

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

LANSING AREA LOCAL EDITION August 2009



The Lazy Summer is just about over, so get off your Duffs and join your Fellow Retirees in an Educational and Fun-Filled New Season

Monday, September 14, 2009 – Mike Garland, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach will be giving us his insights. He is functioning in his second stint on the Spartan men's basketball bench, with the 2009-10 campaign marking his 10th season at MSU. He returned to East Lansing for the 2007-08 year having previously served as an assistant at MSU for seven seasons from 1996-2003. In his time at MSU, Mike Garland has helped to coach the Spartans to seven NCAA Tournaments, five Big Ten Championships, two Big Ten Tournament Championships, four Final Fours and one National Championship. He excels in self-scouting and individual player improvement. His instruction led to six Spartans selected in the NBA Draft during a three-year span from 2000-02. In total, he has worked with nine Spartans that were picked in the draft.

Head Coach Tom Izzo says, "We are thrilled to have Mike Garland back at Michigan State. Certainly my loyalty and friendship played a role. But even more importantly, I'm excited to add someone who was here through our championship and Final Four runs, and helped build this program from the ground up. Mike has a tremendous passion for coaching and developing relationships with players. I expect that he will also help instill the toughness necessary to compete at the championship level. I'm pleased to add someone to our staff that has strong support and ties throughout the state of Michigan and in the Michigan State University community."

Monday, October 12, 2009 – Sally Harwood, former Associate General Counsel for MSU (655-4798) will talk about the Iditarod Great Sled Dog Race across Alaska. She has recent dog sled experiences with her son-in-law and niece. Over the next several months, a number of Iditarod mushers will be traveling in Alaska and throughout the lower 48, sharing presentations with schools and communities. Our own Sally Harwood and her son-in-law have a presentation designed to share information about the Iditarod, dog mushing, and what it takes to achieve goals and dreams. Their presentation carries a strong message of setting one's goals high and striving to accomplish them.

This presentation includes a lots of pictures, clothing, trophies, and equipment on hand for retirees to see. This show makes a perfect continuation of an exciting year of programs that will make your life as a retiree much more enjoyable.



RETIREEES WILL MOVE UPSTAIRS FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

When you come for the September meeting on Monday September 14, you will find that we have moved up in the world! Instead of using the Community Room in the basement, as we have for many years, we shall gather in the Community Room ON THE FIRST FLOOR! This means that you will not enter the lower south door, WHICH WILL BE LOCKED, or park west of the building, but will enter from the east, using the main parking lot of the Credit Union (Crescent Road Branch). But the friends will be familiar, the coffee still provided by the Credit Union (see its advert elsewhere in this issue), and the time still the same: drinks and donuts at 130, meeting from 2 till 3. **PS Check your subscription termination year above the address label. Send \$5.00 per year check payable to MSURA. Mail to Bob Wenner, MSURA Treasurer, PO Box 203, Okemos, MI 48805**

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Renewing Our Spartan Spirit

By Gale L. Arent, MSURA President

It's that time of year when we look at our calendars and realize that the next holiday is Labor Day. This observation causes us to ask our friends and neighbors, "Where did the summer go?" During the same conversation, we agree that with each passing year time really does go faster than it used to.

I believe that there are many wonderful things to look forward to during the Fall season: crisp days, beautiful foliage, and the harvest of Michigan's bountiful fruit and grain crops.

It's also the beginning of the academic year. I am told that there will be a "new crop" of approximately 8,600 Spartans (a 7,200 freshman class and about 1,400 transfer students) beginning their higher education at MSU. As MSU retirees, let's pledge to help roll out the Green Carpet for them. When we encounter new students on campus or in our community, let's show them that all Spartans are friendly, helpful, and welcoming.

Fall is also the time of new beginnings for our student athletes and their skilled coaches. MSU has about 750 varsity athletes. The excitement that new seasons offer to our

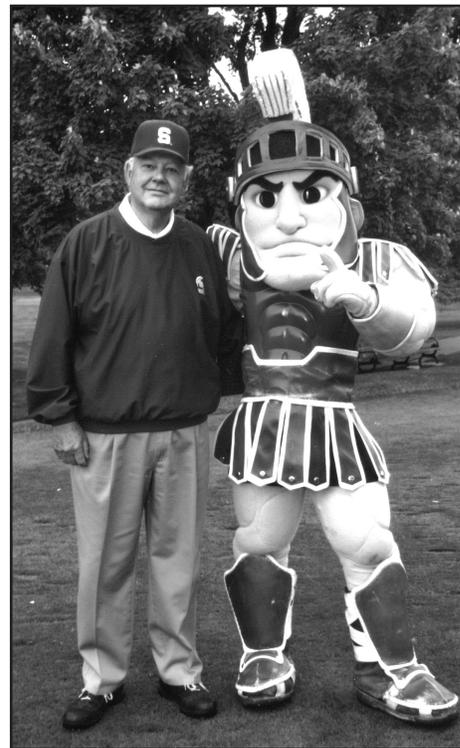
devoted fans is unparalleled. It all begins with the kick-off of MSU's season-opening football game on September 5th versus Montana State at Spartan Stadium. I hope you will be there.

I, personally, enjoy many of the other so-called minor sports venues at MSU. They certainly are not minor to the student athletes who participate. If you haven't already ordered your tickets, call (517) 355-1610 or (800) GO-STATE.

Also, this is the time of year when we re-start the annual cycle of MSU Retiree Association Programs. Vice President Patrick Scheetz serves as chairperson of the monthly program committee. Our programs are on the second Monday of each month, from September through April. I have found them to be interesting, entertaining, educational, and a wonderful social opportunity for participating members.

I encourage you to note these eight dates on our calendar and make attendance a personal priority. The kick-off meeting will begin at 2 p.m. on September 14th in the MSU Credit Union's community room which is in the south campus branch of the Credit Union at 600 East Crescent Street. Plan to arrive early and enjoy coffee, tea, doughnuts, and conversation. The first speaker will be Coach Mike Garland on the topic of MSU Men's Basketball. I hope to see you there.

I wish you a wonderful fall season — the very best time to renew your Spartan Spirit. GO GREEN! GO WHITE!!



MSURA President, Gale Arent, and his favorite collegiate mascot, Sparty.



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Retirees are Welcome to Join MSU Community Club

MSU Community Club membership is open to a broad community of MSU faculty, spouses, alumni, and retirees, both women and men. The Club sponsors more than 20 interest groups who meet at scheduled times during the year as well as monthly general gatherings which include lectures by MSU staff and visiting professors and an annual tailgate party with one of our MSU coaches.

Come see what we're doing for fun while we raise money for the MSU Community Club Endowed Scholarship fund. Dues are \$25.00 for the 2009-10 academic year. For further information, visit our web page at www.msu.edu/user/msucclub/index.html or email msucclub@msu.edu. **Gretchen Forsyth.**

Hear a Lobbyist You can Like on Nov 9, 2009

Steven Webster, who has served as VP for governmental affairs at the University for a dozen years will be our November speaker on Monday, November 9. No doubt he will regale us with tales of great chicanery in the halls of legislation. Or what it's like to partner with the Ann Arbor school in setting up the Michigan University Research Corridor, while fighting 'em on the football field and basketball court. Prior to his return to his alma mater, he worked as a fiscal analyst for the House of Representatives. Come with your questions for a lobbyist you can trust.

Ugly Yarn Knitting

Life's too short to knit with ugly yarn! This I've been told. Lets face it every knitter has such a blight. These undesirable skeins are so unloved they find themselves buried in the deepest recesses of your attic, closet or even entombed under the basement steps. They will never feel the soft caress of your hands stroking the needles as you lovingly create a knitting masterpiece.

But, do not despair fellow knitters for I've come to save the day, since we are all in this together. Drag all that ugly stuff out of the darkness and let it see the sun light. No matter how icky you think your stash may be someone will think it's beautiful. All you have to do is whip up a hat, scarf or some mittens and you keep a person warm this winter. How about an afghan or maybe a shawl for someone in hospice care to ease their last days? There are many avenues for that yarn you think so homely.

Since it is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself, I solemnly promise to dig through my mountain of ugly yarn if you do some rummaging also. Together we can make a difference for those in need and make someone's life a little less stressful.

The knitting group is always looking for some more energetic fingers so if you have any, please join us in the basement of the Nisbet Building every other Tuesday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. call Rosemary Pavlik for more details at (517) 882-2030.

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An Open Letter to MSU Retirees from Brent Bowditch

I'm pleased to introduce myself to readers of the Spartan Senior. As the Assistant Vice President of MSU Human Resources, I oversee most aspects of human resource operations at MSU, including the benefits division.

In February, MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon sent you a letter outlining the serious health care challenge MSU faces. You are likely wondering what changes the future will bring to your health care coverage. Unfortunately, I don't have the answer to that question yet. But I can tell you that many of MSU's brightest minds are working steadily on this problem – and making good progress. The Health Care Strategy Advisory Committee described in the president's letter continues studying our health care plans, expenditures and options to help identify a variety of cost-saving opportunities for consideration. To ensure retiree concerns are considered, this committee includes two retiree representatives who regularly introduce issues and questions relevant to retiree needs. In addition, I attend the monthly meetings of the MSU Retiree Association and also meet monthly with the association's subcommittee on health care to share information and solicit feedback.

As we continue working toward solutions, I want to assure you that I am committed to listening to feedback from the retiree community. And when there is helpful information to share about MSU's future plans, I will communicate that information directly to every MSU retiree via mail to ensure nobody misses out on critical information about health benefits.

There are no easy answers to the health care and economic challenges we currently face. Working together, we will develop a new approach to health care that maximizes quality and makes the best possible use of MSU's limited health care budget.

E-mail me at hmail@msu.edu or write to me at MSU Human Resources, Office of the Assistant Vice President, Ste. 250 Nisbet Building, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823. Your ideas are always welcome! **Brent Bowditch.**