



# MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

## SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

June-July 2025

VOL. 46, NO. 7



### Join us at the MSU Planetarium on July 11

Remember going to the MSU Planetarium and listening to Pink Floyd while stunning visuals played overhead? Join MSURA to reminisce or see for the first time Pink Floyd Dark Side of the Moon with visuals at the MSU Abrams Planetarium on Friday, July 11, arrive by 1:15 p.m., show starts at 1:30 p.m. A short Star Talk will follow the show. Price is \$3.00 per person cash or credit card paid upon arrival. Those with a MSU virtual parking pass may park in the MSU Planetarium lot. Abrams Planetarium is located at 755 Science Road, MSU, East Lansing. **RSVP to Ralph Pyle, [pyler@msu.edu](mailto:pyler@msu.edu) by June 30.**

### Come to the Lugnuts game on Aug. 15, 2025

See page 11 for the registration form. Deadline to sign up the event is Friday, July 18. We have two price points for this event.



### DeFouw and Anderson awarded MSURA Volunteer of the Year honors at Annual Luncheon



Christina DeFouw receives her Volunteer of the Year Award plaque from Jacquie Babcock.



William Anderson receives his Volunteer of the Year Award plaque from Jacquie Babcock.

**C**hris DeFouw was honored as Volunteer of the Year for her commitment to many activities with the MSURA board and several committees. Upon her retirement from the College of Education, DeFouw worked with the special events committee for MSURA and was elected to an at-large position on the board. Her involvement expanded to connecting with special interest groups, helping edit the MSURA newsletter and, crucially, recruiting volunteers. She has increased the number of people helping at events, riding the float at homecoming, helping with the registration table and introducing speakers at monthly meetings. DeFouw is married to Tom and has a daughter and granddaughter residing in Grand Rapids and enjoys golfing.

MSURA surprised the chair of the Volunteer of the Year Award committee with a special volunteer award. Bill Anderson has been an at-large member of MSURA for several years. Under his leadership the MSURA board has participated in the MSU Homecoming Parade for the past three years, last year winning an award for our float design. Bill also worked with MSU Safe Place to connect MSURA with a fam-

Please see VOLUNTEER AWARD on page 5

### StraightLine seminar set for June 12

Join the StraightLine Quarterly Financial Planning Seminar on Thursday, June 12, at 2 p.m. for a discussion about market issues. This is a free event via Zoom. See your E-Notice for sign-in information.

## OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2024-2025

President	Dave Brower	517-282-4883
Vice President	Angie Brown	517-974-1770
Past President	Jacqie Babcock	517-282-6861
Secretary	Kate Wight	248-563-3210
Treasurer	William Humphrey	517-331-2884
At-Large	Mike Gardner	517-290-7090
At-Large	William Anderson	517-290-7750
At-Large	Bruce Smith	517-323-9579
At-Large	Christina DeFouw	517-388-1813
Office Manager	Elizabeth Thomas	517-351-7611
Asst. Office Manager	Gale Gower	517-332-0194

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Awards	William Anderson	517-290-7750
Budget & Finance	William Humphrey	517-331-2884
Communications	Rick Vogt	517-242-1324
Healthcare Insurance	Rick Vogt	517-242-1324
Information Tech	John Forsyth	517-332-6683
Membership	Jacqie Babcock	517-282-6861
Nominations	William Anderson	517-290-7750
Program	Angela Brown	517-974-1770
Scholarship	Bruce Smith	517-323-9579
SIG Contact	Christina DeFouw	517-388-1813
Volunteer Coordinator	Christina DeFouw	517-388-1813

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Webmaster	John Forsyth	517-332-6683
E-Notices Editor	Rick Vogt	517-242-1324
Videographer	Bruce Smith	517-323-9579



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**David Brower**

**M** SURA's 2024-25 programming year ended, with a sold out 76th Annual Meeting Luncheon, held at the MSU University Club on May 7. Our thanks to MSU President Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D., for taking time from his busy schedule to be our keynote speaker. President Guskiewicz covered a wide array of topics, providing his perspective on the University's priorities and initiatives, as well as significant challenges ahead due to rapid changes in governmental policies and funding. His full comments were recorded and can be seen on MSU-RA's website, as can other parts of our Annual Meeting.

Our special thanks to StraightLine for their sponsorship of this year's Annual Meeting and to MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU), which provided door prizes for the event. Both organizations have been long-time supporters of MSURA, providing underwriting support for our operations and, both have been significant donors to the MSURA Endowed Scholarship Fund. MSUFCU also provides space for our monthly meetings held at their Mt. Hope/ Farm Lane Branch. Both companies, along with our other underwriters, provide the resources needed to provide programming and other support to our 7,500 members.

Our congratulations to our four \$2,500 MSURA Scholarship winners: Hudson Goethals, Trinita Halbedel, Kortney Osborn, and Ruby Wilson. These individuals were selected from the 39 applications received.

MSURA embarked a decade ago to raise funds for an endowed scholarship fund to provide scholarships for children and grandchildren of retirees and of current employees. The first two scholarships from the fund were awarded for the 2016-17 school year. Since then, the MSURA Endowment Scholarship Fund has grown to over \$210,000, enough under the University's spending policy to fund four \$2,500 scholarships each year. To date, the number of scholarships awarded since inception totals 29.

With continuing increased costs to attend the university, the MSURA board recently voted to set a goal of raising an additional \$50,000 over the next 2 years to be used to increase our scholarship awards from \$2,500 to

Please see **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** on page 5

## TCOA offers support programs for Lansing area seniors

The Tri-County Office on Aging is a tremendous resource for seniors in the Lansing area. They



have many programs to help people who need it, including Meals on Wheels, care-giver support, classes on pain management and

diabetes management and much more. If you have never been to their website, take a few minutes to peruse it: <https://www.tcoa.org/> Their phone number is 517-887-1440, or you may contact them through their website.

## WELCOME!

Are you a new retiree? Welcome to the MSU Retirees Association! You are already a member. There are no membership fees. 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 E-Notices (emails) a month to your MSU email account. If you want to receive it in another email account, email us with the email address at [msura@msu.edu](mailto:msura@msu.edu). Please get involved by coming to a membership meeting. They are normally held the second Monday of every month, September to April, at the MSUFCU branch on Mt. Hope and Farm Lane. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please email [msura@msu.edu](mailto:msura@msu.edu).

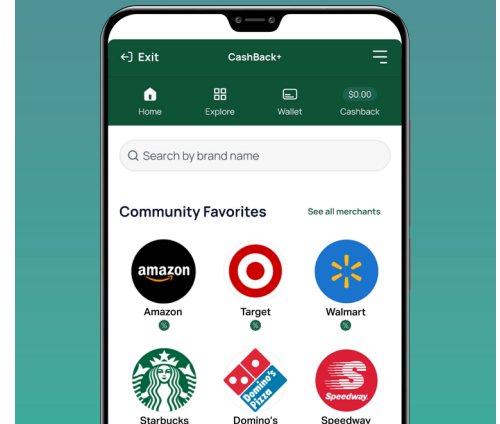
## In Memoriam



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.

Janet Bashore	3/9/25
Dorlene Bayhan	3/17/25
Patty Bolen	3/18/25
Terry Braverman	3/6/25
Robert R. Brubaker	3/21/25
Alain F. Corcos	2/13/25
Richard O. Crawford	3/15/25
Velma DeMyers	4/15/25
William Drake	3/22/25
Edward A. Duane	3/2/25
Kay Fitzgerald	4/7/25
Phylis A. Floyd	12/13/24
Susan C. Forney	4/14/25
Olga Gallegos	3/7/25
Ronald Gnagey	2/25/25
Deborah Hogle	4/15/25
John W. Jones	4/6/25
Jeanne Kalin	11/18/24
Colleen M. Kavanagh	3/26/25
Jerold Ross McAllister	4/20/25
John McNeil	3/4/25
Marie F. McNutt	3/26/25
Judith A. McQueen	4/11/25
John B. Ohlrogge	2/12/25
Thomas Stachnik	2/27/25
Frederick Curtis Tims	4/7/25
William H. Turner	3/3/25

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After selecting and purchasing a gift card, it will be sent to your email for use. Please note some gift card purchases are subject to a 1-3 day hold. Gift card purchases are final and non-refundable. For complete details, visit [msufcu.org/cashbackplus](https://msufcu.org/cashbackplus). Gift cards are not a product of MSUFCU and each merchant's gift card terms of use may vary. For more information, visit [prizeout.com/terms](https://prizeout.com/terms). For your security, do not provide gift card or redemption information to any unknown parties. To use CashBack+ in your mobile app, please update your app to version 3.45 or newer on your iOS or Android device from the App Store or Google Play. There is no charge to download the MSUFCU Mobile app. However, data and connectivity fees from your mobile service provider may apply. Please contact your mobile service provider for more information. Some features may be available for MSUFCU members only. Not all MSUFCU account types are eligible to use the CashBack+ experience. See your available offers in the MSUFCU Mobile app or ComputerLine. If you do not see a way to access CashBack+ in your mobile app or on ComputerLine, please reach out to us at 800-678-4968 or at [msufcu.org/contact](mailto:msufcu.org/contact). Federally insured by the NCUA.



# Meet MSURA's newest board members

Three new board members were elected at the Annual Luncheon and Meeting on Wednesday, May 7. Sandra Buike is now vice president; Eric Crawford is an at-large board member, and Bob Patterson is the treasurer. Their terms start on July 1.

■ Sandra Buike retired from her Alma Mater after 25 years in 2011. While at MSU, she worked in Outreach.



Sandra Buike

In her role as the director of the MSU Birmingham Center, working with MSU colleges and departments, she coordinated course offerings and area locations for MSU's off campus master's degree programs and over 200 undergrad summer courses in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

As courses went online in 2000, Buike was moved to the MSU Registrar's Office and coordinated the remaining off campus courses and

degree programs statewide.

She moved to Arizona for 10 years after retirement and while there, she attended MSURA monthly meetings via Zoom. Now she's back in the area.

Buike said it's an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board of the MSU Retirees Association.

■ Eric Crawford was a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, later renamed Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics.

He worked at MSU for 43 years, starting in October 1979 and through the end of 2022, officially retiring on January 1, 2023.



Eric Crawford

Crawford wanted to stay involved with MSU activities and he said he believes MSURA is an active and well-organized group with an interesting range of activities.

■ Bob Patterson retired in October 2024 after 33 years of service

at MSU. He is an MSU accounting graduate and a Certified Public Accountant. He served as the CFO for the MSU Division of Student Life and Engagement (SLE) for the past 17 years.

Prior to MSU SLE, Patterson served in financial management positions in the Controller's Office for 12 years and the Pathology Department for four years. He looks forward to continuing his University engagement while serving MSURA. He believes maintaining an active connection between MSU and the MSU Retirees Association is important and beneficial to both organizations. Patterson said serving as MSURA treasurer allows him to serve and maintain that connection.



Bob Patterson

Re-elected to the board were Dave Brower, president; Kate Wight, secretary; and Mike Gardner, at-large member.

## Renew your retiree parking permit by June 30

Those with a current retiree permit will receive an email June 2nd, which will serve as a reminder to renew the permit. The email will be sent to the preferred email you have listed in the parking system. This does not have to be an MSU email address.



On or after June 2, permit holders will visit [parking.msu.edu](https://parking.msu.edu) or call Parking Services (517-355-8440) to renew. You will need to know your MSUID login information and password for online renewal. Contact MSU IT Services at 517-432-6200 for assistance with login and passwords.

When contacting Parking Services via phone, please have your MSU ID (if in your possession) in hand. If you do NOT have an MSU ID, contact the MSU ID office

located within the International Center for assistance.

Reminders of virtual permit requirements:

- Can change the vehicle with parking privileges as often as needed.
- Information can be updated online or over the phone.
- Your MSU ID will be used for entry into gated lots.
- Only one vehicle may be connected to the virtual permit. Can "purchase" a second permit each renewal cycle.
- Contact the parking office to request the second permit (unable to do online).
- The second vehicle must be registered to the retiree or someone in the same mailing address to qualify for a second permit.
- Only one vehicle per retiree is authorized to be on campus at a time.

— A message from MSU Parking Office



\$3,000/year. In coming newsletters and e-mails, we will be discussing this new initiative. We will be asking retirees to contribute to reaching this goal, so your support of this initiative will be greatly appreciated.

My congratulations to MSURA Co-Volunteers of the Year, Christina DeFouw and William Anderson. Chris was recognized for her work in recruiting and organizing volunteers for our programs and events. She completed her two-year term as an at-large board member and elected to step down. However, she plans to continue to help with volunteer recruitment.

Bill was recognized for his leadership in organizing special projects, including our homecoming float (won 1st place for our division); support of a family at Christmas, through MSU Safe Place; and our April CPR/AED training session, where 40 individuals were trained by Mike Garland and his Champions of the Heart Foundation. Bill will continue to serve in an at-large board position, as will Mike Gardner and Bruce Smith, who was the 2024 Volunteer of the Year.

Our election was held, and Sandra Buike was elected vice president; Robert Patterson, treasurer; Kate Wight, secretary; and Eric Crawford and Mike Gardner were elected to two-year terms as at large board members. I will continue to be president, for a second year and look forward to working with this

talented, dedicated and fun group of retirees, as I did with this year's board members and committee chairs....who were a great team to work with.

My special thanks to Angela Brown, a past president, who served this past year as vice-president and chair of the Program Committee. Angie and her committee did a wonderful job of arranging this past year's speakers. The great news is that she has agreed to be co-chair, along with Sandra Buike, of the planning committee for the 2027 Big 10 Leadership Conference, which MSURA will host. Both Angie and Sandy will attend this year's Big 10 Leadership Conference, hosted by the University of Michigan in August 2025.

And last, but not least, my thanks to Bill Humphrey, who ably served as treasurer. He and his wife are planning to relocate to Iowa. My gratitude and well-wishes to Bill and his family.

This summer MSURA is continuing our monthly "Eat at Brody Lunches," from 11-1 p.m., the second Friday of each month. No reservations are required. Drop by for food and good conversation. Details of other summer gatherings, including the MSU Planetarium event on July 11 and, the August 15 Lugnuts baseball game are covered in this newsletter. I hope to see you at one or both events and wish you an enjoyable and safe summer.

## Are you a good writer?

The Spartan Senior Newsletter is looking for some retirees to do some writing.

Of course, this doesn't mean you'd need to write seven articles a year, but maybe one, and if you're having fun, maybe two.

Please consider getting involved in this rewarding activity. If this is something you might be interested in, please contact newsletter editor Rick Vogt at vogtrick@comcast.net.



ily the past two Christmas seasons. Bill also organized the session for CPR and AED training with Champions of the Heart started by Mike Garland. Bill has been instrumental in several ideas for speakers, special events, and day trips. Bill isn't just an idea guy – he also attends meetings, helps organize and has even driven his classic car in the Homecoming parades. Emily, Bill's wife, has been a big help during homecoming, as well, helping decorate the floats and walking to hand out candy along the route.

Congratulations to both Chris DeFouw and William Anderson!

—Jacqie Babcock

## Subscribe to E-Notices to keep informed

MSURA communicates via email to retirees throughout the year about various topics and events. If you do not receive our E-Notice

emails and would like to, please provide us with your email address and we will add you to the recipient list. Email us at [msura@msu.edu](mailto:msura@msu.edu) with your name and email address with the subject line, "Subscribe to MSURA E-Notices."



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MSURA is a volunteer run organization. We have a wide range of needs for volunteers. Please contact Chris DeFouw at [defouw@msu.edu](mailto:defouw@msu.edu) or David Brower at [brower@msu.edu](mailto:brower@msu.edu) to learn more about volunteering with MSURA.

# Join us for lunch at Brody Hall this summer

## BRODY LUNCH DATES

June 13

July 11

August 8

**P**lease join your fellow retirees for lunch at Brody Hall. There is no program at these events. This is just time to meet and socialize with your friends and meet some new ones. Plan to attend and invite your friends as well. Luncheons are held on the second Friday of the month at MSU Brody Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Purchasing your meal

Meals can be purchased in advance for a discounted price at [EatAtState.msu.edu](https://eatatstate.msu.edu) or in person. Also daily menus are available on the [EatAtState.msu.edu](https://eatatstate.msu.edu) website. Prices at the door: Lunch or Dinner: \$14 plus sales tax. Debit & credit cards accepted. If purchased in advance on the website, \$9.50 per meal plus sales tax, 10 meal minimum purchase.

Purchased meals on the <https://eatatstate.msu.edu/diningplans> website are placed on your MSU ID card. If you need an MSU Retiree ID card, you can get one at the MSU ID Office located in the MSU International Center.

### Location of the luncheon

The Brody Hall Cafeteria is located on the second floor. An elevator is located near the front entrance that will take you up to the cafeteria. Stairs are also available.

### Parking

If you need a MSU Retiree Parking Permit, you can order one for free on the MSU Parking Office website at <https://parking.msu.edu/>. Retiree Parking Permits are virtual now. No sticker! Your license plate number is used to determine your parking privileges instead of the sticker. You will register your car(s) license plate with the MSU Parking Office. You can switch parking privileges between cars as needed online or by calling the MSU Parking Office. From the menu at the top of the page, select "Permits" and "Retiree." Follow the instructions to order your permit. Note: You will need to know your MSU NetId and password. If you do not know our MSU NetId and password, contact MSU IT Services Help Desk at 844-678-6200 or 517-432-6200.

Topic spotlight:

## Stay safe from falls

Falling down is no laughing matter. It could lead to serious injuries.

One in four adults aged 65+ fall each year. Protect your health and independence with some simple precautions.

This information is provided for educational purposes only. It is not to be used for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Consult your healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns. Consult your doctor before beginning any new diet or exercise regimen.

**Humana**

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## Tips for a stronger, more flexible you



**Stay active** to build strength, flexibility and balance.



**Tell your doctor** about any dizziness, joint pain or numbness.



**Wear non-slip footwear** with good support.



**Remove clutter** and use good lighting at home.



**Be cautious outdoors**, watching for uneven or slippery surfaces.

**Humana is here for you with fall-prevention activities—and rewards you can earn from Go365® for staying active.**

Scan the QR code to watch a helpful video.



# MSURA board exploring possibility of providing ‘short courses’

The MSURA board is exploring an “MSURA College” idea. (If the idea proves viable, and the MSURA board wants to move ahead, we will determine an actual name.) Below is a link to a very short survey basically

## MSURA MINI COURSES?

Please take the  
short survey to  
help us assess  
interest

asking, is any retiree interested in designing and teaching/facilitating short courses of their own choosing? This is addressed to any retiree that has an interest in something to share. The idea is that this would be an opportunity to stimulate your own mind and the minds of others. This is very preliminary. I see the role of MSURA as to facilitate, empower, and inspire. (This is not a resurrection of the past Evening College, but we will be looking at how that operated.) Additionally, below are a couple links of interest:

First, a presentation by Roger Baldwin on post-retirement in academia and in general:

[mediaspace.msu.edu/media/t/1\\_juqpqmbv](https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/t/1_juqpqmbv)

Second, an example at Winona State University in

Minnesota. For past courses scroll down and look at the PDFs under Past Senior University Programs: [www.winona.edu/retiree-center/senior-university/](http://www.winona.edu/retiree-center/senior-university/)

MSURA College Exploration Survey: The MSU Retirees Association is exploring the concept of short course offerings on the order of 10 contact hours or fewer, supplied by retirees. The courses would be open to retirees, the MSU community and the public. Courses would be proposed by retirees. No grading. Some universities have done something like this with good interest from all parties. To get a pulse of interest, and a rudimentary sense of scope, we have a short survey to provide us your feedback on this idea. You can provide your feedback anonymously or provide us your name and contact information. You can put anything (comments/questions) in the notes section.

Click the word [Survey](#) to get started.

We want to foster cognitive stimulation, community building and community service.

Thank you.

Bruce Smith, MSU Retirees Association

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# CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF: Doug Koons' Lifelong Flight Path

**F**or Doug Koons, the dream of flight began early. Growing up southeast of Grand Rapids, he was inspired by his uncle, a licensed pilot who often took him up into the sky.

"I wanted to fly from the time I was little," Koons said.

But it wouldn't be until much later in life that he'd finally earn his wings.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Koons' graduation from Michigan State University, where he earned a degree in parks and recreational resources in 1975.

Using that degree, he worked a 31-year career with Ingham County Parks, designing and building

parks throughout the community. His love for the outdoors and design didn't stop at his day job. Koons also became a licensed contractor and nationally certified playground inspector, using his skills to build park equipment and structures on the side.

It was at MSU that he met his wife, Mary. He describes her at MSU as a determined, hard-working student who completed her criminal justice degree in just three years while working 20 hours a week in the cafeteria.

"She was a go-getter," Koons said proudly.

After graduation, Koons and his wife settled in Mason, Michigan. They married in 1976, and by 1978, they moved into the home they built themselves.

"We did it the hard way," Koons recalled.

They sourced logs from up north after a storm and constructed the home piece by piece. Over the years, Koons continued to expand the house, adding a garage, sun room, and indoor pool. He's currently working on building a new deck.

After raising their two sons, Mary returned to MSU part-time in the medical department, covering maternity leaves. Her ambition and dedication led her to eventually run a research lab and later become an education coordinator for the radiology department. She was one of five people who helped start the department before retiring.

Mary passed away from cancer about 2 1/2 years later. After her passing, Koons became eligible for retiree benefits through MSU, which led to an affiliation with the MSU Retirees Association. He became active in the group after being invited by friends Jackie Babcock (a past MSURA president) and her husband, Phil, to help build the MSURA homecoming float. Koons has been involved with the association ever since.

**A**t 16, Koons began taking private flying lessons. But after three one-hour sessions in the air, he did the math and realized he couldn't afford to finish flight school while saving for college. He made the practical choice: MSU over the skies.

Years later, with savings set aside and encouragement from Mary, he decided it was finally time. On his 40th birthday, he blew out his candles, looked at his wife, and said, "You know, if I don't do it now, I never will." One year later, he got his private pilot's license.

Flight training wasn't without its challenges. During his exam, Koons failed his crosswind landing due to a disagreement between instructors on technique. Not one to give up, he put in another 30 flight hours, relearned the maneuver, and passed his test, mastering both techniques in the process.

"I'm a safer pilot because I can do both ways, so I look at it as a positive," Koons said.

In 1999, Koons and 21 other pilots

**"It was a life dream from the time I was little, and I did complete it."**

— Doug Koons

## SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

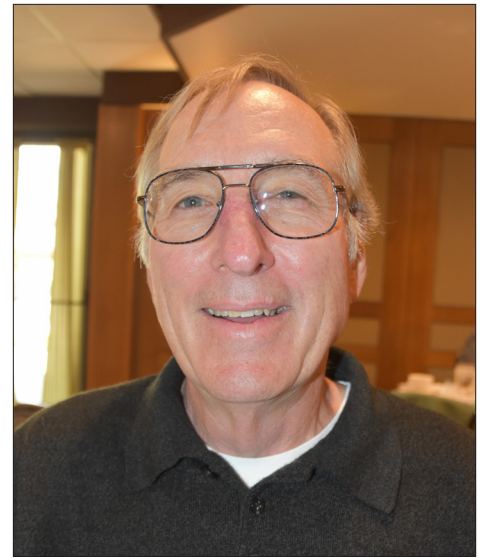


BY JATASIA POWERS

JaTasia Powers is a double major in media journalism and mass communication. She hopes to have a career as a music journalist. She graduated this spring.



Doug Koons and friend, Bill Purosky, built a plane from a kit by working in Koons' garage a few times a week. It took about five winters to build and was completed in June of 2018. They still own the plane and fly it once or twice a week.



Doug Koons

pooled \$1,000 each to buy a shared plane and form Spartan Wings, a nonprofit flying club. The group used an online sign-up system and paid monthly dues to maintain the aircraft. Over the years, the group grew to 54 members and two planes.

**H**owever, during the 2008 recession, membership declined. By 2020, only seven pilots remained. When that number dropped to four, the group dissolved.

Fortunately, by that time, Koons had already begun building his own plane with fellow Spartan Wings co-founder Bill Purosky. Just a few months after Mary's passing in 2013, Purosky suggested they build a plane together from a kit he had purchased in 1997, hoping to help Koons stay busy and heal.

Together, they worked two to three days a week in Koons' garage and workshop, constructing a GlaStar aircraft made of aluminum and fiberglass.

It took about five winters to build. By June 2018, it was completed and had its first flight that August.

Today, Koons and Purosky still co-own and fly the plane, typically once or twice a week. Their shared routine is well-rehearsed: one pilot flies out, the other flies home. They split fuel responsibilities, Koons fills the right tank, Purosky the left.

Koons' love for flying extends far beyond personal joy. For more than 25 years, he has volunteered with the Young Eagles Program through Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 55 in Mason. The program offers children ages 8 to 17 their first ride in a small plane, aiming to spark curiosity and joy in aviation.

To date, Koons has flown approximately 885 kids.

"We do it in a very positive way so that they are smiling," he said. "Some of them do really well, especially the ones who've been playing with flight simulators at home."

Koons also spent several years serving as a mercy pilot, flying patients to medical appointments. Because of his VFR (visual flight rules) rating, he typically served as co-pilot until regulations changed to require both pilots to be IFR (instrument flight rules)-certified.

Today, Koons continues to fly regularly and enjoys spending time with his four grandchildren. Reflecting on his journey—from a curious kid looking up at the sky to a retiree soaring in a plane he helped build—he sums it up simply:

"It was a life dream from the time I was little, and I did complete it."





# *unbecoming*

**Jun. 7–Dec. 14, 2025**

*a survey of paintings and  
sculptures by Diana Al-Hadid*

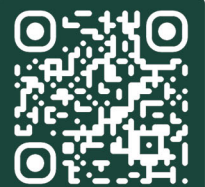
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# MSURA RETIREES ASSOCIATION NIGHT!

## Lansing Lugnuts vs. Dayton Dragons

### Friday, Aug. 15, 2025 @ 7:05 p.m.



### JOIN THE MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION FOR SOME FUN AT THE BALLPARK!

- Post-game LAFCU Fireworks
- Group recognition on the scoreboard and public address system during the game
- Group Raffle: One lucky member from our group will win a special prize, which is announced in the 7th inning via the Big Screen

#### Two price options are available

**\$45** = Box office seats with full meal (alcoholic beverages not included) or

**\$12** = Seat on the third baseline, no food or drinks included

For more information, contact:  
Dave Brower at [brower@msu.edu](mailto:brower@msu.edu)



#### TICKET ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# of tickets at \$45 \_\_\_\_\_ = \$

# of tickets at \$12 \_\_\_\_\_ = \$

**Order Deadline: Friday, July 18, 2025**

**Note:** Tickets can be picked up from the Will Call Window at the Box Office on game day.

**Please return this form with payment to:**  
**MSURA**

**1407 S. Harrison Road, Suite 22**  
**East Lansing, MI 48823**





President Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D., spoke at the Annual Luncheon and Meeting. Listen to his talk [here](#).

## Photos from the Annual Luncheon and Meeting, May 7, 2025







Dave Brower, MSURA President, and Rick Vogt, Newsletter Editor, awarded our four scholarship winners at the annual meeting. They are from left to right: Hudson Goethals, Trinit

Halbedel, Kortney Osborn and Ruby Wilson. Please see more about these current and future Spartans on the next page.





# Meet the 2025 scholarship winners

**The MSU Retirees Association gives endowed scholarships every year to deserving incoming or current students. The student needs to be a child or grandchild of an MSU employee or retiree. Read more about this year's exceptional recipients, and if you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please see below.**

## 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 <https://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.



## HUDSON GOETHALS

**HUDSON** is from Mulliken and will be a freshman this fall. His father, Richard Goethals, is a Manager in Culinary Services.

- **Major:** Chemical Engineering
- **Plans after graduation:** After Hudson graduates, he would like to develop safer herbicides for agriculture.
- **What do you think you'll like about being a student at MSU?** Expanding my knowledge and creating new memories!
- **What do you enjoy during your free time?** Wrestling has been my favorite sport throughout high school and I enjoy spending time lifting weights.
- **What else would you like to tell our readers?** MSU has been a large part of my early development as I attended their early development program.



## TRINITI HALBEDEL

**TRINITI** is from Flint and will be a senior at MSU this fall. Her mother, Shannon Halbedel, works in the College of Social Science as the Director of Student Success.

- **Major:** Psychology with a minor in Law, Justice, and Public Policy
- **Plans after graduation:** I plan to do forensic psychology, or focus in the intersection of mental health and the justice system.
- **What do you like about being a student at MSU?** I would say the best part of being a student at MSU is the sense of community, as well as the beautiful landscape all throughout campus.
- **What do you enjoy during your free time?** I enjoy playing musical instruments such as the Viola, the Piano, and the electric guitar.

Please see MARSHALL on page 7



## KORTNEY OSBORN

**KORTNEY** is from Mason and will be a freshman this fall. Her mother works in Agriculture and Food Resource Economics (AFRE) as a Business Manager/Supervisor.

■ **Major:** Nursing

■ **Plans after graduation:** I plan to get a job in an ICU after I graduate with hopes of pursuing a CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist) degree after I gain experience in the field.

■ **What do you think you'll like about being a student at MSU?**

I think that I'm going to love being part of such a big community! I think that the most exciting part for me currently is that I'm finally a true Spartan! I also think I'm going to love supporting MSU athletics!

■ **What do you enjoy during your free time?**

My biggest hobby is golfing! I also enjoy spending time with my mini Goldendoodle, Kaptain, and my Bernedoodle, Beau!

■ **What else would you like to tell our readers?** I would love the opportunity to get to know members of the MSURA!



## RUBY IDA MAE WILSON

**RUBY** is from Flint and will be a senior this fall. Her mother, Jonné McCoy White, works for the Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health as an Academic Research Specialist.

■ **Major:** Human Biology, with a minor in Women & Gender Studies, and Environmental Health

■ **Plans after graduation:** I plan to become a physician with a heavy desire to become a trauma surgeon.

■ **What do you like about being a student at MSU?**

Something I like about being a student here at MSU is the sense of community and belonging that the campus provides. There is a safe space for everyone, and that stands true here at MSU.

■ **What do you enjoy during your free time?** In my free time, I love to relax, do self-care activities, whether that's hair, nails, skin, shopping or spending time with my family. I also really enjoy softball, having played myself for 11 years, and still love watching it.

■ **What else would you like to tell our readers?** I just want to say thank you for providing me with another community that not only believes in me but also aids in my motivation to make everyone proud!

## Senior Spartan Newsletter writer graduates



JaTasia Powers and Cheryl Pell

JaTasia Powers, who just graduated with a dual degree in journalism and communication, has been writing stories for the MSURA Spartan Senior Newsletter for more than two years.

"She is an excellent writer, and crafts compelling stories," said Cheryl Pell, who has been working with Powers. "An added benefit is she is fast. Not easy for someone who is double majoring and has a part-time job off campus."

Powers liked the work she did for MSURA.

"Working with the MSU Retiree Association for the last two years has been such a rewarding experience," Powers said. "I loved hearing stories from retirees who, like me, began their journeys at MSU and built meaningful lives from that starting point. What stood out most was the deep sense of Spartan pride and the lasting community that connects us all."

Pell honored Powers at the Annual Luncheon.



Retirees Association  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

1407 Building, MSU  
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East Lansing, MI 48823-5239



Happy  
Summer!!

## Straight to the Point

**Market Update** - Markets have taken us on a wild ride from the onset of tariff fears through early May. From the market peak on 2/19/25 to the bottom on 4/8/25, the S&P 500 fell nearly 19% only to recover most of those losses within a few weeks. We were hesitant to read too much into the market declines that preceded these recent gains, and now we are equally reluctant to suggest that we are totally out of the woods. It may well be that the bottom is in and stocks may continue to move higher from here, but there is still a lot of uncertainty and many questions facing us in the weeks and months ahead. We see a choppy period ahead as investors grapple with the potential for a slowing economy and heightened recession risk. The trade landscape is also far from certain, and any amount of tariffs is likely to bring some disruption to the bottom lines of companies. However, it does appear that cooler heads have prevailed, and the more reasonable voices within the administration have spoken up and impacted some of the recent rhetoric and policy decisions from the White House. We believe that the economic data has held up relatively well through this uncertainty, and we are hoping that the economy faces a brief slowdown at worst.

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