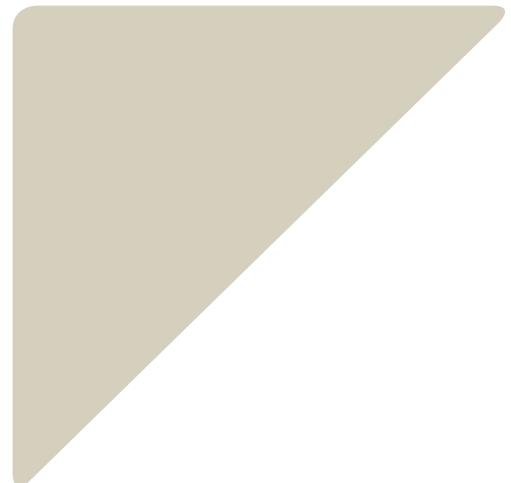




# President's Awards

*for Excellence in Teaching and  
Scholarly and Creative Achievement*

FALL 2010



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Slippery Rock University is Pennsylvania’s premier public residential university. Slippery Rock University provides students with a comprehensive learning experience that intentionally combines academic instruction with enhanced educational and learning opportunities that make a positive difference in their lives.

## **Respect for Individuals in the Community**

Slippery Rock University provides an environment that respects, encourages and promotes the talents and contributions of all. Slippery Rock University values a community with a shared sense of purpose, where people demonstrate mutual respect and appreciation. Slippery Rock University values diversity that honors and includes all persons regardless of age, creed, disability, ethnic heritage, gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status in academic and extracurricular endeavor, in the working environment and in the daily life of the University community.

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## Message from the President

Slippery Rock University enjoys an outstanding and growing reputation for high-quality undergraduate and graduate academic instruction. Our reputation is based on the accomplishments of exceptional faculty. Faculty members from all academic disciplines provide students with scholarly experiences and opportunities to demonstrate leadership that enhance our students' self-confidence and self-reliance.

Once each year we honor our faculty by presenting the President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching, and Scholarly and Creative Achievement at the Academic Honors Convocation. This event is held during Honors Month in April.



Slippery Rock University is proud of its committed and dedicated faculty members. This publication highlights the nominees and finalists nominated for the awards. The Excellence in Teaching, and Scholarly and Creative Achievement committees are dedicated in their task in recommending one faculty member for each award. I commend the committee members for their work and dedication to this important charge.

A complete list of previous winners is available online at <http://www.sru.edu/president/Pages/President'sAwardforExcellenceinTeaching.aspx>.

Congratulations to the 2010 winners:

Excellence in Teaching - Richard Marchand, associate professor of mathematics

Scholarly and Creative Achievement - David Dailey, professor of computer science

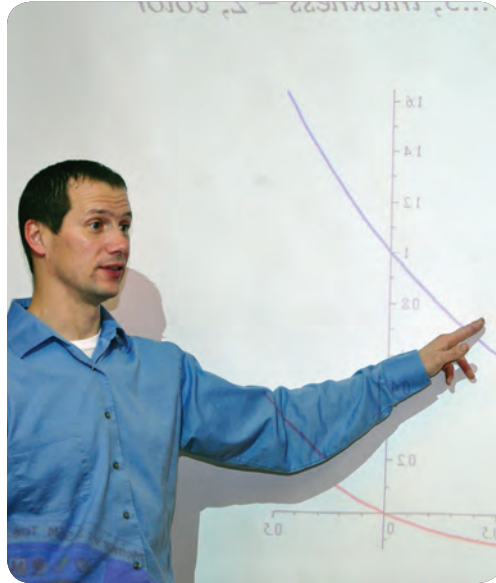
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "S".

ROBERT M. SMITH  
*President*

# 2010 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching Winner

RICHARD MARCHAND

*Associate Professor of Mathematics*



Glowing recommendations and accolades from Slippery Rock University mathematics students and alumni, strong support from fellow faculty and an ability to make difficult concepts understandable have earned Richard Marchand, associate professor of mathematics, this year's President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Richard Marchand, a member of the SRU mathematics faculty since 2003, received numerous letters of recommendation from his students.

"I had Dr. Marchand in my spring '08 'Calculus III' class. Little did I know that in just a short time, he would change my entire outlook and appreciation on the world of mathematics," wrote one student in her nomination.

"Dr. Richard Marchand is as dedicated a professor as I've ever encountered and his enthusiasm for teaching extends well beyond the walls of the classroom," wrote another, adding, "It's clear that

most of the truly enriching experiences of my undergraduate career were directly tied to Dr. Marchand's passion for teaching mathematics. What's more, the three classes I took with him were tremendously rewarding and did much to shape my view of the world...Luckily, excitement is contagious, and as long as Dr. Marchand is teaching, I know there will be SRU students who are truly excited about mathematics."

Fellow faculty cited Marchand for hosting classes that were "well organized." Class reviews cited, "Dr. Marchand proposed a problem and led the students to make a conjecture about the solution. The students then analyzed graphs of the function and its derivative generated by MAPLE to see that the natural conjecture was incorrect. The quotient rule was introduced by well-chosen examples. The quotient rule was proved and examples were given. The students were given an opportunity to work a problem on their own. Students asked and answered questions. It was a good experience in testing a conjecture."

Another faculty member observed, "Rich used a combination of lecture and active learning via worksheet problems. In completing the worksheet problems, he called on many students to respond, always by name. He tied the material to real-world examples of false-positive tests. He introduced basic examples via a nicely organized workshop, which enable the students to constructively develop the formulas related to conditional probability. His presentation in general was clear with smooth flow and nice build of materials from basic introduction through the culminating formulae."

Two of his students from the "Mathematical Modeling" class went on to compete at the International Mathematical Contest in Modeling and received meritorious ranking - joining the top 13 percent in the world.

He has been honored as Math Professor of the Year at SRU and been previously nominated for the President's Award for Scholarly and Creative Achievement and the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He received the William T. Hagan Young Scholar Award from SUNY-Fredonia, the Commander's Award for Public Service from the Department of the Army, and the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award and Mathematical Association of America Award while at Clarion University.

He earned his doctorate in applied mathematics at the University of Virginia after earning his undergraduate mathematics degree at Clarion University. He has taught at SUNY College at Fredonia, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the University of Virginia, Clarion University, Clarion Limestone High School and has worked for Johnson Controls in Cleveland, Ohio.

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# 2010 President's Award for Scholarly and Creative Achievement

DAVID DAILEY  
*Professor of Computer Science*

When anyone working on scalable vector graphics hears, "He wrote the book" they are talking about David Dailey, Slippery Rock University professor of computer science and this year's recipient of the President's Award for Scholarly and Creative Achievement.

Dailey's award-winning work is titled "An SVG Primer for Today's Browsers."

Scalable vector graphics, best known as "SVG" to those involved in computer work, are used to transform how spatial data is developed, analyzed and disseminated through the World Wide Web and through hand-held devices.

His book, the first ever published by the World Wide Web Consortium, provides the standards for the World Wide Web's next generation.

David Dailey joined the SRU faculty in 1999. He said working on the book has helped his career grow. "My recent appointment to the Organizing Committee of SVG Open has put me in direct contact with many of the people involved in formulating the future of the Web at several major corporations. Some of the lead organizers credit me for helping to secure both the support of Google and of Microsoft in the recent conferences held at Google's headquarters."

The conference, which included SRU student participation, also offered frequent references to SRU as well as Dailey's expertise and has helped to continue to build SRU's reputation and visibility in computer science circles.

His research has taken him to Germany and Japan. He has been invited by Harvard University and the French National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control to participate in research at Rice University, Harvard and Apple Inc.'s headquarters. He has undertaken research work earning him a place at the Invitational Solo Exhibition and he has displayed some of SVG's potential at SRU's Martha Gault Art Gallery.

Calling SVG an "exciting technology," he predicts it will not only affect computers and the Web, but will expand to automobiles and hand-held devices. "It is already deployed in more than 600 million cell phones and its utility is only now beginning to be seen by the corporate world," he said.

One nominator wrote, "David's work in these areas continues to be cutting edge and present immediate application. He has produced significant contributions to both how data is represented and how it is searched. He has recently been identified as a key contributor to the development of basic infrastructural issues related to SVG and the next generation Web. On campus, his scholarship is being applied through his efforts to coordinate the development of an SVG dynamic map for campus and admission use."

Another pointed to his recent work in organizing the SVG Open Conference in California last year. David is a member of the Mathematical Association of America, the Association for Computer Machinery, and an invited expert for the W3C HTML Working Group and an invited expert for the W3C SVG Interest Group.

He earned his doctorate degree at the University of Colorado after earning his bachelor of science degree at the University of New Mexico.



# The Other Finalists

**LIA PARADIS**  
*Assistant Professor  
History*

Lia Paradis, a relative newcomer to Slippery Rock University, brings to the classroom a perspective that sees teaching as a series of relationships subject to negotiation and change. That is, Paradis' pedagogic style is adaptable in a dynamic teaching/learning environment, a style that is open to experimentation with teaching methods and materials. Students, in addition to learning basic knowledge about the where, when and who of historic events, are encouraged to ask why individuals interact with society in the ways they do. The insights students gain from this approach to the teaching/learning environment help connect them to their contemporary world.

Engaging students as deeply as possible in the learning process is a strength Paradis brings to the classroom. For her, good teaching makes the material that is presented compelling and entertaining by giving it an immediacy that is rare in the discipline. Paradis' attempt to move beyond the recitation of historical dates and figures is commendable and makes her an ideal candidate for the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



**RANDALL NICHOLS**  
*Associate Professor  
Physical Education*

Randall Nichols has been a faculty member in the department of physical education and an assistant baseball coach since 1996. Since coming to SRU and, also, while at the Beaver Campus of Pennsylvania State University, Nichols has engaged extensively in scholarship and research that has led to numerous publications and professional presentations. He has participated in several grant-funded projects. The scholarly activities underpin his teaching and interactions with students in the undergraduate and graduate courses for which he is responsible.

The enthusiasm and energy Nichols brings to his classes effectively challenge and motivates students. His dynamism is linked closely to his subject matter knowledge, his organization and systematic presentation of information and his use of innovative teaching techniques and strategies. In combination these attributes make Nichols a comfortable member of the teaching-learning environment and a worthy candidate for the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



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## FRED WEBB

*Associate Professor  
School of Business*

Fred Webb brings to the classroom a unique perspective derived from his educational training, his continuing scholarly endeavors and his extensive experiences in large corporate and small business management positions. Webb received his undergraduate degree from Ball State University and advanced degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Duquesne University. After a brief time during which he was a school teacher, Webb began 16 years of employment at the management level at General Motors Corp. and while at GM, he was a recipient of the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship. Subsequently, Webb was recruited and employed by Rockwell International Corp. in the Pittsburgh area. After eight years with Rockwell, Webb began a successful business consultant operation and turned his attention to teaching at the university level.

As a faculty member, Webb continues to focus on research and scholarship as they support and enhance his teaching effectiveness. Included in his efforts are conference papers and the development of pertinent case studies. In the classroom, Webb works conscientiously to engage students in the teaching-learning process. Indeed, Webb has found student engagement to be a critical element in his effort to continue to adapt his teaching style to a changing learning environment. His success as a teacher who uses traditional and contemporary teaching techniques supported by his continuing involvement in research and scholarship is evident in his consistently high peer and student evaluations. Webb's ability to translate and transmit effectively his educational, business and scholarly perspectives to students is evident in their nomination of him for the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching even though he has served as a faculty member in the Slippery Rock University School of Business for a relatively short period of time. He is a worthy candidate for this prestigious award.



*Slippery Rock University  
is proud of its committed  
and dedicated faculty  
members.*

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## College of Business, Information and Social Sciences

DAVID VALENTINE, INTERIM DEAN

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*Nominations for the 2010 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching*

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**SRINIVASA MANI**

*Professor  
Professional Studies*



**ANGELA BERNARDO**

*Assistant Professor  
Safety Management*

## College of Education

KATHLEEN STRICKLAND, INTERIM DEAN

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*Nominations for the 2010 President's Award for Scholarly  
and Creative Achievement and Teaching Excellence*

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**JERED KOLBERT**

*Professor  
Counseling and Development*

*Faculty members from  
all academic disciplines  
provide students with  
scholarly experiences and  
opportunities to demonstrate  
leadership that enhance  
our students' self-confidence  
and self-reliance.*

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# College of Education

(continued)

KATHLEEN STRICKLAND, INTERIM DEAN

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*Nominations for the 2010 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching*

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**CINDA FINDLAN**

*Assistant Professor  
Elementary Education  
and Early Childhood*



**MARK MRAZ**

*Assistant Professor  
Secondary Education/  
Foundations of Education*



**R. BRIAN CROW**

*Associate Professor  
Sport Management*

*The fundamental  
mission of Slippery Rock  
University is to  
provide high-quality  
undergraduate and  
graduate academic  
instruction.*



# College of Health, Environment and Science

SUSAN HANNAM, DEAN

*Nominations for the 2010 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching*



**WAYNE FORBES**  
*Assistant Professor  
Biology*



**DONALD ZAPIEN**  
*Professor  
Chemistry*



**PATRICK BURKHART**  
*Professor  
Geography, Geology and the Environment*



**DEBRA WOLF**  
*Associate Professor  
Nursing*



**KRISHNA MUKHERJEE**  
*Assistant Professor  
Physics*

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# College of Health, Environment and Science

(continued)

SUSAN HANNAM, DEAN

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*Nominations for the 2010 President's Award for Scholarly and Creative Achievement*

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XIANFENG CHEN

*Associate Professor  
Geography, Geology and the Environment*



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# College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts

EVA TSUQUIASHI-DADDESIO, DEAN

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*Nominations for the 2010 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching*

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MYRA BALOK

*Assistant Professor  
English*



STEPHEN BARR

*Assistant Professor  
Music*



ADELAIDA CORTIJO

*Assistant Professor  
Modern Languages and Cultures*



TEENA CUSTER

*Instructor  
Dance*

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## College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts (continued)

EVA TSUQUIASHI-DADDESIO, DEAN

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*Nominations for the 2010 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching*

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HEATHER HERTEL  
*Assistant Professor  
Art*



BRADLEY WILSON  
*Associate Professor  
Philosophy*

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## College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts

*Nominations for the 2010 President's Award for Scholarly and Creative Achievement*

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ALAN LEVY  
*Professor  
History*

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## Counseling, Library and Academic Services

*Nominations for the 2010  
President's Award for Scholarly  
and Creative Achievement*

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MARTINA HAINES  
*Assistant Professor, Library*

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## Message from the Provost

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania is very proud of its reputation. “The fundamental mission of Slippery Rock University is to provide high-quality undergraduate and graduate academic instruction.” It is our faculty members who enable us to achieve our mission through their dedicated efforts to provide a stimulating and challenging classroom experience for our students. Our faculty members come from diverse backgrounds, hold impressive credentials and deliver to our students more than 100 majors housed in 40 departments and four colleges. Our faculty members teach in traditional classroom settings, online and at off-campus sites. Whatever the venue, excellence in teaching, scholarly endeavors and creative achievement are an important part of the careers of faculty members, as well as grant acquisition and service to the University and community.



This publication celebrates the accomplishments of Slippery Rock University’s finest educators as identified by their academic departments, students and faculty peers. We congratulate Richard Marchand and David Dailey, recipients of the 2009-10 President’s Awards for Excellence.

*William F. Williams*

WILLIAM F. WILLIAMS  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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**A special “thank you” to the Excellence in Teaching  
Committee members for 2009-2010:**

- Athula Herat, Committee Chairperson  
*College of Health, Environment and Science*
- Joseph Merhaut  
*College of Education*
- Catherine Massey  
*College of Health, Environment and Science*
- David Champion  
*College of Business, Information and Social Sciences*
- Michelle McCollin  
*College of Education*
- David Skeele  
*College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts*
- Kathleen Strickland, Interim Dean  
*Administration Representative*
- Jessamine Montero  
*Academic Services*
- Jonathan Ristaino  
*SGA Student Representative*
- Brittney Schaefer  
*SGA Student Representative*

**A special “thank you” to the Scholarly and Creative Achievement  
members for 2009-2010 :**

- Jerry Chmielewski, Chairperson (non-voting)
- Betsy McKinley  
*College of Education*
- Mary Ann Holbein-Jenny  
*College of Health, Environment and Science*
- Thomas Percy  
*College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts*
- David Champion  
*College of Business, Information and Social Sciences*

Slippery Rock University is committed to providing resources to recruit and retain outstanding professors who are dedicated to student educational achievement. The *Center for Excellence in Teaching and Educational Technology* supports and promotes high-quality student and collaborative research, scholarship and creative activity by offering teaching and research workshops. Through the *Center for Student Research*, faculty and students will find a community of individuals who are involved in scholarly research and are willing to provide materials and information related to research and scholarship.





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University

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