PROFESSORS
EMERITI 2014
QUALITY MATTERS
St. Petersburg College
SPC
St. Petersburg College celebrates the contributions of Professors Emeriti

For 87 years, St. Petersburg College has been a leader in education in the Tampa Bay area and now honors some of the engaging, caring faculty who helped generations of students succeed. The college bestows the title Professor Emeritus on these retired educators.

Sue Cornett, M.A., Communications
Catherine Crumbs, M.S.N., Nursing
Ed Davis, M.A., Athletics
Helen Gilbart, M.Ed., Humanities and Communications
Barbara Whitney Hartwell, Ph.D., Business
Frederick R. Merriam, Ed.D., Biological Sciences
James Rutledge, M.A., Mathematics
Larry Spicer, M.A., Communications
Janice Buchanan Swartz, Ph.D., Humanities
Jane Ellen Till, M.A., Ethics (deceased)

This commemorative program includes the congratulatory remarks shared online by family, friends, students and colleagues of the honorees and photos of the recognition ceremony at the Coliseum in St. Petersburg on Aug. 14, 2014.
OVERALL REMARKS FOR THE PROFESSORS EMERITI

Eric Carver | July 1, 2014
Great work on this page! It is always great to see our Emeriti recognized.

Heather Roberson | July 2, 2014
Congratulations to everyone! An outstanding group of professionals!

Stan Vittetoe | July 22, 2014
What an outstanding group! Fred and Helen are legends on the Clearwater Campus. Janice, I so enjoyed working with you on the Foundation. I’m so pleased that you are being honored in this way.

Tonjua Williams | July 22, 2014
Congratulations! We are so proud of you and your accomplishments! You deserve to be recognized.
**TWITTER WALL**

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 13, 2014**
Honoring this year’s 10 Professors Emeriti at Fall Faculty! #SPCFaculty

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 13, 2014**
2014 Professor Emeritus Ed Davis, 28 years as baseball coach with 692 wins and four major leaguers! #SPCFaculty

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 13, 2014**
Congrats Catherine Crumbs: President’s Volunteer Action Award winner, tutor and a 2014 Professor Emerita #SPCFaculty

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 13, 2014**
Recognizing Sue Cornett, 2014 Professor Emerita. Thank you for all of your hard work at #SPCollege! #SPCFaculty

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 13, 2014**
Thank you 2014 Professor Emerita Helen Gilbart for all you have done for #SPCollege #SPCFaculty

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 13, 2014**
Barbara Whitney Hartwell: Honoring your work & leadership at #SPCollege! 2014 Professor Emerita, #SPCFaculty

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 14, 2014**
2014 Emeritus Frederick R. Merriam – Biological Sciences program chair, pre-med advisor for 25 years. #SPCFaculty

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 14, 2014**
Leader, educator, 2014 Professor Emeritus James Rutledge – Showed students math can be fun! #SPCFaculty

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 14, 2014**
Honoring 2014 Professor Emeritus Larry Spicer, Communications Dept. member and advocate of fine writing. #SPCFaculty

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 14, 2014**
Accomplished musician and scholar – 2014 Professor Emerita Janice Buchanan Swartz. Congratulations! #SPCFaculty

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 14, 2014**
Remembering 2014 Professor Emerita Jane Ellen Till, tireless supporter of student-focused initiatives. #SPCFaculty

**Eric Carver @DrHealthScience | Aug. 14, 2014**
@spcnews getting ready for the 2014 Fall Faculty event! #SPCFaculty

**Casey Crane @caseycranefl | Aug. 14, 2014**
The 2014 SPC Fall Faculty event will begin in a little over an hour. #SPCFaculty @spcnews

**Jacob Wortock @JacobWortock | Aug. 14, 2014**
Titan pride! With my @spcnews peeps and fearless leader @SPC_SE_Provost to kick off SPC Fall Faculty. #SPCFaculty

**Dawn Janusz @DawnJanusz | Aug. 14, 2014**
Congratulations Professors Emeriti! Thank you Catherine Crumbs for your dedication to the success of our Nursing students! #SPCFaculty

**Jeremy Peplow @Jerpeplow | Aug. 14, 2014**
Ready to roll. 2014 Fall Faculty! #SPCFaculty

**Staci Walter @staciw_us | Aug. 14, 2014**
#SPCFaculty Looking forward to celebrating our Faculty Emeriti today. Congratulations!

**StPetersburgCollege @spcnews | Aug. 14, 2014**
Good to see you at Fall Faculty 2014 SPC Professor Emerita Catherine Crumbs #SPCFaculty

**Terri Kontodiakos @tkontodiakos | Aug. 14, 2014**
Excited to be @ Fall Faculty where Debra Dorsett was recognized for the Excellence in Academic Adv Award! @spcnews
Sue Cornett taught composition, world literature, humanities, film history and world cinema for 24 years at St. Petersburg College. She revised curriculum for course work in film history and world cinema, and helped acquire a broad range of world films for the college library.

Working with Lynn Whitelaw at the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, she created presentations on 20th Century film history. She also was instrumental in introducing the use of multimedia presentations across the educational spectrum and secured mini-grants for support presentations that are available on college websites.

She has a bachelor’s degree in literature and comparative world religions from the University of Florida and earned a dual master’s degree in junior college education and English from the University of South Florida. She retired in 2013 and lives in Safety Harbor.

Linda Yakle | June 30, 2014
Congratulations, Sue. Thanks to you and all of your great work with the film classes, I’ve been able to teach one every semester. How terrific it must be now to be able to go the movies any old time you want.

Susan Parcheta | July 1, 2014
Dear Sue, your recognition as Professor Emerita is fantastic and well-deserved. Your intelligence and wit always shine—both in person and whenever you put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard). Your students were very fortunate. It was a joy to be one of your colleagues at the Tarpon Springs Campus for lo those many years. Congratulations!

Li-Lee Tunceren | July 3, 2014
Congratulations, Sue!

Karen Estes | July 6, 2014
Congratulations, Sue. I so enjoyed teaching with you on the Tarpon Springs Center/Campus.

George Mitsis | July 8, 2014
Congratulations, Sue! You honor is well deserved, and I am very grateful for your advice and your friendship over the last dozen years.

Sara Brzezinski | July 16, 2014
Congratulations, Sue! You were one of my first mentors when I started at SPC, and think about you often. You definitely deserve this honor!

Lynn Whitelaw | July 25, 2014
Congrats, Sue! You deserve this recognition for all the seeds you have planted with students over the years. A generation is growing up with a love of the humanities, film history and an appreciation for the arts all because of you. Thank you for being a colleague and friend over the years…

Barbara Thompson | July 29, 2014
Congrats, Sue! You are definitely missed at the Tarpon Springs Campus! Your creativity, humor and flexibility with students is what I recall as outstanding! Barbara T

Kimberly Felos | July 30, 2014
Congratulations and bravo, Sue! You always worked so hard and taught with such great organization and expertise. I miss laughing with you and enjoying your wonderful sense of humor.

Matthew Sims | Aug. 5, 2014
Sue, congratulations! You’ve been a great colleague and mentor for me during my time at SPC. You certainly deserve this honor.

Cliff Stodden | Aug. 5, 2014
Congratulations, Sue! Thank you for being a good friend and colleague to all of us. You were and continue to be a great role model of a caring and effective educator. I learned more from you than you know.

continued on next page
Matthew Bodie | Aug. 7, 2014
Sue, thank you for all of your advice as I began my instructional journey in teaching composition courses at the college. Also, I’ll never forget your quick wit and all the fun of building our own “criterion collection” at the library.

Jim Wallis | Aug. 12, 2014
You did a great job and really deserve this honor! Your students definitely had their lives enriched by your love of teaching. Now enjoy this time!

Laura Smith | Aug. 14, 2014
Susan, I will miss your “wit-isms.” I will always remember our times in the LSC, especially the days you dressed for the 60 degrees and below Beta building. Yep, the LSC was in Beta, Alpha Gamma, and NuTech in the good ole days. I wish you “the best is yet to come!”

Jeanna Ojeda | Aug. 15, 2014
Congratulations, Sue!
Catherine Crumbs came to St. Petersburg College from the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center in 1990 to teach Nursing and Psychology at the Health Education Center. Her kind and loving personality was infectious and students often looked to her for advice and support.

In 1993, then President Bill Clinton presented her with the President’s Volunteer Action Award. She has continued her volunteer work since her retirement serving regularly on the Urban League’s Health Mobile as well as working with diabetic support groups at neighborhood centers. She also volunteers as a tutor to today’s nursing students.

A St. Petersburg Junior College graduate, she has a bachelor’s degree in nursing and a master’s in nursing from the University of South Florida. She retired in 2013 and lives in St. Petersburg.

Jeanne Siegel | July 1, 2014
Congratulations!!! I was hoping you would be awarded this honor. You deserve this honor and more. We all miss you in the College of Nursing.

Khadijah Magee | July 2, 2014
Congratulations!!!! :) We all miss you the graduating class of 05/04/2013.

Li-Lee Tunceren | July 3, 2014
Congratulations, Catherine!

Cheryl Hathaway Morgenstein | July 9, 2014
Congratulations Mrs. Crumbs!! You are so deserving of this honor and award!! You were my favorite professor in Nursing School. Thank you for all your hard work and devotion to your students.

Mary Long | July 11, 2014
Congratulations, Mrs. Crumbs!!!!!! You truly are a pearl of great price. I still talk about you often with respect and admiration. Thank you for being so kind and patient with me and so many others. At times, I felt so overwhelmed and unsure of myself; and because of your words of encouragement and kind spirit, you went out of your way to instill in me a confidence to continue this beautiful journey. You will always hold a special place in my heart.

Jacqueline Hawkins-Johnson, RN, MSN, MHA | Aug. 3, 2014
Mrs. Crumbs, please accept my hearty congratulations! You well deserve this honor. You are greatly missed. Your dedication to student success was evident with each student interaction. Your devotion and efforts to meet the needs of the underserved was admirable. I hope you are enjoying your retirement!

Deborah Lauman, MSN, ARNP-C | Aug. 11, 2014
Congratulations! You deserve to be recognized for your service you provided both in the classroom at St. Petersburg College and in the community. You will always be remembered for all the lives you have touched in the past years. Your contributions to your profession will never be forgotten. You have definitely served as an asset to the nursing profession. God bless.
Coach Ed Davis came to St. Petersburg Junior College’s Clearwater Campus in 1964 and served the college for 28 years as its baseball coach. He also taught physical education classes. As a member of the faculty, Ed was instrumental in the major curriculum reform to move students into lifetime wellness and health.

During his time as coach, he produced 692 wins and four major leaguers – Kurt Abbott, Ben Hayes, Howard Johnson and Tim Teufel. But more than producing amazing athletes and winning teams, Coach Davis prepared students for life and molded college students into young men. He had high expectations for student athletes and held them accountable for their actions.

Dr. Law once said Ed “could provide academic details about his players down to what classes each player was taking.” He cared for them and nurtured them and today many of them visit him at his home to thank him for being that needed role model in their lives. He retired in 1996 and lives in Dunedin with his loving wife, Nan.

Mark Strickland | June 30, 2014
Although I personally never worked with Coach Davis, I know what he has meant to the baseball program and SPC. Coach Davis laid a wonderful foundation by how he ran his program. And because Coach Davis was successful in molding men in the classroom and on the field, our current baseball coach named an annual award after Ed Davis which is given to a baseball player who exemplifies excellence on and off the field. The link is of an old team photo. http://www.spcollege.edu/social/EdDavis.jpg

Linda Yakle | June 30, 2014
Coach Davis, you probably won’t remember me at all, but on the day of my interviews with the College, President Kuttler sent me up to the very small Tarpon Springs campus to speak with you. You had no idea why I was there and neither did I, so you gave me a tour of the “brand new” library and we had a grand time. I’ve never forgotten what a gentleman and good sport you were on one of the most nervous days of my professional life.

June White | July 1, 2014
Ed, knowing you both professionally and socially has been a privilege. You were a great coach who really cared about the academic success of your players. It was a pleasure to work with you to help your students achieve in sports and in their college math classes. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition and continue to enjoy Irish music!

Ryan Beckman | July 3, 2014
Congratulations Coach Davis! The impact you had on and off the field has not gone unnoticed. I have been blessed to have several conversations with many of your former players and each one shares how special you still are to them. Know that many of your core values continued to be instilled in our student/athletes daily.

Jennifer Lechner | July 9, 2014
Coach, I am so honored to be one of your longest and dearest friends. We go a long way back. If my math is right, it has been 31 years. It seems like yesterday when you first hired me as an adjunct and then as a full-time instructor. Although the college eliminated wellness and most of the ‘gang’ retired, we manage to stay close, just as any family should. And that is what I consider you… family.

You are a gentle giant, a kind sole, a generous person and a statistical genius when it has to anything to do with sports. I will forever have all of your hilarious stories indelible in my mind. You have mentored and molded so many young lives and have always been able to provide a sensible balance to the young men you coached. This fact is demonstrated by the SPC graduates you have encountered in recent hospital and rehab stays, all of whom remember you as one of the most influential aspects of their college career.

Congratulations in this great honor. I am just sorry it didn’t come sooner.
I love you, COACH!
**Jeff Davis | July 9, 2014**

Coach Ed Davis, or just “Coach” as we still address him, put the utmost emphasis on the term Student Athlete… His philosophy centered on the development of character and integrity and this goal was far more important than mere victories on a baseball field… One of his favorite quotes regarding a baseball game is “you win some, lose some and some get rained out,” and when you think about it, the thought is a significant reflection of life… The lives he touched cannot be “counted” as HIS players are still touching the lives of those around them…. Thanks “Coach” for just being you….!!

**Jeff Cesta | July 23, 2014**

Coach, over the course of the past 30+ years, I’ve had the privilege of having you as an SPC instructor, student-mentor, supervisor and FRIEND. The positive impact you’ve had on my life, as well as all of your students, athletes and employees is immeasurable. You are truly a man of great moral character and integrity and this honor is a testimony to who you are. Keep in touch!

**Maggie Knoop | Aug. 3, 2014**

Coach, you are so deserving of this honor. It has been such a privilege to work for you. You are an outstanding example of a supervisor, a teacher, a coach and a friend. I will never forget you – the stories you have shared, the laughs we have had, the teasing I’ve endured from you, and the love you have shown me. I think what everyone, including your players, admire about you is your sincere interest in teaching young athletes what is really important – integrity, character, and accountability, especially in the classroom. Congratulations, Coach!

**Kevin Kovanis | Aug. 14, 2014**

Congratulations Coach Davis, This is truly a great honor for a wonderful human being. I am honored to have played baseball for you during the 1986/7 years. I am sure you could still throw batting practice as you did before every game. Thank You for all you did for all your players, you truly looked out for us all and I am grateful. God bless!
Helen Gilbart, a graduate of St. Petersburg Junior College, returned to the Clearwater Campus with a master’s degree in 1969 to teach composition, creative writing, western humanities and east-west synthesis. She also was responsible for the publication of the college’s literary magazine, The Obelisk. She was state president of the Florida Developmental Education Association, a Project Success mentor for 20 years and served on two SPJC Self-Study Assessment committees. She also served as coordinator of the Learning Support Center for 10 years.

Helen is the author of three college textbooks. Her poem, Come, Voyagers, is inside the cover of every St. Petersburg College graduation program. Following her teaching career, she served the college as Program Director for Humanities, Fine Arts and Communications. She remains actively involved with the St. Petersburg College Foundation and the Leepa-Rattner Museum.

She has a bachelor’s degree in English, speech and journalism, and a master’s degree in education from the University of Florida. She retired in 1997 and lives in Tampa.

Linda Yakle | June 30, 2014
Congratulations, Helen. I hope that you’ll attend the ceremony so we can all cheer you on.

Dr. Bonnie Jefferis, Speech and Mass Communication, CL Campus | June 30, 2014
Congratulations, Helen!!!!

June White | July 1, 2014
Helen, you are one of the most outstanding educators I know. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

Li-Lee Tunceren | July 3, 2014
Congratulations, Helen! Well-deserved! I’ll look forward to seeing you at Fall Faculty in August.

Bryan Shuler | July 14, 2014
Congratulations to the first chairwoman I worked for at SPC! I’m very proud of you, my friend!

Marse Walsh | July 17, 2014
Helen… What a wonderful and well-deserved honor.

Matt Bowen | July 22, 2014
So many of us owe so much to you, Helen. Thank you and congratulations!

Deborah Boyle | July 22, 2014
Congratulations, Helen! I was delighted to learn of your well-deserved recognition as Faculty Emerita.

Although your contributions as an educator are well known and very highly valued, I’d also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank you for all the efforts you and your husband, Don, have made over the years – helping students like me achieve their academic goals through your generous scholarship contributions. Helen, you and Don believed in me before I believed in myself and your Women on the Way scholarship helped me find my way.

I’m so proud of the important recognition you are receiving this year – Distinguished Alum and Faculty Emerita – 2014 has been memorable indeed! My dear friend, I am so looking forward to seeing you at Fall Faculty!

Jonathan Steele | July 23, 2014
Helen, it has been my privilege to know and work with an outstanding person and educator such as you. Your wisdom as a program director, LRMA founder and board member, a generous supporter of students and the arts, are some of the many ways in which you have influenced me and so many others. Congratulations!
INDIVIDUAL REMARKS

Edel Quinn | July 23, 2014
Helen, congratulations on being honored as a professor emeriti this year. I have come to know you through your generosity and support for the Foundation, the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art and the college. Your passion and love for SPC is inspirational. What a blessing you have been and continue to be to so many. You so deserve this honor. Congratulations.

Kimberly Felos | July 30, 2014
Congratulations, Helen! You were my role model for learning how to teach humanities upon my arrival at SPC in 1980. Thank you, and best wishes!

Sue Blanchard | Aug. 4, 2014
What a well-deserved honor! I remember your gentle spirit and loving attention to students from when I first came to SPC. I was impressed then and know that you are still an excellent role model for me to aspire to.

Susan Parcheta | Aug. 13, 2014
Am delighted you are receiving this honor, Helen. It is well deserved. Your expertise and gentle manner shine in the educational world. While teaching at the Clearwater Campus for several years, I have fond memories of our working together on committees. One event that comes to mind is the holiday party we hosted at your complex in Tampa – memorable evening.

Jeanna Ojeda | Aug. 15, 2014
Congratulations, Helen!
Barbara Whitney Hartwell taught business courses including shorthand, secretarial practice, business communication, word processing and leadership as well as legal procedures and intercultural relations on the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus for 31 years.

Barbara was a leader in the development of curriculum and the implementation of several associate degree programs, including legal assistant and total quality management. In 1998, she received the Outstanding Community College Education Award from the Florida Business Technology Education Association.

She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business education from the University of South Florida, and her doctorate in curriculum and instruction also from the University of South Florida. She retired in 2001 and currently resides in St. Petersburg.

Darlene Westberg | July 1, 2014
So glad you have received this honor….can’t wait to see you at the meeting.

Ruth Crawford | July 2, 2014
Congratulations, Barb. I am looking forward to celebrating your amazing career in August.

Nancy Russell | July 3, 2014
Congratulations, Barb. This is a wonderful honor.

Carol Ayer | July 4, 2014
Congratulations!!

Linda Mallinson | July 6, 2014
Well-deserved recognition. Congratulations!

Kim Corry | July 7, 2014
Congratulations, “Ms. Whitney”! I will always be grateful to you for your confidence in this former “Executive Secretarial” student of yours and for your subsequent recommendation of me for a position in the President’s Office of SPC some 26 years ago. Happy to see your faithfulness to SPC being rewarded.

Dot Jordan | July 18, 2014
Congratulations on becoming Professor Emeritus!

Eva Hefner | Aug. 5, 2014
Congratulations, Barb. What a wonderful recognition of your many achievements. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and positive attitude have always been inspiring through the many years that we have known each other.

Linda Pesuth Moczynski | Aug. 12, 2014
Congrats, Ms. Whitney! You had such a positive impact on my years here at SP(J)C in the seventies. So glad to hear of this wonderful recognition for such a deserving teacher. Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday the 14th.

Susan Parcheta | Aug. 13, 2014
Wonderful and deserving honor for you, Barb. Being an excellent role model, you served your students exceptionally well. Your expertise in the classroom, your organizational skills, and gracious manner are exemplary. We have been colleagues and friends for many years. I treasure your optimism, insight, and curiosity, which manifests in your love for traveling.

Michele Chestnut Fox | Aug. 15, 2014
Congratulations Barb! What an honor! You were such a wonderful role model, mentor and friend to me while I was your student years ago. It was a sincere privilege having you as one of my professors while attending SPJC. The wealth of knowledge I learned from you will remain with me for the rest of my life. Congrats to you! I would love to see you so we can celebrate this well-deserved honor! Sincerely, Michele “Shelly” Chestnut Fox
INDIVIDUAL REMARKS
Frederick R. Merriam began teaching science classes on the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus in 1963 but moved to the Clearwater Campus when it opened in 1965. Over the years, he taught biology, chemistry, qualitative analysis, comparative anatomy, anatomy and physiology, nutrition and algebra. He served as program chairman of Biological Sciences and as a pre-med advisor for 25 years.

He is a World War II veteran, having served in the Pacific theater with the Fourth Marine Division as a pharmacy mate. Throughout his life, he has been active in activities at his temple. He also has performed with the Clearwater Community Chorus, the Madrigal Singers and in productions at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

He has a bachelor’s degree in biology from the West Virginia Institute of Technology, a master’s degree in zoology from Marshall University and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Nova University. He retired in 1994 and lives in Clearwater.

Dr. Bonnie Jefferis, Speech and Mass Communication, CL Campus | June 30, 2014

In his personal life, Dr. Merriam is Rod Keskiner’s step-father. Rod is the SPC 2013 Volunteer of the Year; although he has cerebral palsy, he walks six miles a day delivering mail on the Clearwater Campus. Dr. Merriam came into Rod’s life when Rod was 9, and together the family has traveled around the world and around the Tampa Bay area, including activities at their South Tampa Jewish Temple where Rod was just batmitvahed again at age 39. Although Dr. M is 89, I understand he still drives Rod to and from work at the Clearwater Campus every day.

For more about Dr. Merriam’s activities post-retirement, including making cookie for Purim at the Temple (recipe included!) and his love for his step-son and wife, here are URLs to some heart-warming feature articles:

Hamantaschen cookie recipes for Purim, Tampa Bay Times
Clearwater man overcomes odds to celebrate 2nd bar mitzvah, The Tampa Tribune
Rod Keskiner, facilities worker at SPC’s Clearwater Campus, celebrates second Bar Mitzvah, SPC News Blog

June White | July 1, 2014

Fred, you have been an outstanding educator, colleague and friend. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Amazonz5 | July 7, 2014

I first met Dr. Merriam in my early years at SPC when I entered my Biology semester. From what classmates had told me, he was an instructor to be petrified of! But once I met this kindly Jewish professor, who reminded me of my favorite teacher in Hebrew school back home when I was young, (they could have been twin brothers), I was drawn to him at once, and he became not only the best teacher I’ve ever had, but a true mentor. He got me through some tough semesters, and I credit his guidance with helping me find the strength to achieve my degree while functioning as family caregiver during my education. Mazel Tov for your life’s achievements, Dr. Fred!!!! I Love You!! I graduate May 2016, and I hope you will be there when I accept my second degree!!

Shannon McQuaig | July 28, 2014

Congratulations to Dr. Merriam on this great achievement. While I did not have the chance to meet Dr. Merriam while he was at the Clearwater campus, his legacy during his tenure at SPC is truly inspiring. His devotion and passion for science and teaching leaves large shoes to fill and it is what makes young professors like me strive to be the best.

In addition, I want to extend my utmost gratitude to Dr. Merriam for his military service.
Kathy M | July 29, 2014

If not for Dr. Merriam and his encouragement, I probably would not be where I am today. I returned to school at 32, with a baby at home and a travelling husband. I had finally gotten the courage to return to school with high hopes of going into the sciences or medical field. During my first semester, I took 12 credit hours, 4 of which were in Bio I with lab. During the very first week, the course topic was chemistry. Chemistry? I thought that I was taking biology. I did not take chemistry in high school, choosing instead to go with my friends to the beach most days after school. By the end of the first week, I thought that I was truly in over my head and should consider basket-weaving instead. I went to Dr. Merriam’s office to explain this to him, and he sat down with me, explained some of the chemistry, and assured me that I could “do it.” Through strict time management, a will to succeed, many hours of studying, and his continuous encouragement, I managed to earn an A in his course. In spite of many personal upheavals and set-backs, I made it. I sit among everyone today, a proud and very grateful member of SPC faculty. I thank you, Dr. Merriam, for believing in me! You were a fantastic professor.

Heather Roberson | July 29, 2014

Congratulations, Dr. Merriam! What an amazing array of personal and professional contributions! The SPC family is privileged to have you in our ranks and to be able to celebrate you with the much deserved faculty emeritus honor.

Carl Opper | Aug. 4, 2014

Hi, Fred. Congratulations on your award. You and all the other faculty were so good to me when I joined the department back in the earlier ’80s. As you can imagine I am no longer the “baby” of the department anymore but now one of its seniors. It will be great to see you at the faculty meeting in August.

Linda Gingerich | Aug. 11, 2014

Congratulations, Dr. Merriam, on such a well-deserved honor. The strong commitment of you and your colleagues to fully engage students and provide quality education is what brought me back to SP(J)C to teach. I loved being a student and lab assistant. The strong foundation from you in Comparative Anatomy, from Jerry Smith in Zoology and Genetics, and from Heyward Mathews in Biology, truly prepared students for higher level classes. Having these individuals, as well as Maria Chapin, Joe Gould, and many others to help me transition from the student to teacher role was an amazing gift. If someone would have told me (way back) then that I would be teaching in the baccalaureate biology program here at SPC, I probably would have said, “only in my dreams!” Thank you, Dr. Merriam.

Julie Massaro Stewart | Aug. 14, 2014

Dr. Merriam was my absolute favorite teacher EVER. I had the pleasure of having him for biology and comparative anatomy, as well as working as his lab assistant for a year-and-a-half. What an awesome person! I think of him often, especially every time I see a “double rainbow.” He stopped class one day to take us outside and explain light refraction. He would always offer encouragement and kind words. He definitely had a big impact on my life, even to this day.
James Rutledge came to the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus of St. Petersburg College in 1993 to teach mathematics. Over the years, he taught college algebra, calculus and liberal arts math – a course he developed.

For many years, James was the lead editor of MERLOT Mathematics, an online depository for digital learning materials. In 2001, he designed course outlines for all upper-level math courses for SPC’s College of Education. He was one of several faculty members who worked to create the Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning at SPC, and he contributed greatly to the college’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) initiative in 2010. In 2002, he was part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) workshop in Paris that focused on getting digital learning materials to developing nations. He is a published author of two popular textbooks.

He has a bachelor’s degree in humanities and science from MIT and a master’s degree in math education from the University of South Florida. He retired in 2013 and lives in Valrico.

June White | July 1, 2014
Jim, you are a leader and a terrific educator. Having known and worked with you has been inspiring for me! Congratulations!

Li-Lee Tunceren | July 3, 2014
Hearty congratulations, Jim! I’m sure retirement’s great, but we miss you here!

Karen Estes | July 6, 2014
Jim, congratulations on this honor, which you richly deserve. I really enjoyed working with you through the years.

Cora Wilkerson | July 9, 2014
Congratulations, Jim! We all miss you here at SPG campus. I hope you are enjoying this new phase of your life.

Mary Long | July 11, 2014
OMG, best math teacher ever!!!!!!!

Dot Jordan | July 18, 2014
Congratulations!!

Donna Beattie | July 21, 2014
I am math allergic and Mr. Rutledge showed me how math can be fun if we just look around our world. Thank you so much!!

Jimmy Chang | July 22, 2014
Congratulations, Jim! A well-deserved honor.

Jonathan Steele | July 23, 2014
Jim, your positive influence and example lives on at SPC. Congratulations! You deserve this.

Sue Blanchard | Aug. 4, 2014
Jim, I will always remember your great flexibility and ability to teach ALL students – even those for whom math was a challenge. You have shaped what “math” looks like here at SPC!

Daryl L. Schrader | Aug. 21, 2014
Jim, glad to see you get the recognition that you so richly deserve.
Larry Spicer came to the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus in 1992 to teach in the Communications Department following an extensive career in education, including a stint as Dean of Students at the University of Puerto Rico.

In addition to his classroom responsibilities, he served as faculty sponsor to the International Student Organization and as a member of several faculty committees. An advocate of fine writing, the Lawrence E. Spicer English for Academic Purposes Outstanding Student Award is named for him.

Larry has a bachelor’s degree in education from St. John’s University in New York, a master’s degree in English education from the City University of New York and a TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) master’s degree from New York University.

Jim Mignerey | July 1, 2014
Great news, Larry – I can’t think of anyone who deserves this more… See you in August.

Li-Lee Tunceren | July 3, 2014
Congratulations, Larry! Enjoy retirement and we’ll look forward to seeing you at Fall Faculty!

Arthur Asatrjan | July 17, 2014
Larry Spicer, you are the best professor, teacher, mentor I ever had. Great news, need to see you soon, let me know when I can stop by at your office.

David McInald | June 17, 2014
Mr. Spicer, congratulations on all your accomplishments. You were my sixth grade teacher in the Bronx SHS. Thank you helping me towards an amazing life.

Marse Walsh | July 18, 2014
Congratulations, Larry! I cherish the time we spent working together in ESL, the best teaching experience I ever had. I learned so much from you. On a personal note, I can never repay your kindness during my illness. You were there when so very many others were not. Thank you. I wish you much happiness going forward.

Deborah Boyle | July 22, 2014
Congratulations, Larry! This is such a special and well-deserved honor.

I hope you know how much we all appreciate your many contributions in and out of the classroom at St. Petersburg College.

Enjoy this recognition and know that you have made a real difference in the lives you have touched.

It’s hard to imagine that we have known each other almost 10 years…where has the time gone? You are a very special friend and I look forward to seeing you at Fall Faculty.

Maggie Knoop | Aug. 3, 2014
Congratulations, Larry! You are so very deserving of this honor. I will see you at Fall Faculty because I will be sitting at Coach Ed Davis’ table. Then I can congratulate you in person. Best wishes in your retirement.

Congratulations, Larry!
Janice Buchanan Swartz came to St. Petersburg Junior College in 1990 to teach music and humanities. An accomplished musician and scholar, she previously taught similar courses at the University of South Florida. At SPC, she was the director of the college choruses, community chorus and the St. Petersburg College Madrigalians.

She is the co-author of a popular textbook, Expanding Horizons: An Introduction to Non-Western Humanities, and has been a contributor to many professional publications. Following her teaching career, she served the college as Executive Director of the SPC Foundation, raising millions of dollars for student scholarships.

She has a bachelor’s degree in music from Rhodes College in Memphis, a master’s degree from the University of South Florida and a doctorate in music and education from the University of South Florida. She retired in 2010 and lives in St. Petersburg.

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**Linda Yakle** | June 30, 2014

Janice, I don’t know if you remember or not, but you and I started our careers here at SPC at the same time. Why is it that I don’t feel like that many years have passed at all? Congratulations on receiving this honor.

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**June White** | July 1, 2014

Janice, you are such a multi-talented individual and well deserving of this honor. I remember going to your concerts and contacting you when you were with the foundation. You are still missed but enjoy your retirement. Congratulations on this and your many other achievements!

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**Karen Estes** | July 6, 2014

Janice, congratulations on this honor. Your contributions through the years have really enriched SPC.

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**Kim Corry** | July 7, 2014

Congratulations, Janice, for your faithful service to SPC for so many years. This college grew stronger and better as a result of your leadership. So happy for your new chapter and that you are being recognized and rewarded for the chapter you spent here. So deserving! God bless!

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**Susan Demers** | July 22, 2014

How lucky your students were over the years, Janice! And I know this because for one week in Russia I had Janice Buchanan as my personal docent. Congratulations, dear friend.

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**Deborah Boyle** | July 22, 2014

Congratulations Janice! What a perfectly wonderful honor to be named Faculty Emerita!

Your myriad talents and heart for students was apparent in every project, event, and interaction with your team, staff, and community members.

On a personal note, your leadership of the Foundation was very meaningful to me as you are the one who helped me set up a scholarship in memory of my late mother. That scholarship has comforted me over the years and your many kindnesses to me have been so appreciated.

It is an honor and privilege to call you my friend. Looking forward to seeing you at Fall Faculty.

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**Doug Duncan** | July 22, 2014

Congratulations
PROFESSORS EMERITI 2014

Pam Smith | July 23, 2013

Congratulations Janice! A well-deserved honor for such a wonderful friend. You have a heart for people and that is evident in everything you do. I so enjoyed working with you at the College for so many years. You kept us smiling with your happy heart. Although we miss you here, we are happy to hear that you are enjoying this chapter of your life. Blessings to you.

Judy Darby | July 23, 2014

Janice, I am so happy to learn that you are receiving this most deserved honor. You are an inspiration and beacon of love to all you meet. I feel so honored and privileged to have met you and worked with you. I will never forget your caring, friendship, and mentoring.

Enjoy your retirement, the new installment in your life of “leisure”. Congratulations!

Edel Quinn | July 23, 2014

Dear Janice,

Congratulations. I’m so thrilled you are being honored as a 2014 Professor Emeritus. While I never had the privilege of sitting in your class, I was privileged and honored to work for you at the Foundation. You are an amazing woman. You not only taught me everything I know about fundraising, but more importantly about kindness, compassion and friendships. I smile each time I open a file here and see your handwritten notes to a student or a friend of the Foundation. From the classroom to the Foundation, to the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, you changed student’s lives, one student at a time. And you continue to do this through the two endowments you have established at the Foundation that provide financial assistance to needy students each year. Your scholarships give students an education that they might not otherwise get and ultimately a better life.

Congratulations again, this is so deserved. Look forward to seeing you at Fall Faculty.

Cristina McCormack | July 23, 2014

Dear Janice,

This recognition is most surely deserved. Congratulations!! Your dedication, enthusiasm and insights are truly inspiring. It was such a pleasure and an honor to have worked with you at the Museum. You are missed here! Looking forward to seeing you at Fall Faculty.

Lynn Whitelaw | July 25, 2014

To Janice – my colleague, mentor and dear friend,

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. It just scratches the surface of the wonderful accomplishments you have made to St. Petersburg College over the years; from students loving the arts because of your classroom, Foundation scholarships given for student success, the community for whom you were the visible spokesperson for SPC, to your role as the official “Cheerleader” of the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art! Many may say they were contributors to the establishment of the museum, but there would not be a LRMA if it had not been for you! Your dedication and passion continues to be infectious, and your legacy continues to live on. All my best.

Jane Parker | July 26, 2014

To Janice – a true scholar and professional who introduced me to St. Petersburg College and whose friendship I will always cherish,

God Bless You, Janice!!! You have given so unselfishly of your time, talents and love to so many. Those whose lives you have touched will never forget the lessons you have taught and the example you have set. This prestigious award is most appropriate and I am so happy to know it is being bestowed on you. Your accomplishments at the foundation, as a teacher and a musician are to be admired.

Very best wishes in your new life. May everyday be a celebration of happiness and good health.
**Kimberly Felos | July 30, 2014**

Congratulations, Janice! It was a real pleasure having you assist and help us grow and improve at SPC. You loved teaching, and also working with the LRMA. Your passion was always glowing from within you, and inspiring us all. Best wishes!

**Sue Blanchard | Aug. 4, 2014**

Are you retired, really? Hard to believe the journey we seem to keep sharing, starting with getting “hooded” on the same day for our doctorates… The chances I’ve had to watch and work with you are to be treasured. Best in your next projects – as I won’t ever believe you’ve truly retired from music and teaching :-) 

**Gina Profit | Aug. 8, 2014**

“Dr. B” as I always lovingly called you… congratulations on a well-deserved honor! The many contributions you have made to SPC will be remembered for generations to come. Everything you do shows your heart from writing special notes to students to giving encouragement to those who worked with you. It has been an honor to know you. I wish you God’s blessings.
Jane Ellen Till came to St. Petersburg College in 2005 as a full-time associate professor in the Ethics department. Prior to that, she worked in the private sector as a human resources director and in sales and marketing for a number of companies.

Jane was one of the authors and editors of the Applied Ethics textbook. Colleagues say she always put her students first and never stopped learning and working toward being a better teacher.

She received her bachelor’s degree in human resource development from Oakland University in Michigan and her master’s degree in pastoral counseling from Marygrove College, also in Michigan. She passed away on Oct. 28, 2013 and is greatly missed by her family and colleagues.

Dave Monroe | July 9, 2014
The ethics department misses Jane every day. She brought boundless energy, enthusiasm, and humor to work, and was a tireless supporter of student-focused initiatives. Most importantly, she made an impact in the lives of SPC students. Jane is more than deserving of being an emeritus professor!

Alexandra Gulbis | July 10, 2014
Professor Till will be missed by all who knew her. I enjoyed chatting with her often during my time as a student assistant within the department. I am saddened to hear of her passing but I am glad that she has been recognized as an emeritus professor.

Janice Thiel | July 17, 2014
From as far back as when Jane relayed a successful teaching strategy to our last time working together during a critical thinking scoring workshop, I will always remember her as being very generous with her time to provide her guidance and share her expertise. I am extremely pleased she is being recognized by SPC.

John Venturella | July 17, 2014
What a wonderful person Jane was! She was devoted to her students and loved the ethics department. While she was interim head of the department, she helped me with a particularly challenging student. I am particularly grateful for the wisdom, support and care she offered me that year. She certainly deserves to be counted among the emeritus professors.

Vicki Stecher | July 18, 2014
I miss Jane’s humor, her never-ending smile, and her ability to find the positive in any circumstance. She was wise and willing to share that wisdom. She found teachable moments in every circumstance.

This is an honor that Jane would have said belonged to someone else; but in truth, she deserves to be recognized as a part of an impressive group of emeriti for the strength of her commitment and loyalty to the students of SPC.

George Sherman | July 18, 2014
Jane was not only a great teacher, loved by her students, but also a great role model for me. Many times I went to her with questions and worries about my teaching, or worse, about ANGEL. She always had time to answer. And she never failed to challenge me to do better. The last time I saw her in the hospital she still challenged me to do my best. And she challenged herself, as well. Jane Till was clearly one of the great professors at St. Petersburg College.

Susan Demers | July 22, 2014
I miss Jane’s sage guidance and her passion for our department every day. I know that she regularly changed her students’ lives every day in exactly the same way that she changed mine. By insisting that I pay attention and think things through… she is still teaching me.
A family member accepted the award on Jane's behalf.