

## Board approves room and board rates, new faculty contract

At its Dec. 13 regular meeting, the Board of Control approved increases to room and board rates of 2.5 percent for 2014-15 and 2.4 percent for 2015-16. The Board also agreed to a three-year contract with the SVSU Faculty Association.

Incoming freshmen will pay \$8,400 for their housing and meal plan for the 2014-15 academic year and \$8,600 for the 2015-16 academic year.

For returning students whose meal plan participation is voluntary, housing rates are increasing by an average of 2.4 percent for each of the next two years. For 2014-15, annual rates range from \$4,170 for a shared-bedroom unit in one of the Living Centers or a two-bedroom unit in Pine Grove Apartments to \$8,220 for a family apartment in Pine Grove. Rates in University Village will range from \$5,700 to \$6,530.

The rates are part of the Auxiliary Services business plan approved by the Board. SVSU's Auxiliary Services include self-supporting operations such as housing, campus dining, and the bookstore. No revenue comes from the general fund.

The new three-year contract

with the SVSU Faculty Association (MEA/NEA) calls for faculty members who are part of the bargaining unit to receive salary increases of

2.25 percent annually for three years, beginning July 1, 2014. The agreement also includes incremental increases to the university's contribution toward

faculty members' health care costs.

The new collective bargaining agreement will be effective through June 30, 2017.

**WORKING TOGETHER. SHARING THE DREAM.**

an MLK celebration in the Great Lakes Bay Region

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014**  
7:00 P.M.

MALCOLM FIELD THEATRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS · SVSU

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**JUDGE TERRY L. CLARK**  
OF THE 70TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

An entrenched color barrier that stood 155 years in Saginaw County's Judicial System fell on August 10, 1990, when Judge Terry L. Clark was sworn as Saginaw County's first African American Judge.

One of 10 brothers and sisters, Judge Clark was born and raised in Saginaw. Judge Clark is a District Court Judge for the 70th Judicial District Court in Saginaw. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Judge Clark's extensive experience is complemented by membership in the Michigan District Judges Association, in which he served as President for the 2011 calendar year, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the State Bar of Michigan and Saginaw County Bar Associations, 2013 Chair of the Judicial conference of the State Bar of Michigan. Judge Clark was a former partner in the law firm of Jensen, Smith and Clark, and a former Assistant Saginaw County Prosecutor. He is a 1973 graduate of Buena Vista High School and is a member of New Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. He is a life member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

In addition to his courtroom responsibilities, Judge Clark recognizes the value of community service and is a strong supporter of programs to aid our nation's youth. Judge Clark has a multitude of social and civic affiliations and has received many honors and awards.

• • • DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. • • •

**REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS**

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Community Foundations (Bay Area, Midland Area, Saginaw) present these scholarships to outstanding high school seniors across the region who have demonstrated Dr. King's teachings.

**DESSERT RECEPTION FOLLOWING.**

*The event is FREE of charge and open to the public.*

## SVSU bestows honorary doctorate upon Ming Chuan president at December commencement



An Honorary Doctor of Laws was bestowed upon Ming Chuan University President Chuan Lee (center in photo at right) at Commencement, Dec. 13. Lee has served Ming Chuan University for 35 years and became its president in 1999. A sister university to SVSU, Ming Chuan was founded in 1957 and currently enrolls more than 19,000 students. SVSU's December graduating class consisted of 533 students, including 417 who received bachelor's degrees and 116 who received master's or education specialist degrees.



# Charles Weaver

Assistant Professor of Health Sciences

Charles Weaver isn't out to become the man who cured Alzheimer's. But he wouldn't mind one day being credited for a better understanding of the disease.

Weaver, assistant professor of health sciences since 2011, is researching the affect dental infections play in the development of Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia.

A study Weaver oversaw in summer 2012 suggests a tooth decay-causing bacteria—*Enterococcus faecalis*—may be linked to Alzheimer's.

"We grew some brain cells in a petri dish, and once they were thriving, we added the bacteria and looked to see if the neurons would degenerate in the same manner we saw in Alzheimer's," Weaver said. "We found that degeneration to be very similar."

Next, Weaver hopes to analyze different nerve tracts and blood vessels to see if the bacteria spreads through the same routes traveled by Alzheimer's. He is applying for grant support of about \$45,000 for the three-year study.

The findings may do more than shed light on one way Alzheimer's develops. They may also place additional emphasis on the importance of tooth care, and question the benefits of root canals.

"Despite all the campaigns, we take (dental health) too lightly," the Detroit native said. "Our diet plays a huge role in our dental health."

He said Americans, in particular, could stand to cut high acid goods from their diets.

"You look at some cultures around the world that don't have this diet, and even if they don't brush often, they have very little, if any, tooth decay," Weaver said.

He said the research could lead to questions about root canals, the procedure that removes a tooth's root to eliminate bacteria-based decay.

"The problem is that 80 percent of root canals go bad within five years," he said. "That's the only medical procedure I can think of where you're leaving a piece of dead tissue in the body. There needs to be a serious reevaluation, or find a better way of eradicating bacteria at the root of the tooth."

Weaver said he hopes to utilize SVSU students in the research.

"They are really hard working students here," he said. "They really know how to grind it out. It's a good match for what I want to do."

Weaver said the outcome could make their work an important leap in the world's understanding of a prevalent disease.

"I'm not out to cure Alzheimer's," he said. "That's much bigger than me. The whole field has to put together the pieces; they have to come up with causes and cures, and I want to do my little part."



# Debbie Marsh

Administrative Assistant • December 2013

For two years, Debbie Marsh handled a job a half-century in the making.

Marsh knew she'd play an important role in organizing the institution's 50th anniversary celebrations as early as 2011 when Executive Assistant to the President Carlos Ramet—for whom Marsh serves as an administrative assistant—was tasked with planning many of the festivities.

One of Marsh's primary responsibilities involved helping coordinate the anniversary banquet Nov. 9. If the rave reviews that followed the event were any indication, it's a job she pulled off well.

"I heard so many good things about the banquet overall," said Ramet, who nominated Marsh for Staff Member of the Month. "She really went above and beyond the call of duty to put together a great event."

Serving up the banquet to the 566 people who attended the gathering was no easy task, she said.

"That was the biggest event I've ever been involved with," said Marsh, who joined SVSU as a payroll clerk in 1990. "I enjoyed it immensely."

She's quick to point out that she received plenty of help from the staff and students who tackled the tasks she delegated.

"It was a lot of work, a lot of time and a lot of people," she said. "I thought it was a spectacular night because of everyone."

For Marsh, bringing the banquet to life involved sending out invitations, handling the RSVP responses, and packaging the gifts given to all attendees.

One of her toughest assignments was creating three PowerPoint presentations used by the evening's trio of speakers, President Eric Gilbertson, President Emeritus Jack Ryder and Gene Hamilton, special assistant to the president for government relations. The presentations centered on the university's future, present and past, which required unearthing photos from SVSU's archives. She finished Hamilton's PowerPoint over the summer, Ryder's presentation earlier in the fall and Gilbertson's in November.

"It's very labor intensive, but I enjoy doing (PowerPoints)," said Marsh, who prepares public presentations for a number of university administrators.

The anniversary year workload was compounded by the typical responsibilities Marsh handles during the semester. If anyone was up to the challenge, it was Marsh, her colleague said.

"I nominated Debbie because she is an exceptional employee and is always well-organized," Ramet said. "A lot of people made that event what it was, but certainly Debbie—just in terms of assisting in the organizing of the event—went beyond the call of duty."

Marsh now has received Staff Member of the Month twice. She also was recognized in April 2006.



# December graduate to attend Ivy League physician's assistant program

A member of the December graduating class is one of 32 students to begin classes in March at Cornell University's Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences in New York City.

Hannah Allison, a health sciences major from Saginaw, plans to attend the Ivy League school's physician's assistant program.

"I've always known I wanted to join the medical field," the 2009 Hemlock High School graduate said. "My mom's a nurse and I love science more than any other subject."

Allison, who works as a nursing assistant at McLaren Bay Region in Bay City, applied at several institutions. Knowing the tough standards at Ivy League schools, she considered it a long shot to make the final cut at Cornell's Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, which admits just 32 students yearly.

Two weeks after an October interview on Manhattan's Upper East Side, though, she received the good news via a phone call.

"That's unheard of," she said of the quick turnaround. "I couldn't believe it."

Those exposed to Allison's academic wherewithal—her SVSU GPA was 3.94—and professional drive were less surprised by Cornell's quick decision.

"I'm so proud of her," said Rene Hernandez, assistant professor of



Hannah Allison will begin Ivy League grad school this March.

health sciences and a trained physician's assistant. "She deserves it. That's a pretty substantial setting."

Allison said she's excited her SVSU opportunities led her to Cornell, where she expects both the 26-month physician's assistant program and the sizeable city setting will widen the view of a student born and raised in a small town.

"In a way, it might be good that I'm not going to be close to home," she said of the approaching adventure. "That would be easier. This way, it will be an intense two years."

## Professional Profile

- **James Bowers**, assistant professor of criminal justice, was a co-author of "Adam Walsh Act Compliance in Pennsylvania: What Does the Future Hold? A Research Note" that was published in *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, Nov. 2013. Also, Bowers presented "General Strain Theory: Life Stress and Criminal Involvement Among College Students" at the American Society of Criminology conference, Nov. 20 in Atlanta, Ga.

- **Karen Brown-Fackler**, associate professor of nursing, and Janet Ofori-Darko, nursing simulation lab specialist, presented research titled "Classroom Incivility: Comparing Student and Faculty Perceptions and Experience" at the Lilly Conference on College Teaching at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, Nov. 24. Their research was conducted at SVSU and examined experiences and different perceptions among nursing faculty and nursing students regarding what constitutes disruptive behavior in the classroom.

- **Julie Foss**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, presented "A Model for Oral Proficiency Development in a Conversation Course" at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' 2013 Convention and World Languages Expo Nov. 24 in Orlando, Fla. She also served as a representative of the Michigan World Language Association at the convention's Assembly of Delegates.

- **Daniel Gates**, associate professor of English, published an article titled "The Law Made Flesh: St. Paul's Corinth and Shakespeare's Vienna" in the summer 2013 issue of *Christianity and Literature* (vol. 62, no. 4).

- **Paul Teed**, professor of history, had an article titled "Loyalty and Liturgy: Union Occupation and Religious Liberty in Wilmington,

North Carolina, 1865," accepted for publication in *American Nineteenth Century History*. The research and writing of the article was funded by the Ruth and Ted Braun Fellowship and it will appear in January 2014.

## Condolences

- To **Mike Ohman**, custodial specialist, whose father, William (Bill) Ohman, passed away Dec. 8.
- To **Alan Reisinger**, maintenance, whose father, Robert L. Reisinger, passed away Dec. 8.
- To the family of **Frederick A. (Buzz) Webster III**, professor emeritus of business & management (1977-1987), who passed away Nov. 4.

## Briefly Speaking

- The university closes for holiday break at noon Friday, Dec. 20, and reopens Thursday, Jan. 2. Winter semester classes begin Monday, Jan. 13.

**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.  
Please send items by email to: [jjboehm@svsu.edu](mailto:jjboehm@svsu.edu).**