



MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

August-September 2026

VOL. 48, NO. 1

Welcome to all new retirees

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. 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.

StraightLine seminar set for Thursday, Sept. 17

Join the StraightLine Quarterly Financial Planning Seminar on Thursday, Sept. 17, 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MSU Retirees Association is an all-volunteer organization. We rely on volunteers to make the things we do possible. If you would like to volunteer, please email Jeanette Robertson at robertsonjeanette516@gmail.com.

Come meet Zeke at our Sept. 14 meeting

Zeke the Wonder Dog and trainer Jim Foley will kick off the Sept. 14 meeting of the Michigan State University Retirees Association (MSURA) held at the MSU Federal Credit Union on Mt. Hope and Farm Lane. Zeke has been entertaining Spartan fans since the mid-1970s.

Zeke has performed at the Rose Bowl, at NFL games, was runner-up at the Frisbee Dog World Championships, received an MSU varsity letter from Coach Daryl Rodgers, featured in Sports Illustrated, and regularly performs at MSU home football and basketball games.

The current Zeke is the fifth iteration of the famous frisbee catching dog. Zeke V is the first female dog to hold the title of Zeke the Wonder Dog. Her actual name is Cindy Lou, and she has been in training for her role with owners Jim and Terri Foley for the past seven years. Zeke V made her Spartan debut on April 18,



Zeke V, AKA Cindy Lou

2026, at the annual Spring football event. Come and learn about the history of Zeke and what it takes to train a dog to perform in front of 75,000 football fans.

When Monday, Sept. 14

Time 2 p.m., coffee at 1:30 p.m.

Where Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane

Benefits Open Enrollment is Oct. meeting topic

MSU Human Resource representatives will talk about the MSU benefits Open Enrollment process as well as any changes to benefit options. They will review changes and answer questions from MSU-RA members at the Tuesday, Oct. 13 meeting.

For more information about Open Enrollment, please go to page 3.

When Tuesday, Oct. 13

Time 2 p.m., coffee at 1:30 p.m.

Where Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane

OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2026-2027

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SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR
MSU BENEFIT QUESTIONS**
Contact MSU Human
Resources at (800) 353-4434



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sandra Buike

Welcome to a new academic year here at MSU, as well as a new year with the MSU Retirees Association! Fall is a beautiful time here in Michigan, and one of my favorite seasons. My name is Sandy Buike. I was recently elected the 2026-2027 President of MSU Retirees Association. I thank board members, officers, and tremendous volunteers for supporting my nomination and subsequent election. I commit to providing leadership to the Association and communication to all MSU Retirees.

MSU retired faculty, staff, spouses and friends engage in entertainment and learning in monthly meetings, join special interest groups and attend fun special events. We offer monthly programs in the Community Room at the MSUFCU location on Mt. Hope/ Farm Lane. Monthly meetings are normally scheduled for the second Monday of the month. We begin each meeting with a bit of social time — coffee, tea and donuts from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. The actual meeting begins at 2 p.m. and ends at 3 p.m.

I asked a close friend what she wanted out of our monthly programs. She thought for a moment, and replied, "I want to be entertained, and I want to learn something." That comment gave us a goal. Come to our monthly meetings and let us know if we've met our goal!

We post our meetings, special interests, and interest groups on our website retirees.msu.edu. You'll automatically receive E-Notices, and newsletters online. If you prefer to receive a paper copy of our newsletters, please contact our office at (517) 353-7896 and leave us a message with your name, phone and address. We'll add you to our newsletter mailing list.

Every month on the second Friday, we gather at the Brody Cafeteria for casual lunches and social interaction with members, spouses and friends. Join us! We hold special events throughout the year. Even a night in August with the Lugnuts and fireworks!

We're serious about supporting MSU students with scholarships. Given by generous retiree donors, we were able to provide four \$3,000 scholarships this year. As an Association we joined ranks with MSU Shares supporting programs in our local community.

This year, we joined the MSU Alumni Association as an Affinity Group member. This relationship allows MSURA

Please see PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE on page 6

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.

Matilde R. Aguilar	5/12/26	Robert D. Kriegel	4/4/26
Gerald Bocker	6/2/26	Larry Landrum	5/21/26
Minerva Canales	5/21/26	Lois Faith Marsh	5/2/26
Catherine Caswell	5/29/26	Nomie Irene McDonough	6/15/26
Jo Anne Cooper	5/13/26	Orilla A. McHarris	4/14/26
Georgia Davidson	5/30/26	David Alan Metzger	5/19/26
Barbara Delong	5/31/26	Phyllis A. Montague	5/6/26
Donald Dombrausky	4/12/26	Patrick T. Quinn	5/22/26
Donald G. Farnum	6/19/26	Philip L. Reed	4/2/26
Louis L. Gaffner	6/26/26	William H. Reusch	5/3/26
Emma Garza	5/9/26	James Rhodes	4/22/26
Nancy B. Gillespie	4/23/26	Gordon Spink	4/4/26
Lynne G. Goldstein	4/18/26	B. A. Trierweiler	5/18/26
Duane Graham	5/22/26	Beryl A. Watters	3/30/26
Judith A. Hackett	4/17/26	Morris W. Watts	5/7/26
Eugene Hinken	5/6/26	Sandra K. Wilcox	5/31/26
Arthur Holtman	5/30/26	Roger Wilkinson	6/17/26
Julian Kateley	4/28/26	Sally Wisner	4/18/26

Benefits Open Enrollment takes place Oct. 1-31

Enrollment for MSU benefits including health and dental insurance and other voluntary benefits for the 2027 plan year takes place October 1-31, 2026. Learn more at hr.msu.edu/open-enrollment and be ready with these tips:

1. Review your Open Enrollment Benefits Guide – Make sure your contact information with MSU is up to date in time for your Open Enrollment Benefits Guide to reach your mailbox in mid-September (unless you opted into electronic-only, in which case you'll receive an email). Updates to your contact information can be made by contacting MSU Human Resources at SolutionsCenter@hr.msu.edu or 517-353-4434.
- The Open Enrollment Benefits Guide will provide a complete overview of the Benefits Open Enrollment process and the benefit options available to you. The guide will also

be available digitally at hr.msu.edu/open-enrollment in mid-September.

2. Consider attending the Benefits Fair on Thursday, October 22 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Breslin Center – Get assistance from the MSU Benefits team and attend presentations from Humana for the MSU Medicare Advantage Plan and Personify Health for the MSU Non-Medicare Plan. Details will be available in the Open Enrollment Benefits Guide.

3. Consider joining an HR Site Lab either virtually or in person – MSU Human Resources staff will be available during a series of in-person and virtual site labs throughout October to answer questions about your benefit options and help you make changes. Details will be available in the Open Enrollment Benefits Guide.

Announcement provided by MSU Human Resources



Where Cash and Curiosity Meet

The MSUFCU Money Lab is a kid-friendly, interactive space where children can explore banking in a fun and engaging way, making it a great outing for families, grandparents, and anyone looking to spend quality time with the kids in their lives.

Exclusively for MSUFCU members, it is located at 311 Abbot Road in downtown East Lansing.



Learn More
msufcu.org/moneylab



Federally insured by the NCUA.

Meet the 2026 scholarship winners

The MSU Retirees Association gives four \$3,000 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 the directions on page 5.



RACHEL CHOMAS

RACHEL is from Okemos and will be a junior at MSU this fall. Her father, Andrew Chomas, has worked at MSU since 1990 and is a research assistant in Plant and Soil Microbial Services.

■ **Major:** Communicative Sciences and Disorders

■ **Plans after graduation:** I plan to become a speech-language pathologist. My interest in speech-language pathology stems from my own experience growing up with hearing loss.

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

At MSU I've enjoyed our large campus and making friends from different aspects of my campus life, such as clubs and the Honors College. I also have the opportunity to study abroad in Greece this fall.

■ **What do you enjoy during your free time?** I am involved in several student organizations, including the the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, MSU Outdoors Club and the MSU Literature Association. I also work at Forest Akers golf course and enjoy golfing and interacting with other golfers. I also love to golf and play pickball with my friends.



WILLIAM HAYES

WILLIAM is from DeWitt and will be a sophomore at MSU this fall after completing his first year at the University of South Florida. His grandfather, Kim Lawrence, was the director of the Center for Police Executive Development at the MSU School of Criminal Justice.

■ **Major:** Psychology

■ **Plans after graduation:** I would like to work in law enforcement or national security, a path inspired in large part by my grandfather's career at MSU.

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

I really look forward to the special school spirit of Michigan State, especially after being a lifelong Spartan fan.

■ **What do you enjoy during your free time?** In my free time, I enjoy lifting weights, reading, volunteering, and spending time with friends.

■ **What else would you like to tell our readers?** I truly appreciate the scholarship and will make the most of it. I just finished my first year at USF with a 4.0 GPA, and I'm excited to bring that same focus to MSU this fall.



BRADY MARTEL

BRADY is from Commerce Township and will be a freshmen at MSU this fall. His father, Michael Martel, works at MSU in the College of Nursing as an assistant professor.

■ **Major:** Electrical Engineering

■ **Plans after graduation:**

I hope to eventually use my degree to work in the automotive industry.

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

I think I will like the vast number of opportunities MSU has to offer. I am going to enjoy meeting new people, using the recreational facilities, and utilizing the resources that MSU gives me to further my academic and professional goals.

■ **What do you enjoy during your free time?** In my free time, I enjoy playing hockey, football, and golf, along with working out, fishing, and watching sports.

■ **What else would you like to tell our readers?** I've been a Michigan State fan my entire life and am so excited to officially be a Spartan. I want to say thank you to the MSURA for supporting me in taking this next step towards my future.



LILLIAN SIMON

LILLIAN is from Westphalia and will be a freshman this fall. Her father, Ross Simon, works in Infrastructure, Planning and Facilities as an HVAC mechanic.

■ **Major:** Communicative Sciences and Disorders

■ **Plans after graduation:** I plan to work as a speech-language pathologist.

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

One of the things I think I will like most about being a student at MSU will be attending the sporting events and being in the student section because I have been watching MSU sports for a long time. I also think I will enjoy being able to exercise and spend time in the new Student Recreation building.

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

I really enjoy working out, hanging out with my family and friends, watching sporting events, shows, and movies, and reading.

■ **What else would you like to tell our readers?** I would like to thank everyone at MSURA for awarding me this scholarship. I am incredibly grateful and honored to receive this!

HOW TO DONATE TO THE MSURA ENDOWED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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.

Credit card payments now accepted for MSURA events

A credit card option is now available for MSU Retirees Association events that require payment. This results from MSURA's recent Affinity Group arrangement with the MSU Alumni Office (MSUAO). While retaining



our independent status, MSURA is now able to collaborate with MSUAO, taking advantage of several key services made available to Affinity Groups. Among these is use of their

online Eventbrite event registration system, which supports credit card payments, as well as follow-up communications with attendees.

Check the registration form instructions and articles

about the event for details on how to access the online Eventbrite registration system and pay with a credit card. Mail-in registration forms, with a check, will continue to be accepted.

During the coming months, MSURA will explore the benefits of using other MSUAO support to update and maintain our website. MSURA will also explore use of their technology for communications with members. Since MSURA is an all-volunteer organization, this approach will allow us to better support you, our members, without overburdening our key volunteers to maintain the infrastructure needed.

We are excited about this new collaboration with the MSUAO.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, cont. from page 2

members to use credit cards with a fee to pay for the Annual Luncheon in May. Most of our activities are free but we do like you to sign up for meetings and special events on the Eventbrite system. When you enroll on Eventbrite, the system provides us with guest lists so we have a count of those planning to attend.

A benefit to you using Eventbrite will also allow you to see other activities you can attend in our area and state-wide. Locally, the MSU Mid-Michigan Alumni Club has a variety of activities listed you may want to attend. The trip in April to the new MSU Dairy Barns was attended by over 200 people, the largest attendance they've ever had for an activity. The relationship with

the MSU Alumni Office will also provide us with staff support on our website, E-Notices and newsletters. We provide the content; they provide the technology.

MSURA will focus this year on planning to host the 2027 Annual Big Ten Retirees Association's Leadership Conference, which has been scheduled for August 10-12, 2027, at the Kellogg Conference and Hotel Center. We will be seeking volunteers to help staff this conference, so please watch for additional information as planning continues. This year a group from MSURA will travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota in July for this year's Conference, hosted by the University of Minneapolis. The MSU Retirees Association is a volunteer

organization. We treasure any time you contribute to work with us. You choose the committee or activity you want to work on. You can work on a committee or a one-time event like the MSU Retirees Homecoming float in the fall. Since we're all retirees, trips to Florida, grandchildren, and overseas are a part of retirement. We work around your plans. We're all working to support a happy, healthy MSU Retirees Association.

I look forward to welcoming you to our next event. Please feel free to contact me at sbuike@msu.edu with any questions, suggestions for programs, or if you'd like to volunteer to work with us.

MSU, GO GREEN, GO WHITE

CLC courses to be offered this fall

Four short courses will be offered through East Lansing Prime Time this fall at nominal cost by Continuous Learning Collaborative: Inspiring Lifelong Discover. The offerings are a collaboration between MSU Retirees Association, MSU Faculty Emeriti Association and East Lansing Prime Time. Prime Time will announce when registration is open through their newsletter and MSU Retirees Association will announce it through an E-No-

tice email in August. We are excited about these offerings and the concrete launch of this initiative! Keep your eyes peeled!

We are also interested in course proposals for winter and spring: www.cityofeastlansing.com/2614/Continuous-Learning-Collaborative

Bruce Smith, smithb12@outlook.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Please cut out this calendar and use it to help you keep track of MSURA activities!

MSURA MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP

MEETINGS We meet in person, at the Community Room of the MSUFCU Branch on Mt. Hope and Farm Lane.

1:30–2 p.m. Coffee & Donuts

2–3 p.m. Program

Please watch future newsletters and E-Notices for more events.

MSURA Monthly Membership Meetings are recorded, and the videos can be viewed on the MSURA website a few days after the presentation.

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER	TOPIC	LOCATION
Friday, August 14, 2026 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Casual Lunch with Other Retirees	No Speaker or Agenda, Just a Fun Time with Friends	Second Friday of Every Month	Brody Cafeteria
Saturday, August 22, 2026 7:05 p.m.	Lugnuts Game	Lugnuts vs. Peoria	Enjoy an Evening with Fellow Retirees	Jackson Field
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Casual Lunch with Other Retirees	No Speaker or Agenda, Just a Fun Time with Friends	Second Friday of Every Month	Brody Cafeteria
Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 1:30 p.m. Coffee 2 p.m. Meeting	Monthly Membership Mtg. MSU Retirees Association	Zeke, the Wonder Dog with Owner, Jim Foley	Enjoy the Most Popular Dog in the Country!	Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2026 2 to 3 p.m.	MSU Retirees Association Special Event	Mike Bisaro and StraightLine Team Members	StraightLine Quarterly Financial Planning Seminar	Via Zoom. Watch E-Notice Emails for Details
Friday, Oct. 9, 2026 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Casual Lunch with Other Retirees	No Speaker or Agenda, Just a Fun Time with Friends	Second Friday of Every Month	Brody Cafeteria
Friday, Oct. 9, 2026 6–7:30 p.m.	MSU Homecoming Parade, MSURA Entry	We'll Be Looking for Volunteers to Build the Float or to Help Pass out Candy or Carry a Banner	Celebrate MSU Homecoming	Parade Route in East Lansing, Abbot Road and Grand River
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026 1:30 p.m. Coffee 2 p.m. Meeting	Monthly Membership Mtg. MSU Retirees Association	Dan Mackey, Human Resources Assistant Director	Learn about any Changes in Health Insurance, How MSU Pharmacy Can Help & Benefits Open Enrollment	Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing
Monday, Nov. 9, 2026 1:30 p.m. Coffee 2 p.m. Meeting	Monthly Membership Mtg. MSU Retirees Association	Tana Fedewa, Director, Center for Survivors	Center for Survivors (Formerly Safe Place)	Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing
Friday, Nov. 13, 2026 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Casual Lunch with Other Retirees	No Speaker or Agenda, Just a Fun Time with Friends	Second Friday of Every Month	Brody Cafeteria
Friday, Dec. 11, 2026 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Casual Lunch with Other Retirees	No Speaker or Agenda, Just a Fun Time with Friends	Second Friday of Every Month	Brody Cafeteria
Monday, Dec. 14, 2026 1:30 p.m. Coffee 2 p.m. Meeting	Monthly Membership Mtg. MSU Retirees Association	Jody Knol, WKAR	40 years at WKAR	Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing
Monday, Dec. 17, 2026 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.	MSU Retirees Association Special Event	Mike Bisaro and StraightLine Team Members	StraightLine Quarterly Financial Planning Seminar	Via Zoom. Watch E-Notice Emails for Details
Friday, Jan. 8, 2027 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Casual Lunch with Other Retirees	No Speaker or Agenda, Just a Fun Time with Friends	Second Friday of Every Month	Brody Cafeteria
Monday, Jan. 11, 2027 1:30 p.m. Coffee 2 p.m. Meeting	Monthly Membership Mtg. MSU Retirees Association	Maria D. Moline, Assistant Professor, Advertising & PR Department, MSU	Media Literacy, How to Spot Misinformation Online	Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing
Monday, Feb. 8, 2027 1:30 p.m. Coffee 2 p.m. Meeting	Monthly Membership Mtg. MSU Retirees Association	Susan Petrisin, Sparty's "Mom"	Life of Sparty	Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing
Friday, Feb. 12, 2027 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Casual Lunch with Other Retirees	No Speaker or Agenda, Just a Fun Time with Friends	Second Friday of Every Month	Brody Cafeteria
Monday, March 8, 2027 1:30 p.m. Coffee 2 p.m. Meeting	Monthly Membership Mtg. MSU Retirees Association	Speakers to be announced	MSU Campus Land Use and Construction Update	Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing
Monday, March 11, 2027 2 to 3 p.m.	MSU Retirees Association Special Event	Mike Bisaro and StraightLine Team Members	StraightLine Quarterly Financial Planning Seminar	Via Zoom. Watch E-Notice Emails for Details
Friday, March 12, 2027 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Casual Lunch with Other Retirees	No Speaker or Agenda, Just a Fun Time with Friends	Second Friday of Every Month	Brody Cafeteria
Friday, April 9, 2027 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Casual Lunch with Other Retirees	No Speaker or Agenda, Just a Fun Time with Friends	Second Friday of Every Month	Brody Cafeteria
Monday, April 12, 2027 1:30 p.m. Coffee 2 p.m. Meeting	Monthly Membership Mtg. MSU Retirees Association	Philip Bahar, Director of the MSU Broad Art Museum	Broad Art Museum	Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing

Renew your parking permit

MSU Retiree Parking Permits expire every year on June 30.

On or after June 1, permit holders can visit parking.msu.edu or call Parking Services (517-355-8440) to renew. You will need to know

Reminder: Renew your retiree parking permit

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

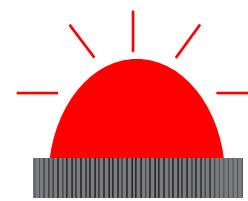
MSU ID (if in your possession) in hand. If you do NOT have an MSU ID, contact the MSU ID office located within the International Center for assistance.

Reminders of virtual permit requirements:

- Your MSU ID will be used for entry into gated lots.

If gate access does not work contact Parking Services for assistance

- Only one vehicle may be connected to the virtual permit.
- Information can be updated over the phone or in person.
- Can update your plate/vehicle as many times as needed.



EMERGENCY

RECEIVE CAMPUS EMERGENCY MESSAGES

You can subscribe to the Michigan State University Alert System to receive text messages when emergency issues arise on campus. All you need to do is send a text to 888777 with the message "MSUALERT" (all caps).



Please support our sponsors.

They do a lot to help us defray the cost of events, newsletters and administrative expenses. We appreciate our underwriters!

Tips for Keeping Your Kidneys Healthy

The kidneys are two bean-shaped organs located in the middle of the back, just under the ribs.

The kidneys have many important jobs, including:

- Filtering blood to stop waste and extra fluid from building up in the body
- Making hormones to help control blood pressure, making red blood cells and keeping bones strong

What you can do to help promote kidney health:



Closely monitor your kidney health through a urine test



Stay in control of other health conditions, especially diabetes and high blood pressure



Keep a healthy body weight



Avoid smoking and limit alcohol



For more information about keeping your kidneys healthy, talk to your healthcare provider.

Humana

Y0040_GHHN3JFEN_C

We've had some good times so far this year!

Membership meetings, the annual spring luncheon, the tour of the Wharton Center and the evening at Beaumont Tower have been a few of the recent activities of MSURA.



The Annual Luncheon was well attended. It's always a good time to catch up with friends and meet new ones as well as salute the scholarship awards winner and announce the Volunteer of the Year, who was outgoing president Dave Brower.



Coach Robyn Fralick spoke to retirees in April soon after the women's basketball season ended.



Retirees had the chance to tour the Wharton Center and had a special talk by Eric Olmscheid, executive director.



Retirees were invited to listen to the Carillon performance on July 8. Jeremy Chesman (left) performed, and Jonathan Lehrer, MSU carillonist, took those interested up the narrow stairway into Beaumont Tower after the concert had finished.



The weather was perfect and attendees had the opportunity to hear Jeremy Chesman, a carillonist from Missouri State University, perform the several pieces on the carillon. MSU's carillon at Beaumont Tower was dedicated in 1929 with just 10 bells. It now has 49 and is considered one of the finest carillons of its size.



Jonathan Lehrer, MSU carillonist, took attendees up into Beaumont Tower, where they could see the carillon and take a peek at the bells.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Join us for fun, fellowship,
learning and advocacy

As a retiree of Michigan State University or the spouse or partner of an MSU retiree, you are automatically a member of Michigan State University Retirees Association. You are welcome to participate in as many of our activities or programs as you wish. Membership is free.

THE MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

- Advocates for MSU retirees regarding health and retirement benefits.
- Provides a liaison between MSU retirees and the University administration.
- Keeps members informed about changes in benefits.
- Maintains a community of fellowship among MSU retirees.
- Promotes mutual interests among MSU retirees.
- Offers social, recreational and educational opportunities.
- Facilitates MSU retirees' involvement in University and community activities.
- Awards MSURA endowed scholarships with donations from members.
- Continues to serve MSU in many ways

WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

- Host monthly meetings with speakers on a variety of interesting topics

Details at retirees.msu.edu. Meetings are usually the second Monday of each month, September through April. Fellowship begins at 1:30, and the speaker begins at 2 p.m.

- Plan day trips to points of interest
- Sponsor special interest groups
- Arrange for campus facility tours
- Organize outings to Lugnuts games
- Share volunteer opportunities
- Alert you to issues important to MSU retirees
- Celebrate with an annual luncheon/Volunteer of the Year Award
- Convene a volunteer fair
- Schedule theatre outings and other social events



The annual luncheon is held every May and features board elections, recognition of the Volunteer of the Year and a speaker.

Membership meetings are the perfect time to catch up with former co-workers and make new friends.



MSURA recruits top-notch speakers for its membership meetings, like Shawn Turner, General Manager — WKAR Public Media.



JOIN AN INTEREST GROUP



Interest groups appeal to many retirees. Members of the Amateur Radio group are in the top left. Some Genealogy members are in the top right. The bottom photo includes several members of the Travel group.

INTEREST GROUPS INCLUDE

- Amateur Radio
- Genealogy
- Knitters
- Military History
- Quilters
- Travel Discussion
- Walking
- Chasing Vintage Vehicles (NEW!)

CONTACT US

MSU Retirees Association

Michigan State University
1407 S. Harrison Road, Suite 22

East Lansing, MI 48823-5239

Phone 517-353-7896

Web retirees.msu.edu

Email msura@msu.edu

Facebook facebook.com/MSUretirees

Your MSU email will be used for your electronic newsletter delivery and for E-Notices. If you plan to use a different email address, please send your preferred email address to the address above. If you wish to receive the newsletter by U.S. mail, please send your name and complete address to the MSURA office.

MSURA encourages members to make an annual financial, tax-deductible donation to Michigan State University and designate your gift to the MSU Retirees Association, Account #AB272. Your gift will count toward your University donor society and will help MSURA pay for program services, materials, mailing and office expenses. To make a donation by mail, make your check payable to Michigan State University, enclose your name and full address, and mail to

University Advancement
535 Chestnut Road
Room 300
Michigan State University



HAVE SOME FUN!



MSU Retirees enjoy lots of activities throughout the year. In the summer, they always get a chance to attend a Lugnuts game and some even get a chance to meet the Big Lug himself. For the last three years, retirees have built a float to be a part of the MSU Homecoming Parade. It's a lot of fun, and participants enjoy walking or riding in the parade and passing out candy to all the children lining the parade route.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear Michigan State Retirees,

Our opportunity to come together as Spartans is now! The 2026 MSU Shares campaign is currently underway and it's time to make a collective impact on children, families and neighbors in our community. Whether we're hosting public events here on campus or individually volunteering for local efforts supporting our shared quality of life, we can all share an appreciation for how engagement with our communities defines our university family.

Even as our university faces its share of financial challenges, I'm sure you're aware of the severe and growing needs faced by many in our community. Please consider stepping up to support those facing such personal challenges, whether it's roadblocks to health care, food uncertainty, financial insecurity or higher education access.



**Office of the
Vice President
for Strategic
Initiatives**

*Wills House
287 Delta Court, Room 201A
East Lansing, MI 48824*

The United Way of South Central Michigan offers a highly impactful opportunity to make a difference for our neighbors and our communities, and I ask you to strongly consider contributing to this year's campaign. Undesignated donations allow the agency to direct funds to where they're needed most to make a lasting impact, or you can designate a specific non-profit recipient organization of your preference.

Thank you for your compassionate Spartan generosity!

Sincerely,

Bill Beekman
Vice President for Strategic Initiatives
2026 MSU Shares Campaign



How to make your Donation

There are three ways to contribute to this year’s United Way Campaign: by check, by credit card, or through the MSU EBS System.

You can designate your gift to support the work of our local United Way or you can designate your gift to support any 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A list of commonly designated charitable organizations is listed below for your convenience.

If contributing by personal check:

- Make your check payable to “United Way of South Central Michigan”
- If you wish to designate a specific charitable organization, include the name of the charity and, if you name more than one charity, the percentage of your donation to be distributed to each charity
- Mail the check to: UWSCMI-Capital Area
 330 Marshall Street, Suite 203
 Lansing, MI 48912

If contributing by credit card:

- Fill out the form on the MSU Shares credit card website (<https://igfn.us/form/ncXUKw>)
- The online form allows you to select one designated charity of your choice, or you can contribute to our local United Way and they will distribute your funds based on identified needs within our community

If contributing via MSU EBS:

- Enter the MSU EBS Portal (<https://ebs.msu.edu>) and click on the box labeled “MSU Shares Pledge Form”
- This online form has four options for payment: cash, check, credit card, or bill me.
- Select your preferred payment method, complete the form, and follow the instructions provided.

.....

909	2-1-1 Referral/Help Call Center	114	Legal Services of South Central Michigan
143	Adult Handicap Program	900	LIVE UNITED Fund
338	All of the Above Hip Hop Academy	2645	Michigan Audubon Society
2337	Allen Neighborhood Center	202	Michigan Dyslexia Institute, Inc.
101	American Red Cross of Mid-Michigan	4029	Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund
4481	Anishinaabegamig Cultural Center	1036	Michigan Nature Association
5009	Arts Council Of Greater Lansing	1908	Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy
1042	ASPPiRE of Mid-Michigan	118	Mid-Michigan Recovery Services, Inc.
103	Big Brothers Big Sisters- MI Capital Region	3792	Mikey 23 Foundation
105	Boys and Girls Club of Lansing	937	Mobile Meals of Charlotte Inc.
5352	Capital Area College Access Network (CapCAN)	4225	MSU- Student Food Bank
1902	Capital Area Humane Society	2630	MSU Safe Place
1303	Capital Area Literacy Coalition	1958	NAMI Lansing, Inc.
2318	Care Free Medical	2608	Planned Parenthood of Michigan
113	Child and Family Charities	3155	REACH Studio Art Center
111	Cristo Rey Community Center	6005	Refugee Development Center
1540	EarthShare	3660	Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan
914	Education	4727	Sierra Club Foundation, Michigan Chapter
1509	Ele's Place	4010	Siren Eaton Shelter
1354	End Violent Encounters, Inc. (EVE)	4026	South Side Community Coalition
916	Financial Stability	107	St. Vincent Catholic Charities
117	Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan	5431	The Davies Project for Mid-Michigan
1800	Habitat for Humanity Capital Region, Inc	9231	The Firecracker Foundation
1506	Haven House	9616	The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Chapter
915	Health/Basic Needs	120	The Salvation Army- Capital Area
710	Heart of West Michigan United Way	214	United Way of Genesee County
9179	Helping Women Period	5378	WAUB AJIJAACK Press & Foundation
127	Hospice of Lansing	907	Women United
1901	Impression 5 Science Center	803	Women's Center of Greater Lansing9616)

Information on how MSU Retirees can participate can be found on MSURA’s website home page.

David Giordan represents the world through watercolors

Being an artist was never a question for Giordan; it was who he was.



Audrey Dayton is an MSU student majoring in journalism with a minor in sports journalism. She plans to graduate in the spring of 2027 and hopes to have a career as a sports journalist.

David Giordan was given a giant box of Crayola crayons and a pad of manila paper; his parents hoped it would keep him quiet.

He drew squiggles and shapes and colored them in — winning his first art competition at about age five in his hometown of Jackson, Michigan. That was all it took.

“I was hooked,” Giordan said. “It’s like, ‘I can draw and do what I love and people give me things, so I’m in.’ So I followed art all through high school into college.”

Giordan studied graphic design and art at Lansing Community College before joining a small graphic design firm in East Lansing. Six years at the firm led to a connection at Michigan State University, where he was hired to design the Alumni Association’s magazine in 1985. Giordan worked for the association until he retired in 2019.

Being an artist was never a question for Giordan; it was who he was. Graphic design allowed him to combine communication with visuals, textures and medium, providing a stable profession that ran with his creativity.

With that artistic identity, it was no surprise that Giordan picked up watercolor painting.

In the early 2000s Giordan joined an evening watercolor class through the Alumni Association — entirely for fun. He enjoyed it so much that he took it seven times in a row.

“At one point the teacher just said, ‘I don’t need to show you the demonstration, you’ve seen it before. You just go paint,’” Giordan said. “So that’s what I did. I sat there and

painted.”

Retirement has left more time for watercolor painting, although the easy set-up and clean up made it convenient while he was still working, too. Giordan has joined several watercolor societies and looks for opportunities to showcase his work.

He has spurts of painting every day for months, but also takes breaks to continue design and photography, particularly when he and his wife travel.

The couple self publishes a line of books to organize their photos.

Those photos often turn into watercolor paintings, too. When Giordan isn’t outside with an easel and a brush, he typically paints from a photograph. He’ll sketch the image, transfer it to tracing and watercolor paper, and then figure out his color palette. After that, he gets to work.

Giordan finds inspiration most often from what he sees in front of him; he wants to capture the world as it is. If one word could describe his artistic style it would be “representational,” he says.

Some of Giordan’s earliest watercolor paintings were of the flowers in his wife’s garden before they got married. He wanted to capture the flowers from a gardening angle, rather than a traditional one.

“Most people stand up and walk



David Giordan

through a garden, and they view the flowers or any botanical thing down at their feet,” Giordan said. “What we did by gardening is you’re actually on your knees pulling weeds or fertilizing or planting something, and I found that the flower blooms were incredibly beautiful, and a lot of people never saw this.”

One of Giordan’s biggest sources of inspiration has been Port Oneida, a historical community in Northern Michigan. Giordan and his wife first visited the site about 10 years ago, photographing the historic logging community.

When they learned the quaint, little farmhouses were without maintenance, Giordan started painting.

He painted big things like sand dunes and lakes, but also the finer things: detailed pieces of farming equipment and the cutlery in a barn. He wanted to capture it all before it disappeared.

Port Oneida is now maintained by the preservation society Sleeping Bear Forever, but Giordan and his wife continue to wander the community for photographs, enjoyment and inspiration.

That inspiration has also led to intentional learning. Giordan wanted to know the stories behind his art, and did his research thoroughly. He can tell you who founded the community, how it got its name and other tidbits, too.

“It is a place, it’s families, it’s people,” Giordan said. “It’s how they got through their day and where they went after they left and how they got there. It’s more than just old buildings and peeling paint.”

Twenty of Giordan’s paintings of Port Oneida were displayed at Art-Prize, a global art festival in Grand Rapids that a select group is accepted into.

Giordan recognizes that watercolor painting is not for everyone, but it is for him. The immediacy of the paint drying makes it easier for Giordan to



Giordan has painted big things like sand dunes and lakes, but also the finer things: detailed pieces of farming equipment and the cutlery in a barn.



paint, and he’s grown to love what he can’t predict, too.

“You get these unexpected little surprises when the pigment gets together with the water and does something that you didn’t expect,” Giordan said. “Bits of creativity that you get to take credit for, that you didn’t do anything to make happen... That’s what I like about watercolor. It

is immediate.”

Giordan understands why people may find watercolor painting difficult. He also knows ways to make it easier. With the proper materials and understanding, watercolor painting can become a lot more fun.

For Giordan it started in a class, and he encourages others to give it a try, too.

Top 5 Reasons to Attend a Monthly Membership Meeting



1

There will be donuts and coffee.

2

You may find a former co-worker you haven't seen in, like, forever.

3

We have guest speakers who always tell us things we don't know.

4

We give out \$5 gift cards to first-time attendees.

5

You'll learn more about this dynamic organization that's been around since 1949.

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Want to help MSURA? Awesome!

MSURA would love to have your help. We do not have dues, and we're an all volunteer organization, but we'd be grateful if you donate money to the organization! There are two ways you can submit money to MSURA.

DONATE BY MAIL

Mail checks payable to Michigan State University with MSU Retirees Association Programs written in the memo line. Mail to University Advancement, 535 Chestnut Road, Room 300, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824

DONATE ONLINE

• Go to this special link: <https://givingto.msu.edu/gift/>. Enter "MSU Retirees" in "type here to Search for funds" field. Chooses "MSU Retirees Association Programs." Enter your gift amount or accept the suggested amount.

- Click on "Proceed to Checkout."
- Complete donation.

Your donations are very much appreciated. Thank you very much!

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.



B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Buddy)

MSURA is presenting a Biggby or MSU Dairy Store gift card to those who bring a guest who has never been to an MSURA monthly membership meeting before. The person you bring will also get a \$5 gift card. We're

trying to reach out to those retirees who are not familiar with MSURA, and this is a great way to bring more into the MSURA fold. There is a sheet at the welcome desk for you to register yourself and your guest.

Traveling?

We can help you get on your way with all of the medications you need while you're away

MSU Health Care Pharmacy is here to make sure you do not run short of any of your medications while you travel with Prescription Override Service.

Fill out a Prescription Override Worksheet, available from the pharmacy or at go.msu.edu/TravelMed



MSU Health Care
PHARMACY

4660 South Hagadorn Rd., Suite 100, East Lansing, MI 48823 | 517-353-3500 | pharmacy.msu.edu

Join your fellow retirees at Brody Hall for lunch

**BRODY
LUNCH DATES**
August 14
September 11
October 9

Please 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 or in person. Also daily menus are available on the 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.

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, caregiver support, classes on pain management, 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.



MSURA sends two E-notice emails a month to your MSU email account. If you prefer we send them to a different email address, notify us at msura@msu.edu.

Homecoming Parade is Friday, Oct. 9

It won't be long before Homecoming is here. Watch for more information on what MSURA will be doing. In the past we have had help from many of you, and we hope for another great turnout this year.

Didn't find what you were looking for? Try these links.

We're trying something new in this issue of the newsletter. Instead of putting in the same stories about ongoing activities in numerous issues, we are going to give you links to the information on our website.

If you get your copy of the newsletter via a link and read it online, you can just click on the links below to find what you are looking for.

- [Listing of Future MSURA Events](#)
- [BYOB: Bring Your Own Buddy Program](#)
- [MSURA Committee Chairs Contact Information](#)
- [How to donate to MSU Retirees Association](#)
- [How to donate to MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship](#)
- [Interest Groups](#)
- [Retirees Informal Monthly Lunches](#)
- [Brochure about MSU Retirees Association](#)
- [Past newsletters](#)
- [Past E-Notice emails](#)
- [Faculty Emeriti Association](#)
- [Lots of other good information](#)

THE FUTURE IS FAR BETTER WITH *You*

There are many ways you can leave a legacy that reflects your values and supports MSU's ambition to create a far better world.

MSU's Office of Gift Planning brings financial acumen to help you discover how to turn your philanthropic dreams into a plan.

Reach out to our experienced Spartan team today:

Laura Peek
Sean Lynch
Becky Jo Farrington
Kyle Schaberg
Tom Zulewski

LEARN MORE

Call: (517) 884-1000

Email: giftplan@msu.edu

Visit: giftplanning.msu.edu



**UNCOMMON WILL.
FAR BETTER WORLD.**

The Campaign for Michigan State University





Retirees Association
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

1407 Building, MSU
1407 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823-5239



**HAPPY
FALL!**

Straight to the Point

Market Update - The S&P 500 closed out the first half of the year with a modest loss in June, though this did little to dampen overall strong results. Once again, the market's resilience has confounded skeptics. Looking ahead, the immediate focus turns to whether Q2 earnings can meet heightened expectations. Corporate America has been posting robust results, with another quarter of 20%+ earnings growth anticipated. Through year-end, we will monitor the Fed's monetary policy and the shifting expectations surrounding a late-year rate hike. Finally, the upcoming midterm elections and associated investor nervousness could factor into market sentiment by late summer.

StraightLine is a fiduciary that provides professional financial planning and account management. Our advisors and research staff allow us to offer plan specific information to the MSU faithful.

Please contact us if you are interested in receiving these newsletters or discussing how we can assist with your financial strategy.

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