

SVSU to hold two May Commencement ceremonies

For the first time since the Ryder Center was completed in 1989, SVSU will hold two large May graduation ceremonies. Commencement exercises will be held Friday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 10 at 11 a.m.

All graduates in the colleges of Business & Management and Health & Human Services will participate in the Friday evening ceremony. Graduates in the colleges of Arts & Behavioral Sciences, Education and Science, Engineering & Technology will take part in the Saturday ceremony.

Patrick McInnis, CEO of the Michigan-based graphics company Fathead, will serve as the speaker for both ceremonies. He is a 1988 SVSU graduate.

The graduating class consists of 850 individuals expected to complete bachelor's degree requirements who have indicated that they intend to don regalia and march in their respective ceremonies. A total of 967 students have applied to graduate with bachelor's degrees; another 262 students are expected to complete master's



Patrick McInnis

and advanced degrees.

In all, 471 students plan to participate in the Friday ceremony. The Saturday ceremony will feature an expected 547 graduates. These totals include the 168 students who are expected to complete graduate degrees and participate in Commencement exercises.

As is tradition, President Bachand will congratulate each graduate in both ceremonies as he or she crosses the stage.

Bachand began his career at SVSU as a criminal justice professor, and McInnis is one of his former students.

McInnis has served as chief executive officer of Fathead, LLC since February 2009. Perhaps best known for their life-

sized graphics of professional athletes, the Michigan-based company is the industry leader of officially licensed sports and entertainment graphics for large and small spaces.

Fathead maintains more than 600 license agreements with leading consumer brands across many industries and professional sports leagues. In 2013, the company was named a Top Workplace by *The Detroit Free Press* for the fourth time.

Prior to Fathead, McInnis worked for 26 years at Quicken Loans, including serving as president and chief operating officer from 2002 to 2009.

An avid sportsman, McInnis is a minority owner in the Cleveland Cavaliers NBA basketball franchise. He has received recognition throughout Southeast Michigan for his passion and contributions to area youth, community and athletic organizations.

2014 All-University Awards

FRANC A. LANDEE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Joshua Ode, Kinesiology

EARL L. WARRICK AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Tai Chi Lee, Computer Science & Information Systems

HOUSE FAMILY AWARD FOR TEACHER IMPACT

John Kaczynski, Political Science

MARY H. ANDERSON ADJUNCT FACULTY AWARD

Lester Altevogt, Mathematics

RUBEN DANIELS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Amy Hlavacek, Mathematics

TERRY ISHIHARA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CO-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT

Kim Lacey, English • **Tammy Elliott**, Academic Affairs

ROOSEVELT RUFFIN DIVERSITY AWARD

Dawn Hinton, Sociology

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD

Laura Peil, Academic Affairs

For details, including bios on each award recipient, go to: blogs.svsu.edu/newsroom/2014/04/21/

INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF

Donald J. Bachand

AS THE FOURTH PRESIDENT OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
SUNDAY, JUNE 22 • 2:30 P.M. • MALCOLM FIELD THEATRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS
RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

President Bachand meets Diversity Council

President Don Bachand spoke with and listened to more than 60 representatives of the SVSU Diversity Council during a lunch meeting Wednesday, April 9.

“Outreach to our entire community is important to me,” he said.

Conversation centered on ways in which SVSU can play a greater role in increasing college attendance across the Great Lakes Bay Region, particularly among ethnic minorities. Several

members suggested developing programs for SVSU students, faculty, staff and alumni to serve as mentors.

Bachand appreciated the input received from people with a vested interest in the success of SVSU and our surrounding community.

“I want this group to help us better understand how others perceive us,” he said, “and also to help them understand all the ways in which we are serving all

segments of our community.”

Bachand also expressed a desire to see members of the council serve as active partners in forming strategies and implementing measures to achieve common goals.

“I hope to make this a working group that develops action-oriented solutions to benefit SVSU and the communities we serve.”



Don Bachand spoke at the April 9 Diversity Council, which is coordinated by Mamie Thorns of SVSU's diversity office.



DIVERSITY COUNCIL LUNCHEON ATTENDEES

- NAME, ORGANIZATION
- Anderson, Roland, Representing Stacey Erwin Oakes, State Representative
 - Barrientos, Tammy, SVSU
 - Beane, Rose, SVSU
 - Beckom, Brenda, SVSU
 - Braddock, Sheila, United Way/ Wickes Foundation
 - Brooks-Herd, Vanessa, SVSU
 - Browne, Jahmal, SVSU
 - Butler, Rhonda, Saginaw Public Libraries
 - Callejo-Perez, David, SVSU
 - Carty, Colleen, Michigan Blood
 - Chantaca-Kubczak, Kathleen, SVSU
 - Chernich, Heidi, SVSU
 - Chipp, Tamar, Michigan Blood
 - Clark, Lacreata, SVSU
 - Coleman, Hurley Jr., Greater Coleman Temple
 - Daniel, Desmond, Mount Olive Baptist Church
 - Dawkins, Jessie, Victorious Believers
 - Dutta, Ranjana, SVSU
 - Dwyer, James, SVSU
 - Edwards, Corine, Saginaw Twp. Schools
 - Foskey, Takiya, Dow Chemical
 - Foxx, Eddie, Bridge Center for Racial Harmony
 - Foxx, Juanita, Bridge Center for Racial Harmony
 - Gamez, David, Board of Control
 - Garcia, Roberto, SVSU
 - Harvin, Joyce, J. W. Ellington & Associates
 - Haughton, Sandy, Retired Community Member
 - Hinton, Dawn, SVSU
 - Hlavacek, Amy, SVSU
 - Howard, Lamarcus, SVSU
 - Jolly, Ken, SVSU
 - Kahn-Brown, Rehana, Bridge Center for Racial Harmony
 - Kemp, Kendrick, Saginaw Promise Zone
 - Kitt, Michael, Dow African American Network
 - Lemuel, Robert, SVSU
 - Lewis, David, SVSU
 - Lopez, Lisa, Health Plus
 - Maday, Carol, SVSU
 - Neal, John, Dow African American Network
 - Neal, Tangie, Dow African American Network
 - Newton, Darold, NAACP of Bay City
 - Nickleberry, Mitchell, Word Up Magazine
 - Ofori-Dankwa, Joseph, SVSU
 - Olvera, Elsa, SVSU
 - Poppe, Jan, SVSU
 - Reyes, Monica, SVSU
 - Rodarte, Larry, Mi Gente
 - Rosales, Minerva, Bridge Center for Racial Harmony
 - Rubis, Gloria, Bridgeport Schools
 - San Miguel, Rosa, SVSU
 - Seals, Joyce, Ezekiel Community
 - Simons, Debwin, SVSU
 - Smith, Andretta, SVSU
 - Snedeker, Kathy, First United Methodist Church
 - Spates-Allen, Delana, Saginaw Future
 - Stricker, Carmen, SVSU
 - Szott, Susan, Bridge Center for Racial Harmony
 - Taylor, Andarius, SVSU
 - Thorns, Mamie, SVSU
 - Weaver, Charles, SVSU
 - Williams, Carl, 95th District
 - Williams, Raven, SVSU
 - Williams, Vennesa, Dow
 - Wilson, Leola, NAACP
 - Wilson, Shawn, SVSU
 - Young, LaDonna, SVSU
 - Zubulake, Gladys, SVSU

Grounds Department

April Staff Members of the Month

SVSU groundskeeper James “Dale” Gough will tell you, when the sun is shining and the weather is warm, everyone wants his job.

“But I didn’t hear anyone say that this winter,” Gough added.

Instead, it was up to Gough and 11 of his groundskeeper colleagues to clear the campus roads, pathways and sidewalks while literally moving mountains — of snow, that is — during one of the harshest wintry wallops in recent memory.

“This was the worst winter I’ve ever dealt with,” said groundskeeper Jim Van Wormer, who has worked at SVSU since 2001. “It just kept coming and coming. And, once it came, it never stopped.

“The temperatures never helped,” Van Wormer added. “And then you factor in the wind.”

The relentless weather often meant leaving home for work in the darkness of early morning and returning well after sundown. And, while the most severe weather led administrators to cancel classes and activities on campus several times this year, groundskeepers don’t get to stay home on those days.

“It can be hard, getting out of bed at 3:30 in the morning, leaving a toasty bed, shoveling your own sidewalk, and then coming here to get the school prepared to go,” Gough said.

Troy Heinz, a groundskeeper at SVSU since 1993, said the constant snowfall at times kept the crew moving in seemingly

endless circles. “There were a couple days where the (sidewalk-clearing) guys seemed like they never stopped, like ants in a farm,” he said.

“You could take five or six swipes at the snow, turn around, and it’s covered again.”

Each groundskeeper focuses on a certain corner of the campus. For Van Wormer, that meant clearing out snow surrounding the Curtiss Hall area.

He said it was especially challenging removing snow from parking lots, where groundskeepers were faced with the added element of maneuvering around students scrambling for parking spaces.

Gough said the extreme weather also meant moving snow into piled-up “mountains,” and later, moving those mountains in order to make room for more incoming snow.

“That became a major issue,” he said.

The exceptionally frigid temperatures kept the piles from melting much. Months of snow remained standing well into the spring season.

“It was a wild winter,” Gough said. “Brutal.”

Other members of the groundskeeper team honored for their winter-time efforts were Gordon Chase, Thomas Hare, Stephen Kopka, Robert Lopez, Jeffrey Losee, Ralph Musinski, Keith Prueter, Gerald Stevens and Mike Wenglikowski.



Name/Year Started at SVSU

1. Troy Heinz, 1993
2. Keith Prueter, 1988
3. Jerry Stevens, 1997
4. Tom Hare, 2010
5. Ralph Musinski, 1988
6. Jim VanWormer, 2001
7. Jeff Losee, 2001
8. Steve Kopka, 1997
9. Dale Gough, 2005
10. Gordon Chase, 2009
11. Mike Wenglikowski, 1993
12. Bob Lopez, 1980

Rebecca Toth

Assistant Professor of Nursing

There's a black and white portrait positioned not far from Rebecca Toth's desk that keeps her inspired, even when she's remembering her challenges as an undergraduate going through nursing school.

These days, the assistant professor of nursing is the one guiding other students toward a career in the field that she and her grandmother — the woman featured in the portrait — practiced with such passion.

Evelyn Seelye raised six children on a dairy farm even as she spent years as a director of nursing. Her combination of hard work, dedication, discipline and empathy for others inspired Toth to pursue a profession in the same field. She continues that work today in her classroom teachings, in her studies as a graduate student, and in her life helping others help others.

For 22 years, Toth was a nurse with the University of Michigan's Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. That career followed a less-than-enjoyable nursing school experience.

"I model how I teach based on how not to do it," she said. Her nursing school instructors taught using intimidation, often "spying" on pupils as they learned and embarrassing them when they made mistakes. Toth said, as an educator, she flips that teaching philosophy on its head. Instead, she practices a more nurturing approach regarding education.

"I love it," Toth said of her career as an educator, which she began

when joining SVSU's faculty in fall 2009. "I love the moment you can fit all the pieces together for the students," she said. "Watching the students take joy in their nursing care, seeing them become successful: that's what I get high on here at work."

Toth's impact on students extends beyond classroom interaction. She and Tammy Hill, assistant professor of nursing, designed a three-course curriculum teaching nursing concepts, from a patient's birth until their death. "It's teaching what's the same across a lifespan and what's different," Toth said.

The curriculum's first course focuses on classroom-set studies, the second involves simulating nursing care related to those studies, and the third sends students to medical care facilities across the region to work with actual patients.

Toth taught the curriculum for the first time this semester, during a period when she continues to pursue a doctorate in nursing practice from the University of Michigan-Flint. She hopes to graduate in April 2015.

She maintains all these roles — as the educator and the educated — along with her life at home, where she is raising a 15-year-old, Dani, with her husband of 22 years, Brian. It's a busy-but-fulfilling lifestyle reminiscent of the one lived by the woman in the black and white photo not far from Toth's desk. The one who helped inspire Toth's journey there.



Carnegie Foundation application sent; waiting game begins

SVSU officials on April 11 submitted an application to the Carnegie Foundation in a bid to designate the institution as a community engaged university.

Kerry Rastigue, leader of the SVSU team that authored the application, is confident the university submitted a thorough report.

“If Carnegie doesn’t think we’re there yet, then we’re just not there yet,” said Rastigue, who pointed out almost half of the institutions applying for the status do not receive it the first time.

“It’s hard to say whether we’ll get the classification or not, but we should be extremely proud of this application,” she said. “And we can really be proud of the engagement work here.”

She said her report’s findings show community engagement “permeates” the campus.

“Both in the curriculum and in our extra-curricular activities,” she said. “It’s really remarkable — and it’s happening everywhere. It’s in the classrooms, outside the classroom, in service learning courses, in internships, in

athletics, in RSOs.”

Rastigue knows the details, inside and out. Since joining SVSU in the fall semester as coordinator of service learning, she has collected information from officials “in every department on the campus.”

The result was a 75-page application document, submitted four days ahead of the Carnegie Foundation deadline.

The report was “honest,” she said, highlighting both SVSU’s strengths in community engagement as well as opportunities for improvement.

“(Carnegie Foundation) really wanted to understand the impact of our community work, and to see how we’re assessing that impact,” she said. “It’s a lot like a self-study for accreditation. They want to see from every angle, in every place, how we interact with the community. So we looked at everything.”

Rastigue said if the application falls short in its attempt, that won’t be for a lack of information.

“We answered every question very specifically,” she said. “We continually pointed to different areas of the campus, and were able to show work being done in a variety of ways.”

Collecting the information involved a lot of legwork over the months for Rastigue.

“It was mostly done by talking to people, knocking on a lot of doors,” she said. “There was some research on the web.”

She said campus cooperation was stellar, “without exception.”

“Everyone was so generous with their time,” she said. “I have a lot of people to thank for that.”

She also credited her application team, including Merry Jo Brandimore, Jules Gehrke, Deborah Huntley and Robert Lane.

President Don Bachand — who began the application process as provost and vice president for academic affairs — also played a substantial role in the process, Rastigue said.

“He was a huge supporter of the initiative from day one,” she said. “He really championed the effort and told people of its importance.”

Now comes the wait. Rastigue said SVSU should expect to learn of the Carnegie Foundation’s decision in January.

Book examining 1763 capture of Mackinac City fort wins SVSU literature award

The author of a book examining the 1763 capture of Fort Michilimackinac won SVSU’s 2014 Stuart D. and Vernice M. Gross Award for Literature.

Keith R. Widder, the former curator of history at the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, received the award and its \$1,000 prize.

His book, *Beyond Pontiac’s Shadow: Michilimackinac and the Anglo-Indian War of 1763*, studies a key moment in the political and cultural histories of Michigan, the Great Lakes, Canada, as well as early America. Last year marked the 250th anniversary of the capture of the Mackinac City-based fort, where a group of Native Americans used the guise of a lacrosse-like game to set up a surprise attack on British forces occupying the fort.

Widder’s text explores Native American and French-Canadian communities in the region at the time, as well as the negotiations and interactions among the Native American tribes —



Keith R. Widder

Ojibwe, Odawa and Menominee — and the British forces. The book has received strong reviews and was “highly recommended” by *Choice*, a magazine that reviews texts fit for academic libraries.

Widder, who will visit the campus in September to formally receive his award, also is the author of *Battle for the Soul: Metis Children Encounter Evangelical Protestants at Mackinaw Mission, 1823-1837* and *Michigan Agricultural College: The Evolution of a Land-Grant Philosophy 1855-1925*.

Established by the late Stuart D. Gross and his wife, Vernice,

the Gross Award for Literature is administered by SVSU. Winners are selected of by a panel of judges from SVSU’s staff and faculty.

Judges this year were M. Patricia Cavanaugh, professor of English; Eric Gardner, associate dean of the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences; John Mauch, reference librarian; and Anne Menard, catalog librarian. The group praised Widder’s book for its lively and accessible style, compelling analysis, rich research and lush production.

Employed for many years as a journalist with *The Saginaw News*, Gross joined the SVSU staff in the school’s early years and served in a variety of public affairs roles. He was recognized as a regional historian and published several books. Among his writings are *Saginaw: A History of the Land and City*, *When Timber was King*, and *Where There is a Will*. Following his retirement from SVSU, Gross wrote and produced a play, “Let’s Have Lunch Sometime.” He died in 1996; Mrs. Gross in 2001.

SVSU Promotes Huntley to Provost

SVSU has selected Deborah Huntley to serve as provost and vice president for academic affairs.



D. Huntley

Huntley joined the SVSU chemistry faculty in 1998; since 2009, she has served as dean of SVSU's College of Science, Engineering and Technology. Prior to that, she served three years as associate vice president for academic affairs. She began her new role Monday, April 21.

"I'm eager and excited to assume my new role as provost," she said, "and grateful for the opportunity to serve an institution that I care so deeply about and that means so much to so many."

A resident of Saginaw Township, Huntley worked as a research chemist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee for 14 years before coming to SVSU. She completed her Ph.D. and a master's degree at Cornell University. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut.

An active scholar, Huntley's research includes collaboration with Nobel-prize winning chemist Roald Hoffmann, a professor at Cornell University, on modeling the bonding in constrained organic molecules. She has authored or co-authored some 35 articles published in scholarly journals, including some of the most prominent publications in the field of chemistry. Huntley received SVSU's Earl L. Warrick Award for Excellence in Research in 2006.

Professional Profile

- **Marlena Bravender**, assistant professor of education technology, presented a paper titled "Authoring online simulations: Will it make me a better principal?" at the Society of Information Technology in Teacher Education annual conference, March 21 in Jacksonville, Fla.
- **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of English, presented a paper and video as part of a panel entitled "Videocy in the Age of Open Access: The Challenges for Scholarship" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, March 19-22 in Indianapolis, Ind.
- **Eric Gardner**, associate dean of the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences, has a chapter titled "Slave Narratives and Archival Research" in the *Oxford Handbook of the African American Slave Narrative* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014: 36-53). Gardner spoke as part of an invited roundtable on the book at the C19 Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference, March 13 at the University of North Carolina.
- **Tai Chi Lee**, professor of computer & information systems, had a paper titled "Geometric Transformations via Matrix Multiplications Using Hardware/Software Co-design" published in the *International Journal of Advances in Computer Science*, Vol. 3 Issue 2, pp. 91-96, March 2014.
- **Mike Mosher**, professor of art/communication digital media, was asked to create an art installation for the 52nd Ann Arbor Film Festival at the Michigan Theater, March 25-30, in Ann Arbor.

Condolences

- To **John Altergott**, custodian, and **Patricia Altergott**, computer operations clerk, whose father/father-in-law, David Altergott Jr., passed away April 5.

- To **Syl Banks**, senior faculty secretary, whose mother, Janis Cook, passed away April 4.
- To **Rebecca Dewald Twarog**, coordinator of transfer student programs and services, whose husband, William Twarog, passed away March 28.
- To **Tom Hare**, groundskeeper, whose wife, Dawn Hare, passed away April 11; also, Hare's mother, Nancy Hare, passed away April 22.
- To **Vera McCulloh-Pratt**, accountant, whose father, John McCulloh, passed away April 2.
- To **Tina Thornton**, nursing simulated laboratory coordinator, whose father, Fernando DiCarlo, passed away April 7.
- To the family of **Jean S. Treadway**, who passed away Feb. 20. Treadway was a member of SVSU's first Board of Control.
- To **Chuck Wallace**, manager of maintenance operations, and **Adrienne Galbraith**, nursing simulated learning laboratory specialist, whose mother/grandmother, Patricia June Allen, passed away March 22.
- To **William Williamson**, professor of rhetoric & professional writing, whose father-in-law, William Harwood, passed away April 2.

Briefly Speaking

- **Julie Decker**, assistant director of the office of sponsored programs, successfully completed the examination for certification as an IRB Professional, a program offered by Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research.
- **Mamie Thorns**, special assistant to the president for diversity programs, accepted a community service award on behalf of SVSU at the Women of Colors Leadership Awards Banquet Saturday, March 29.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THE DEDICATION OF THE
**ELDON L. GRAHAM
EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM**

144 PIONEER HALL
(FIRST FLOOR STUDY SUITE)
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 • 3:00 P.M.

REMARKS BY
DONALD J. BACHAND
PRESIDENT
DEBORAH R. HUNTLEY
PROVOST
SCOTT L. CARMONA, '81
SVSU BOARD OF CONTROL MEMBER
ROBERT S.P. YIEN
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS EMERITUS

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

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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