

Faculty earn grants for projects that enhance student learning

The Center for Academic Innovation named the recipients of both the 2017-18 Dow Professor Awards as well as the inaugural Department Innovation Awards.

The Dow Professor Award provides funding for projects through the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Academic Development fund. This year's awardees received up to \$5,500 each. The recipients are:

Julie Keil, assistant professor of political science, who plans to use the grant to study how participation in the moot court program has various benefits for both current and past participants. Keil founded the nationally-ranked program and serves as its adviser.

Tina Thornton, assistant professor of nursing, and **David Rzeszutek**, associate professor of theatre, who will collaborate on a project involving simulating medical situations. Theatre students will act as patients while nursing students react to each scenario using their understanding of medical responses. The program is aimed at helping students in both academic fields better hone their skills.

Sylvia Fromherz Sharp, assistant professor of biology, and **Joseph Weaver**, assistant professor of psychology, plan to develop and implement assessment of attitudes and aptitudes of students studying STEM. Students will be asked to write a short narrative with accompanying data figures that answers a scientific question. Students will be surveyed before and after the assignment to measure its impact on their understanding of STEM.

Recipients of the Department Innovation Award will receive \$1,000 for their projects. The awardees are:

John Baesler, associate professor of history, who will task students with creating oral

histories relating to the Great Lakes Bay Region. Students eventually will present their oral history assignments to community members.

Fromherz Sharp will receive funding for her project

aimed at infusing evidence-based practices in biology course curriculum. The project will involve engaging students in professional development activities.

Join your faculty and staff colleagues at the 29th annual

All-University Awards Banquet

Friday, April 27

Reception 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Awards Program 7:30 p.m.

FRANC A. LANDEE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD
Andrea Frederick

EARL L. WARRICK AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH
Kaustav Misra

HOUSE FAMILY AWARD FOR TEACHER IMPACT
Warren Fincher

MARY H. ANDERSON ADJUNCT FACULTY AWARD
Roberto Garcia

EXCELLENCE IN ONLINE TEACHING AWARD
Jennifer Bridges

RUBEN DANIELS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Kevin Schultz

TERRY ISHIHARA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CO-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT
Ava Lewis • Sharmee Gloss

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD
Cara Shaw

SUPPORT STAFF OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD
Donna Helmreich-Lopez

THOMSON AWARD FOR EMPOWERING LEARNING IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
J. Blake Johnson

ROOSEVELT RUFFIN DIVERSITY AWARD
Monica Reyes

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION
David Abbs

Andrea Frederick

Associate Professor of Nursing

Even with a career in nursing that spans four decades, Andrea Frederick is hoping her legacy stretches forward. In fact, she hopes to pass on lessons learned to the next generation of health care professionals for several more decades.

That legacy was strengthened recently when she was named the recipient of the Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award, which honors faculty members for demonstrating a superior knowledge of their subject matter and maintaining high standards for academic achievement.

Frederick, an associate professor of nursing, was raised on a farm in Indiana where her family valued knowledge, confidence and self-sufficiency.

"My parents were responsible for instilling in me an understanding of the value of continuous learning — not just for knowledge's sake — but to acquire new skills, to hone skills to expert level and to pass skills on to others," she said.

She translated those values into professional standards, first as a practitioner and later as an educator in health care.

Frederick became interested in a career in health care as a child, placing her name on the Purdue University nursing program waiting list when she was in the ninth grade. And she followed through on that pursuit, earning a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1976.

She began her career as a staff nurse on a medical floor at Midland Hospital. Eventually, she moved into nursing management, starting as a clinical supervisor. At one point, she served as director of inpatient care and quality at the hospital.

While working at the hospital, she earned a master's degree in nursing at SVSU in 1996. She eventually returned to the university as an educator, joining SVSU as an adjunct faculty member and serving on the nursing education advisory committee. After a decade as an adjunct faculty member, she joined the faculty full time in 2010.

"There is true joy for me in teaching," she said. "Teaching has been for me an opportunity to emphasize the quality and safety agenda that is so important to me."

Frederick called it "a privilege" to work with the next generation of health care providers to prepare them for their futures helping others in need.

"It's a privilege to be with our nursing students and to have an impact on how they will practice," she said.

"My job is to help them to make meaning of what they see and find out in what nursing area they belong. There are so many options to explore and I can help students talk through things, tease out options and look at the possibilities. I gauge my success as a teacher in the careers of those I have taught and mentored."



Dan Covieo

Technology Specialist • March Staff Member of the Month

A decade ago, Dan Covieo's computer IQ was limited. He checked an email account pretty regularly, but for the most part, he felt no urgency to better understand the digital world. He worked in the plastic injection molding unit of Delphi Steering in Buena Vista Township, churning out automotive products by the hour.

But the gradual end of that company changed Covieo's life — career included. Months before ownership changed and the company became what has been known since 2009 as Nexteer Automotive, Covieo was one of many employees who accepted a buyout. The deal came with an offer to re-train the former workers in new industry fields. Covieo saw an opportunity.

"The biggest field that seemed to be growing was computer support and programming," the Bay City native said. "I decided to see what I could do with computer support."

After finishing his training in computer support, he began his new career first at a credit union and later at a computer consulting firm. In 2016, he joined SVSU as a technology specialist for the Information Technology Services department.

The role involved an all-encompassing approach to computer technology. His work involves desktop support services, addressing printer issues and setting up new computers. "But no day is ever the same as the day before it," he says when describing

his daily tasks. But there is typically one common denominator involved in all his work: "You're working with people," he said, "Ninety-five percent of the stuff I do is face-to-face, so you need people skills."

Fortunately for Covieo, the person-to-person interaction remains his favorite part of the job.

"There are a lot of nice people to work with here," he said.

Those people skills became especially useful when he helped organize a large-scale project — one that is still ongoing — involving every SVSU-owned computer on campus. In the fall, he and his Information Technology Services team began adding encryption security software to 503 laptops on campus. That leg of the project is nearly complete, but the larger task remains ahead of him. Covieo is now designing a strategy to add similar encryption security software to 1,034 desktop computers on campus.

He expects that effort will extend into 2019.

"There's a lot to do," said Covieo, who is exploring ways his team could install the software on many of the computers without physically interacting with the hardware.

When Covieo is not at work, he spends time with his family. He is married with a 5-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son.



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The Michigan Secretary of State is making the process easy for you.

On April 12 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., the Secretary of State will park their mobile office in the SVSU Courtyard as a convenient one-stop, license plate shop! You can walk right in and get your new SVSU license plate. All you will need to bring with you is your driver's license and your car registration.

What about money?

This is a 'no cost' program. Your \$35 fee will be covered by the Alumni Association as a special incentive to offer everyone the opportunity to

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Professional Profile

- **Monika Dix**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled "Compassionate Violence? The Aestheticization of Violence in the *Taima-dera jikkaizu byōbu*" at the Association for Japanese Literary Studies Feb. 16 at Oberlin College.
- **Julie Foss**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. CSCTFL is a regional organization serving 14 Midwestern states with the aim of promoting the study of world languages at all levels of instruction.
- **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, has an extended essay, "Early African American Print Culture," in the February installment of the online *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature*. It is available via Oxford University Press at <http://literature.oxfordre.com/page/recentlypublished/>.
- **Joseph Jaksa**, professor of criminal justice, was inducted March 20 into the Michigan State University College of Social Science's inaugural class of The Berkey Hall Society — a group of alumni who have served in board leadership positions within the college.
- **Jason Pagano**, associate professor of chemistry, presented "Potential reactants toward the synthesis of precipitation tubes" at the 255th American Chemical Society National Meeting March 18 in New Orleans.

- **Betsy Pierce**, assistant professor of accounting, had a paper titled "Accounting Documentation Software: An Overview of Options and Results from a Lucidchart Software Evaluation" accepted for publication in *AIS Educators Journal*.

Condolences

- To **Craig Appold**, custodial specialist/assistant foreman, whose mother, Phyllis R. Appold, passed away March 25.
- To **Terijo McPeak**, Bookstore assistant, whose father, Terrance Allen McPeak, passed away Feb. 21.
- To **Beth Roe**, professor of nursing, whose mother, Patricia Lou Wiegierink, passed away Feb. 20.

Briefly Speaking

- Faculty and staff may present the diploma jacket to graduating members of their immediate family during Commencement ceremonies at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 11, and/or 11 a.m., Saturday, May 12. Please email the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@svsu.edu by April 30 to make arrangements — include the name of, and your relationship to, the graduate. To confirm your regalia order, call the Bookstore at ext. 4277.
- To volunteer at the May Commencement ceremonies, May 11 and 12, sign-up for time slots and volunteer positions at <https://goo.gl/forms/KDIHBRzs8zqYG40D3>, or go to alumni.svsu.edu.
- SVSU is hosting the statewide FIRST Robotics competition, Wednesday through Saturday, April 11-14. This competition will bring some 5,000 high school students to campus, plus their teachers, coaches, parents and others. For many, this will be their first visit to SVSU, and we want to make our first impression the best possible. To volunteer during your normal work hours, please talk to your supervisor. If you are a supervisor, please do all you can to make arrangements to allow your staff to participate. Volunteers can register online at svsu.edu/firstvolunteers.

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 email submissions to: jjboehm@svsu.edu