Several SVSU faculty and staff members received recognition for outstanding achievement and dedicated service during SVSU’s All-University Awards Banquet Friday, April 15.

The list of faculty winners is led by Andrew Chubb, associate professor of chemistry, who received the Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award. Jesse Donahue, professor of political science, received the Earl Warrick Award for Excellence in Research. The House Family Award for Teacher Impact was presented to Gladys Hernandez, professor of modern foreign languages.

Walter Malec received the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award for his part-time teaching role with the department of physics.

The Bank of America Ruben Daniels Community Service Award was presented to Marcia Shannon, assistant professor of nursing. 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: Andy Swihart, professor of psychology, and Nick Wagner, assistant director of university housing.

Josef Ofori-Dankwa, professor of management, received the Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award and Jerry Stuart, director of construction, received the Outstanding Performance Award.

The Distinguished Service Award, SVSU’s most prestigious award for a community member, was given to former Congressman and State Senator Jim Barcia, and to retired brigadier general and noted Saginaw servant David Hall.

Barcia and served in elected office for more than 30 years, including a decade in the U.S. House of Representatives. He recently completed his legislative service after eight years in the Michigan Senate.

Hall has made a lasting mark at SVSU and throughout the greater Saginaw community. He served a decade as an executive-in-residence in the College of Business and Management.
The criminal justice system affects us all. A trite but true axiom that Ryan Martz goes to great lengths to see is not trivialized. It also explains why the field of study remains popular.

“It is a large major, I think, because most people are very interested in the topics,” he explained. “They are topics that we hear about in the news, there are a lot of TV shows about them, and there are a lot of popular culture references to criminal justice issues.”

Not all of those pop culture portrayals are entirely accurate, however.

“A lot of students come in thinking we’re going to be studying ‘CSI,’ which makes sense, and we do talk about some very interesting topics. But as applied as the field is, this is a liberal arts field; we do teach social science theory, and we bridge that theory to the working world.”

Martz tells students this is not the police academy, and different fundamentals are stressed.

“The basics are about giving individuals the opportunity to think critically about the issues at hand. We talk about the legal aspects, the constitutional aspects.”

Criminal justice careers extend well beyond law enforcement, but for those planning to enter that field, Martz wants them to gain a full understanding of what to expect.

“What I teach my students is if you’re going to be a police officer, you essentially need to think about it as being a social worker with a badge. You have to have a very broad understanding of our social world and understanding people, their interactions with the criminal justice system, and being able to interact with all types of people.”

Social justice issues are important to Martz. Bias crimes are one of his chief research interests and he would like to explore integrating that interest into SVSU courses. He also is working with Vice President for Student Services Merry Jo Brandimore on developing a resource center for LGBT students.

Martz gives “a lot of writing assignments” in his classes to ensure students improve their communication skills. He has found them to be very receptive to learning the complexities required to understand the criminal justice system. All of which contributes to convincing Martz he is in the right place.

“I’m very excited to be here,” he said. “This is my dream job. It’s been such a pleasant experience and I really enjoy every aspect of it.”

But there is no question Martz’ top priority is the classroom.

“Teaching is my first passion. I feel like I can make a difference here.”
University ombudsman Burk Foster has announced his plans to retire from SVSU this summer. The man selected to replace him is the man he replaced: Dick Thompson.

“I miss the students and I miss university life,” Thompson said.

Thompson stepped down from the ombudsman’s role in 2008 in a move that has proven to be more sabbatical than retirement.

“My batteries have been overcharged,” he chuckled.

Foster’s story is similar. He came to SVSU 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.

“I came for six months and stayed for six years,” he quipped. “I like the community environment here. I found the university administration very open to making the changes that were necessary. People were willing to listen to my suggestions.”

Foster savored the opportunity to rebuild the criminal justice program, which he feels has attracted quality new faculty. He also is proud to see the number of internships double and participation in the Criminal Justice Society grow to 110 members.

Foster “thoroughly enjoyed” the ombudsman’s role, too, especially serving as adviser to the Student Association.

“As ombudsman, you’re telling students how the university works.”

Foster found that message came through more often than not.

Thompson returns to a familiar role with similar aspirations.

“For me, it’s always about helping students,” Thompson said. “I still have a little fire in my belly to continue to do that.”
Faculty, staff receive grants

**Arts & Behavioral Sciences**

- **John Kaczynski**, instructor of political science, received $970 from the Bay Area Community Foundation, $995 from the Midland Area Community Foundation, and $975 from the Saginaw Community Foundation for his “Engage the Great Lakes Bay Region” project. The project was created by SVSU students to increase civic engagement, community pride, volunteerism, and the number of registered youth voters.

- **Lee Trepanier**, associate professor of political science, received $4,940 from the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation for the Student Research Fellowship and Seminar/Colloquium. The grant will fund research and a student seminar focusing on free market economies.

**Health & Human Services**

- **Vanessa Brooks Herd**, assistant professor of social work, received $1,000 from the Saginaw Community Foundation to invite author and activist Wes Moore to the campus to discuss the struggle of “man versus environment.”

**Science, Engineering & Technology**

- **Deborah Huntley**, dean of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology, received $300,000 from the Michigan Department of Education for the Agricultural Program Development Grant. The goal is to develop a new agricultural education degree program to provide additional options for students interested in the field.

- **David Karpovich**, H.H. Dow Endowed Chair, received $10,000 from National Center for Science & Civic Engagement and $24,997 from the Michigan Campus Compact to provide service learning opportunities for students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines that address local community concerns.

- **Kenneth Kearns**, assistant professor of chemistry, received a $5,000 Michigan Space Grant Consortium – Undergraduate Fellowship on behalf of student Amanda Pavlick for her research titled “Securing the Mission: An Analysis on a Proposal of NASA Mission Software Implementation and Execution using Petri Nets.”

- **Morteza Marzjarani**, professor of computer science & information systems, received a $2,500 Michigan Space Grant Consortium – Undergraduate Fellowship on behalf of student Gregory McNish for his research titled “Statistical Analysis of the Weather Data.”

- **Jason Pagano**, assistant professor of chemistry, received a $5,000 Michigan Space Grant Consortium – Research Seed Grant for his research titled “Semiconductor Materials from Silica Gardens.”

- **Robert Tuttle**, associate professor of mechanical engineering and acting assistant dean of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology, received $309,686 from the Office of Naval Research for his research titled “Understanding Solidification Based Grain Refinement in Steels.”

**Staff**

- **Tamara Barrientos**, director of the SVSU Regional Mathematics & Science Center, received $58,209 from the Michigan Department of Education for the 2010-11 Mathematics & Science Center grant. Her work to improve the quality of math and science instruction in the region continues to benefit the university and surrounding communities.

- **Mamie Thorns**, special assistant to the president for diversity programs, received $34,745 and $10,899 from the King-Chavez-Parks Future Faculty Fellowship Program and King-Chavez-Parks Visiting Professors Program.

- **Marilyn Wheaton**, director of the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, received from the Alden and Vada Dow Family Foundation $5,000 for operational support and $5,000 for the “2 Centuries, 3 Decades, 28 Works by Charles McGee” exhibition.

- **SVSU** is a partner in receiving $400,000 from the Michigan Department of Education for the Middle College Partnership Grant – a planning grant to design and develop the Great Lakes Bay Early College Program. Junior and senior high school students will enroll in college courses at no cost to them. The program will be housed at SVSU. Marlene Searles, director of the program; can be reached at 989-964-8047.

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Author and illustrator **David Small** received SVSU’s Stuart and Vernice Gross Award for his 2010 Michigan Notable Book, “Stitches: A Memoir” during a ceremony April 13. A New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year recipient, Small’s graphic memoir uses kaleidoscopic images to detail his tragic childhood experiences from becoming sickly, to having cancer, to being a 16-year-old runaway surviving day to day. “Stitches” has enjoyed wide critical acclaim. It was a No. 1 New York Times Best Seller and was named one of the 10 best books of 2009 by Publishers Weekly. In all, Small has illustrated more than 40 books. Established by the late Stuart D. Gross and his wife, Vernice, the Gross Award for Literature is accorded to published works in regional history or historical fiction/drama. Preference is given to Michigan subject matter or strong Michigan connections on the part of the author. This is the 13th year of the award.

For campus event information, go to blogs.svsu.edu/newsroom
Kris Roethlisberger never knows what her day will bring as she prepares labs for student nurses to learn. On one recent Friday, she used a strap to ratchet a mannequin in order to put a pelvic pin back into place.

“I’ve had to become a mechanic. There are days when I go home and say, ‘I can’t believe I have my master’s in nursing, because my job had nothing to do with nursing today.’”

While the fundamentals of nursing – providing quality patient care – remain the same as they were when Roethlisberger started at SVSU nearly 20 years go, the demands of the job have changed considerably, especially where technology is concerned. That’s where she enters the picture, painstakingly learning the technology herself.

“That’s the best part of my job: being able to create things and simulate things and try to get as close to reality as possible.”

Modern equipment can exhibit a variety of symptoms that change according to how the student responds.

“We like to pull it together so that they can take the knowledge that they’re getting and apply it to a patient situation and put all the pieces together,” Roethlisberger said. “Assessment is the basis of the nursing process: they have to do all of their assessment, then they put the pieces together, and then they decide an intervention to address whatever the issue is.”

While her duties revolve around the “stuff,” Roethlisberger’s heart lies where the learning takes place.

“The best part of the job is the students. They’re really eager to learn and so appreciative of what they learn. They work so hard to get to be what they want to be.”

Watching a struggling student see the light brings Roethlisberger back day after day.

“That ‘ah ha!’ moment when they get it is just so fulfilling.”

In her life outside the lab, Roethlisberger is a self-described “gardening freak” whose property is surrounded by flowers. She also is an avid reader of murder mystery novels.

Roethlisberger recalls the days when she wheeled televisions to and from classrooms. For the new Health & Human Services Building, she had input into integrating the most modern technology.

“It’s been such a thrill,” she said. “I used to imagine, ‘If I could have any lab I wanted, how would I design it?’ Then I actually had the opportunity to participate in that. It has turned out the way I imagined it would. I can’t tell you what a feeling of satisfaction there is. So there is a piece of my soul in this building.”
Professional Profile

- Vanessa Brooks Herd, assistant professional of social work, presented “Passport Please: Creating Space for International Social Work in a BSW Program” at the International Conference on Social Work, March 26 at the USC School of Social Work. Also, Brooks Herd presented “Not Another Bad Hair Day: Life in Foster Care” at the 2011 Annual Conference, National Association of Social Workers, Michigan Chapter, April 7-8 in Dearborn, Mich.

- Mike Mosher, professor of art/communication & digital media, delivered a paper at the 2011 annual Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters meetings, held at SVSU in March. His paper “Comics, Community Murals and Software Development” was part of the History of Science and Technology panel, chaired by SVSU faculty Lauren Reed and Stephen Taber. Other presenters from SVSU on the panel included Roz Sweeting and Gary Lange, president of MASAL. Also, Mosher was awarded two Juror’s Choice Awards in the 47th Annual MEA/MAEA Art Acquisitions Purchase Exhibit for his drawings “Four Wisconsin High School Teachers 1937” and “Service Staff, High School, Wisconsin 1937.” The exhibition was held at the Michigan Education Association’s East Lansing headquarters in April 2011.

- Suzanne Savoy, assistant professor of nursing, presented a poster on March 24 in Atlanta at the Joint 2011 Scientific Sessions of the Nutrition, Physical Activity and Metabolism and the Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention Councils of American Heart Association. The poster was titled “The Dose-Response Relationship Between Depressive Symptoms, Health-Promoting Behaviors and Quality of Life in Healthy Women Being Screened for Cardiovascular Disease Risk.” Also, Savoy delivered a podium presentation titled “Health-Promoting Lifestyle Behaviors Mediate the Association Between Depressive Symptoms and Quality of Life in Healthy Women,” at the Midwest Nursing Research Society, March 25 in Columbus, Ohio.

- Christopher Schilling, Charles J. Strosacker Endowed Chair, presented an invited lecture titled “Bioenergy Crops: Production and Processing” at the Michigan Bioenergy Conference: Biomass and Waste to Energy, April 26 at Oakland University.

- Gail Sype, associate professor of management, had her manuscript titled “We Have Built It But They Have Not Come: Preliminary Assessment of a Minor in Entrepreneurship” accepted for publication in the Journal of Behavioral & Applied Management.

- Janice Wolff, professor of English, and Mike Mosher, professor of art/communication & digital media, have been awarded a Foundation Resource Grant of $971 to support the publication of a comic book. Wolff’s two sections of English 212, Graphic Novels, wrote comic treatments/scripts, 18 of which were chosen by Mosher’s students in his Art 390, Comics, Cartoon Illustration, and Visual Narrative course for their comics.

- Carol Zimmermann and Joseph Jaksa, assistant professors of criminal justice, presented at the 48th Annual Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences meeting, March 1-5 in Toronto, Ontario Canada. Zimmermann presented “Restorative Justice Impacts for Middle School Students” and Jaksa presented “Bridging the ideological gap: Signs of moderation in undergraduate criminal justice curriculum and Identity Crisis: Teaching the concept and history of private security to introductory criminal justice undergraduate students.”

Condolences

- To Ann Garcia, technical publications secretary/office coordinator, whose mother, Corine Garcia, passed away March 26.

- To Mary Graiver, associate professor of nursing, whose mother-in-law, Haifa Israel, passed away March 28.

- To Robert Mackie, mechanical engineering lab technician, whose mother, Kathryn Jane Mackie, passed away March 25.

- To the family of Kathy Marenich, assistant manager of custodial operations, who passed away April 5.

Briefly Speaking

- 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 7. To make arrangements, call ext. 4051.

Transitions

For new faculty/staff office numbers, phone extensions, e-mail addresses and other information, go to svsu.edu/lookup.

New

- Heidi Bommarito, Literacy Clinic Tutor, Literacy Clinic
- David Dinsmore, Custodian, Campus Facilities
- Daniel Fordrocy, Assistant Football Coach, Athletics
- Paige Jackson, Interim Resident Director, Residential Life
- Julie Marsh, Administrative Secretary-Level 4, Multicultural Services
- Jamie Pewinski, Head Women’s Basketball Coach, Athletics
- Andrew Kapin, Assistant Director of Admissions, Admissions
- Jennifer Richardson, Assistant Project Manager, Campus Facilities
- Ann Schneider-Branch, Assistant to the Executive Director, Foundation

Promotion

- James Gough, Grounds/4, Campus Facilities

Reappointment

- Jerry Boehm, Instructor, Math
- Jeffrey Easlick, Instructor, Philosophy

Resigned

- Joseph Inungu, External Relations, Director, Health & Human Services
- Katie Merkle, Temp/Pt Marketing Coordinator, CBED/OCEPD
- Juanita Vargas, Administrative Secretary, ABS

Title Change

- Yang Liu, International Student Advisor/Chinese Language Instructor, International Programs

Transfer

- Bryan Crainer, Academic Advisor/First Year Experience, Academic Advising
- Tammy DeRuyter, Administrative Secretary, ABS

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.
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