Several SVSU faculty and staff members received recognition for outstanding achievement and dedicated service during SVSU’s All-University Awards Banquet Friday, April 16. The list of faculty winners is led by Drew E. Hinderer, professor of philosophy, who received the prestigious Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award. The Earl L. Warrick Award for Excellence in Research was presented to Eric Gardner, professor of English. The House Family Award for Teacher Impact was given to David Cline, associate professor of teacher education. Charles Davenport received the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award for his part-time teaching role with the Department of English. The Ruben Daniels Community Service Award was presented to Brian Thomas, assistant professor of sociology. The award is SVSU’s highest recognition of community service and involvement by an employee. Two recipients were given the Terry Ishihara Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Involvement: Burk Foster, university ombudsman, and Jennifer Rushton, compliance and academic services coordinator for the Athletic Department.

The Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award was given to Ava Lewis, professor of nursing, and the Outstanding Performance Award was presented to Kristen Gregory, assistant to the vice president for academic affairs. Two individuals with long histories of distinguished service to SVSU, its affiliates and other organizations also were honored during the 21st annual ceremony. Brian Law and Susan Vititoe were each chosen to receive the Distinguished Service Award. Law served on SVSU’s Board of Control from 1995 to 2008, including eight years as secretary and four years as treasurer, and continues to serve on the board for the SVSU Foundation. Vititoe currently serves as chair of the Board of Directors for the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum.
At age six, Karen Brown-Fackler was introduced to SVSU, long before she dreamed it would become her employer. Her father drove down a road between cornfields, telling the family one day a college would be built there.

Today, the associate professor of nursing sees that promise fulfilled as she returns to a now bustling campus.

Brown-Fackler loves teaching. She primarily educates undergraduate students in pediatric nursing. “The nursing program is difficult,” she said, “and so we give lots of encouragement and support, and get really creative with all kinds of teaching strategies so we can maximize their abilities to succeed.”

She also enjoys working with graduate-level nursing students, because they have more field experience. “They don’t have that anxiety,” she said, and their diverse workplace experiences bring an interesting perspective to their conversations.

Brown-Fackler has an interesting tale about how she first came into teaching. One day, as a graduate student, she received a call from someone she’d never met: Crystal Lange, after whom SVSU’s College of Health and Human Services is named.

“I hear you’re a nursing student going for your master’s degree,” Lange told her, explaining she was starting a nursing program and looking for instructors.

“I have class from Monday through Thursday,” Brown-Fackler said, “and I work on Saturday and Sunday.” Lange replied, “Perfect – you can teach on Friday.”

Brown-Fackler’s career path includes a 25-year career as an administrator, 15 of them as the director of maternal and child health at Bay Regional Medical Center, and eight as a dean for a community college.

Her experiences both on the floor and at the desk are part of what make her an effective educator. One lesson she teaches, for instance, is to always speak to and touch patients who are in comas. When Brown-Fackler was a nurse, a 12-year-old girl had lapsed into a deep unconsciousness during treatment for leukemia. She’d been unresponsive for two weeks, and doctors didn’t expect her to revive.

But Brown-Fackler walked into the girl’s room to check on her, and, feeling incredibly self-conscious, began a conversation.

“I wonder what grade you are in school,” she’d said, continuing with questions about what the girl did with her spare time.

Days later, to the physicians’ wonder, the girl awoke. When Brown-Fackler walked in, the patient didn’t recognize her, but when she began to talk, the girl excitedly began to answer all questions Brown-Fackler had asked her. “She’d remembered every single word I’d said.”

Much as Brown-Fackler remembers listening to her father during a car ride long ago.
Officially, Bob Long and Jacob Reinelt are called “open source programmers/analysts.”

But in laymen’s terms, Long says, “We’re the VSpace guys.”

From their shared office near Zahnow Library, the pair works on a number of projects with the online teaching module. Day to day, that often involves putting out the “small fires.”

If you’ve ever seen an error on VSpace, then they’ve been alerted. All errors automatically send reports, prompting them to slip inside the program through its virtual back door. When they do, a black window on the screen surges with mysterious white characters that invisibly run the digital juggernaut.

While sharing a title, Long and Reinelt largely work on separate projects. Long’s work has focused primarily on VSpace, handling system upgrades and adding new tools.

Reinelt’s work recently has revolved around the College of Education. He’s helping to ensure standards with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and offering guidance for VSpace users in the college to better monitor students’ progress. Professors can now do student evaluations online, saving countless hours of work. In addition, thanks to the programmer, faculty know where to direct efforts for student improvement.

Despite varied interests (Long is an avid golfer and Reinelt an off-road enthusiast), they have been known to socialize together after work. In the office, Long and Reinelt are a set of sounding boards; when faced with a problem, they exchange ideas. They also practice sound programming principles in the world beyond the screen; each acts as the other’s backup. In case of unforeseen emergencies – not uncommon in virtual reality – Long and Reinelt monitor each other’s projects so if disaster strikes, one can step in for the other.

Reinelt hopes to earn his master’s degree and doctorate to become a professor. With a place like SVSU, he said, “You can be more focused on teaching material to students, rather than getting that big grant out there and having underlings to teach.”

Long has a master’s degree and is a technology instructor at SVSU. “I teach future teachers how to use technology,” he said, the same technology he develops every day. “I love to see the looks on their faces when they’re presenting their projects.”

He too hopes to earn his doctorate and teach full time.

They also share an appreciation for the human side of technology. Both said that the small-university atmosphere makes the process more personal, more relationship-based. “You get to know people better,” Reinelt said. “It’s not just an e-mail; it’s someone you know.”
Professional Profile
• Gary Clark, professor of marketing, had a paper titled “Opinions of Marketing Faculty about Client-Financed Real-World Projects: A Qualitative Study using Content Analysis” accepted for publication in the Review of Management Innovation and Creativity. Michael Crawford, an adjunct instructor of economics, and Michael E. King, an SVSU business alumnus, co-authored the paper.
• Fenobia I. Dallas, assistant professor of professional and technical writing, gave a presentation titled “Coordinating Professional & Technical Writing Internships – Praxis, Tecnhe. Metis. Nonno” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, March 19 in Louisville, Ky.
• Vanessa Brooks Herd, assistant professor of social work, presented a foster parents training workshop titled “Cultural Diversity” for the Saginaw County Department of Human Service, March 16 in Saginaw. Also Herd presented a workshop titled “Stress Out...Not” for the Young Educators Society Spring Conference, March 26 at SVSU.
• Gladys Hernandez, professor of modern foreign languages, presented “Improve Language Fluency and Cultural Understanding through Cinema” at the AATSP Michigan Chapter, April 17 in Frankenmuth, Mich.
• Dawn Hinton, associate professor of sociology, presented “From the Bottom Up: Race, Gender, Class and Community” and was an invited panelist for Teaching as a Scholar of Color at the Midwest Sociological Society Meetings, March 31-April 1 in Chicago. Also, Hinton and Joseph Ofori-Dankwa, professor of management, co-published a book chapter titled “Using ICT to Resolve the Modernization Paradox for Rural Communities in Africa: A Theoretical Exploration and Conceptualization” in E-Agriculture & E-Government for Global Policy Development: Implications and Future Directions (pp.103-121; B. M. Maumbe, Ed.). In addition, Hinton’s paper “Creating Communities on the Margins: The Successful Black Female Academician” has been accepted for publication in Urban Review.
• Christina Montgomery and Helen Raica-Klotz, lecturers of English, presented “Rethinking Response: What We Tell and How We Tell It” as part of a panel discussion at the College Composition and Communication Conference, March 19 in Louisville, Ky.
• Joseph Ofori-Dankwa, professor of management, had an article accepted for publication in International Studies of Management and Organizations. “Utilizing an Integrative Multi-lens Model: Explaining Firm Performance in ‘Double Void’ Emerging Economies” was co-authored by Scott D. Julian.
• Suzanne Savoy, assistant professor of nursing, presented a research poster titled “Depressive Symptoms Reduce Quality of Life in Healthy Women” at the 54th Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society meeting, April 8-11 in Kansas City, Mo. The poster was based on dissertation research for her Ph.D., which will be conferred May 13 at Loyola University. Savoy has joined three research sections (Health Promoting Behaviors, Women’s Health, and Research Utilization in Agencies) for MNRS, each of which is planning a symposium for the next annual meeting.
• Christopher Schilling, Charles J. Strosacker Endowed Chair of Mechanical Engineering, presented an invited seminar titled “Agri-Energy Research at Saginaw Valley State University,” April 14 to the Governor’s Agriculture Commission.
• Perry Segel, professor of English, delivered a presentation titled “A Resources and Needs Survey for low ELL-incidence School Districts” at the annual Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages convention, March 26 in Boston, Mass. This presentation was the culmination of a sabbatical project carried out during the 2008-09 academic year.
• Stephen Taber, associate professor of biology, discovered a new species – a fly from a western Michigan swamp. The finding will appear in a forthcoming issue of The Great Lakes Entomologist as “A New Species of Leia Meigen Fungus Gnat (Diptera: Mycteophiliidae).”

New Cardinals
• Jeremy Glaser, assistant athletic trainer, welcomed a son, Maxwell Dennis (6 lbs., 10 oz., 19-1/4 in.), March 30.

Condolences
• To Mike Andrzejewski, energy management specialist/foreman, whose mother passed away March 30.
• To the family of Jerry R. Baker, retired professor of educational leadership, who passed away March 24.
• To Kim Kettelhohn, custodial specialist, whose mother, Lucy Kettelhohn, passed away April 8.
• To Chuck Wallace, manager of maintenance operations, whose father, Charles Kenneth Wallace Sr., passed away April 7.

Briefly Speaking
• Gloria Wagener, administrative secretary in career services, won the James Davenport Memorial Award from the National Council for Higher Education. The award recently was presented to her at the annual NEA Higher Education Conference in San Francisco.
• Faculty and staff may present the Alumni Scroll to graduating members of their immediate family during the Commencement ceremony at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 8. Call Joe Vogl at ext. 4051 to make arrangements.

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.

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