

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY



# SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

LANSING AREA LOCAL EDITION February 2009

## SKANDALARIS DRAWS FOOTBALL FANS

Fifty-five curious Spartans braved a cold day on January 28 to tour the new Skandalaris Football Center under the direction of Dino Folino, Director of Player Development and High School Relations for the team. Named for the Skandalaris family who donated \$4 million for its building, it contains offices for all the coaches, a hi tech room for taping games, and other modern necessities for a successful program.



Along with the Clara Bell Smith Building, which houses the team of advisers for all athletic teams, with study halls, computer rooms, etc., and the Demmer Family Hall of History, the new building wraps around the north and west sides of the Duffy Dougherty Football Building. So of course we visited all those buildings, watching hockey and soccer players working in the weight room, and springing youthfully on the artificial turf in the indoor practice field.

Later your editor asked a retired historian what he thought of the bright new edifice. He replied rather sourly that it beat his old environs, Morrill Hall with its ceiling falling down into the hallways. Of course, that's all changed, I'm sure. (Ed)

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## MSURA Meetings for Spring 2009

**Monday, March 9, 2009: "MSU beyond East Lansing".**

Charles Reid of the Land Management Office will tell us about Michigan State University sites we see on our travels as he describes Michigan State University beyond East Lansing.

**Monday, April 13, 2009: "The Forests of Michigan".**

With Spring right around the corner, Donald Dickmann, Professor Emeritus of Forestry, will present a program on a walk in the woods.

**Monday, May 11, 2009: Annual Luncheon Meeting, Big Ten Room, Kellogg Center.** We have a great speaker lined up for this always enjoyable day.

*Except for the May Luncheon, all meetings are held in the Community Room of the Crescent Drive MSU Federal Credit Union Bldg on the second Monday of each month at 2 p.m. with beverages, donuts and conversation at 1:30 p.m.*

## MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

### Officers and Board for 2008-2009

President	Kay Butcher	517-882-3534
Vice Pres	Gale Arent	517-669-8985
Secretary	Sara Stid	517-676-1702
Treasurer	Bob Wenner	517-339-1685
Past Pres	Don Jost	517-927-2216
At-Large	Stephanie Barch	517-332-8523
At-Large	Ron Smith	517-482-3801
At-Large	Gloria Kielbaso	517-349-2095
At-Large	Patrick Scheetz	517-351-7538

### Committee Chairs and Special Assignments

Co-offic Mgr	Nancy Craig	517-351-1391
Co-offic Mgr	John Roetman	517-349-1090
Budget	Don Jost	517-927-2216
Historian	Milton Powell	517-351-1032
Health Info	Mary McCartney	517-372-2872
Police Info	Virginia Stewart	517-371-5504
Co-Off Memb	B. Spackman	517-651-9101
Membership	Gloria Kielbaso	517-349-2095
Membership	Velmer Oakley	989-224-2015
ComputerMgr	Richard Reid	517-337-1407
United Way	Darlene Wenner	517-339-1685

### Spartan Senior Citizen Newsletter Editors

Internat/Local	W. Fred Graham	517-332-6184
Intnat Reporter	Charles Downs	517-337-2778

### Website: <http://www.msu.edu/~msura/>

Webmasters:	Patrick Scheetz	517-351-7538
	John Forsyth	517-332-6683

# Presidential Message

by Kay Butcher

## *A Request for Suggestions to Improve our Retiree Newsletter*



Kay Butcher

The Board of Directors continues to work to provide information and activities of interest to our fellow retirees. At present a committee is working on revising the Policies and Procedures Manual and the Bylaws. The members of the Board would be willing to hear any thoughts you might have to aid this process.

The Website managers are working hard to make our website interesting and useful to you also. Again, any suggestions or comments would be appreciated. As with the website, we continue to receive many good comments on the Newsletter, its contents and presentation. We appreciate all the responses, good or bad, because our goal is to do the best job possible for our members.

We have a number of interesting programs scheduled for the next few months. Also, we will soon be announcing the guest speaker for our Annual Luncheon to be held May 11th at the Kellogg Center.

## *Retirees Usher at State of the U Address*

Long before President Lou Anna Simon made her way to the Pasant Theatre to cheer on newly dubbed Distinguished Faculty, six hard-working members of the Senior Set drove o'er icy roads to act as ushers and peace-keepers as faculty and friends gathered to hear her State of the University address. Alphabetically: Fred Graham, Jerry and Sue Hull, Bill Kenney, Sara Stid, and Mary Zehner. Never afraid to volunteer, Bill and Mary also serve on the MSU Credit Union board. They handed out programs, told people where to find seats, quelled no disturbances, and collected two cookies apiece for their efforts. Sara missed out on the cookies. (Ed.)



## Taste of the Town



This wonderful event will be held by MSU's Community Club at the Henry Center. We at the Spartan Senior assume everyone is acquainted with this signature event held every April but with your editor's wife a quilting buddy with Karen Harsh, who's in charge, and with Gretchen Forsyth doing publicity—and her spouse John Forsyth is on our board—we are bound to promote it. The profits from this high-gourmet culinary event go to student scholarships, this year to Vet Med students. (Since your editor was in Religious Studies, I almost called it "high church" instead of "high-gourmet"!)

**Details:** 24 EATING ESTABLISHMENTS will provide the food for tasting, ranging alphabetically from Beggar's Banquet to the University Club of MSU. **PLACE:** The Henry Center, adjacent to the U Club on Forest Road in East Lansing, **DATE:** Saturday, April 18 from 5:30 to 7:30. **COST:** \$20 per person, partly tax-deductible. **FOR TICKETS:** Call Gretchen Forsyth at 332-6683 **BON APPETIT!**

## KUDOS POUR IN FOR OUR HISTORIAN

Milt Powell, your newsletter's historian, has gotten rave reviews from several readers lately. MSU Trustee Colleen McNamara writes:

"I want to thank you for sharing your Spartan Senior newsletter with me over the years. So well-written, lots of news. But I've really enjoyed the "feature" articles—such as the piece done by Milt Powell in his edition, "MSU and the Great Depression." I didn't know most of what he wrote about, and it certainly made me think about and compare what happened then, with what we may face in the next few years. Again, thanks!" Thank you, Colleen.

Milt's review of "Shig (Imamura), The True Story of an MSU Kamikaze" drew a request from a researcher at San Francisco State U that he be allowed to archive it for a collection there. Shig's widow had sent the professor a copy.

Since your editor not only recruited Milt for his job, but the Powells and Grahams (11.5 people in all) drove together to East Lansing from Iowa City in 1963, so I am basking in his reflected light. He and Sue are basking in the warmth of Green Valley, AZ, as he recuperates from a knee operation last Fall. (Ed.)



## Congratulations to Michigan State Credit Union Employees

Your retirees association has four of its most active members serving on the Credit Union's Board of Directors—Nancy Craig, Ralph Hepp, Bill Kenney, and Mary Zehner—so we notice things like the Crystal Awards handed out to employees Sandra Blanken, Cindy Perry, and Kevin Murchison. The award is highly coveted because, as President Patrick McPharlin says, all the employees want that honor only for those whose performance ranks as stellar. In addition, President McPharlin was given a Service Award for 35 years of service.

Your editor has met the president several times at the Downtown Coaches Club meetings, where I always complain about the new building being located too far from my home. We also appreciate financial support the Credit Union has given us from time-to-time, especially when we have hosted the Big Ten Retirees Conference. At least sixty retirees took the guided tour of the new main office last Fall, which somehow failed to get written up in this newsletter, and we gave the "green" building rave reviews. So congrats to the awardees and to our Credit Union.

## FACULTY EMERITI TO WITNESS A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT A SUPERNOVA

The Date: Thursday, February 26, 2:30 to 4 p.m. (cookies at 2 p.m.)  
Place: Radiology Auditorium. There is free parking just east of the Clinical Center on Service Road. The railroad underpass project closes off Service Road from the West, so it's best to come via Hagadorn or Bogue Street. Bring your parking ticket to the lecture to get it stamped.

Speaker: Zachary Constan is the Outreach Coordinator for MSU's National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory. He is an enthusiastic speaker, also an astronomer, and so has titled his presentation "A Supernova in the Lab."



## E-MAIL UPDATE

As I write these words on Feb 4, exactly 20 folks have asked to have their newsletter sent by email, rather than snail mail. We are keeping track of you all, and I have sent replies to each person, I think. We'll take this local issue to the printing office on Feb 9, and it should be in local mailboxes a week or ten days later. If you signed up for email, check your computer not your daily mail. May your tribe increase, but (as for me) I like to hold what I read with coffee in hand.

## SUBSCRIPTION TERMINATION YEAR

You will find your subscription termination year under the line FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED.



# We Stayed Even with the Country's Growth until 70s



Prof. Richard Groop, Geography Chair charted Michigan's Population. Although the audience gathered in the Community Room of the Crescent Road branch of the MSU Credit Union was smaller than usual—about 45 hardy souls who braved the January drifts—we were entertained by a fast-moving power point presentation of the growth and changes in our state's population history. Before 1900 we were primarily a rural people, farming and cutting trees, with some mining in the Upper Peninsula. Then, until about 1960, urbanization proceeded apace, especially Detroit and its neighbors with manufacturing replacing farming as our chief industry.

In the 60s the exodus from our larger cities created suburbs of the white, younger, wealthier and better educated, leaving the cities, especially Detroit, with folks increasingly poor, black and less able to pay for services. And in the 70s our population growth, for the first time, did not match that of the country as a whole. There even began a return to the countryside, especially among retirees. It is estimated that in the northern Lower Peninsula and some UP counties, 80% of the citizens are living on retirement incomes.

Dr. Groop predicts that our population will remain stable, with about 50% living in the Detroit to Saginaw region. But the western edge of the state will capture much of the growth that takes place. Workers will come and go from Illinois and Ohio, and retirees will be exchanged as well with states farther to the south.

We all had a good time. The coffee and hot choc were welcome, the donuts excellent, from which all fat and calories were canceled for the afternoon. **Sharon Debar, reporter**



## Become a Tour Guide at the Michigan Supreme Court

BECOME A TOUR GUIDE at the MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT To Apply, contact Rachael L. Drenovsky at 373-5027 OR email to: drenovsky @courts.mi.gov OR visit: courts.michigan.gov/plc/volunteer.htm.

Ms. Drenovsky's letter begins "do you love the law and have an interest in telling others, especially children?" She goes on to say that the Learning Center, located on the first floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice, is full of information, computer games and hands-on activities.

If you are interested, contact her at one of the email addresses (above), or make the phone call for information. Orientation classes will begin February 25, and are held on Wednesdays from 9 till noon, 4 sessions.

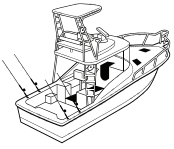
The tight deadline, depending on how quickly the mails operate, is February 13. Your editor has informed Ms. Drenovsky that she may expect some applications from our readers that will be a day or two late. Editor

## Old Newsboys Final Update

As an update to the information I previously provided, I wanted you to know that the Old Newsboys raised \$123,000 this year. The no. of requests has not diminished yet this year (it usually does by this time) but they have been able to meet the need by using funds remaining from last year and the funds raised this year.

Also, I should have included the name of John Castillo as one of our volunteers. His wife who has passed away worked in Athletics.

Again, I want to thank all the volunteers who sold and the people who purchased "The Lansing Spooof Journal."  
**(Brenda Spackman)**



# MSU Retirees Club of Florida Lunches on March 2



This is a local Spartan Senior issue, but no doubt a few of you within 40 miles of campus will be traveling to the Sunshine/Old Folks State by that Monday. You'll meet at the Bradenton Country Club in Bradenton, 4646 9th Ave, West. Check in at 11 a.m., Social Hour, Cash Bar – Lunch at Noon.

Main Speaker will be Brent Bowditch our new VP for Human Resources, a man your Board has come to enjoy, since he attends most of our monthly meetings. Also present will be Renee Rivard, who will answer all your health benefits queries. And, at the last minute, Fred Poston, VP and Treasurer of the U. Tired of winter, Fred? Last year our retinue canceled due to weather, so this year they'll go down a day early.

The cost is \$17 and there are no refunds after Feb 27 when reservations are due. Rather than print the reservation form, send the following:

Name, spouse or guest's name, address, email address, and a check for the proper amount. Your meal choices are Chicken Florence or Salmon & Dill Sauce. This is a served meal, not the buffet of the past. Ice Cream for dessert.

Send all that to Treasurer Dewitt Platt, 5190 Far Oak Circle, Sarasota, FL 34238.

Dee's phone is 941-929-0819. President Bruce Burke's phone is 941-926-3244. The Platts have as their email address: Platt@msu.edu according to the black pages of the Faculty-Staff phone book.



## Nominations are still Open for the MSURA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Awards Committee of your association is ready to receive nominations for the Spartan Senior Volunteer Award. This is the only annual award presented by MSURA. It is a significant achievement award in the retirement community of the university. MSURA makes this award to recognize persons whose voluntary activities have had positive influence and important impact on the retiree community, the university, and service to others. The award will be presented during our annual luncheon meeting on Monday, May 11th.

Answer these questions in this order and submit by email or by mail as instructed below.

### **MSURA Senior Citizen Volunteer Award Nomination Form Format to Use**

Name & Address of this MSU Retiree or Retiree Spouse Nominee

Where has the nominee been active as a volunteer? (this award emphasizes service to MSURA and to MSU but also service in other organizations and "person-to-person" helping roles). List specific volunteer responsibilities and activities (include leadership roles, accomplishments, length of service times, etc.). Describe your perspective on how this person's work has brought significant benefits meriting special recognition.

### **Name, address and phone of you, the nominator.**

Nomination deadline is: April 1, 2009. Send to Don Jost, Awards Committee Chair, 3910 Willow Ridge Drive, Holt, MI 48842 or donjost@hotmail.com. Past recipients of the award are: Ruth Jameyson, Walker Hill, John Roetman, Clella Dickinson, Russell Hill, Pat Ralston, George Dike, Don Gregg, Erling Jorgensen, Harold Davidson, Rosemary Pavlik, Lorraine DeMorest, Velmer Oakley, Fred Graham, Charlie Downs, Stephanie Barch, Judy Bukovac, Dick Reid, Gary Stone, Mary McCartney and Fred Kletke.

**MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
22 NISBET BUILDING  
EAST LANSING, MI 48823**

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### **BABY BOY FOR OUR PRINTING COORDINATOR**

Look around and you will see a picture of tiny Nolan Lee Jorissen, son of Kristin and Todd Jorissen. Nolan was born on January 24, and weighed 7 pounds 8 oz. Kristin has been coordinator between your editor and the actual printing of the Spartan Senior ever since I took Don Gregg's place as editor five years ago. (I think it's been that long.) Don Jost and Jerry Hull have gotten to know Kristin as well, since both have helped me read the proofs. It is well known that good editors make good mothers.



### **NO KNITTING ARTICLE**

Wonder why? Rosemary Pavlik, former office administrator and presently entering changes of address, etc. into our computer system, has fled the snows of Michigan for Belize, where she will spend some time looking for birds. A strange hobby, methinks. I can look out the window at my feeder and see lots of birds.

**AT THE BOARD MEETING** today some wise guy noted that the new Prez has vowed to make all gross-salaried folk at corporations being given/loaned money by the gummit limit themselves to half-a-million per annum in compensation. A worried sports fan wondered if the U fits into that picture, since we get tons of dollars from Uncle Sam. "If so," he queried, "would that mean our football and basketball coaches would lose 2/3rds of their salaries?" Your editor hastened to assure the worried fellow that the "cap"—as Obama calls it—applies only to financial institutions. (Whew! Fred Graham).