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SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

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2015

President's Message: A Better Tomorrow for Retirees

Inspiration for MSU retirees is one of my objectives. According to Webster's Dictionary, inspiration is "something that makes someone want to do something or that gives someone an idea about what to do or create" or "a force or influence that inspires someone."

So what can we do to give you inspiration? To report stories or relate lessons learned from other successful MSU retirees is one way. So tell us, why were you happy after retiring. If you were sad, that does not help us. What kept you busy during retirement? A long story is not necessary. Even a few words are good enough.

A bucket list helps to keep goals in mind. Are there things on your list which might interest other retirees? What are they and what is your timeline for completion?

A healthy lifestyle can help. What activities are on your schedule? Walking, swimming, and generally moving can help to maintain normal mental or bodily functions. This motto might help: Never, never, never stop moving!!

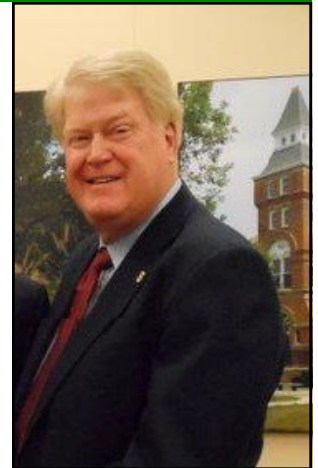
Celebrations with family, friends, and former colleagues can stimulate good feelings. Did you attend the Cotton Bowl football game this year or the Rose Bowl game last year? Did you watch on tv? Did you get any new descendants? Were there marriages in your family? And did you attend the related festivities? What buttons may we push at the MSU Retirees Association that might offer you stimulation and inspiration? Let us know, will you?

A Survey of MSU Retirees would collect feedback and determine satisfaction with the MSURA and retiree benefits provided by Michigan State University. Our last survey of MSU retirees was completed in 2009. Do we need another one? How is the MSURA doing? Are current communications tools (i.e. newsletters, eNotices, Facebook presence, MSURA website, speaker meetings, etc.) working well enough? How connected are you with Michigan State University? Is it time for another survey? Please let us know: ___ Yes ___ No Email responses to: msura@msu.edu

Rick Vogt was confirmed as Member-At-Large at the January meeting of the Board of Directors to replace Joe Cousins who resigned. Please welcome Rick. **Patricia (Trish) Horn** was selected by the Board of Directors as the List Server/ eNotices Manager to replace Gordon Williams who resigned for health reasons. Welcome aboard, Trish.

Additional volunteers are needed from MSU retirees for other open MSURA positions: Nomination Committee Chair, Interest Group Coordinator, and various committee tasks. Respond via e-mail at: msura@msu.edu or leave a message at: (517) 353-7896.

(By **L. Patrick Scheetz**, MSU Retirees Association President)



L. Patrick Scheetz

MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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(Some phone numbers were unavailable to us at the time of printing.)

No Change to University Retiree Access to MSU Sports and Recreation Facilities

The university recently announced a change in access policy to MSU sports and recreation facilities in which alumni will be charged for use of these facilities. **Rick McNeil**, director of recreational sports and fitness told reporters in December that the charge was necessary in order to maintain and upgrade facilities which were designed to serve a much smaller population. McNeil met with the MSU Retirees Association Board in the same month and assured us that there will be no change to university retiree access to these facilities. University retirees will not be charged to use these facilities.

No Additional Changes Coming This Year to MSU Retiree Health Benefits

Sharon Butler, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, and **Reneè Rivard**, Director of Benefits for MSU Human Resources, met this month with **Angela Brown**, Vice President/President Elect, of the MSU Retirees Association, and **L. Patrick Scheetz**, current President. No additional changes are anticipated this year in health benefits for MSU retirees. Changes in HR operations at MSU were explained to us, and Angela and Patrick explained plans by the MSURA to host the Big Ten Retirees Association Conference on Aug. 14 – 16, 2015. This Conference of leaders from all Big Ten retiree associations is only hosted at MSU once every 12 years.

A Thought to Ponder

A Thought to Ponder for 2015. What is in my hand? Is it a lot? Is it a little? Is it being gripped tightly for my personal enjoyment and benefit? Is it being held loosely so it can be easily shared with others?

In 2015, let each of us ponder those individuals and organizations that are important to us and need our support financially, need our time and need our talents.

Is the MSU Retirees Association (MSURA) on your list? In 2014, I added the MSURA to my bucket. Please consider your involvement through your finances, time and talent. We need all three.

—**Chuck Webb**, MSURA Director of Development

***People do not stop doing things because they get older;
They get older because they stop doing things.***

A Great Book about the John Hannah Years at MSU

As part of its 1955 centennial celebration MSU asked Madison Kuhn, Professor of History, to write an account of its first fifty years. This comprehensive and quite readable book has remained the indispensable authority and I've consulted it often in writing these articles. For the 2005 sesquicentennial Michigan State University Press embarked on a more ambitious scheme: three volumes to cover the history of MAC, MSC and MSU from its mid-nineteenth century beginning through 2005. The first volume, The Evolution of a Land-Grant Philosophy by Keith Widder, covers 1855 to 1925. The second, and the focus of this article, is **David Thomas's John Hannah and the Creation of a World University**. The concluding volume by Douglas Noverr, The Rise of a Research University and the New Millennium, 1970 -2005 is to be released in September of this year. So all MSU history, like Gaul, is divided into three parts: before Hannah, Hannah, and after Hannah. Seems about right.

I came to MSU in 1963, near the end of John Hannah's presidency so I enjoyed reading about earlier years and learned much about events beyond my own department and college. This, however, is a special kind of book - part narrative, part reference work, with a dash of public relations. (It also weighs five pounds and costs eight dollars a pound.) Thomas has organized his subject chronologically with thematic chapters on successive periods. In this way he gives a sense of unity to MSU's version of the sprawling, fragmented twentieth-century phenomenon that Hannah's contemporary, Berkeley Chancellor Clark Kerr, called the "Multiversity," in Kerr's view a "series of individual faculty entrepreneurs held together by a common grievance over parking."

Thomas has also made things easy for readers who may want to know more about some event or person and less about others. Each chapter is divided into smaller subtopics with bold-face titles: "**Mobil Homes,**" "**Curriculum and Controversy,**" "**Enter Biggie,**" "**Faculty Members and Academic Freedom,**" and so forth. A forty-page index makes it easy to find people, places or events and source lists for each chapter supplement the standard bibliography. Here are just a few of the things I picked up in my reading:

In 1922 John Hannah was a Law student at the University of Michigan when MAC recruited him to be a poultry extension specialist; he was then twenty years old, unmarried, with a handsome \$2500 salary. His interest in college athletics, especially football dates from that time. He often provided food and lodging to players, went to practices, and recruited for the team on his travels throughout the state. It may be hard to imagine John Hannah as a youth but he certainly was already a go-getter and a football fan.

Shortly after WWII the North Central Association found that credentials of MSC's faculty were barely adequate for a college offering advanced degrees. Lacking funds to hire established faculty from other institutions, Hannah decided to recruit "bright young people" from around the nation. These became the distinguished senior faculty I met on my arrival in 1963: Wilbur Brookover, John F. A. Taylor, Ralph Turner, Jim Niblock, Walter Adams and others. Adams, who described himself at that time as a "typical Eastern snob," read about Biggie Munn leaving Syracuse for MSC and said to wife Pauline, "What the hell? Let's give it a try." It was a fortuitous snap judgment.

The artist whose heroic Thomas Hart Benton-like murals dominate the Auditorium entrance was Charles Pollock, elder brother of that ultimate abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock. Fredrick Law Olmstead, "Father of American Landscape Architecture" and designer of New York's Central Park, Chicago's Midway and the Biltmore Estate, proposed to reconfigure MSC's campus as a series of quadrangles like those in - you guessed it - Ann Arbor; his plan was soundly rejected by students, faculty and Trustees.

A study by MSU Ornithologist George Wallace about the effect of Dutch Elm disease spraying on bird populations in East Lansing was a key piece of evidence in Rachel Carson's Silent Spring. (Continued page 7)

What's New at MSU, Winter 2015

By Stan Hecker



EBOLA and GEOGRAPHY

An assistant director of MSU's African Studies Center provided a perspective on the geography of the Ebola pandemic in an open letter to journalists and politicians. The points are good reminders for all citizens. "We call for empathy with and support for the people of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and we urge the international community to provide immediate and large-scale assistance," wrote Ann Biersteker, an assistant director at the MSU Center for African Studies.

Then, to the heart of the matter:

- "Many media and political personalities refer to Africa as though it is one country instead of the second largest continent in the world—covering an area over three times that of the United States and containing more than fifty countries."
- "The three West African countries where Ebola has been a problem are among the smallest countries in West Africa, accounting for less than five percent of the area in West Africa and seven percent of the population."
- "Despite infrastructure and health care system problems, 99.5 percent of the people in these three countries have not contracted Ebola."
- "In terms of location, these countries are closer to Western Europe than to Eastern and Southern Africa. They also have more functional and direct travel, trade, and financial connections to Europe and North America than to the rest of Africa."

A dozen of Biersteker's peers in the northwestern US (an area bound by Boston, Minneapolis, and Washington DC) signed the open letter, seeking balance and perspective in the political and journalistic discussions of the disease, and especially a reduction of the hysteria which seems to accompany whatever health crisis is in the news.

Seems like good advice.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND STUDIES

According to a recent report of 2013-14 data, MSU ranks ninth in the country in international-student enrollment, and fifth in study-abroad participation, leading Michigan in both categories. MSU had 7,704 international students enrolled during the 2013-14 academic year – a 14 percent increase from the previous year. At the same time, 2,514 students studied abroad in 2012-13, landing MSU the No. 5 spot nationally for study abroad participation. The Institute of International Education (IIE), under contract to a U.S. Department of State agency, publishes an annual *Open Door* data-set about international education. The 2013-14 data were released in mid-November. China, Korea and India are the top three countries of origin for MSU international students.

"There is incredible value in the kind of international education that comes outside the classroom," said Steven Hanson, associate provost and dean of international studies and programs. "Engaging with international students on campus and cultural immersion experiences through study abroad shapes our students' global perspective, leading to success far beyond graduation."

(continued on page 6)




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REMEMBER
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 **SPARTANS WILL.**

(What's New at MSU, continued)

Michigan State has one of the largest catalogs of international learning opportunities, offering more than 275 study abroad programs in more than 60 countries on all continents. The experiences range from short cultural exposures in Western Europe to intense and rigorous research and service projects throughout the world, at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Earlier this year, MSU committed to a national effort to increase study abroad participation through Generation Study Abroad to expand participation, especially to high-need, first-generation and minority students, and to double endowments for study-abroad scholarships. Meeting these goals will result in a more diverse student body going abroad and a greater variety of experiences in which they participate, said Brett Berquist, executive director of MSU's Office of Study Abroad.

"Students who study abroad take less time to graduate and have higher retention rates," Berquist said. "According to our own Collegiate Employment Research Institute at MSU, study abroad can help students accelerate the development of skills employers are looking for and help position our graduates for a successful career."

GAMMA RAY BIRTHPLACE

Gamma rays are the highest-energy form of radioactive waves known in the universe. Where they come from has been a bit of a mystery. MSU astronomer Laura Chomiuk and her colleagues have made a discovery that may shed some light on the subject. Using radio telescope images, Chomiuk and her team have pinpointed the location where an explosion on the surface of a star—a nova—emitted gamma rays. "We not only found where the gamma rays came from," Chomiuk said, "but also got a look at a previously unseen scenario that may be common in other nova explosions."

The research is detailed in the October issue of *Nature*. A nova occurs in a star that is part of a binary system—two stars orbiting one another. One star, known as a dense white dwarf, steals matter from the other and the interaction triggers a thermonuclear explosion that flings debris into space. It was from this explosion from a system known as V959 Mon, located some 5,000 light years from Earth, that the researchers think the gamma rays were emitted.

This activity was first detected two years ago by NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope. Also about that same time similar activity was being picked up by land-based radio telescopes around the world. Since that initial detection by Fermi, which occurred in 2012, the spacecraft has detected gamma rays from three additional nova explosions in other star systems.

"This mechanism may be common to such systems," said Chomiuk. "The reason the gamma rays were first seen in V959 Mon is because it's closer to us." Because the type of ejection detected in V959 Mon also is seen in other binary star systems, the new insights might help astronomers understand how those systems develop. "We may be able to use novae as a 'testbed' for improving our understanding of this critical stage of binary evolution," Chomiuk said.

Naturally-occurring gamma rays are absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere. The absorption complicates observation, but protects life on earth; gamma rays can be dangerous and are capable of killing living cells. Along with X-rays and other forms of high-energy radiation, gamma rays are used to treat cancer.

Regular scheduled meetings of MSURA:

February 7: **Ann Harrison** on War of 1812

March 9: **Gary Hoppenstand** on World War II on the Screen

April 13: **Steve Terry** on MSU Postcards

All meetings in Community Room of MSU Federal Credit Union at Mt. Hope and Farm Lane. Refreshments at 1:30, program at 2:00.

April Presenter to Illustrate MAC Campus Life in Postcards, 1900—1925

Author **Steve Terry** will discuss his recent book that illustrates campus life at Michigan Agricultural College from 1900 to 1925 through the use of postcards. In addition to the postcard views, Terry's book includes a selection of handwritten messages penned by the senders of the postcards. There are images of buildings that no longer exist, and a section on the 1907 semi-centennial, which brought a crowd of 20,000 to campus for a speech by then President Theodore Roosevelt. The book is priced at \$ 19.95 and copies will be available for purchase. Terry worked at MSU for 32 years and served as chief financial officer of the university before his retirement in 1992. The presentation is set for 2:00 PM on Monday, April 13 in the Community Room of MSU Federal Credit Union at Mt. Hope and Farm Lane.

...Book about Hannah Years, continued

In 1940, after Democratic and Republican candidates had given campaign speeches Norman Thomas appeared on behalf of the Socialist Party. President Hannah explained that students would be better informed about the election after having heard from "the three major Parties." Such inclusiveness was not repeated until the 1992 Clinton-Bush-Perot debate in Wharton Center.

I expect many who browse David Thomas's book will agree as I do, with MSU Historian David Bailey's observation about the first volume in the series: "Popping out of every page of this story are more stories to be told." I know a geologist who had a gig playing banjo on a Pacific liner before WWII and stayed on to cruise Japan's Inland Sea, playing in a swing band as the ship passed back and forth just south of Hiroshima. Then there is the chairperson who opposed the Vietnam War but tried to persuade faculty that their department didn't need a foreign policy. So if readers of this column have stories and anecdotes about memorable people and events they'd like to share I'd be happy to include some in the next "International Issue" of the Newsletter.

—**Milt Powell** <mbp434@comcast.net>



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We Hear from Retirees

Send your news to MSURA President L. Patrick Scheetz at Scheetz@msu.edu or leave a message at (517) 353-7896.

Today I am in California but we return to Okemos in about a month. I have now been retired for 16 years but I still have an office and come to MSU several times in a week I try to listen to whoever would like to tell about his research. I still have an active research effort, including participating in a Spartan Innovation company. I have enjoyed interacting with the young faculty members of about 50 years or so of age. It is not the best for faculty members, who might retire at the top of their game, to no longer contribute.

—James Beck

The book I mentioned is *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold in the 1936 Berlin Olympics*, by Daniel James Brown. This is one of the best sports books I ever read.

—Tony Bauer

I just saw the movie “Unbroken” chronicling the life of WWII survivor Louis Zamperini. Very moving, I certainly recommend it. — Joe Cousins

Today at the meeting of the MSU Retirees Association genealogy interest group, Vern Seefeldt shared a copy of his latest book with me. In my opinion, I think it might interest some of our MSU retirees. See reference below: —Pat Scheetz

Lost in the Canadian Wilderness: What Happened to Louie Harris
By Vern Seefeldt, available at Amazon.com

“Frustrated by the unwillingness of local authorities to accept Louie’s disappearance as an involuntary act, Barney tried numerous times during the ensuing years to locate his missing partner, but Louie Harris was never seen or heard from again. Barney Seefeldt died on December 14, 1973, in Grover Township, northeastern Wisconsin, without ever again visiting the site of his Canadian homestead.”

Popular Presenter Returns to Chronicle Film Industry’s Contribution to World War II

MSU English professor **Gary Hoppenstand**, who made a well-received presentation in March 2014, will return on March 9, 2015 to make a presentation on the American film industry’s contribution to World War II. He sent us the following summary:

“Our popular culture has been described as a mirror and a lens. The mirror reflects our beliefs and assumptions, while the lens influences the way we perceive the world. Such a metaphor describes the relationship between the Hollywood film industry and World War II. The one “secret weapon” that the U.S. had in its fight with the Axis powers was Hollywood and the film industry’s ability to unite people in a noble cause against terror, genocide, and fascism. This presentation will discuss how Hollywood filmmaking influenced and reflected American involvement in World War II, ranging from director William Wyler’s poignant film *Mrs. Miniver* (1942) to director Steven Spielberg’s powerful motion picture *Saving Private Ryan* (1998).”

Hoppenstand is the author of eighteen books and more than fifty scholarly articles.

How to Safely Dispose of Unused Medications

The MSU Healthcare Team Pharmacies collaborate with the Capital Area Take Back Meds program to collect unwanted medications. This allows you to have a safe and convenient way to dispose of your medications that are no longer being used. The program helps prevent unused medications from being abused or used in overdoses and from entering our environment and water systems. The medications collected are incinerated, which is the safest method of destruction.

Medications that are accepted by the program include non-controlled prescription, over-the-counter, and pet medications. Non-controlled medications are those that treat common conditions like infections, high blood pressure, and diabetes. In order for a medication to qualify, it has to be in its original container or package with all of your personal identifying information blocked out. The name of the medication has to be visible. If all of these qualifications have been met, you can bring the medication to either the Clinical Center Pharmacy or Olin Pharmacy. When you arrive, bring the medications to the pharmacy counter. A pharmacist will review the medications with you and then accept those that meet all the qualifications.

Currently, controlled substances, like narcotics, stimulants, and sleep-aids, are not legally allowed by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency to be taken back with this program. Instead, you can take them to a “no questions asked” drop-box at any law enforcement agency in Ingham County. Sharps, such as needles, syringes, lancets, and EpiPens®, are not accepted either. These should be collected and stored in rigid, sealed containers, like coffee cans, to prevent injury and infections. You can take them to the Ingham County Health Department or Granger Recycling Center for disposal. For more information on the Capital Area Take Back Meds program, you can visit www.takebackmeds.org or call the pharmacists at the Clinical Center Pharmacy at (517) 353-4930 or Olin Pharmacy at (517) 353-9165.

—Amber Koenigsnecht, Pharm.D. Candidate 2015, Ferris State University



Editor's Note: We are fortunate to have an article contributed by the retired Editor of the MSU Alumni Magazine in this issue. When taken together with Milt Powell's review of the book about the John Hannah years, this article points out some of the amazing sophistication and versatility of MSU's faculty and students over the years. Imagine having a football line coach who was also a good enough musician to compose a fine alma mater. I especially enjoyed the comments in this article from my former colleague John Madden, Director of the Spartan Marching Band, who was also one of my students back in the day. —Al LeBlanc

Smash Right Through the Myths

Summer 2013, by Robert Bao

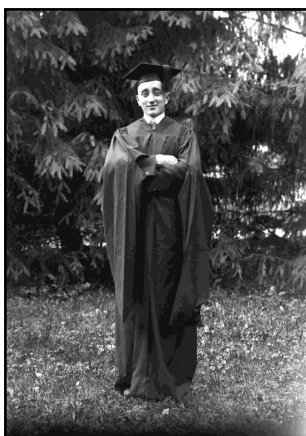
Does hearing the *MSU Fight Song* send chills down your spine? How about *MSU Shadows*?

Yes, me too.

Over the decades, some urban legends have arisen regarding their origin and it might be an opportune time to debunk them. Thanks to John Madden, director of the Spartan Marching Band, and MSU archivists, we can smash right through some of these myths.



Robert Bao



Francis Irving Lankey
(*University Archives & Historical Collections*)

The MSU Fight Song is credited to Michigan Agricultural College engineering students Francis Irving Lankey, '16, and his roommate Arthur L. Sayles, '15. Sometime between 1914 and 1916, Lankey, an avid pianist, composed the music and Sayles wrote most of the words. Lankey was MAC's "Yellmaster," or head cheerleader. In 1919 Lankey's girl friend, Claudice Mary Kober, had the song copyrighted and MAC adopted it as its official fight song.

Lankey and Sayles were inspired to write the song after MAC's back to back upsets of Big Ten football powerhouses Michigan and Wisconsin in 1913. By the way, after beating Michigan, the MAC marching band played on for hours in Ann Arbor. Since MAC did not have a fight song, what do you suppose they played? The answer is *Hail to the Victors*.

One myth is that the MSU Fight Song was lifted from an old hymn, *Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus* (words by George Duffield & music by Adam Geibel). This theory was advanced by former MSU chemistry professor William McHarris, who supplied the score from a 1938 *Cokesbury Worship Hymnal*.

"The accompaniment of the hymn tune reveals some chromatic usage similar to the melody of our tune," notes Madden, who has closely inspected the score. "But, there is no way that our fight song is related to this tune."



Moffit (left) and Falcone (1960s)
(University Archives & Historical Collections)

It's important to mention that what we know as the *MSU Fight Song* bears a far greater imprint from Leonard Falcone (right), who arranged the current marching band and concert band renditions, and to his assistant Bill Moffit (left), who arranged a shorter, more fanfare like version that starts with the march's break strain. Moffit called this arrangement *Pre-Game Fight*.

"Lankey composed melody and chords," explains Madden. "What we are familiar with today are really the more complex arrangements by Falcone and Moffit."

In 1919, the melody and chords that Lankey jotted down caught the fancy of J.S. Taylor, then director of the MAC Military Band. He loved the song and orchestrated it for the band. In the fall of 1920, Taylor played his arrangement of the fight song at all home football games.



World War I memorial plaque.

Photo by Robert Bao

For the record, Lankey never lived to enjoy his composition. He enlisted in the military and died in a plane crash on May 1, 1919. There is a plaque (photo left) on a rock by Spartan Stadium honoring Lankey and fellow MAC students who died while serving their country during World War I.

According to MSU archivists, Kober sold out all the sheet music in less than a year. "Supposedly football players helped sell out the sheet music," says Madden. "This is a story I enjoyed telling during Band Day." By the way, Kober donated the rights to song and future proceeds to the Union Memorial Building Fund.

Some of the fight song's original words have been modernized. For example, after 1925 "Aggie teams are never beaten" became "Spartan teams are never beaten." After university status was achieved in 1955 "Smash right through that line of blue" was replaced by "Go right thru for MSU." Also, "its specialty is farming" has been replaced by "its specialty is winning."

Years ago, when I worked closely with the MSU hockey team, the icers would sing, "And those Spartans play good *hockey* (instead of *ball*)." It would not surprise me if other varsity teams might make similar substitutions.

MSU Shadows is of more recent vintage—adopted officially as our alma mater in 1949—but its history is also clouded by some myths.

The song was composed in 1927 by Bernard Traynor, who was Michigan State College's football line coach from 1925-27. He also served as coach of MSC's freshman basketball team. Traynor went on to become an attorney in Chicago. He composed the melody and wrote the words, but once again, Falcone did the song's arrangement as played by today's Spartan Marching Band.

One controversy comes from a claim that is repeated by many websites that the music was borrowed from composer Gaetano Donizetti's opera *Lucia di Lammermoor*—more specifically, the opera's Sextet.

Here again, Madden demurs.

“This is supposed to be *Shadows*?” says Madden after listening to several renditions of the Sextet. “No way. Maybe two measures, that’s it. You might say the ending phrase is reminiscent of the end of *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*, for just a few beats, but no one would say it was borrowed from it.”

In the 1950s a slew of correspondence arose between MSU and music companies dealing with copyright issues involving the song. With MSU’s emergence as a football power and its appearances in Rose Bowls, MSU songs would gain national exposure, so the copyright issues emerged. All kinds of claims and counterclaims were thrown around—including a dubious claim from out of the blue that a Lucille Morris was co-composer of the song. Through it all, what emerges is Traynor’s insistence that he alone wrote both the music and the lyrics of *Shadows*.

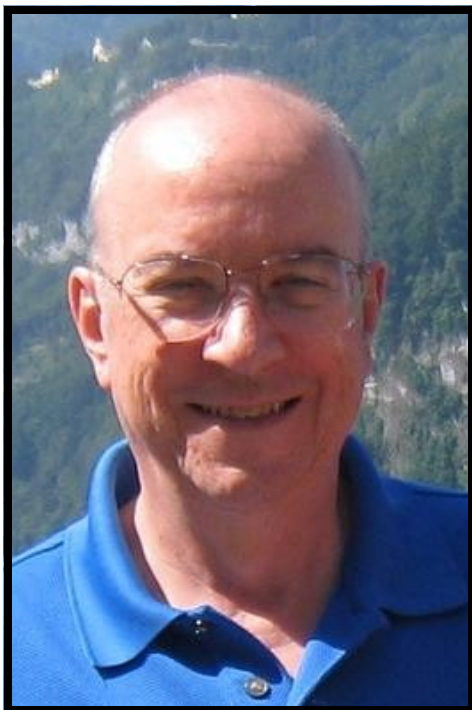
“As far as I can tell, Lucille Morris is the figment of someone’s imagination,” says Madden.

Before *MSU Shadows* became our official alma mater, MAC had adopted *Close Beside the Winding Cedar* in 1907. The music was taken from *Far Above Cayuga’s Waters*, Cornell’s alma mater (since 1870). Wikipedia reports that Cornell used the tune of “Annie Lisle,” a popular 1857 ballad by H. S. Thompson that was also used by many other schools.

MSU students yearned for something original and many of them loved Traynor’s song. In March 1949, the MSC faculty, State Board of Agriculture and Student Council ratified *Shadows* as the official alma mater after a student vote. MSU archivists report that *Shadows* won with 6,087 votes, edging *Close Beside the Winding Cedar*, which finished second with 2,070.

Shadows continues to be our alma mater today. As with the fight song, some words have been changed over the years, and I suspect they will continue to evolve with time.

As for me, I wish we could go back in time and revive the original “smash right through” imagery.



Editor’s Note: It is with sadness that we must report the very recent passing of our friend and colleague Gordon Williams. Gordon served as Editor of the MSU Retirees Association e-Notices service for five years. He also served on the association’s board and on the communications committee, where his insight consistently led us to better decisions. He was a recipient of the retirees association’s Volunteer of the Year award, and designed and taught a very popular sequence of free courses for retirees on use of tablet computers and the internet. He retired from MSU in 2006 after 35 years of service in the university Counseling Center. We will miss him.
—Al LeBlanc

Resources for Defending Against E-mail Scams, Spam, and Inbox Junk

Editor's Note: A barrage of suspicious e-mail that arrived this Fall prompted me to pen the following plea for help from our resident MSURA technocrats. —Al LeBlanc

To the MSURA Communication and Tech Squad:

Dear Editors and Techies:

In the last month I have gotten four or five suspicious e-mails directed toward me as a person with an MSU e-mail address. The first one urged me to click on a link for a new improved version of MSU Mail software. The next four have urged me to click on a link to subscribe to the MSU Sustainability newsletter. I know the general precautions about e-mail phishing, but it would help if I could go to a website to confirm that an e-mail message is not from the real MSU. Would it be feasible for the MSURA Facebook page to carry warnings about specific phishing campaigns? I realize that the MSU computer lab may already have such a bulletin board running, and I have just not yet found it. If so, I would like to publicize such a bulletin board in the newsletter. I realize that it simply may not be practical to warn people about specific phishing campaigns because there are so many of them. What think you about all this?

--Al

This led to some great suggestions from my friend Gordon Williams:

To forward email for examination or to provide further information regarding spam, possible virus propagation, or email/network abuse, send it either to postmaster@msu.edu or to abuse@msu.edu. Those addresses are configured to receive virtually any email that may be sent, provided *other recipients are not included*. Therefore, when you send email to either address, please be sure that postmaster@msu.edu OR abuse@msu.edu (as appropriate) is the **sole recipient** in the headers. Including any other address whatsoever in the To, CC, or BCC field may result in the message being rejected.

Gordon sent links to several extended articles, including the following:

<http://techbase.msu.edu/article.asp?id=6633&service=techbase>

<http://techbase.msu.edu/article.asp?id=974>

<http://techbase.msu.edu/article.asp?id=2045>

Good luck in defending yourself. There is a lot of bad stuff out there!

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Florida Retirees Set March Luncheon

The Florida arm of MSURA has scheduled its annual luncheon for Monday, March 2 at the Bradenton Country Club. Speakers from MSU will include Fred Poston, Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Sharon Butler, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, and Renee Rivard, Director of Benefits. Announcements are being mailed to retirees for whom we have Florida addresses and will be posted on our web site. Contact: hestenes@msu.edu or call 941-918-8150.

Fred Graham, former President and newsletter Editor of the MSU Retirees Association, and former Professor of Religious Studies at Michigan State University models his new Sermonator t shirt, received as a gift.

Update on Old Newsboys Fund Raiser

At the Old Newsboys sale it was cold, as usual, but at least it wasn't snowing and there wasn't any ice with which to deal. We volunteers were very happy with that. Some of the MSURA volunteers were a little disappointed that they didn't have as much in contributions as in prior years but others felt that they had collected more. Whatever, the \$2,600 that was collected mostly on campus will go to needy children within a 25 mile radius of the city of Lansing. The Old Newsboys organization met its goal of \$ 160,000.00, but received 7,081 requests for help this year, almost 1,000 more requests than last year. Among the volunteers who came out that morning to help on the campus and to whom I say THANK YOU are Rudy Abood, David Brower, Kay Butcher, Nancy Craig, Jim Detjen, Fred Graham, Jim and Carolyn Graves, Vernon Johnson, Rosemary Pavlik, Bruce Smith, Joan and Ron Smith, Sara Stid, Cassandra Trawitz, and Bob and Darlene Wenner. Once again, I thank them very much for helping with this very worthwhile cause.

—Brenda Spackman, Old Newsboys Coordinator



Above: MSURA members visit before President Simon's presentation. Photo by Etta Abraham.



Left: Stephanie Barch, former Production Assistant for the Spartan Senior newsletter, is greeted by Sparty at the MSU Retiree Association May luncheon.



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Make check payable to **MSU Retirees Association**. Mail to: Dave Brower, MSURA Treasurer, Suite 22 Nisbet Bldg., MSU, 1407 S. Harrison Ave., East Lansing, MI 48823-5239.

HOW TO MAKE GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Your association is financially stable because many individuals have chosen to make charitable contributions to the association. These donations are used to pay for the programs and services budgeted by your board of directors. Most expenses incurred by the association are for communication to MSU retirees and their spouses through the newsletter, the website and special bulletins when it is urgent to forward information. Newsletter subscriptions are the other source of income to the association.

Make your charitable contributions to a University Development account as described below. ***This is the only way your gifts can be tax deductible.*** Your gifts also will count toward university donor recognition clubs and societies. You may also make gifts to this account in tribute to deceased or living loved ones or former colleagues.

To make a donation by mail, make your check payable to MSU—Retirees Association, AB272, enclose your name and full address, and mail to: University Advancement, 535 Chestnut Road, Room 300 , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

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