



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

Vol. 33 No. 1

International Edition

Fall 2011

SENIOR PROGRAMS ***STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGET UPDATE***

by Mary Ablan, Executive Director, Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan

Most older adults in Michigan rely on government programs to maintain a basic quality of life when they no longer work. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Older Americans Act, and Older Michiganians Act are among these safety net programs. That's why budget decisions in Washington, D.C. and Lansing are vitally important to the everyday lives of Michigan's retirees.

On the state budget front: Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature approved a state budget for fiscal year 2012 that will maintain funding for meals-on-wheels and other services that maintain seniors' health and ability to live independently. This is in contrast with major budget cuts in K-12 education, higher education, corrections, etc. In addition, increased funding was allocated for a program that transitions nursing home residents on Medicaid back into their own homes with a significant cost savings to the state.

On the federal level, Congress has embarked on a three-stage process that will ultimately reduce the federal deficit leading to a balanced federal budget. This is supported by most Democrats, Republicans and the general public.

Let's review the three stage process now underway.

Stage #1

Congress and the President have already agreed to freeze discretionary spending overall for the next 10 years for a savings of \$900 billion. Programs that fall in this category include defense programs and many domestic programs that help older adults like the Older Americans Act (OAA), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), public transportation, subsidized housing, etc. Congress has not decided yet how each will be affected. In 2012 and 2013, spending cuts must be split 50/50 between domestic programs and defense programs.

Stage # 2

A 12-member bipartisan congressional committee will decide on \$1.5 trillion in additional deficit reduction measures by November 23, 2011, by a majority vote. Everything is on the table for the committee to consider - new revenues, changes to entitlements (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.), and cuts in discretionary programs. Their plan will go to the U.S. House and Senate, where it is subject to an up-or-down vote with no amendments. Congress must vote on the plan by December 23, 2011.

(cont on Page 4)

MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Production	Stephanie Barch	517-332-8523

Website: www.retirees.msu.edu

Webmaster	John Forsyth	517-332-6683
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Brody Hall

Presidential Message

by L. Patrick Scheetz

100 Ways to Make Retirement Great!



Patrick Scheetz

Your help is needed to make a list of things to do to make retirement a great time in your life. Please send us a **picture** and **brief explanation** of what you do during your normal activities to make your days and weeks of retirement stimulating and most enjoyable. Every MSU retiree can contribute, and responses will be posted on the MSURA website at: www.retirees.msu.edu/greatthings and included in future newsletters.

Volunteer Leaders Needed: To help with activation of MSU retirees into activities that interest them, volunteers are wanted.



Specifically, interest was expressed in **golfing groups** and a **birders group**. If you might be willing to join one of these groups or lead one of them, please respond to us.



Thanks for replying by e-mail to:

msura@msu.edu or contact us at: MSU

Retirees Association, 22 Nisbet Building,

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-9902. Tele:

(517) 353-7896. Website: www.retirees.msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE
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President Lou Anna Simon

President Lou Anna Simon Addresses MSU Retirees

How Our Peer Institutions view MSU:

When asked how our peer institutions view the university, Simon responded that by far the biggest question she gets is how we possibly manage to do so much with such limited financial resources.

The Outlook for Research:

The FRIB (Facility for Rare Isotope Beams) was a major research coup for the university. Foreign countries, especially Korea, have noted the recent disinvestment in research by state and federal governments in the US, and they have begun to recruit outstanding research faculty members from American institutions. MSU will do everything possible to sustain a good climate for research.

The Future of Retiree Health Benefits:

The university faces a huge necessity to control costs. New employees are being asked to pay 5% of their health insurance costs. Every effort will be made to ask no more than this of retirees. Some universities are charging higher contributions from smokers and those with uncontrolled chronic disease because the costs they incur are proportionately much higher. Perhaps those who “run through all the stop signs” should pay more for their health insurance. **(Al LeBlanc, Ed.)**

On September 13, MSU President Lou Anna Simon spoke to a capacity audience of university retirees at the headquarters of the MSU Federal Credit Union. Simon took topic requests at the start of her wide ranging talk. Some of the highlights appear below:

State of the U:

This fall the university is at an all time peak of enrollment. We have more middle class students than our comparable institutions, and that creates more financial pressure. Dollars from the state are about the same that we received in the early 1990's. We have not done overly well in the past with donor development, but we will need to greatly improve in this area. In the past, big declines in state support have always rebounded, but we cannot count on that in the future. We need to work on an endowment.

The Plan for the Future:

Our goal is to deliver maximum value to students and their families for their tuition dollar, and a lot of the recent and current construction projects have been undertaken with this in mind. Many of the current projects will rely on private donations to finance their completion. Some buildings, especially those intended for athletics, have been financed entirely with donor money.



MSU Plans Retirement Plan Consolidation

If you spend much time around campus this fall, you may hear faculty and staff talking about some upcoming changes to MSU Retirement plan choices. MSU is planning to consolidate retirement vendor options from the current six vendors down to the two most widely used vendors (Fidelity and TIAA-CREF). In addition, a new simplified core investment menu will be introduced. We are making these changes to ensure MSU retirement plans comply with IRS regulations and federal best practice recommendations. We also are making these changes to do a better job of providing support, tools, and resources that can help our plan enrollees reach their retirement savings goals.

Will this change affect retirees? For the most part, no. The changes will only apply to new contributions that occur on or after January 1, 2012. Most retirees are no longer making new contributions to their MSU retirement plan investment accounts. This means you don't have to worry about the changes – unless you want to. Why might you want to? If you like the new investment fund line ups being offered under the core investment menu, you will have the choice to move some or all of your existing account balances into these funds. However, you will also have the choice to leave all of your existing account balances in place where they are now (even if they are with Vanguard, AXA Equitable, Lord Abbett or VALIC). The bottom line is retirees who aren't still making new contributions to their retirement plan accounts can safely ignore these changes or consider transferring your account balances.

More information about these changes will be provided to all MSU Retirement plan enrollees in the coming months. **(Brent Bowditch)**

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(cont from Page 1)

Stage #3

If the committee can't agree on a plan, or Congress fails to approve it, then \$1.2 trillion in automatic, across-the-board cuts will take effect on January 1, 2013. Half of the cuts must come from defense spending. Cuts would not affect Social Security, Medicaid or Medicare benefits, but Medicare reimbursements to providers would be cut by up to 2%.

Another piece of the agreement requires that Congress take a vote on a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution by December 31, 2011.

The \$900 billion cut in Stage 1 means funding for the Older Americans Act and other programs will likely be frozen or reduced over the next ten years, despite the growth in the aging population. The recommendations of the 12-member congressional committee in Stage 2 have yet to be decided. They have been given wide latitude and could craft a plan with a mix of new revenues and cuts, or a plan based on 100% cuts. Two previous deficit reduction commissions, both bipartisan, studied the nation's fiscal situation and concluded that new revenues will be necessary to balance the budget without harming vulnerable Americans.

Mary Ablan, www.mi-seniors.net, writes a monthly newsletter called Aging Alert available by subscription.

We Hear from Our Retirees

What are you doing to stay active in retirement? Send your stories and pictures to: msura@msu.edu or mail to: MSU Retirees Association, 22 Nisbet Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-9902. Get the story and picture printed in a future issue of this newsletter. Thank you.

News from Howard Hickey and Gwen Callahan

Howard

Hickey, Professor of Educational Administration in the College of Education and Gwen Callahan, staff of State Funded Grant for Vocational Education



Teacher Updates in the

College of Education, are enjoying their Spartan golf cart at The Villages in Florida where 80% of resident trips are inside The Villages by golf carts.

Hello from Bill Stout

Bill Stout retired from MSU in 1981 after 27 years of service. After retiring from MSU, Bill served as Professor at Texas A & M University for 17 years. After retiring from Texas A & M, he became Visiting Professor at the China Agricultural University, a position he still holds. While teaching at Texas A & M, Bill served as Speaker of the Faculty Senate and headed up a branch campus in Koriyama, Japan. He also served as President of the Commission of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Bill's family holds six degrees from MSU, and we salute the career of this loyal Spartan!

—Al LeBlanc

Hi Patrick, Great work on the newsletter. It is much more up and a-tem! Interesting reading and the appeal for money was very good. Just right to bring people into the MSURA. Best to Stan Hecker as well on his new column. **(Bruce Smith, formerly of Coll of Agriculture)**

Irv Taran, former Art Dept. Chair, enjoys rides in the Michigan countryside on his Harley.



Donald J. Bowersox, Ph.D., one of the most well-known and influential supply chain management academics in the world, died July 4, 2011, after a reoccurring battle with cancer. He was 79. Bowersox was professor emeritus of marketing and supply chain management and served as dean of the Broad College from 2001-02. He dedicated more than 40 years to MSU and is largely responsible for the worldwide stature of the Broad College in the field of supply chain management. Bowersox received three degrees from MSU – a bachelor's in 1954, an MBA in 1958 and a doctorate in 1960. Prior to his 1966 appointment on the faculty at MSU, Bowersox was an Air Force pilot and in executive management for the E.F. MacDonald (Plaid) Stamp Co. He was appointed as the John H. McConnell Chair in Business Administration in 1985 in recognition of his contributions to academia, industry and the community. In 2002, he was honored with the Broad College's first Lifetime Alumni Achievement Award. Throughout his career, Bowersox wrote 10 textbooks which have been translated into 15 languages. (Patrick Scheetz).



Annette Weinshank, PhD - We lived in the Faculty Bricks from 1967 to 1972. When we told our older son about the demolition, he summed up the legacy of living in "the bricks." He wrote, "I had no idea what racism was until we moved away."

Reminiscing: 1930s & 1940s

By Bruce Greenman

I was raised in East Lansing, MI, and still reside here at Burcham Hills Retirement Community. I was 11 years old in 1932 when I started attending Spartan football games. Opening games were against such teams as Alma College, Grinnell (Iowa) and Wayne. And, for kids, they were free!

For the rest of the seasons, we had to sneak in under the fence. The area was patrolled by Ralph Young, himself, who was both the track coach and athletic director. Along about the time of the second quarter, he would tell us he was going for a cup of coffee and let us sneak in under the fence. Imagine an A.D. doing such a job today!

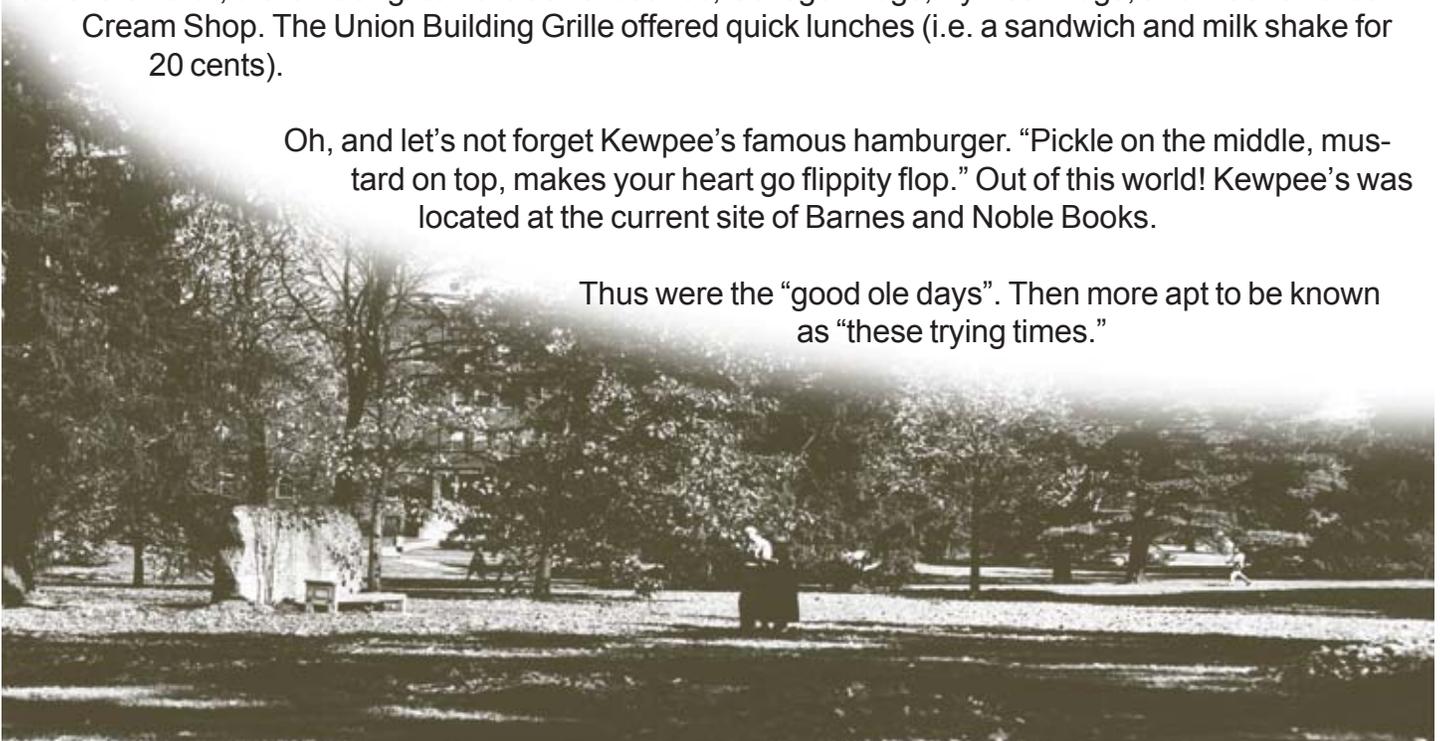
Also, I recall the day the union organizers and their crew marched out to campus for the purpose of organizing MSC employees. Word was spread around campus and the union organizers were met at the corner of Michigan and Harrison by students made up mostly of varsity football players. I observed all of this from a nearby tree and watched as the union organizers were tossed into the river. I probably remain one of the few students to graduate from MSU (MSC) in less than four years, without taking additional credits. In 1942, I signed up with the "enlisted reserve" which guaranteed we would graduate before going in to the armed forces. However, in April '43, we were pulled out anyway. Luckily, those of us with only one term left were given a special graduate exam, and if receiving a grade of B or better, we were granted our degree (I never did get a diploma!)

Another thing, people still try recalling good eating places at that time. Well, there was really only one fine restaurant in the whole town of East Lansing. That being Hunt's Restaurant, which had a nice cafeteria on the first floor and fine dining upstairs. The Union Building cafeteria on the lower level was good, especially for families after Sunday church.

Other than that, there was lighter fare at Harbounes, College Drugs, Byrnes Drugs, and Mathiew's Ice Cream Shop. The Union Building Grille offered quick lunches (i.e. a sandwich and milk shake for 20 cents).

Oh, and let's not forget Kewpee's famous hamburger. "Pickle on the middle, mustard on top, makes your heart go flippity flop." Out of this world! Kewpee's was located at the current site of Barnes and Noble Books.

Thus were the "good ole days". Then more apt to be known as "these trying times."



WHAT'S NEW AT THE U part one

By Stan Hecker

A MICROBE TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY & CLEAN THE ENVIRONMENT. . .

Scientific knowledge—biological knowledge in particular—is growing explosively. A few years ago, scientists found microbes living deep in undersea volcanoes and on arctic rocks. Now, a Spartan scientist is nurturing a microbe to generate electricity while it cleans up uranium waste.

Gemma Reguera, MSU microbiologist—pay attention here!—has genetically engineered a strain of *Geobacter* with enhanced nanowire production. Yikes! So what?

Well, these nanowires allow the *Geobacter* to survive adverse environments: uranium-polluted soil and groundwater. The better and more nanowires, the better the bug survives. And that, in turn, immobilizes more uranium and produces more electricity. Fuel cells producing electricity while cleaning up contaminated groundwater might be in the cards. Amazing!

The team included Dr Reguera, two graduate students, and two postdoctoral fellows. The National Institute of Environmental Health Science and the U.S. Department of Energy funded the study. It was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

...AND UMPIRE SCHEDULES

Computers—helping unravel plant genetics ... and, the schedules of Major League baseball umpires. Sort of from the sublime to the ridiculous, but there's a story here.

Hakan Yildiz, an assistant professor of business, is on a team which developed a new way to schedule MLB umpires. A baseball fan? Nope. Yildiz is a soccer fan, a native of soccer-crazed Turkey.

“For me, I like the fast-moving games,” Yildiz said. “Baseball is a slow-moving game; it takes too long. I still can't seem to get my head around it.” He does watch ice hockey and US football.

Yildiz' professional focus is supply-chain management, and part of the profession focuses on complex scheduling.

Until Yildiz and his collaborators worked up an alternative, scheduling had been done on spreadsheets, requiring weeks of planning, work and review.

Major League Baseball needed help fitting umpires into its schedule and also meeting the arcane rules and traditions of the game. Rules focused on concerns like coast-to-coast travel, overexposure in any ballpark or with any team, work and rest cycles, and umpire vacations.

The method—by Yildiz, Michael Trick from Carnegie Mellon University and Tallys Yunes from the University of Miami—will be highlighted in a forthcoming special issue of the research journal *Interfaces* focusing on sports analytics.

Major League Baseball has used the group's computerized methods since 2005 with only one exception, 2007. They've used it ever since, right through the current season.

VOLUNTEER

A Report of the BIG TEN Meeting

Volunteering on Campus: Staying Connected and Pitching In

Participants at the annual Big Ten Retirees Conference in Madison, Wisconsin learned about three different approaches to involving retirees on campus. Joan Smith, the 2010-11 Volunteer Coordinator for MSURA was one of three panelists to speak on this topic. MSURA prefers not to “reinvent the wheel” so it publicizes opportunities for retiree volunteers to stay engaged with the University via its newsletter, its monthly membership meetings, and its special bimonthly e-Notices. The MSURA Volunteer Coordinator maintains a liaison relationship with current University employees whose jobs entail efficient utilization of volunteers. Thus, when a MSU retiree indicates s/he is interested in volunteering in the children’s garden, at the Wharton Center or for the College of Agriculture 4H Week, the MSURA Volunteer Coordinator refers the prospective volunteer to the proper web-site and person who is responsible for coordinating volunteers for the event and/or unit.

Jane Voichick, an Emeritus Professor of Nutritional Sciences from UW- Madison conducted community based research to create buy-in by departments within the College of Agriculture and retired faculty members from the college. By interviewing department chairs within the College of Agriculture about how they were utilizing the talents and skills of retired faculty members and then reporting her results across departments, she influenced significantly more participation by former faculty members and more calls for volunteers from departments. Jane and the retiree association at UW-Madison have since expanded their method across colleges and departments, as well as have involved non-academic retirees of the University.

John Anderson, the President of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association and Chair of University Retirees Volunteer Center explained that U of Minnesota actually funds their Volunteer Center which provided approximately 200 volunteers who gave approximately 6000 hours of service to their University in the past year. Essentially, John heads an office of volunteers who coordinate volunteer efforts on their campus, sending willing individuals out to specific assignments, providing parking passes and/or reimbursing parking expenses. University of Minnesota Retirees do many of the same volunteer activities MSU volunteers do. They serve as practice patients to the medical and nursing programs, usher at performance events, judge high school and/or college contests, serve as hosts, and stuff envelopes for the community fundraising campaign.

Following the panel discussion, conference participants applied what they learned to develop a plan for engaging retired faculty and staff in volunteer opportunities on campus and in outreach programs. The essential components of successful plans were synthesized. **(Joan Smith)**

MSURA Announces Newly Designed Web site

Visit retirees.msu.edu to view the new design that more closely matches the main MSU website, and this new website has accessibility built into it. Leadership for this redesign was provided by John Forsyth with Anders Johanson doing the organizing and shaping. Send any suggestions or new ideas to: msura@msu.edu

— L. Patrick Scheetz

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Have thoughts you'd like to share? Your opinions matter to us!

Write to MSU
Human Resources at:

MSU Human Resources
Communications Office
Suite 250 Nisbet Bldg.
1407 S. Harrison Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

or

Send us an e-mail at:

hrmail@msu.edu

and tell us what you think!



Thank You MSU Retirees

In appreciation of the past
contributions of all MSU Retirees to
Michigan State University, and the
continuing contributions of the
MSU Retirees Association,
MSU Human Resources is pleased to
sponsor this edition of the
Spartan Senior newsletter.

Go Green

Go White

Go State!

IN MEMORIAM

DONALD ANDERSON	9/26/2010	JOHN G HOCKING	3/23/2011
SOPHIE ANDERSON	3/27/2011	JOHN B HODGE	4/13/2011
BRIAN D ARCHER	7/9/2010	ELIZABETH L HORROCKS-HOLMES	7/23/2010
ALVIN ARENS	12/6/2010	RICHARD HOSKINS	5/14/2011
KENNETH J ARNOLD	7/17/2010	EUGENE HUDDLESTON	4/2/2011
THOMAS F BALDWIN	4/25/2011	HENRY A IMSHAUG	11/18/2010
HARRIS F BEEMAN	5/15/2011	CHARLENE INGERSOLL	5/21/2011
MARY BENSON	5/1/2011	FRANK L INGRAM	1/2/2011
JAMES BETTS	3/13/2011	CAROL ISLEIB	2/18/2011
GLORIA C BLAKE	3/3/2011	LILLIAN ISOTALO	11/18/2010
GEORGE BOSEMAN	2/16/2011	ALLEN JEFFREY	8/24/2010
CHARLES T BOUTERSE	1/1/2011	GERALDINE JOHNSON	2/14/2011
CHARLES BRANZ	5/28/2011	IRMA L JOHNSON	8/24/2010
SHIRLEY A BREHM	9/17/2010	MARGARET JORGENSEN	4/16/2011
HENRY LEE BREWER	9/28/2010	JAMES JUDGE	3/25/2011
LEE BRODRICK	9/9/2010	JON J KABARA	3/24/2011
MILDRED E BROWN	11/5/2010	FREDERICK KAPLAN	1/25/2011
PHYLLIS J BROWN	1/20/2011	MARY KARON	2/11/2011
MAUDE I COBB	5/18/2011	RONALD KEELER	3/23/2011
THOMAS C COBB	10/31/2010	FORREST KELSEY	10/4/2010
JEANNE COOPER	1/12/2011	WILLIAM KENNEY	5/4/2011
BETTY A CROWE	8/1/2010	ESTHER KESSLER	3/26/2011
EUGENE A CUSTER	4/21/2011	ERNEST H KIDDER	2/23/2011
DANIEL T DAVIS	1/16/2011	HERMAN E KOENIG	7/31/2010
DONALD F DEXTER	3/27/2011	ANTHONY V KOO	6/6/2011
MARY ECHTERLING	2/21/2011	ROBERT D LAMOREAUX	9/20/2010
ELIZABETH ERICKSON	8/10/2010	CHARLES A LARSON	10/14/2010
EVERETT H EVERSON	10/14/2010	VALERIE LASS	1/29/2011
F CURTIS FILTER	10/8/2010	ROBERT K LEE	7/27/2010
IVA FISHER	1/31/2011	LEIGHTON LEIGHTY	8/5/2010
RICHARD FORD	3/17/2011	CLEMMMA LENEHAN	5/22/2011
KENDALL W FOSTER	10/1/2010	LAWRENCE M LILLIS	10/11/2010
SALLY FOSTER	1/28/2011	MARIAN N LOVE	3/11/2011
DANIEL GABEL	2/21/2011	THOMAS MANETSCH	1/1/2011
BETTY GARLICK	10/25/2010	VWADEK P MARCINIAK	2/26/2011
DONALD L GARLING	9/27/2010	ANNE L MARICLE	7/9/2010
CHRISTINA GAYTAN	6/1/2011	MARY B MCCARTNEY	10/24/2010
TIMOTHY GLYNN	9/24/2010	CLIFTON MCCHESEY	3/17/2011
ROBERT GORDEN	9/6/2010	ANDREW MCCLARY	4/23/2011
ALEX GOTTSCHALK	10/5/2010	JOHN A MCELHERON	2/18/2011
GRACE GRIFFIN	6/25/2011	RUTH MCKEE	7/28/2010
THOMAS GUNNINGS	8/20/2010	PETER A MCKINNON	8/21/2010
WILLIAM HARJU	2/7/2011	DEMETRA MEHAS	4/2/2011
PATRICIA HAUETER	9/13/2010	BETHEL MEHRENS	1/28/2011
DEAN L HAYNES	9/5/2010		

IN Memoriam cont.

BEULAH MONAGHAN	10/16/2010
DOLORES B MOTT	12/16/2010
THOMAS A MUTH	10/20/2010
ELIZABETH E NICKELL	1/29/2011
EDITH OBERLIN	12/4/2010
KENNETH OVERSMITH	3/4/2011
DAISY C PITKIN	10/2/2010
FRANCES POLSTON	12/21/2010
GERALDINE PURCELL	1/1/2011
ALBERT I RABIN	10/24/2010
DOLORES RAND	10/24/2010
ELLEN REIBELING	10/24/2010
EMMA REINBOLD	6/22/2011
PHYLLIS ROEHL	6/24/2011
ELIZABETH RUSK	12/17/2010
KENNETH SANBORN	12/28/2010
JESSIE SCATES	1/24/2011
JOHN M SCHNEIDER	4/12/2011
JACK O SCHROEDER	1/12/2011
THOMAS SEARL	9/16/2010
ARTHUR SHERBO	8/10/2010
JOHN D SHINGLETON	3/2/2011
ARLAN SHOWERS	6/15/2011
ANATOLI SKOROKHOD	1/3/2011
ALAN SLIKER	8/22/2010
DIANNE B SMITH	3/30/2011
ROBERT A SOLO	3/24/2011
VERNON L SORENSON	5/5/2011
MARJORIE SORRELL	4/29/2011
JOSEPH SPIELBERG	11/12/2010
LOUIS C STAMATAKOS	1/25/2011
ERIC STANGENWALD	1/10/2011
CHARLES S STEELE	3/7/2011
JACK STIEBER	3/22/2011
LOIS C STORNANT	9/24/2010
EARL THREADGOULD	3/9/2011
ELIZABETH TIMAR	11/27/2010
THAD TWAROZYNSKI	5/16/2011
ROBERTA J UPRIGHT	7/10/2010
ARTHUR M VENER	1/14/2011
GAYLA WALTERS	4/26/2011
JOHN WEAVER	1/11/2011
WILBUR W WEST	7/10/2010
JOANN WESTRICK	7/31/2010
LEE WHITNEY	4/1/2011
ARTHUR WIEST	4/5/2011
MARY JANE WILSON	6/26/2011
GORDON WOOD	5/18/2011

The above list included deaths of MSU retirees and spouses between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.



Brenda and some Old Newsboys

Winter IS Coming

It is hard to believe that September is here and the kids are back in school. It seems like only yesterday they were getting out for summer vacation. And before you know it, the snow will be flying. Not good to think about but think about how lucky we are to have warm coats and boots. But, unfortunately, there are many who do not have proper footwear. With so many families having to make dollars go farther, proper footwear is not always a top priority. I am pleased that the MSURA decided several years ago to support the Old Newsboys Association. Giving a few hours of your time is all that it takes. And the pride you feel with helping is second to none. Won't you please consider giving a couple hours of your time on **Thursday, December 1, 2011**, to sell copies of the "Spoof Journal" to your friends and former colleagues? You won't be sorry. If you are interested, please call **Brenda Spackman** at 651-9101.



YOUR BEQUEST WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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(517) 884-1000

www.msu.planyourlegacy.org

www.givingto.msu.edu

A charitable bequest to Michigan State University is a thoughtful expression of your commitment to MSU and its future students. The MSU Office of Gift Planning is a valuable resource for alumni and friends to explore how they may, through their estate plans, efficiently remember and support the college, department and/or Spartan athletic, cultural or academic program of their choice.

**Remember Michigan State University
in your will or personal trust.**

MICHIGAN STATE
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University Advancement

Fall Schedule of Meetings and Tours

**Monday,
October 10, 2011 —**

Dr. Richard Merritt, MSU Entomology Professor. His subject: “Bugs and Bodies: The Role of Insects in Crime Scene Investigation.” This is a fascinating program but not for the squeamish.

**Tuesday,
November 8, 2011 —**

Bob Bao, Editor, MSU Alumni Magazine, MSU Alumni Association. Topics covered by Bob will include the new Alumni Magazine design and how he got there, some of the most interesting topics and alumni covered during his tenure as Editor, special and famous MSU alumni he has contacted (and there are so many), numerous MSU alumni travel experiences he has hosted, some of his MSU football bowl or MSU basketball NCAA playoff appearances, his experiences at MSU alumni pep rallies (i.e. in Albany, NY, with MSU hockey teams for Frozen Four appearances) and advice/challenges he offers MSU retirees.

**Wednesday,
October 26 —**

at 1:30PM Tour the New Brody Food Operation. Retirees will have opportunity to tour the new Brody food operation. Please meet in the Northeast lobby of Brody Hall to start the tour. Anybody desiring to eat before the tour can purchase tickets at the cashier’s stand at the entrance of the eating area.

**Monday,
December 12, 2011 —**

Hockey Coach Tom Anastos -- Location to be announced.

Coffee and Discussion Group for World War II?

In the last few years, I’ve been seeing more and more space in book stores devoted to books about the history of World War II. There must be some interest out there.

If you would like to join a group that meets for coffee and discussion of World War II, send an e-mail to aleblanc@msu.edu or call and leave a message at (517) 655-6454.

(Al LeBlanc)



A Life's Journey - Knitting



Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, out of control, thoroughly used up, totally worn out and loudly proclaiming that I should have spent more time knitting!

Well, I certainly know a few of those types and they believe this to the very marrow of their bones. It is believed to the extent that their fingers have been worn to a nubbin creating over 18,000 items for the needy in the Lansing area and even down to the St. Jude Hospital in Tennessee. And along the way great friendships have been formed, problems have been solved and even though some think there is a very fine line between a “hobby” and “metal illness”, we assure each other that knitting is truly just a “hobby” with us.

If there is anyone out there that would like to aid in this crazy life journey with yarn, patterns or even joining us in knitting and therefore helping the needy, just give Rosemary Pavlik a call at (517)882-2030. The knitting group meets every other Tuesday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in Room 27 of the Nisbet Building. We even have a couple of empty chairs just waiting for you. Hope to see you soon. **(Rosemary Pavlik).**

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Share a moment in your life via text, picture or video; or read and view moments about other MSU Retirees on the MSURA group Facebook page. Click on the Facebook link from the www.retirees.msu.edu home page, or Search for “MSU Retirees” from the Facebook page at www.facebook.com. Also posted on Facebook will be meeting notices and other articles of interest to MSURA members. **(Anders Johanson)** **(Editor's note: To secure our group status on Facebook, we need to have at least 25 people go to our Facebook page on their computer and click on the “Like” button at the top of the page.)**

Books to Read:

McMullen, John William. *The Last Black Robe of Indiana and the Potawatomi Trail of Death*. Casper, Wyoming: Charles River Press, 2006. – Historical Fiction

Born in Africa: The Quest for the Origins of Human Life by Martin Meredith. Comments from George A. Petrides: “It is a gripping recital of paleoarchaeological findings - discoveries of ancient man as they lead to the present day. I gave it to my son to read.”

The Help by Kathryn Stockett - Life of the black servants in 1960's Mississippi.

These books were recommended by retirees.

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What's New at the U part two

COMPUTER-MODELED PLANT GENETICS. Recent research by Michigan State University scientists has shed more light on how plants are able to cope with extreme environments. Along the way, the team is pioneering faster ways to discover what genes do what things in plants.

Through a collaboration between plant and computer scientists, MSU researchers figured out how certain genes in a plant turn on and off depending on the stress the plant is experiencing, be it cold or heat, drought or too much water, or bacterial infection.

Computers were used to model the genetics and help speed the work, a major contribution to the science of plant genetics. The team studied *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a common plant in research for more than a century. It contains more than 25,000 genes. Of those, about 3,000 to 10,000 are used to cope with extremes under just one particular stress.

"Until now, we did not know how these genes were turning on and off at a genome-wide scale," said Shin-Han Shiu, a plant biologist who was a member of the research team. "Now we have a better idea of how these work, and that will give us more opportunity to control the genes to help them cope with extremes."

The "switches" which activate or deactivate the genes are called cis-regulatory elements. By using computers, Shiu and his colleagues were able to better understand how they operate. The speed of the computers allowed the researchers to "test" combinations at lightning speed. "Suppose you have thousands and thousands of switches in front of you," Shiu said, "and you want to know which combination will create the right kind of response in the plant. Don't let humans do it. We rely on machines to find the combinations."

Other contributors to the paper were Cheng Zou, Kelian Sun, Joshua Mackaluso, and Alexander Seddon from the plant biology department; Rong Jin from computer science and engineering; and Michael Thomashow of the MSU-DOE Plant Research Laboratory. **(Stan Hecker).**

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