

## Athletics 'Trunk-or-Treat' receives NCAA Community Engagement Award

The Athletic department has been awarded the NCAA Community Engagement Award of Excellence after previously receiving the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) nomination for the community engagement award for 2011-12.

This marks the third time that SVSU has been selected as the winner of the NCAA Community Engagement Award of Excellence.

More than 1,500 children came in costume and joined Cardinal athletes, coaches and the Graff Bay City team for a safe, fun and weather-proof trick-or-treating experience. Meijer provided candy and healthy food items for the kids while also sponsoring a costume contest.

Athletics is already planning the 2012 Trunk-or-Treat Around the Track event, which is tentatively scheduled for

October 26 and takes place inside the Ryder Center.

A national winner will be chosen from among the 20 conference finalists and

recognized at the Division II National Championships Festival in May in Louisville.

Community engagement is an important Division II

initiative directed at building meaningful, long-lasting bridges among athletics programs, their institutions and the communities in which they are located.



"Coop" the Cardinal was on hand at the 2011 Trunk-or-Treat Around the Track event that the NCAA has recognized as a model for community involvement by Division II member institutions.

### Twelve students selected as Roberts Fellows

Twelve remarkable students will learn what it takes to become exceptional leaders after being selected for one of SVSU's most prestigious undergraduate programs. The students will add a concentrated focus on leadership to their studies. The 2012-13 class of Roberts Fellows are:

- Justin Brouckaert, a creative writing and English literature major from Harbor Springs
- Danielle Burelle, an elementary education major from Sterling Heights
- Douglas Eck, an exercise science major from Ada
- Rehana Khan-Brown, a history major from Bay City
- Jordan Killop, a biology major from Armada
- Veronica Kirk, a political science major from Merrill
- Marlin Jenkins, a creative writing major from Woodhaven
- Rebecca Lamey, a double major in criminal justice and sociology from Ithaca
- Andrew Northrop, a social work major from St. Clair
- Jesse Place, a chemistry education major from Boyne City
- Emily Sullivan, a double major in political science and criminal justice from Cass City
- Kristen Tomczyk, an athletic training major from Lapeer

Andrew Swihart, professor of psychology, serves as the group's faculty advisor.

### Faculty earn awards and fellowships

**Eric Gardner**, professor of English, has received a \$50,400 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for the 2012-13 academic year. Gardner intends to write the first comprehensive book on the Christian Recorder, a periodical of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and document its rise during the Civil War era and its importance as an outlet for black voices in that period. Gardner joined the SVSU faculty in 1996.

The Midland Section of the American Chemistry Society has selected **Dave Karpovich**, H.H. Dow Endowed Chair in Chemistry, as the region's Outstanding College Chemistry

Teacher Award winner for 2012. The award is presented annually to an educator in Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland or Saginaw counties who makes a substantial contribution to science learning through his or her own voluntary efforts. Karpovich joined the SVSU faculty in 1998.

**Enayat Mahajerin**, professor of mechanical engineering, was chosen to be an American Society of Mechanical Engineering Fellow. Only the top 3 percent of the more than 100,000 mechanical engineering faculty nationwide are accepted as fellows. Mahajerin joined SVSU's faculty in 1984.

# Elizabeth Rich

Professor of English

As a young girl, Elizabeth Rich remembers watching her mother and father, mystified as to how they could sit in silence for hours. They were completely absorbed – she just could not figure out what they were doing. The couple burned with curiosity about the world beyond their working-class Pittsburgh neighborhood. Years later, that little girl discovered the purpose of the objects they held each night, those mysterious things called books.

“Luckily, when I was four,” Rich said, “my parents moved us next to an elementary school teacher who didn’t have any children yet.”

With that additional personal tutor to guide her, Rich fell in love with reading, and found the intellectual hunger that would lead her to her life’s work.

Rich joined the SVSU faculty in 2000 to teach literature. Ten years later, she became chair of the English department. With more than 30 full-time faculty in the department, the role carries considerable demands for a professor with her own courses to teach and scholarship to conduct. Dozens of department chair emails can zip in from any direction while students with questions often line up outside her door.

But with her two-year term as chair nearly completed, Rich just finished the last round of department meetings – “along with pre-meeting meetings and post-meeting meetings,” she said, laughing.

“I’m incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity,” she said.

“You have an exponential amount of work because of the number of people involved, but they are more than willing to roll up their sleeves and pitch in.”

Gary Thompson will take over the chair’s role. “He’s been so great,” Rich said, “coming to extra meetings, getting involved. He’s going to be a very good chair.”

Rich is stepping aside in part to assume a new role as chair for the university’s Honors Program, which she describes as an exciting prospect for someone who also loves science and history. She embraces the program’s interdisciplinary approach – biology majors studying with literature majors, for instance – and discussing issues that affect everyone.

Like her parents, Rich is drawn to seeing the world through others’ eyes.

“The world is so big and complicated and interesting. I like thinking about how we think about it.”

In fact, Rich finds that some of her favorite courses to teach are the freshman-level introductory sections. Like the neighbor she was lucky to meet, Rich loves to spread her fervor for learning and literature.

“In those classes, you’re showing them books,” she said, “and really, you’re teaching them appreciation.”



# Vera McCulloh-Pratt

Accountant • May 2012

As an accountant, Vera McCulloh-Pratt knows all about maintaining balance.

“In my position, I do a lot of balancing and making sure things work,” said McCulloh-Pratt, who joined the Controller’s Office in 2002.

“When they don’t, there’s a lot of work just trying to figure out why they didn’t, and I like that type of analytical thinking.”

McCulloh-Pratt uses those analytical thinking skills in her responsibility as the administrator for SVSU’s Procurement Card program, which issues SVSU employees a credit card to use for supply orders and travel expenses.

“I’m in charge of issuing the card as well as all the maintenance on it and the reconciliation of it,” she said. “As people start sending their statements, I make sure that everything is right and that they are following purchasing and travel policies. There’s a lot of work with it, but I like that program because I think it’s good for our employees, and it’s also good for the university.”

McCulloh-Pratt, who completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees at SVSU, was finishing her graduate work and working at a credit union in 2002 when she first applied for the job she holds now.

“One of my instructors at that time, Jill Wetmore, had given us

some information about a position open,” McCulloh-Pratt said. “I thought about it, applied for it, was interviewed and actually got the job. It’s a great fit. I love the people I work with, and I enjoy coming to work every day.”

Beyond her work at SVSU, McCulloh-Pratt also is active in the community. With a son in Saginaw Public Schools, McCulloh-Pratt is on the Parent-Teacher-Student Association for Saginaw High School, where she regularly attends board meetings and is involved in a number of committees.

She also volunteers as a mentor to young women between the ages of eight and 18 in Saginaw Public Schools, starting a group of local volunteers that now consists of six to 12 women.

“I started the group about three years ago with some family members and friends,” she said. “We just mentor young girls about positive self-image, bullying, dispute resolution and things like that.”

McCulloh-Pratt said that SVSU’s emphasis on family and community is also part of what makes the school a great fit for her.

“I work with great people,” she said. “I like the flexibility of this place, where if you have something you need to take care of, people are very receptive. It allows you to take care of family business as well as work.”



## Professional Profile

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

• **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, gave a paper titled “Black Books, Black Ads, Black Periodicals, Black Readers” April 15 at the Society of 19th-Century Americanists (C19) Biennial Meeting at the University of California at Berkeley.

• **Phyllis Hastings**, professor of English, organized and co-chaired a day-long workshop titled “Opening Prison Gates: Creating, Sustaining, Researching and Extending Literacy Programs Behind Bars” at the annual meeting of the Conference on College Composition and Communication in St. Louis in March. Her presentation during that workshop was “Moving into the Community: Advocacy and Activism.” In addition, she did a presentation at the conference titled “Practicing the Community of Truth: Guiding the Spirit Dimension of Composition Instruction.”

• **Hong Park**, professor of economics, co-authored a paper titled “Theories of the Film, Entrepreneurship and Changes in Business Practices of Korean Films” that was accepted for publication by *The International Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Change Management*.

• **Marcia Shannon**, assistant professor of nursing, along with nursing students Amy Daniels and Amy Raetz, presented posters on the investigation of nursing and healthcare practices in Bornio and Bala, Indonesia, at the Sigma Theta Tau International Region 10 Research Conference, titled “Diversity and Civility in Nursing: Connecting for Health” in Ann Arbor, April 20-12.

• **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, discovered a new species. The finding will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Southwestern Entomologist* as “A New Nearctic Species of *Boletina* Staeger Fungus Gnat (Diptera: Mycetophilidae).”

• **Robert Tuttle**, associate professor of mechanical engineering, presented two papers at the 116th Metalcasting Congress April 17 in Columbus, Ohio. The papers, titled “Experiences in Casting FeMnAl” and “Preliminary Machinability Study of Fe-Mn-Al-C Steel” were a result of work sponsored by the American Foundry Society and the U.S. Army Benet Laboratories. Also, SVSU student Josh Gittings presented the results of his SRCI project in a paper titled, “The Effects of Silicon on Mechanical Properties and Inclusion Content of a 0.3wt-% Plain Carbon Steel.” A total of three SVSU students attended the conference.

## Condolences

• To **Iksu Jurn**, professor of finance, whose father Yong Shin Jurn passed away April 14.

• To **Kathleen Kroll**, reference/instruction librarian, whose father Bernard “Ben” Kroll passed away May 12.

• To **Laurie Siminske**, senior secretary, whose father Norman John Spyhalski passed away May 12.

• To **Leslie Smith**, custodian, whose mother-in-law Sandra Lee Premo passed away May 9.

## Briefly Speaking

• **Craig Snook**, assistant director of creative services, received one of four Purchase Awards in the Saginaw Township’s “State of the Arts Exhibition 2012” April 22. The entry, “Pond on Backus Road,” is an acrylic paint and oil pastel work on canvas. More than 200 pieces of various media by 81 Michigan artists entered the art exhibit, which was shown at the Saginaw

Charter Township Hall through May 25. The award also allows Snook to have a One Artist Show that will be exhibited November 1-30, 2012.

• Do you know of a remarkable story about students or alumni? Email tips to [stories@svsu.edu](mailto:stories@svsu.edu), or submit them via Facebook by visiting [svsu.edu/stories](http://svsu.edu/stories).

## Transitions

For complete directory information, including office numbers and telephone extensions, go to [svsu.edu/lookup](http://svsu.edu/lookup).

### New Hires

- Thomas Barnikow, Assistant Director of Career Services, Career Services
- Randy Baruth, Head Men’s Basketball Coach, Athletics
- Jenna Briggs, Director of Graduate Admissions, Graduate Admissions
- Alan Dore, Communication Specialist, University Communications
- Zachary Drayer, Custodian, Campus Facilities
- Andrew Meddaugh, Support Center Technology Specialist, ITS
- Matthew Meissner, Police Officer, University Police

### Promotions

- P. Laine Blasch, Special Assistant to the Executive Vice President of Administration and Business Affairs, ABA
- Tony Hutchinson, Level 2 Networking and Server Support, IT
- Beth Montgomery, Custodian/ Assistant Working Foreman, Campus Facilities

### Reappointments

- Adrienne Galbraith, Nursing Simulated Learning Laboratory Specialist, Nursing

### Resignations

- Irene Bauer, Administrative Secretary, Education
- Sheri Beattie, Online Course Developer
- Kimberly Brandimore, Director of Student Life, Student Life
- Christopher Coles, Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach, Athletics
- Desmond Daniel, Charter Transition Coordinator, School/University Partnership
- Jacqueline Detrick, Head Athletic Trainer, Athletics
- Jocelyn Hall, Head Cheerleading Coach, Athletics
- Brenda Holman, Grant Accountant, Controller’s
- Sharon Livernois, Grant Coordinator, Nursing
- Ken Schindler, Executive Director of IT, IT
- Franklin Smith, Head Men’s Basketball Coach, Athletics
- Chad Yensen, Assistant Athletic Trainer, Athletics

### Retired

- Vickie Hayes, Administrative Secretary, Admissions

### Transfers

- Rose San Miguel, Access Services/Archives Specialist, Zahn Library
- Shawna Schumacher, Undergraduate & Graduate Admissions Secretary, Education-Admissions & Certification

### Title Changes

- Bryan Crainer, Associate Director of Retention for First Year Programs, Academic Advising

**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: [jjboehm@svsu.edu](mailto:jjboehm@svsu.edu).**