



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



SPARTAN SENIOR

A newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

LANSING AREA LOCAL EDITION NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

Power of Attorney Elder Law

Have you selected a person to be your Power of Attorney, POA? POA is a legal document by which the individual (principal) appoints another person (agent) to act on his or her behalf.

There are two types of Power of Attorney. In the event that you become mentally incompetent and you need someone you trust to make decisions on your own behalf, you may designate a patient advocate. POA "**Patient Advocate Designation**" is for health care/medical decisions. The agent is able to represent you and your advanced care directives in medical matters and will not be restrained by HIPPA privacy rules.



Lori Strom

POA for financial decisions can give broad financial authority or it can be limited to only certain activities. The agent may be able to act immediately on your behalf or it may indicate that the agent will only be authorized to act when the principal becomes incompetent at a later date, ("springing power of attorney"). A POA is called **Durable Power of Attorney** if it includes language that allows the agent to act or continue to act even if the principal becomes incompetent.

It is recommended that adults of all ages designate a POA for health care decisions. Even college students can select a patient advocate in the event that they are in a car accident or have an illness where their parents would want to represent them with medical decisions.

Are you over 60 and have a legal question? Regardless of your income, free legal help is available from the Elder Law of Michigan Free Legal Hotline-Call 1-800-347-5297. You may call with questions about wills and probate, health care, Medicare/Medicaid and more. They will ask you some questions and a lawyer will call you back the next day. Or if you are local you can call the Sixty Plus Elder Law Clinic at Cooley Law School for free legal advice at (517) 334-5760. There is also a website for you to use: www.legalhotlineonline.org. Also I want to give credit to Chalgian and Tripp Law Offices, PLLC for the clarification of the definitions used in the article. (**Lori Strom, Coord. of the MSU Family Center**)

MSU Computer Store

Due to increased restrictions by suppliers, the MSU Computer Store is no longer able to sell software to retirees. In terms of hardware, Dell and Lenovo are the only suppliers that continue to permit sales to retirees.

Check local retailers, online merchants, vendors' web sites, and search engines for prices and availability regarding software and hardware purchases that you are considering.

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We Have Answers to your Questions

Our Health Hints(just like the material on Page 1) are intended to provide information to help you access and use the health system. By sharing tips or getting answers to a situation we can help one another. We invite your questions and problems that you would like addressed. The Family Resource Center at MSU is extremely helpful in providing the information and addressing the issues. Please send your questions, concerns or ideas for topics to me at rothert@msu.edu. Thank you, **Marilyn Rothert** Chair, MSURA Health Benefits Committee

Presidential Message

by **L Patrick Scheetz**

Life on a Farm

While milking 65 head of Holstein dairy cows on our family farm in Lucerne, Indiana, my brothers and I would listen to the radio with programs like The Lone Ranger; Sergeant Preston of the Yukon; Sky King, Rin Tin Tin, Lassie, and Wagon Train. We also had a radio mounted on our farm tractors (Oliver) while we cultivated 500+acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa for the cows.



Patrick Scheetz



When cleaning cow barns on Saturdays, we would listen to Notre Dame football games. Down in Indiana, there were no MSU football games broadcast, unless they were playing ND.

What do you remember from your early years of growing through childhood?



Jim Cotter

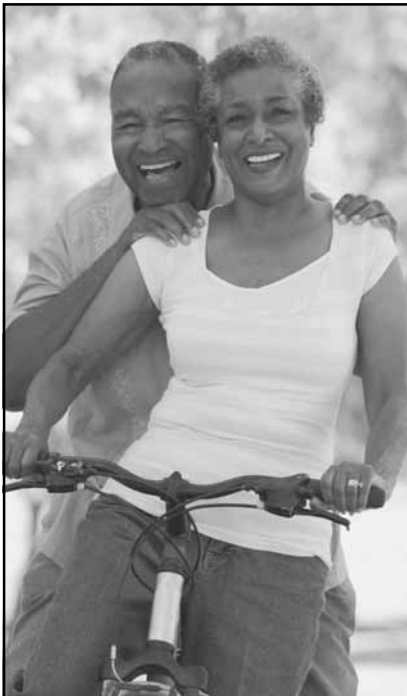
Jim Cotter Director of Admissions

If you don't think numbers can be fun, you haven't listened to MSU's Admissions Director rattle them off: 27,000 prospective students applied to the U for the 2010-11 year; 18,000 admitted (70%), 7206 began school in August (37% of admittees), 85% from Michigan, 53% women, 73% receive financial assistance. Don't pity the student who applies to a number of schools and often has her pick, but pity the Director of Admissions who has to guess how many of those admitted actually arrive on campus. According to Jim Cotter, whose undergraduate major was pitching on Danny Litwhiler's baseball team, students are admitted to their first choice 72% of the time.

The information poured out over about 60 retirees and the Q and A session was lively and enjoyable. MSU is primarily an undergraduate university with only 25% of its students in grad work. With high school populations declining, we have to work harder at attracting out-of-state students, and their higher tuition helps the bottom line as well. To become attractive out-of-Michigan, the administration hopes to created a "Spartan Brand," a distinctive, recognizable reputation that adds to our attraction. And, yes, that brand is enhanced by winning teams on the field and court, which (your editor here) may explain a half-a-million dollar raise for the men's basketball coach. (**Sharon DeBar**)

The coffee was good (thanks Peter McPharlin), the donuts as well. Your editor took six pictures of Jim Cotter and none were better than the one above! (Ed.)

Please Pardon our Chaos The SYSTEM is Coming!



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OAKLAND - 3265 Five Points Dr., Auburn Hills



COMING UP

We’ve had some great speakers this fall. The lineup for the next few months will entertain and instruct you as well. As always: at the new Credit Union palace on Coolidge Road, refreshments at 1:30, speaker at 2:00 p.m.

December 13: Erik Runkle, professor of Horticulture and Extension Floriculture Specialist will tell us everything we wanted to know about poinsettias. How did a Mexican weed become our Christmas flower? Will the leaves really poison the cat if the critter nibbles away? How can they make ‘em bloom at the right time?

January 10, 2011: Our own **Jack Worthington** will tell you exciting stories of barns rescued from decay and destruction; and (perhaps) sad tales of strong, healthy barns burned to the ground. He’s active in the Michigan chapter of the barn rescue and restoration society. (He’ll tell you the proper title.) Jack makes ropes too.

February 14: Lori Strom, Coordinator of the MSU Family Center, will speak on “Healthy Aging through Volunteerism,” lifting up some projects in the community that you can volunteer for, but also about being a caregiver when there is a family crisis. (You can see a picture of Lori on page 1.) **[Ron Smith, Vice President].**

If you’ve been anywhere near campus lately, you may be hearing people talking about EBS, EBSP or maybe just “THE SYSTEM”. Between December 28, 2010 and January 4, 2011, MSU will launch a new Enterprise Business System (EBS) that will replace more than 40 separate existing computer systems at MSU that are used to collect and manage various types of data including information related to human resources, payroll, finance, accounting, budgeting, business intelligence and more.

MSU has been working hard to prepare for this implementation for several years, but the actual transition that is occurring between now and January will involve a massive amount of effort and is taking up the lion’s share of our staff time right now. Getting the new system implemented is not the end of the process. Learning the new systems, teaching our customers the new systems and working out unexpected issues that may arise as a result of the transition is expected to keep us extraordinarily busy through at least the end of March.

I’d like to ask you to please be patient with us during this time if you find we are not immediately available when you call or we’re not a quick as we usually like to be in responding to your requests. Your calls are very important to us and we will do our best to maintain our high customer service levels during the transition – but we very much appreciate your patience with us during this extremely busy time. The new system will bring tremendous benefits to MSU once we get through the growing pains of learning new ways of doing business. In the long-run it is expected to help us manage the massive amounts of information we deal with daily more efficiently and accurately.

The new system will have minimal direct impact on Retirees, but those of you who like to do your annual Benefits Open Enrollment online will find that the system you use to do that will look different in 2011 than the one you are used to. Not to worry, we will be sending out open enrollment materials in April explaining how to use the new system. And if you don’t like doing open enrollment online, that’s okay too. There will still be a paper-based open-enrollment process that you can choose to use instead of enrolling online. The paper-based process is a special service we only offer to Retirees – all active employees complete their open enrollment and other benefits transactions online. On behalf of all of us at Human Resources, I would like to wish all MSU Retirees a happy holiday season and a healthy, happy new year! **(Brent Bowditch, Vice President of Human Resources.)**

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EAST LANSING, MI 48823**

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



Rosemary Pavlik

Being an OPTIMIST Today

Being an optimist today is hard. The world is full of tragic news that swirls around you from dawn to dusk and beyond. Everything is so uncertain you're not sure what to do at times. But, just look up to the beautiful heavens and say there is hope. Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is so powerful as hope. With hope, one can think, one can work, one can dream. If you have hope, you have everything.

The Retirees Association is lucky to have a fantastic group of ladies who work as hard as can be to give hope to the many who do not have much hope left. But, as the saying goes "the harvest is rich but the workers are few." The need is crying out for more hands willing to pick up some yarn and clack those needles. How about you? Are you willing to give hope a chance?

You do not have to come and knit with us (although you will miss a great time). If you prefer to stay and knit in the comfort of your home that's ok. If you have yarn cluttering up your closet, basement or attic, give me a call and it will disappear. For any of the above just give Rosemary Pavlik a call at (517)882-2030 and if you do decide that you would like to give us a try we meet every other Tuesday in the basement of the Nisbet building, room 27 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.