looking at problems and where the solutions came from. Is it people or government or business and industry leaders that provide the solutions?" Only time will tell and history will be the judge.
Summer '07

Begins May 14

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-10:30 pm
Friday 8:00 am- 4:30 pm
Saturday-Sunday 1:00 pm- 5:00 pm

Exceptions
May 28 (Monday-Memorial Day) CLOSED
June 30-July 1 (Weekend-Between Terms) CLOSED
July 4 (Wednesday-Holiday) CLOSED
August 18-19 (Weekend-Between Terms) CLOSED
August 20-24 (Monday-Friday) 8:00 am-4:30 pm
August 25-26 (Weekend-Between Terms) CLOSED
August 27 (Fall Classes Begin) Regular Fall Hours

Reference Desk Hours 964-4242
Monday-Thursday 8:00 am- 8:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am- 4:30 pm
Saturday-Sunday 1:00 pm- 5:00 pm

Library Main Phone Number 964-4240
Life for George Velasquez is a series of rearrangements. As first-shift custodial foreman for the section of campus that includes Curtiss Hall, he and his crew are constantly setting rooms. “We’re responsible to make sure events go off without a hitch,” he said. With conferences, meetings, seminars, classes, proms, and big corporate events, “there are drastic changes every day. Everybody’s needs are totally different, but we enjoy a challenge.”

Velasquez maintains a simple, straightforward approach to customer service. “Let’s do it right the first time so we don’t have to go back and do it again. We want to do the same quality job for everybody,” he said.

The importance of making a good first impression on visitors is a chief priority for Velasquez. “We want to make sure the windows, the carpet, the runners and the walls are clean,” he said. “We take great pride in that.” Always willing to lend a hand, Velasquez tries to set a cooperative example. “If I can help somebody out, I’m going to do it.”

Velasquez gets the same in return, saying there is good teamwork and camaraderie among his staff and acknowledging that it “takes a lot of effort from a lot of people,” including the departments with whom he works most closely, Campus Dining and the University Conference and Events Center.

“We have a really good relationship,” he said.

Family relationships are important to Velasquez, who comes from a “huge family” that includes four brothers, three sisters and anywhere from 300 to 600 who attend annual family reunions, traveling from as far as Texas, New York and Iowa. In addition, Velasquez and his wife, Danielle, have four children at home. When she was on bed-rest prior to the birth of their most recent child, George displayed his familiar can-do attitude, taking care of household responsibilities, right down to putting pig tails in his daughter’s hair. “I wouldn’t have it any other way,” he said.

Velasquez has no desire to change employment, either, though his current job has more paperwork, more deadlines and more responsibility than his previous post as a third-shift foreman.

“It’s a lot more than I thought it was going to be, but I love my job and I love working for SVSU. When it’s time for me to go, they’re going to have to haul me away. Until then, I’m going to give everything I have.”
SVSU announces grants received October 2006 through March 2006

College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences
• Holly Child, assistant professor of criminal justice, received $15,273 from the Jewish Family Service to lead an evaluation team for the Mentor Connection program. Additionally, Dr. Child and Clifford Dorne, associate vice president for program development & graduate recruitment, received $2,600 from the Michigan State Bar Foundation to serve as external evaluators for the "Administration of Justice and Access to Justice Grant" with the Children’s Charter of the Courts of Michigan.
• Jesse Donahue, associate professor of political science, received $37,500 from the Ruth and Ted Braun Fellowship Program to examine the intersection of politics, science, and art in public spaces. The research will especially look at the impact of the New Deal on zoos and aquariums.
• Julie Meyer, artist-in-residence in the Department of Music, received $6,720 from the Maxwell K. Pribil Memorial Fund to fund workshops designed to bring experts to campus to enhance students’ vocal performance. The grant also supports SVSU’s Muse and Brunch event.
• Thomas Renna, professor of history, received $37,500 from the Ruth and Ted Braun Fellowship Program to fund research comparing the Middle Age Popes Boniface VIII and John XXII. The research will emphasize treaties that defended papal and ecclesiastical authority.

Crystal M. Lange College of Nursing & Health Sciences
• Janalou Blecke, dean of Crystal M. Lange College of Nursing & Health Sciences, received four grants to accelerate health care career training. The college received $150,000 from the Midland Area Community Foundation, $128,503 from the Michigan Department of Community Health/Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth: Accelerated Health Care Career Training Initiative, and $50,000 each from the Saginaw Community and the Bay Area Community Foundations.
• Margaret Flatt, professor of nursing and acting assistant dean, received $1,500 from the American Nurses Association. The project will inform health care workers and institutions about environmental and public health impacts created by the health care industry.

College of Science, Engineering & Technology
• David Stanton, professor of biology, received $49,450 from Beckman Coulter to purchase a genetic analysis system. The new equipment will allow the teaching of molecular genetic techniques in the biology laboratories.

College of Education

College of Business & Management
• Gary Clark, professor of marketing/management, received $7,550 for four client-based projects to be completed by students during the winter 2007 semester.

Outstanding student projects move forward with support from Institute

Ten outstanding SVSU students have been awarded funding by SVSU’s Student Research and Creativity Institute to support their exceptional scholarly and creative endeavors.

Four projects were chosen during a second 2007 selection process. They include developing a device for the disabled, implementing a physical fitness education program at a local school, studying a suicide prevention program, and introducing a literary criticism program at the elementary level. Some projects will begin this summer; others will get underway during the 2007-08 academic year.

Any SVSU student may submit a proposal to receive financial support for his/her research or other creative endeavors. Each student project is eligible to receive up to $10,000. All student submissions must be sponsored by an SVSU faculty or staff member. Students serve as the primary researcher, author, or creative agent for each project but are guided by SVSU faculty and staff.

The following student projects were selected to receive funding:
• Carlo Cerroni, Anthony Lombardi and Mark Pressacco will design and build a wheelchair-wheel-cleaning device for the Millet Learning Center. The project was awarded $4,057.
• Darryn Crocker, Torrey Freese, Ashley Jackson and Courtney Sierko will travel to Australia to study the “Yellow Ribbon Campaign,” a suicide prevention program, and implement it at SVSU. They will receive $5,850 to cover one quarter of their travel costs.
• Elayna Dush and Rebecca Rudey will implement a classroom-based physical activity program at Saginaw’s Arthur Eddy Academy. The project was awarded $9,975.
• Nicole Tomlinson will develop techniques to introduce literary criticism at the elementary school level. She was awarded $920 for research and to purchase children’s books.

SVSU has committed $50,000 annually to fund outstanding student projects. For more information, visit www.svsu.edu/srci.
New class selected for elite student leadership program

Twelve outstanding students at SVSU will add a concentrated focus on leadership to their studies after being selected to participate in the Roberts Fellows program for the 2007-08 academic year.

The Roberts Fellows program is among the most prestigious undergraduate programs at SVSU. The fellowships support a select group of students who have demonstrated both scholarship and leadership potential.

These students will be supported through a two-semester program of both academic course work and extracurricular activities that is designed to further develop their potential as future political, economic and civic leaders. The program culminates in a trip to Asia to provide the Fellows with an international perspective on leadership.

To qualify, students must have completed between 48 and 100 credit hours with a minimum grade point average of 3.40 and pass a rigorous selection process. Students are chosen based upon their academic accomplishment, a record of University and community service, and other evidence of leadership potential.

Students selected to be Roberts Fellows will be required to complete a three-credit "Leadership Seminar" in the fall and winter semesters within one or more academic departments. During the year, the Fellows will also meet for informal seminars and discussions with various political, business and civic leaders from throughout the Saginaw Valley region. Drew Hinderer, professor of philosophy, serves as the group's faculty advisor.

Established in 1999, the program is named in honor of Donna Roberts of Midland, who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to SVSU through her personal generosity and prior service on the Board of Control and the Board of Fellows. A respected attorney, business leader and philanthropist, Roberts retired from The Dow Chemical Company, where she was Secretary and Assistant General Counsel. She is an honorary director of the SVSU Foundation Board.

For campus event information, click: www.svsu.edu/newsevents/
Twelve leading Michigan educators have been selected for the second class of the Gerstacker Fellowship. They will receive concentrated leadership training over a one-year period, including a trip to Asia to gain international leadership experience and examine leadership practices in other cultures. Known as Gerstacker Fellows, the participants will meet monthly on weekends, starting in August. SVSU faculty from various disciplines will instruct the Fellows on subjects dealing with leadership ethics, political problem solving, financial planning, human resource management and education with a global perspective. The 2007-08 class includes, from left: Greg Matheson, Midland; Trent Mosley, Saginaw; Tammy Hankins, Mesick; Judith Zanotti, Saginaw; Dianne Willett-Dalton, Saginaw; Jessica Ziecina, Kalkaska; Shelly Ouellette, Bay City; Karen Volk, Saginaw Township; Jeriann Patterson, Marlette; Janet Greif, Midland; Carla Derocher, Bay City; and Brian Johnson, Bay City. (Photo by Adam Baudoux)

New Cardinals
• Jill Allardyce, assistant director of creative services, and her husband Evan welcomed a son, Brock William, (8 lbs., 21 in.), May 21.

Condolences
• To Robert Lemuel, director of scholarships & financial aid, on the loss of his father, Jerry Lemuel, who passed away April 6.
• To Deborah Marsh, administrative assistant in the President’s Office, and to Julie Marsh, conference coordinator in UCEC, on the loss of their father-in-law, Glenn Marsh, who passed away May 7.
• To Debbie Martin, senior accounting clerk in scholarships & financial aid, on the loss of her father, Donald Rubis, who passed away April 8.
• To Jeff Roberts, instructional technology support specialist for the REC, and to Deborah Roberts, instructional technology specialist, on the loss of their father/father-in-law, William Roberts, who passed away May 3.
• To Gerald Stevens, groundskeeper/assistant foreman in Campus Facilities, on the loss of his mother, Jeanette Stevens, who passed away May 15.

Transitions
For new faculty/staff office numbers, phone extensions, email addresses and other information, see www.svsu.edu/lookup.

New Staff
• Daniel Goodell – Classroom Technology/Video Production Tech
• William Hacker – Custodial Specialist
• Matthew Grulke – Support Center Technology Specialist

Promoted/Transferred/Title Change
• Katherine Gerard – Administrative Secretary, Admissions

Briefly Speaking
• 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.

Applications for SVSU Foundation Resource Grants are due Oct. 1. Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit funding requests for new projects that directly involve and benefit SVSU students. For guidelines and application materials, please visit the SVSU Foundation Web site at www.svsu.edu/foundation. Documents are available in (Acrobat) PDF and Word formats. For more information, contact Emmie Busch at ext. 7025, or busch@svsu.edu.

• The College of Education will host a new Summer Reading Clinic Monday, June 18 through Thursday, July 12. Students entering grades 2 through 12 will have an opportunity for focused tutoring sessions by certified teachers who hold master’s degrees in reading. Students in the clinic will be tutored in one-on-one, one-on-two, or small group instruction for 50 minutes three times a week. The sessions are held Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; available times are 9 to 9:50 a.m., 10 to 10:50 a.m., and 11 to 11:50 a.m. All tutoring is directed by SVSU faculty. Each participant must receive a pre-assessment; sessions will be held Thursday, May 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, June 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost for the program is $240. For more information, contact Melissa Kaczmarek, assistant professor of teacher education, at ext. 4982.

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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Submission Deadline:
 Noon on Wednesday before the publication date.
 Please send items by e-mail to: tmi@svsu.edu.