

Faculty, staff recognized for outstanding service

Several SVSU faculty and staff received recognition for outstanding achievement and dedicated service during the 20th annual All-University Awards Banquet Friday, April 17.

Kenneth Jolly, assistant professor of history, received the prestigious Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award.

Jolly joined the SVSU faculty in 2004 and teaches introductory history courses, as well as courses that focus on Michigan and African-American history. In addition, Jolly is the advisor to SVSU's black studies program and the SVSU chapter of the NAACP.

Jolly received SVSU's

Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award in 2007 and Terry Ishihara Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Involvement in 2006. He was honored with Michigan Campus Compact's Community Service-Learning Award in 2006, and by SVSU's Abler's Club in 2007 as a faculty member who helps break down barriers to access and acceptance of students with disabilities.

David Karpovich, associate professor of chemistry, was named recipient of the Earl L. Warrick Award for Excellence in Research.

An SVSU graduate who joined the faculty in 1998, Karpovich specializes in analytical and environmental chemistry. He

has five pending patents and also has been a named researcher on 18 separate grants, totaling more than \$700,000 in external funding support.

Robert and Susan Pumford were recognized for their philanthropic support of SVSU, helping to raise more than \$70,000 in scholarship support for female student-athletes during the past 12 years.

Nearly 90 employees were presented service awards, including seven who joined SVSU four decades ago.

2009 Award Recipients

FRANC A. LANDEE
TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD
Kenneth Jolly

EARL L. WARRICK AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH
David Karpovich

HOUSE FAMILY AWARD FOR TEACHER IMPACT
Joshua Ode

MARY H. ANDERSON ADJUNCT FACULTY AWARD
Paula Mantei

RUBEN DANIELS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Helen Raica-Klotz

TERRY ISHIHARA AWARD FOR
OUTSTANDING CO-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT
John Kaczynski • Kathy Lopez

ROOSEVELT RUFFIN DIVERSITY AWARD
**Sharon Robinson
Marwan Wafa & Sahar Al-Masri**

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD
Susan Brasseur

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Robert & Susan Pumford



Kenneth Jolly



David Karpovich



Joshua Ode



Paula Mantei



Helen Raica-Klotz



John Kaczynski



Kathy Lopez



Sharon Robinson



Marwan Wafa



Sahar Al-Masri



Susan Brasseur



Robert & Susan Pumford

Carol Zimmermann

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

A self-described former “weather chick” who traded in her teleprompter for a stint as a juvenile justice administrator before getting a master’s degree “out of desperation,” Carol Zimmermann now is starting to settle into academic life — and the first-year faculty member says SVSU is the “perfect place” for her.

The first to acknowledge her career path has been unconventional, Zimmermann considers it a “strength” to have such a varied background. “I’m not ashamed of who I am,” she said. “I am the composite of my life.”

After cutting her television teeth editing film of football recruits, she worked at a station in Columbus, hosting public affairs shows and later becoming a news reporter and anchor, and yes, a weather forecaster.

She built a solid professional reputation, leading to a job where her challenge was to rebuild the reputation of Ohio’s Department of Youth Services after a scandal that landed the previous leader in prison. “It was ethically bankrupt and financially bankrupt,” Zimmermann said. “It had no credibility with the press corps or the Legislature.”

During her 10 years there, that changed, and so did Zimmermann’s thinking. She became highly interested in data-driven decision-making, because “it works.”

Ultimately, that led her to pursue a Ph.D. and eventually brought her to SVSU, which bears little resemblance to her last workplace.

“It’s such a different experience,” she said, and while she enjoyed

improving government operations, she insists it cannot compare with teaching.

“I don’t think I’m as happy in any place as I am in the classroom. I see lights coming on, eyes lighting up. The best of what I have to give is in that interaction with my students.”

While some might associate criminal justice with law enforcement, Zimmermann stresses that its implications are much broader.

“The criminal justice system infiltrates every aspect of public and private life. All students on this campus need to know how justice is constructed and how justice is implemented, because they’re citizens.”

In less than a year, Zimmermann has forged a strong connection to the campus. “SVSU has embraced me and I have embraced it,” she said.

Zimmermann relates well to the many students she encounters who “come from humble backgrounds,” and encourages them to avoid setting their sights too low, and motivates them to reach their full potential as people and professionals.

“One thing I think SVSU gives students is dreams. If I can get a few students to dream, then I have done a good job.”



Cathy Davis

Faculty Secretary • April 2009

You're never too old to learn. Cathy Davis has proven that adage to be true throughout her working life, starting with 28 years as a waitress, followed by seven years in SVSU's Financial Aid office and now nearly two years into her current role as a faculty secretary.

"This has been a perfect fit. When I came over here, I've really stretched as an employee," she said. "This role is different every day. I have different strategies I have to use to accommodate students, faculty and anyone else who comes into the office."

Davis describes her responsibilities as "keeping the ship going" as various faculty request assistance. She types professors' documents, creates Powerpoint presentations, and performs other clerical duties, often juggling tasks as she goes because there are "a lot of deadlines that have to be met."

Davis says one of the challenges of her new job has been learning new computer software, but even while getting up to speed her suite-mates were "welcoming and supportive."

"I tell them 'I'm a diamond in the rough.' I still need a little more polishing, but I'm working on that," she said, laughing before turning serious about her personal development.

"I've really grown in the last two years. I'm proud of how much I've learned. Working with people in education, that's what it's all about: spreading your wings and learning."

The "people contact" is Davis' favorite part of her job.

"The student interaction is what I love," she said. "Here I get to see students going into their different programs such as the medical field. It's a different interaction than just working on their financial aid."

In her leisure time, Davis enjoys interacting with family, though that has changed too now that her two sons have graduated from SVSU and one of them has moved to Syracuse, N.Y.

She is already looking forward to a mini-reunion at Higgins Lake this summer. "That will be an absolute joy to have all the kids around."

Other pastimes for Davis include gardening and teaching Sunday school, but she eagerly shares that her job is a source of joy.

"I think when you absolutely love coming to work every day and there's a respect shown both ways ... it just doesn't get better than that. So many people don't have a job or don't enjoy their job; that I have this job is such a blessing. It's a dream come true."



Professional Profile

• **Daniel Gates**, assistant professor of English, contributed a paper titled “Tuning Woes in Erotic Complaint Poetry and ‘De Casibus’ Tragedy,” to a seminar on complaint poetry at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America in Washington, D.C., April 10.

• **Brad Jarvis**, assistant professor of history, was presented the Innovative Writing in Teaching Award at the annual Writing Awards reception April 8.

• **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, gave a talk titled “A New Black Fly Species (Diptera: Simuliidae) from Michigan” at the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters March 20 at Wayne State University. Also, Taber’s book, *Plants of Central Texas Wetlands*, has been released by Texas Tech University Press. The book was co-authored with Scott B. Fleenor of The University of Texas at Austin. Taber also had a manuscript titled “Sympatry of *Milesia scutellata* Hull and *Milesia virginensis* (Drury) Flower Flies at their Western Range Limits in North America, and the Previously Unknown Juvenile Stages of *M. scutellata*” accepted for publication in *The Southwestern Entomologist*; the article is co-authored by Fleenor.

• **Richard Trdan**, professor of biology, and **Sally Shepardson**, assistant professor of biology, had a paper titled, “Extra-Mitochondrial Localization and Likely Reproductive Function of a Female-Transmitted Cytochrome C Oxidase Subunit Ii Protein” accepted for publication in *Development, Growth and Differentiation*. Co-authors were Rumela Chakrabarti, State University of New York at Buffalo; J.M. Stewart, Acadia University; J.M. Walker, University of Southern Mississippi; and W.R. Hoeh, S. Vijayaraghaven, M. Karmakar, and R. Shandilya, all of Kent State University.

• **William Welch**, associate professor of economics, published a textbook titled *Statistics for Students I* through the Rookieatbat Publishing Company.

Briefly Speaking

• **Diane Boehm**, director of the writing center, participated in two presentations – “Revision Practices of First Year College Writers,” based on a fall 2008 study of English 111 students, and a roundtable discussion, “Professional Development in the Writing Center,” with fellow writing center directors from four other Michigan universities – at the East Central Writing Centers Association 2009 Conference, April 3-4 at Purdue University.

• **Joseph Inungu**, director of external relations, health science, had an article titled “HIV Testing among Women in the United States” published in *Public Administration & Management* (2009), Vol. 13, No. 3, 145-155. The article is accessible at: www.spaef.com/article.php?id=929/. Also, Inungu was the keynote speaker at the 25th Annual Symposium on HIV/AIDS in People of Color at Tuskegee University on March 20.

• **Mike Major**, director of career planning & placement/head women’s tennis coach, presented “Daily Drills for Your Team’s Success” at the Detroit Tennis Workshop/USPTA Midwest Conference Feb. 6 at the Troy Marriott.

Condolences

• To **Pamela Clifford**, associate director of alumni relations, whose father, William Clifford, passed away Wednesday, March 25.

• To the family of SVSU retiree **Eugene (Gene) Wolff**, who passed away Wednesday, March 25.

Transitions

For new faculty/staff office numbers, phone extensions, e-mail



SVSU honored former Board of Control member John W. Kendall III by dedicating a memorial Friday, April 24. The marble bench is located in the Yien Sculpture Garden. Kendall, who passed away April 23, 2007, served on the Board from 1969-1985, and also on the SVSU Foundation Board of Directors from 1988-1996 and the SVSU Board of Fellows from 1986-2007. (Photo by Adam Baudoux)

addresses and other information, go to: www.svsu.edu/lookup/.

New Staff

- **Sheri Beattie** – Online Course Developer
- **Gordon Chase** – Groundskeeper
- **Joseph Inungu** – Director, External Relations, Health Science
- **Roberto Garcia** – Assistant Director, Minority Student Services
- **Holly LaRose-Roenicke** – Assistant Director of Web Communications
- **Bryon Merrill** – H.H. Dow Endowed Chair
- **Kelly Nitschmann** – Cashier
- **Sara Peeples** – Interim Alcohol Educator
- **Sara Tank** – Interim Assistant Director, Student Life

Promoted/Transferred/Title Change

- **Sahar Al-Masri** – International Student Advisor
- **Calvin McFarland** – Director of Orientation Programs
- **Barb Sageman** – Interim Assistant to the Assistant Vice President for Student Services & Enrollment Management

Left/Leaving

- **Jacqueline Busch Campbell, Nan Hu**

Commencement reminders

David Barker, professor of modern foreign languages, will give the Commencement address at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 9. During the ceremony, faculty and staff may present the diploma jacket to graduating members of their immediate family; call Joe Vogl at ext. 4051 to make arrangements. To confirm that your regalia order was received, call the Bookstore at ext. 4277.

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.