

Business entrepreneur to give December Commencement address

SVSU graduates will hear from one of the institution's most generous alumni during December Commencement exercises. Scott L. Carmona will offer words of support and inspiration at the two ceremonies, Friday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. Both ceremonies are held in O'Neill Arena of the Ryder Center.

Carmona completed his eight-year term on SVSU's Board of Control in July. He committed to be the lead donor for the fundraising campaign to support the building addition for SVSU's College of Business; his generosity and philanthropy also include granting over 25 scholarships annually.

The \$25 million building addition for the Carmona College of Business will open in winter 2020.



Scott L. Carmona

Carmona's first time being recognized at an SVSU commencement ceremony came in 1981, when the Bay City native was a graduate being honored for receiving a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. His son, Ryan, completed a

bachelor's degree in finance in 2008.

While still attending classes at SVSU, Carmona began planting the seeds of his entrepreneurial career. In the late 1970s, he developed a swimming pool maintenance company. By his senior year, he was contracted to perform service work for Coca-Cola USA.

The opportunity allowed him to create a small business that specialized in repairing and remanufacturing dispensing equipment used in restaurants across the nation. Carmona's company, National Equipment Refurbishers Inc., found success, employing up to 50 people at one point. Fifteen years later, he sold the business to create and develop other companies, largely in the commercial real estate

and automotive aftermarket distribution industries.

His business interests eventually reached beyond Michigan. He developed businesses in states such as Texas, New Hampshire and Florida, where he developed an industrial park in the 2000s.

Today, Carmona is the principal owner of Sunrise National Distributors Inc., a Bay City-based distributor of automotive aftermarket products. He owns and manages several real estate developments in Michigan and Florida.

He also has remained active in community organizations including the Bay County Growth Alliance, the Dow Bay Area Family YMCA and the McLaren Bay Special Care Hospital board of directors.

When the 38,500-square-foot expansion opens in 2020, the facility will house state-of-the-art technology as well as classrooms, faculty offices and office space for business programs. Planners say the new space will provide an inviting environment for business leaders and successful alumni to visit campus, benefit from the resources, and work with the next generation of business students studying at the campus.

The Friday ceremony will honor graduates from the Crystal M. Lange College of Health & Human Services; and the Scott L. Carmona College of Business. The Saturday ceremony will recognize graduates from the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences; the College of Education; and the College of Science, Engineering & Technology.

SVSU names 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients



Military veterans, business leaders, and educators were among the eight individuals whose accomplishments and dedication to excellence were recognized by SVSU's Alumni Association during a recent ceremony. Shown here are the alumni award recipients with President Donald J. Bachand. They are (from left) **Greg Wischmeyer**, president and CEO of Neighborhood Mortgage Solutions; **Emily Short**, a project manager at Spicer Group; **Jill Dralle**, COO of Nexteer Automotive; **Darrin Flowers**, a 7th and 8th grade social studies instructor at University of Detroit Jesuit; Bachand; **Jean LaClair**, an assistant principal at Bronson Community Schools; **Mary Kay Smith**, director of the Learning and Assessment Center at Michigan State University; **Tony Goble**, a command chief warrant officer in the U.S. airborne infantry; and **Ricky Brown**, director of Multicultural Student Initiatives at Kettering University.

Dawn Hinton

Professor of Sociology

When Dawn Hinton says she cares about the community, that care applies to communities all over the world.

In July 2020, the SVSU professor of sociology will lead a group of 16- to 19-year-olds from Saginaw on a trip to Ghana, where they will install solar panels at an orphanage in the West African nation. It is one of many civic engagement-centric projects on her list.

"Part of my philosophy is that we have an obligation to make sure we are giving back in some way to the communities around us," Hinton said.

"I know how to get — and provide — resources to give back and to help others give back. I try to provide access to those resources for disenfranchised and under-served populations. I'm always looking for ways I can help those who are less fortunate than I have been."

The 10-day-long trip overseas will involve inviting along teenagers she mentors at First Ward Community Center in Saginaw. Each summer, Hinton engages with the teens on community engagement-minded lessons and activities. SVSU hosts and supports the sessions.

When the group embarks for Africa next summer — along with some SVSU students and public officials from the community — they will install portable solar panels built by SVSU electrical engineering students. Allowing the teens to participate in the

community engagement effort and see how their hard work and planning impacts the orphanage's residents will offer a powerful message to the Saginaw teens, Hinton said.

"We are exposing these young folks to STEM and sociology at the same time," she said. "We talk a lot about the impact we can make on other people. In Ghana, they're going to see whose lives they're impacting."

The group also plans to visit sites in Ghana, such as a castle where slaves were detained centuries ago before being sent across the Atlantic Ocean.

"It's going to be an eye-opening trip," said Hinton, who has visited the nation before during SVSU-led trips there.

Outside of her Ghana plans, Hinton's civic engagement work includes serving on several board positions in the community including the Saginaw Housing Commission as well as the Saginaw County Public Defender's Office.

The Saginaw Housing Commission oversees low-income public housing units within Saginaw. The Saginaw County Public Defender's Office, which began operations in January, uses state funding to help citizens afford better legal representation when faced with the legal system.

"You don't want to leave your neighbors lacking when you have resources to meet their needs," Hinton said.



Jacob Reinelt

Manager of Web Technologies • November Staff Member of the Month

Information technology is becoming more mainstream by the megabyte, Jacob Reinelt, SVSU's manager of web technologies, will tell you. And that means Reinelt and others in his industry are as in-demand as ever.

Reinelt's passion for computers and talent in the art of information technology inspired his colleagues at SVSU to nominate him for the Staff Member of the Month award. The Caro native was flattered by others' appreciation of his craft, which began for him when he first enrolled in his high school's computer coding class at the Tuscola County Technical Center and later developed as a student at SVSU. Reinelt earned bachelor's degrees in both computer science and mathematics, as well as a master's degree in instructional technology.

Now he enjoys passing along industry lessons to the student interns who have worked in the Information Technology Services office in SVSU's South Complex.

"I try to ensure we're enhancing their skill set so they're marketable when they leave our office," Reinelt said.

Reinelt values meaningful work. His job — which often involves improving upon the web-based systems students utilize as part of their course work — directly impacts academic outcomes. He embraces the responsibility.

"It's nice that you're working for something that you feel has

the ability to help improve the region and state, instead of just a corporate bottom line," Reinelt said.

Some of his team's largest ongoing and upcoming initiatives include improvements to the SVSU website, creating a new intranet system for faculty and staff, and implementing a new online system for requesting help from Information Technology Services.

"There's a lot of work we do behind the scenes," Reinelt said. "Because we're located in the South Complex, we don't generally bump into people a lot in the hallways, but we do a lot of work that affects people across the campus."

Much of Reinelt's work involves collaboration with two of his office's developers, Brady Crandall and Erika McLean, as well as a student intern. The group works together at computers set on a single desk. The setup is ideal for the type of teamwork involved in developing web technology on campus, Reinelt said.

"There's a lot of camaraderie and good discussions about ideas that happen between us," he said. "It's a great work environment."

Work isn't the only activity he enjoys at SVSU. Reinelt looks forward to racquetball matches in Ryder Center.

"The people I typically play against haven't been able to get together much this semester," he said, "so I'm always looking for new people to invite."



Professional Profile

- **Julie Foss**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, presented the sessions “Building Career-Readiness Through Language” with Irma Torres, Oakland Schools ISD, and Emily Spinelli, University of Michigan-Dearborn (Emerita); and “Language Policy and Advocacy” with Tom Lovik, Michigan State University, and Melissa Dalton, Lake Orion Public Schools, at the Michigan World Language Association’s annual conference Oct. 24-25 in Lansing. Foss, who also moderated the “Teacher Educators Forum” at the conference, serves as MIWLA’s Public Affairs Liaison.
- **Dawn Hinton**, professor of sociology and faculty fellow in the Center for Community Engagement at SVSU, was presented the Larry T. Reynolds Award for Outstanding Teaching of Sociology by the Michigan Sociological Association Oct. 19 at Wayne State University; a Heart of the City award by The Michigan Banner Nov. 8 in Saginaw; and the Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award by the Boy Scouts of America, Michigan Crossroads Council Nov. 12 in Saginaw. Hinton also gave the keynote talk at the Bay City NAACP 63rd Annual Freedom Fund Banquet Nov. 17 in Bay City.
- **Paul Munn**, professor of English (retired), published “John Ashbery: Interviewed by Paul Munn,” a reprint of his 1990 interview published in *New Orleans Review*, in *Interviews from the Edge: 50 Years of Conversations About Writing and Resistance*, Bloomsbury Academic, 2019.
- **Hong Y. Park**, professor of economics, has a paper titled “Entrepreneurship and Foresight in AI and Big Data: Strategies and Policies for Shaping the Future of the AI Market,” accepted for presentation at the Western Economic Association International’s 16th International Conference, Shanghai, China, March 19-22, 2020. Park co-authored the paper with **Il-Hyung Cho**, associate professor of computer science & information systems, and Bangyong Keum (Nexteer Automotive, Saginaw).
- **Helen Raica-Klotz**, director of the Writing Center/director of the Saginaw Bay Writing Project/co-director of the SVSU Center for Community Writing, and **Christopher Giroux**, associate professor of English, and tutors from the Writing Center gave presentations: Natalie Delemeester, “Assessment to Promote Access: Responding to Student Dissatisfaction in the Writing Center”; Raica-Klotz (keynote address), “Access and Accessibility in the Writing Center, or How to Grow a Tree”; and Imari Tetu, Elizabeth Kennedy and Hannah Mose, “Accessible to All? Really?: A Workshop Examining Who Doesn’t Visit the Writing Center and Why” all at the Michigan Writing Centers Association Idea Exchange Nov. 2 at Central Michigan University. Also, Joshua Cianek, “The Art of Politics: A Writing Center Workshop Model to Promote Community Engagement”; Natalie Delemeester, “On Becoming an Artist through Assessment: Responding to Student Dissatisfaction in the Writing Center”; Elizabeth Kennedy, Hannah Mose and Imari Tetu, “The Art of Seeing the Un-seen: Who Doesn’t Visit the Writing Center, and Why?”; Raica-Klotz and Giroux, “‘Yes, And’ — Developing Your Center like an Artist and Artisan”; and Caroline Sawatzki, “‘Insta’-ntly Relevant: An Artisan’s and Artist’s Approach to Writing Center Media Strategy” all at the International Writing Center Association National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing Oct. 17-19 in Columbus, Ohio.

- **Kerry Segel**, professor of English, with students Hannah Gradowski, Harleigh O’Hora and Elizabeth Whitcomb, presented “Developing Empathy for English Learners Through Self-Awareness Activities” at the 2019 MITESOL Conference Nov. 2 in Grand Rapids. He also chaired a session titled “The Persian Language: Connections and Recollections” at the 2019 Peace Corps Iran Association biennial conference in San Diego, Oct. 6. As part of this session he gave a bilingual presentation (English, Persian) titled “Readings from the Khonsar Nameh of Dr. M. H. Tasbihi.”

- **Stephen Taber**, professor of biology, has a manuscript titled “A New Nearctic Species of *Diadocidia* Ruthe Fungus Gnat (Diptera: Diadocidiidae)” accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist*.

- **Scott M. Youngstedt**, professor of anthropology, published a chapter titled “New Year’s Eve in Niamey, Niger” in *Africa Every Day: Fun, Leisure, and Expressive Culture on the Continent* edited by Oluwakemi M. Balogan, Lisa Gilman, Melissa Graboyes and Habib Iddrisu, and published by Ohio University Press.

Briefly Speaking

- Faculty and staff can present the diploma cover to a specific graduate during Commencement ceremonies at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13, and/or 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14. To make arrangements, please email alumni@svsu.edu.

- SVSU has again earned a place in the **Best for Vets: Colleges 2019 rankings** by Military Times. For a school to be placed on the “Best for Vets” list, colleges and universities must be considered a good fit for service members, military veterans and their families. SVSU is rated No. 101 among all four-year institutions nationwide in the 2019 rankings by the independent media organization dedicated to news and information about the military. This is the fifth consecutive year SVSU has earned the designation. To be considered, colleges and universities complete a comprehensive survey which is evaluated by Military Times. Institutions were then ranked based on survey responses as well as on data collected by three different federal agencies. Bethany Alford, director of Military Student Affairs, said SVSU assists students and family members in multiple ways. “Our office creates an environment that is not just for information, but also a great place for conversations with other student veterans,” she said. “Our student veterans come in and can hear about what’s happening on campus, but also can feel the comradery they’ve missed since leaving the service.”

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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