

Interior

SVSU honors distinguished servants; faculty and staff

Two individuals with a long history of commitment and service to SVSU and many organizations important to the quality of life in the Great Lakes Bay Region were honored along with faculty and staff during the All-University Awards Banquet Friday, April 20.

The Distinguished Service Award, SVSU's most prestigious award for a community member, was given to retired Chemical Bank CEO Alan Ott and long-time Saginaw arts patron and community volunteer Patricia Shek.

Several SVSU faculty and staff members also received recognition for outstanding achievement and dedicated service during the 23rd annual ceremony. Beth Roe, associate professor of nursing, received the prestigious Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence

2012 All-University Awards	
FRANC A. LANDEE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD	Elizabeth Roe
EARL L. WARRICK AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH	Robert Tuttle
HOUSE FAMILY AWARD FOR TEACHER IMPACT	Ricardo Pastor
MARY H. ANDERSON ADJUNCT FACULTY AWARD	Kimberly Sawatzki
RUBEN DANIELS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD	Ruth Sawyers
TERRY ISHIHARA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CO-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT	Arthur Martin • Bryan Crainer
ROOSEVELT RUFFIN DIVERSITY AWARD	Donald Bachand
OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD	Scott Mellendorf
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD	Alan W. Ott • Patricia Shek

Award. Robert Tuttle, associate professor of mechanical engineering, received the Earl Warrick Award for Excellence in Research. The House Family Award for Teacher Impact was

presented to Ricardo Pastor, professor of modern foreign languages. Kimberly Sawatzki received the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award for her part-time teaching role with the

department of social work.

The Bank of America Ruben Daniels Community Service Award was presented to Ruth Sawyers, assistant professor of English. 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: Bryan Crainer, coordinator of first-year experience, and Art Martin, assistant professor of biology.

Donald Bachand, provost and vice president for academic affairs, received the Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award and Scott Mellendorf, reference Internet and off-campus library services librarian, received the Outstanding Performance Award.



Alan Ott



Patricia Shek



Beth Roe



Robert Tuttle



Ricardo Pastor



Kimberly Sawatzki



Ruth Sawyers



Bryan Crainer



Arthur Martin



Donald Bachand



Scott Mellendorf

John Lowry

Instructor of Kinesiology

If you head to the emergency room at Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw, your doctor might have more energy than you remember — and it may be because of SVSU students.

Kinesiology instructor John Lowry recently created a program believed to be the only one of its kind in the United States. By partnering the hospital with the university, the program trains students to be scribes who create medical documentation for physicians.

Ordinarily, after seeing patients, emergency room doctors spend hours filling out charts from memory, a practice that can lead to burnout and occasionally even errors. Now, students known as physician facilitators simply type up observations immediately, so electronic medical records are created on the spot.

"Doctors keep telling me," Lowry said, "'Now I have time to actually practice medicine!'"

Benefits abound for students, too: paid work experience, confidence with medical terminology, hundreds of clinical hours, and relationships with practicing physicians — exactly the sort of things that polish a medical school application. "Now students have dozens of great people they can ask for letters of recommendation," Lowry said.

While students can expect to gain a great deal from the program,

from what Lowry hears, physicians have fallen in love with it.

"Even the ones initially resistant to scribes are saying, 'Now I couldn't live without one.'"

Born and raised in California, Lowry completed his first year of undergraduate study at the University of Oregon. Then he decided to take a Mormon mission, and for two years, he lived in Spain, an experience that left him forever changed. "We lived among the people, absolutely immersed in the culture. It really broke through a lot of barriers, so on some level, I can relate to anybody."

That comes through to his students. Lowry emphasizes the scholarly nature of kinesiology as a discipline, but at times, he comes across more like a coach than an instructor. He frequently meets students individually to advise them about applying to graduate programs in physical therapy or simply to engage in an easygoing conversation.

Lowry still finds time to be a student himself, as he pursues the highest degree in his field. A Ph.D. candidate at Michigan State University, Lowry wants to make the most of the scholarly opportunities his program represents. "We can make an academic study of our rates of acceptance in medical schools," he said. "And if we undertook research like that, the results could only benefit our students."



Roberto Garcia

Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Services • April 2012

Roberto Garcia may have left the classroom, but that doesn't mean he's quit teaching.

"Although my title might say 'assistant director of multicultural services,' that's just a title," he said. "What I am is an educator; I don't know how to be anything else."

A teacher at Bridgeport High School for 14 years, Garcia now works with SVSU's minority students and organizes Hispanic cultural events on campus. He enjoys his relationships with students the most.

"I love to work with students to guide them, to mentor them, and just to be a part of a support system for them," Garcia said. "Even though I am not practicing education as a teacher in a K-12 school, I still feel like I am engaged with students, teaching them life skills and helping with academics."

Garcia has been working to improve the retention rate of minority students at SVSU; one main focus has been in the Charter Scholarship Program.

"If the numbers hold true this year, we should have a twofold increase in retention numbers, so we're looking at 80 percent of those students coming back," Garcia said. "I'm proud of the work our office has provided for those students."

Garcia also is the adviser for the Latinos Unidos Association, a student organization which intends to raise awareness of the Latino/

Hispanic culture and to reach out to those in the community and the student body.

"Being able to work with those students and having the privilege of watching them develop into student leaders has been exciting," Garcia said. "I'm always impressed with the leadership of these Hispanic students getting involved despite all of the other things going on."

Garcia also leads by example. After finishing third and second in previous attempts, he recently won the campus-wide weight loss challenge, a victory that he now uses as a teaching tool.

"I've really used that as an example with my students," Garcia said. "If you put your mind to something and dedicate yourself to something, you can achieve whatever dream possible, even if it takes three years to get there."

A Saginaw native, Garcia received his bachelor's and master's degree from SVSU and next month he'll complete his education specialist degree. Staying close to home offers him an opportunity to give back to his community and his school.

"Saginaw Valley is a great fit for me because I'm a local product," he said. "Having access to my community as a resident has been very helpful for me in the things I want to pursue, which is to be a role model and give back to the Saginaw community."



Professional Profile

• **Monika Dix**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, was awarded an SVSU Faculty Research Grant to do research in Japan this summer in order to complete her book manuscript titled “Chujohime in Retrospective: Buddhist Ideology and Gender Marginalization/Empowerment in Medieval Japanese Literature.” This study offers a new perspective on interpreting the role and significance of female salvation within the imagination of medieval Japanese Buddhism and the function of pictorial Buddhist narratives of female salvation in medieval Japanese society.

• **Myra Fall**, assistant professor of teacher education, received an SVSU Professional Development Award to learn strategies for working with emotionally impaired individuals at “Enhancing Verbal Skills: Applications of Life Space Crisis Intervention,” a conference held in Atlanta, Oct. 2-4.

• **Julie Foss**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, gave a presentation titled “Promoting Interaction and Meaningful Communication with Information Gap Activities” at the 2012 Language Symposium at the University of Illinois at Chicago, April 13-14.

• **Daniel Gates**, assistant professor of English, presented a paper titled “Affecting Masculinity in Renaissance Courts and on Early Modern Stages” in a seminar at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America in Boston, April 7.

• **James Hitt**, assistant professor of philosophy, presented a paper titled “William James and Phenomenology” at the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters Conference in Alma, March 2. Hitt serves as the vice chair of the philosophy section for the Academy.

• **Mazen Jaber**, assistant professor of marketing, and **George Puia**, associate dean of the College of Business & Management/Dow Chemical Company Centennial Chair in Global Business, received an honorable mention for “Best Paper” at the ninth annual Association for Global Business Advancement Conference in Ajman, UACE for their paper titled “Is it Gas Worthy? Exploring the Effects of Monetary and Non-Monetary Discounts on Purchases Decisions.”

• **Kaustav Misra**, assistant professor in economics, and **Averetta Lewis**, professor of nursing, co-authored a paper titled “Poverty and Teen Mothers: A ZIP Code Analysis,” with Amber Matte, an SVSU student; Matte presented the paper at the Academy of Economics and Finance in Charleston, S.C., Feb. 9.

Also, Misra co-authored a paper titled “Family Involvement and the Use of Corporate Governance Provisions Protecting Controlling versus Noncontrolling Owners” accepted for publication in the *Journal of Leadership, Accountability and Ethics* in Fall 2012.

• **Hong Park**, professor of economics, and **Kaustav Misra**, assistant professor in economics, had a co-authored paper titled “The Impact of Mortgage Securitization on the Housing Bubble and Subprime Mortgage Crisis: A Self-Organization Perspective” accepted for publication in the *International Research Journal of Applied Finance*.

Also, Park had an article titled “Reforms in Korean Chaebols” published in the April/June issues of *Vanguardia Dossier*, a Spanish quarterly publication focusing on global issues.

• **Marcia Shannon**, assistant professor of nursing, presented at the Registered Nurses Association of Michigan meeting in January along with SVSU students Kate Corcoran, Amy Daniels, Nicole Grzenia and recent graduate Caitlin Kunik in Bay City, Jan. 26. The group presented an

Teed named Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year

Paul Teed, professor of history, has been honored as a Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year by the Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan.



Each of the 15 public universities in Michigan may nominate one faculty member for the distinguished professor award each year. Nominees are evaluated by the following categories: student learning, interactions with undergraduates, experiential learning, academic advising, undergraduate research opportunities and scholarship on teaching and learning. Teed will be joined by three other faculty from public universities in Michigan during the Presidents Council awards ceremony Thursday, May 10. The award includes a cash prize of \$3,000 and a commemorative plaque. A resident of Midland, Teed joined the SVSU faculty in 1997.

overview of a faculty-led study abroad trip to Indonesia last May, including a discussion of environmental health in Indonesia, a research study on tuberculosis and a discussion of prenatal practices as well as mental health practices in the country.

• **Dee Storey**, professor of teacher education, served as faculty advisor for nine members of the Student Michigan Education Association who attended a Michigan Education Association conference in East Lansing March 24.

Condolences

• To **Marsha Coffey**, administrative assistant to the executive vice president for administration & business affairs, whose son, Bradley Coffey, passed away March 25.

• To **Judith Schram**, financial aid adviser, whose father, Stanley F. Tomaszewski, passed away March 31.

• To **Gordon Wolf**, maintenance I staff, whose father-in-law, George J. Thomas, passed away March 23.

Briefly Speaking

• Faculty and staff may present the diploma cover to graduating members of their immediate family during the Commencement ceremonies at 1 and 4:30 p.m., Saturday, May 5. To make arrangements, call ext. 4384.

• **Matt Krevda**, associate director of residential life, presented “Developing a Life Mission Statement: God Marks the Spot, Following the Map” at the Michigan Catholic Youth Adult Conference, March 23-24 in Lansing.

• **Michele Gunkelman**, director of residential life, was appointed adviser, recognition and training coordinator of the Great Lakes Affiliate College & University Residence Halls. Gunkelman will oversee the adviser recognition and training program, coordinate training sessions and regional and national conferences, maintain the program’s database and provide certificates to advisers who complete the program.

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.

J.J. Boehm

Director of Media Relations

jboehm@svsu.edu • (989) 964-4055

Tim Inman

Director of Creative Services

tmi@svsu.edu • (989) 964-4086

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