A Saginaw couple with a long and distinguished record of service to their community, and a retired Bay County legislator, were honored along with several SVSU faculty and staff members during the All-University Awards Banquet Friday, April 18.

Chosen to receive the Distinguished Service Award for their service to the University and community were Ruth and Ted Braun and Joel Gougeon. Ted Braun is a partner with the law firm of Braun Kendrick Finkbeiner; he and his wife Ruth are noted advocates for education and have a combined 24 years of service on the SVSU Board of Control. Gougeon served 10 years in the Michigan Senate, representing the 34th District; he continues to advocate on SVSU’s behalf before the legislature.

The Stuart D. and Vernice M. Gross Award for Literature was given to author Patty Pinner for her book *Sweety Pies*. The award recognizes exceptional works in regional history or historical fiction/drama.

Headlining the list of faculty winners were M. Patricia Cavanaugh, associate professor of English, who received the prestigious Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award; and Judith Kerman, professor of English, who captured the Earl L. Warrick Award for Excellence in Research. The House Family Award for Teacher Impact was given to Holly Child, assistant professor of criminal justice, while Melissa Kaczmarek received the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award for her part-time teaching role in the College of Education.

The LaSalle Bank/Ruben Daniels Community Service Award was presented to Mamie Thorns, special assistant to the president for diversity programs. 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: Perry Toyzan, supervisor of the graphics center, and Fenobia Dallas, assistant professor of English. The Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award was given to Drew Hinderer, professor of philosophy (not pictured). The Outstanding Performance Award was presented to Tony Thomson, director of counseling and health services.
It’s a small world, and it’s getting smaller every day. With the ease and interest in international travel and the globalization of the marketplace, distant regions are increasingly accessible and familiar. To Evelyn Ravuri, that makes it an interesting time to be teaching — and learning — geography.

“The World Regional Geography course is my favorite to teach,” she said. “I try to get students interested in the world outside the U.S. I don’t think a lot of them have traveled, from what I’ve gathered.”

Ravuri has taken that to heart herself, visiting 12 countries over the last five years, including Japan and several stops in Europe and Latin America. This summer she is headed to Australia. “I always had an interest in travel, but I couldn’t do it before — I didn’t have any money,” she laughed.

While they were all “fun trips,” they do enhance Ravuri’s teaching. “It lends a more personal feel than just reading something in the textbook,” she said. “If we’re looking at the Parthenon in Greece, I can say I’ve been there. I think it aids quite a bit.”

Beyond her interests outside American borders, Ravuri also examines U.S. census data as part of her research. “I look at Hispanic and Asian populations. I’m interested in their growth and movement in nontraditional places, such as the Midwest and South. For example, Iowa has been losing population for decades.” She noted that the population was predominantly white, but they didn’t have enough people to work, so many Mexican and Vietnamese people emigrated to work in the meat processing and agriculture industries.

Ravuri is also writing a paper that she says looks at the growth of Mexicantown in Detroit, and then Dearborn next to it. “You have these two big communities — an Arab community and an Hispanic community — together. I’m looking at which areas are growing, which areas are declining and how the white and black populations are changing.”

Within SVSU, geography is changing organizationally. “July 1 we’ll be our own department,” Ravuri said. “We’re very excited about that. Our classes fill pretty quickly.”

She also thinks understanding geography is essential to becoming an educated person.

“In a global economy, and with globalization and all the issues we hear batted around, it’s surprising not every college student is required to take at least one world geography course, because it deals with the global economy, migration patterns, transportation, environmental issues and so many different things. That’s my personal view.”

It’s a small world, after all.
The students at SVSU’s Macomb Regional Education Center are generally classroom teachers and many of them are looking to incorporate the latest technology into their lesson plans and relate to today’s K-12 students who have never known a world without personal computers.

For some of those educators, getting up to speed can be a struggle. That’s where Steve Crimmins comes in, sharing his technology expertise.

“They are teachers; they are trainable,” Crimmins quipped. They have Crimmins’ daughter to thank because he promised her he’d return to Michigan, even though coming out of school with a degree in multimedia, his interests lied in computer animation and job prospects were brightest elsewhere.

Crimmins “stumbled into” a technology specialist job with the Edison project in Mt. Clemens public schools and from there made contacts that led to his current position. He has watched technology advance by “leaps and bounds.”

“I don’t think I can emphasize on students enough how fast we’re going,” he said.

In addition to routine computer duties such as making backup tapes, running virus definitions and installing new software, Crimmins enjoys incorporating distance education.

“That’s one of the reasons I signed on,” he said. Crimmins can’t help but notice that he is “the last one here from the opening in 2003,” but he sees a bright future for the Macomb REC and enjoys its close-knit atmosphere.

“I work with some really nice people and it’s a big team effort. We all wear many hats, and we ask each other all the time, ‘Is there something I can help you with?”

In his spare time, Crimmins enjoys 3-D photography and underwater photography, and despite spending much of his work day dealing with computers, they are also a primary source of avocation for him.

“As soon as I go home, I’m right back on my computer.” Crimmins also is returning to his animation and video roots, and has “done some amazing DVDs” with faculty.

One of Crimmins’ favorites chronicled Anne Tapp and education students working with NASA. He also produced a video tribute to the late Sally Edgerton-Netke and finished a few of her projects.

“People would watch those and cry,” he said. “I feel I did a good job if I can bring out that emotion in them.”

A 10-minute video usually requires six to eight hours to produce, but for Crimmins, it’s a labor of love.

“I like to be creative.”
New crop of student leaders selected as SVSU Roberts Fellows

Twelve outstanding students have been named 2008 Roberts Fellows, which is one of SVSU’s most prestigious undergraduate programs.

The Roberts Fellowship program supports a select group of students who have demonstrated both scholarship and leadership potential. The two-semester program of both course work and extracurricular activities is designed to further develop their potential as future political, economic and civic leaders. The experience 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 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.

The 2008-09 class of Roberts Fellows — Ashley Nicol, an elementary education major; Noah Essenmacher, a secondary education major specializing in chemistry and English education; Alexandria Sodini, an international studies major; Melissa Reinert, a marketing major; Barbara Gordon, a nursing major; Brittany Burns, a pre-medicine/biology major; Kelly Guoan, a history education major; Angela Seeley, an occupational therapy major; Derek Rudel, a fine arts/graphic design major; Rebecca Griffin, a communication major; Sara Bauer, a biology and psychology double major; and (not pictured) Lisa Maroni, an international studies major. Also pictured with the Fellows are Hinderer, Margaret McCue-Enser, and Eric Gilbertson.

Collins era begins with 2008 spring football “Red vs White” game

Some 600 Cardinal football fans turned out Saturday, April 26, for a preview of the 2008 fall football season under the direction of new head coach Jim Collins, who comes to SVSU from Capital University (Ohio).

The game’s “guest coaches” included former Cardinal and NFL stars Todd Herremans, Ruvell Martin, Glenn Martinez and Eugene Marve, who also were honored at halftime of the game with plaques.

Also recognized with a trophy presentation by athletic director Mike Watson, right, were 2007-08 “Tailgaters of the Year” Lee Cruppenink, certification advisor in the College of Education, and Nic Taylor, assistant director of admissions.

Behind two touchdowns from tight end Galen Stone, the White defeated Red, 30-7, in the intrasquad scrimmage in Wickes Stadium.

The Cardinals will open the 2008 season when they host Wayne State University Saturday, Sept. 6 at noon.
Braddock to deliver Rush Lecture

Robert C. Braddock has been named by the SVSU Foundation Board of Directors to deliver the Eleventh Annual Thomas & Hilda Rush Distinguished Lecture, set for 4 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16 in Founders Hall. Braddock has taught history at SVSU since 1970. A reception follows the lecture.

Video program highlights Tyree Guyton

Dan Goodell, classroom technology/video production technician, and Marilyn Wheaton, director of the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum, recently produced a video titled “Interview With An Artist: Tyree Guyton.” The program, featuring temporary exhibitions at the museum, focused on Guyton’s Heidelberg Project, which is on display at the museum through the end of May. To view the program, go online to www.svsu.edu/mfsm and click on “exhibitions” then “temporary exhibitions.”

Kinesiology and social work departments changing colleges

Two academic departments will soon have a new home as kinesiology and social work join the Crystal M. Lange College of Health and Human Services, which has been renamed to better reflect its new makeup and mission.

“Both departments requested transfer to this College and should really benefit,” said Donald Bachand, vice president for academic affairs. The changes are effective July 1. Bachand explained that kinesiology, especially in its exercise science aspects, has much in common with occupational therapy and the two programs would benefit from shared laboratory space, and social work fits with other health sciences offerings. “It also better aligns the colleges according to size and scope,” Bachand said. The departments had been housed in the two largest colleges, kinesiology in the College of Education and social work in the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences.

SVSU employees qualify for reduced rates

All SVSU employees and retirees are entitled to reduced green fees and reduced guest fees for the 2008 golf season at the Bay City Country Club. For more details, visit www.svsu.edu/ecs/benefits/employee-perks-program.html#Golf or contact Joe Vogl at ext. 4051 or javogl@svsu.edu.

Students raise $42,000 during Relay for Life

The SVSU community set a new standard for single event fund-raising with the 2008 Relay for Life. Organized by Student Association, the annual drive raised more than $42,000 for the American Cancer Society. In addition to the walk held from 6 p.m. March 29 to 6 a.m. March 30, a variety of other activities were held throughout the week, highlighted by a dunk tank that featured a several students, faculty and staff, including President Eric Gilbertson.
Foster to step into Ombudsman’s role

Burk Foster has accepted an appointment to serve as the next ombudsman, replacing Dick Thompson, who is retiring after 38 years with the University. Foster will begin his new role August 1.

Foster knows he has big shoes to fill, stepping in for a highly-regarded student advocate, but he says he intends to “maintain Dick’s model.” One of the things he has learned from Thompson is to empower students to solve problems themselves. “My approach to the job is to be close to students and listen to them,” he said.

A relative newcomer to SVSU, Foster is no stranger to higher education. He came to campus in January 2006 as a visiting professor of criminal justice after serving more than 30 years on the faculty of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. While there, he was responsible for academic advising for criminal justice students and started the student criminal justice society; he also worked with the honors program.

“I’ve dealt with students in a variety of roles for a long time,” he said. “There is a lot for students to do here and I intend to cooperate with student organizations to increase those opportunities.”

The flexibility of the ombudsman’s role also provides an opportunity to stay involved in rebuilding the criminal justice program here, something close to Foster’s heart. He was honored at the Student Life awards ceremony April 16 for advising the criminal justice society, which has seen a dramatic increase in membership.

Professional Profile

• Jo Brownlie, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, presented “Travel Programs: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” at the 2008 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute 5th Annual Conference held in Phoenix, April 3-5.

• Nursing faculty Sally Decker, Elizabeth Roe and Marcia Shannon presented “Assessment of Organization Readiness for Evidence-based Practice at a University Hospital in China” at the 2008 MNRS Annual Research Conference, Indianapolis, March 29. Also, Shannon and Roe wrote an article titled “Immersion in China: Lessons Learned” that was published in Nurse Educator (Vol. 33, No. 2, March/April 2008).

• LaCreta M. Clark, assistant professor of educational leadership and services, presented a workshop titled “Changing Focus of Middle School Partnerships to Improve Student Success” at the 2008 National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Conference in Nashville, Tenn., April 5.

• Two newly recovered texts by African American activist Maria W. Stewart that have been edited and introduced by Eric Gardner, professor of English, appear in the January 2008 issue of PMLA (123.1, pp. 156-165). Gardner also gave a talk on his recent book, Jennie Carter, to the Saginaw Valley Rotary Club, March 17.

• Ruth Sawyers, instructor of English and reading/study strategies coordinator, presented “Reading the Text: Strategies for Accountability” at the Teaching Academic Survival Skills Conference in Florida, March 2-5.

• Stephen W. Taber, associate professor of biology, is the recipient of the inaugural Gene and Karen Yang Award for Biology Faculty for Excellence in Teaching and Research. Taber’s scientific investigations (both field and laboratory oriented) are in entomology and involve discoveries in Michigan, Arizona and Texas. Taber will use the funds from the award to purchase lab equipment for the curation, identification and storage of specimens. Since his arrival on campus in 2004, 10 of Taber’s articles/books have been accepted in peer-reviewed journals (or university presses), with three of them having SVSU students as co-authors.

• Jill Wetmore, professor of finance and assistant dean of the College of Business & Management, had a paper accepted for publication in the Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics. “Real-Estate Risk Effects on Financial Institutions’ Stock Return Distributions: A Bivariate GARCH Analysis” is co-authored with Elyas Elyasian of Temple University and Iqbal Mansur of Widener University.

Condolences

• To Pamela Clifford, associate director of alumni relations, whose mother, Elaine Clifford, passed away April 11.

• To Sara Brooks Clark, studio art technician, whose father, William R. Clark, passed away April 3.

• To Melissa Seitz, lecturer of English, whose mother, Margaret Moore, passed away March 22.

New Cardinals

• Joshua Ode, assistant professor of kinesiology, welcomed a daughter, Alesia Marie (8.8 lbs.), April 9.

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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