MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

February – March 2022

MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

Feb. meeting to feature newly retired W.J. Beal Botanical Garden director

Dr. Frank W. Telewski will focus his talk on addressing the question of seed viability and share insight on an experiment started by W.J. Beal — an experiment considered to be “the longest continuously monitored experiment in the world.”

Telewski retired in October from his position as the director of the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden and Campus Arboretum and professor in President of MSU’s Community Volunteers for Int’l Programs shares insights at March meeting

Raj M. Wiener, J.D., is the current president of the Community Volunteers for International Programs at MSU. This organization connects area residents with students from around the world who are choosing to study at MSU.

Her talk will focus on how CVIP promotes “mutual cross-cultural understanding and goodwill between international students, visiting scholars, and their families, and the greater Lansing community.”

Wiener is a graduate of the Columbus Law School. In

Please see FEBRUARY MEETING on page 3

MSU Human Resources wants you to know how the Humana vendor partners should work with you

MSU has partnered with Humana to meet your health care needs. The plans center around your physical, emotional, and social health. Humana is focused on supporting your total health and health goals.

Humana performs all core services included in your plan, and they partner with other vendors to perform and offer specialized programs and administrative services. For example, reaching out to eligible members to offer in-home wellness assessments.

When a vendor calls you to offer services, they will verify your name, Humana identification number and address. Humana will never contact you unsolicited and ask for this information. If the information they provided is incorrect, ask for the caller’s name, organization and call-back number and attempt to return the call before continuing the conversation. Scammers will likely abandon the call when you ask for this information.

Don’t rely on caller ID or the incoming phone number listed to authenticate a caller’s identity. Scammers can use “spoofing,” which causes a fake phone number to appear. This allows scammers to make it look like they’re calling from a legitimate business in an effort to steal your personal, financial or health information.

When you have questions about whether or not a company that has called you is a Humana partner, please call Humana at 1 (800) 273-2509 (TTY: 711) Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Eastern time.

If you have a situation that Humana was unable to resolve, you may contact MSU Human Resources by email at Solution-Center@msu.edu or by calling (517)353-4434.

Please see MARCH MEETING on page 3

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting speaker announced

MSURA is happy to announce that Allan Haller will be the speaker at the Annual Meeting, which will be held on May 2. Still in his first year as MSU athletic director, Haller will share insight on what this time has been like for him and what he hopes for the future. Stay tuned for more details.

Allan Haller

Please see MARCH MEETING on page 3
WELCOME NEW RETIREES!

Are you a new retiree? Welcome to the MSU Retirees Association! We publish this newsletter seven times a year to keep you informed about membership meetings, campus issues surrounding retirees and more. You’ll also receive two eNotices a month. Please get involved by coming to a membership meeting, hosted via Zoom until further notice. They are normally held the second Monday of every month, September to April. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please email msura@msu.edu.
FEBRUARY MEETING, continued from p. 1

Plant Biology. He arrived on campus in January 1993 and has guided the garden program from a small office of three employees to its own academic unit.

Prior to his arrival at MSU, Telewski was the Director of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens in Buffalo, N.Y. from 1990 to 1993 and before that an assistant professor at the University of Arizona. He earned his Ph.D. from Wake Forest University in 1983 and earned his M.S. from Ohio University in 1980.

Telewski is known internationally for his research on tree responses to wind and mechanical loads, tree biomechanics and dendrochronology — the science of dating events, environmental change, and archaeological artifacts by using the characteristic patterns of annual growth rings in timber and tree trunks — in addition to his administration of botanic gardens.

MARCH MEETING, continued from p. 1

1996 she founded Wiener Associates, PLC, a law firm specializing in health care, environmental, and human services law, lobbying and policy.

Before that, she worked for both state and federal government, including serving as the director of the Michigan Department of Public Health and for Michigan Congressman Robert Traxler.

She was the deputy director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation, overseeing health professional and occupational licensure.

She holds a B.S. in biology from Saginaw Valley State University and an M.A. in sport administration from Central Michigan University.

Now retired, she continues to serve on numerous boards, including Saginaw Valley State University’s Board of Control and its Foundation Board and Sparrow Health System’s Community Care Board and Advisory Board.

She also sits on the advisory board of the Wharton Center for Performing Arts.

Senior Executive Chef to headline April meeting

Kurt Kwiatkowski is the Senior Executive Chef of the award-winning Culinary Services Residential Dining in the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services at Michigan State University (MSU). As the Senior Executive Chef, he sets the standards for all menus in MSU’s residential dining halls, monitors and upholds food standards, runs the research and development of new menu items and recipe development, and develops culinary training for all full time and management staff.

Chef Kurt is responsible for the culinary vision, systems and strategy for almost 40,000 meals per day. He cites solid culinary fundamentals and local/state partnerships as one of the keys to MSU’s success.

Chef Kwiatkowski sees the importance of fundamentals and technique in cooking. He has worked in kitchens for more than 35 years, including chains such as Paragon Restaurant Group, Morrison’s Restaurant Group and the Ritz-Carlton.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in Food Systems Management and Economics and a master’s degree from The School of Hospitality Business, both from MSU. He was also a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America CEIP program.

Please see APRIL MEETING on page 6
Finding it hard to keep those resolutions? Here are some tips

Change is not easy. Here are some ideas that could improve your chances of being successful this year.

Is Your Reward Big Enough? Change is hard, but the right reward will make it less hard. What is your reward? Write it down and place it somewhere you can see it frequently. Put it on your bathroom mirror or on the refrigerator.

Do Not Give Up! Keep track of your daily successes toward your goal and reflect on these from time to time. Humans are optimists, and sometimes we are too optimistic of how fast we can make changes. Keep it real! Take the long term view. It is more important to keep working towards the goal, then to give up. Adjust your plans as you need to, but keep making progress. Plan for vacations. How are you going to keep making progress when you are on vacation? Change in routine is an obstacle. Prepare how you are going to manage these times.

Improve Your Time Management Lack of time is a key obstacle to achieving our resolutions. We cannot add more hours to our day or week. However we can organize the essential activities so that we have time left to do other fun things and work on achieving our resolutions. Organize your week the way that works best for you. It is easy to let others determine dates and times, but it won’t leave you much time to do what you want to do.

Enlist a Buddy Sometimes it helps to connect with someone else who is working on a goal. Chat every few days to see how it’s going and encourage each other along the way.

Best Wishes Successfully achieving your New Year’s resolutions will take time and consistent dedication to your plan. After you have achieved your resolution, create a plan to maintain what you worked so hard to achieve. Best wishes to you in achieving your new years resolution.
MSU Volunteer of the Year Award nominations being accepted

The annual meeting this year will be held on Monday, May 2. Details of the Annual Meeting will appear in the next newsletter and E-Notices. As part of that meeting we will again recognize an outstanding Volunteer of the Year. Nominations are due by April 4, 2022. Please send an email with your nomination to Jacqie Babcock, jbabcock@msu.edu, using the criteria below.

Award Criteria:

The Michigan State University Retirees Association Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes an individual or individuals who have made significant contributions to the goals and activities supported by MSURA. This award acknowledges exceptional volunteer service to MSURA by an MSU retiree.

The nomination letter should include specific instances of outstanding voluntary contributions to MSURA. Other work toward enhancing the overall quality of university life for students, faculty, staff, alumni, retirees, or other members of the MSU community and contributions to a positive collegial spirit will also be taken into consideration.

A list of previous winners appears on the MSURA webpage at https://retirees.msu.edu/awards.html.

Faculty Emeriti Association Corner

The previous Faculty Emeriti Association Corner highlighted results from the recently conducted survey of retired faculty focusing on ways in which faculty have remained involved with MSU. This article summarizes survey results that relate to the role of the Faculty Emeriti Association (FEA) in supporting retired faculty.

Of the various activities offered by FEA, more than half of the respondents have not participated in any of the activities. Of those who have, the lecture series is by far the most common. Seventeen percent indicated that they were not aware of the programs offered. Other common reasons for not participating included living out of the area, COVID concerns, inconvenient locations and scheduling conflicts.

When asked what activities they would like to see offered by FEA, the lecture series was given the highest priority. Other highly ranked suggestions were having a FEA newsletter, forming interest groups and establishing an online directory. There was little support for social activities. This FEA Corner in the MSU Retirees Association Newsletter was viewed by the Steering Committee of the FEA as an alternative to a separate newsletter. There are issues on how and if to implement an online directory, issues that are still in the evaluation phase.

The next FEA Corner will present survey results related to major concerns identified by retired faculty.

In Memoriam

The Spartan Senior Newsletter prints in each issue of the newsletter the names of MSU retirees who have recently died. In publishing this notice to mark their passing, we honor them for their contributions to improve MSU and the Greater Lansing community.

John Boyko 12/24/21
Lavonda Cleeves 12/1/21
Lawrence Copeland 12/31/21
John Funkhouser 12/18/21
Mary Ann Korrey 12/27/21
Hans E. Lee 11/20/21
Robert Mareck 12/22/21
Robert McKinley 12/23/21
Dugald McMillan 12/13/21
Nina Lee McMillan 12/30/21
Michael Rathke 11/25/21
Mary Scott 12/21/21
Stephen R. Stewart 12/6/21
Mary Ann S. Tyrrell 12/6/21
Robert J. Van Klompenberg 11/30/21
Ladonna Weidner 12/1/21
Christine Williams 11/26/21
Sandra Kay Willis 12/17/21
David Winter 11/5/21

Please support our sponsors. They do a lot to help us defray the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter and other MSURA activities.

http://retirees.msu.edu
The board of the Michigan State University Retirees Association announced the start of a three-year fund drive to support scholarships for students in April. This effort will extend from April 2021 to April 2024. With support from MSU retirees and friends, our goal is to raise $60,000 to increase our current scholarship endowment. $60,000 is the amount we need to permanently secure another MSURA scholarship on an annual basis. These scholarships are reserved specifically for the children or grandchildren of MSU retirees or current MSU employees.

How to win the Big Ten Quilt

All persons who contribute $25 or more to the Scholarship Endowment between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022, will be entered into a drawing for a door prize of a beautiful Big Ten quilt in the photo below made by Janet Munn.

Any Spartan fan, or even fans of other Big Ten teams, would love to own this beautiful keepsake. We encourage you to donate to the Scholarship Endowment before March 31, 2022, to be certain you are eligible to win this handsome prize. You may donate to the MSURA Scholarship Endowment in one of two ways. Please see the box on this page.

No matter how the drawing turns out, you will be a winner, because you are helping to fund the education of a deserving MSU student. Thank you for your support.

Go Green!
—Roger Baldwin, Past President, MSU Retirees Association

These scholarships are reserved specifically for the children or grandchildren of MSU retirees or current MSU employees.

How to Donate to the MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship

If you’re interested in giving to the MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship Fund, here are two ways to do so.

Mail
Make checks payable to Michigan State University with MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship written in the memo line.
Mail to:
University Advancement
535 Chestnut Road, Room 300
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Online
■ Go to http://givingto.msu.edu/gift/
■ Type in “MSURA Endowed Scholarship Fund” for Areas to Support.
■ Click on “Add to Cart.”
■ Enter any gift amount you wish.
■ Click on “Proceed to Checkout.”
■ Complete donation.

Thank you for helping us endow another scholarship!

Spartan Senior Newsletter looking for stories. Got one?

Got an idea for a story in the Spartan Senior Newsletter? Are you doing something interesting that you’d like to share with fellow retirees? Email your idea to newsletter editor Rick Vogt at vogtrick@comcast.net.

Kurt is an active member in the American Culinary Federation, winning over 30 medals in culinary competitions. He was voted Chef of the Year for the Detroit Chef De Cuisine Association in 2018. In August of 2019, Chef Kwiatkowski was inducted into the American Academy of Chefs, which was a career goal of his for many years.
YOUR LEGACY. THEIR FUTURE.

LET’S TALK.

PASS DOWN YOUR VALUES AS WELL AS YOUR ASSETS

The MSU Office of Gift Planning is here to help you discover ways to leave a legacy that reflects your values and priorities. Whether it's student scholarships, research or programs, let us show you how you can turn your philanthropic dreams into a plan.

Simply call 517-884-1000
Email giftplan@msu.edu
Or visit giftplanning.msu.edu

Our experienced Spartan team brings financial acumen to help you realize your goals.

- Deanna Gast
- Laura Peek
- Sean Lynch
- Kimberley Pittman-Schulz
- Tami Baumann
StraightLine, your MSURA Partner, has been recognized by CNBC as one of the Top 100 Firms in the Country!

We are extremely excited to share that StraightLine was notified recently that after a detailed review process, we have been included in CNBC’s 2021 Financial Advisor Top 100 – the only Michigan-based firm to be selected.

CNBC evaluated a variety of data points on the more than 38,000 firms registered as advisors in the United States to establish a group of finalists. They then asked for some additional information from the finalists and after another review, we received their Congratulations on making the list! This is not something for which we paid, or for which we had to apply, they sought us out after looking at our public registration information. (The CNBC article announcing the Top 100 and the details of the selection process can be viewed by going to our website at www.straightline.com/msu).

We are extremely proud to have our hard work recognized. We are also very grateful for our clients, for without the relationships we share, this would not be possible. We have always run StraightLine by putting client needs first. Offering our services for retirement accounts, regular investment account management (IRAs, Trusts, Individual and Joint accounts), as well as comprehensive financial planning, gives us the opportunity to become a trusted financial partner with individuals and their families over their lifetimes. We are honored for this recognition by CNBC and to be included in this exclusive list.

Our quarterly newsletter (StraightTalk) walks through the macro information we are utilizing with respect to our near term strategy. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving these newsletters or discussing our macroeconomic views.

From StraightLine Higher Education Services

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