



MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

February - March 2022

VOL. 43, NO. 5

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

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



Dr. Frank Telewski

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

Telewski retired in October from his position as the director of the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden and Campus Arboretum and professor in

Please see FEBRUARY MEETING on page 3

When Monday, Feb. 14, 2022
Time 2-3 p.m.
How to Join See E-Notice for sign in info or visit <https://retirees.msu.edu/>

President of MSU’s Community Volunteers for Int’l Programs shares insights at March meeting



Raj M. Wiener, J.D.

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

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

Wiener is a graduate of the Columbus Law School. In

Please see MARCH MEETING on page 3

When Monday, March 14, 2022
Time 2 p.m.
How to Join See E-Notice for sign in info or visit <https://retirees.msu.edu/>

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

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

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

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



abandon the call when you ask for this information.

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

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

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

SAVE THE DATE Annual Meeting speaker announced

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



Allan Haller

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WELCOME NEW RETIREES!

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rick Vogt

We wish you and your family well during these challenging times. The MSU Retirees Association continues to plan future events. We hope to have them in person, but for now they will be virtual events only, using Zoom.

We encourage people to stay active and engaged with friends and family during these waves of COVID-19 but doing so carefully and taking recommended safety measures, of course.

I want to remind everyone, if you receive a bill from a medical service provider that is more than your co-pay, give Humana a call. Some medical service providers are billing patients directly for services covered by our Humana insurance. Humana can tell you if they have submitted a claim for the services and the status of their claim. Just because the medical service provider did not bill or incorrectly billed Humana does not mean you must pay their bill. It is up to the medical service provider billing person to correctly bill Humana. Humana can help you determine the amount you owe.

Medical service providers are required to provide you an itemized list of services they are billing you. You may need to ask for this information. A bill with a single amount for hundreds or thousands of dollars saying you are responsible for services is not sufficient. You are entitled to a detailed itemized list of services they are billing you. Be sure to demand one. You will need this information if you paid the bill and now have to file the claim with Humana to be reimbursed.

I want to extend a thank you to our volunteers who continue to plan and work on events and services for retirees. These extraordinary times create more of a challenge. I very much appreciate the work they do for you.

We are close to the end of our first year of a three-year fundraising effort to endow another MSURA Student Scholarship. These \$2,500 scholarships help family members keep education costs down and provide an opportunity for a college education. If you have not donated, please consider doing so. See page 6 for instructions on how to donate. Also, if you have donated by March 31, 2022, you will be included in a drawing for the quilt you see on page 6.

Best wishes to you.

FEBRUARY MEETING, continued from p. 1

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

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

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

MARCH MEETING, continued from p. 1

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

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

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

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

Now retired, she continues to serve on numerous boards, including Saginaw Valley State University's Board of

Control and its Foundation Board and Sparrow Health System's Community Care Board and Advisory Board.

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

Senior Executive Chef to headline April meeting

Kurt Kwiatkowski is the Senior Executive Chef of the award-winning Culinary Services Residential Dining in the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services at Michigan State University (MSU). As the Senior



Kurt Kwiatkowski

When Monday, April 11, 2022

Time 2 p.m.

How to Join See E-Notice for sign in info or visit <https://retirees.msu.edu/>

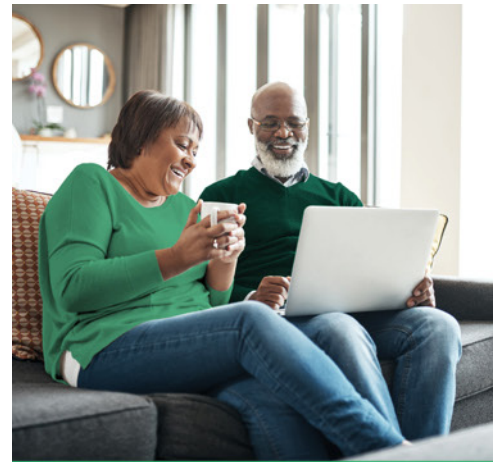
Executive Chef, he sets the standards for the all menus in MSU's residential dining halls, monitors and upholds food standards, runs the research and development of new menu items and recipe development, and develops culinary training for all full time and management staff. Chef Kurt is responsible for the culinary vision, systems and

strategy for almost 40,000 meals per day. He cites solid culinary fundamentals and local/state partnerships as one of the keys to MSU's success.

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

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

Please see APRIL MEETING on page 6



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Finding it hard to keep those resolutions? Here are some tips

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

Is Your Reward Big Enough?

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

Do Not Give Up!

Keep track of your daily successes toward your goal and reflect on these from time to time. Humans are optimists, and sometimes we are too optimistic of how fast we can make changes. Keep it real! Take the long term view. It is more important to keep working towards the goal, then to give up. Adjust your plans as you need to, but keep making progress. Plan for vacations. How are you going



to keep making progress when you are on vacation? Change in routine is an obstacle. Prepare how you are going to manage these times.

Improve Your Time Management

Lack of time is a key obstacle to achieving our resolutions. We cannot add more hours to our day or week. However we can organize the essential activities so that we have time left

to do other fun things and work on achieving our resolutions. Organize your week the way that works best for you. It is easy to let others determine dates and times, but it won't leave you much time to do what you want to do.

Enlist a Buddy

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

Best Wishes

Successfully achieving your New Year's resolutions will take time and consistent dedication to your plan. After you have achieved your resolution, create a plan to maintain what you worked so hard to achieve. Best wishes to you in achieving your new years resolution.

MSU Music

Artist-faculty and Guest Recital Series, sponsored by WKAR

Lunar New Year Celebration
2/1 TUE. 7:30 PM
COOK RECITAL HALL
Presenting a variety of works by composers of Asian descent to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season

A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice
2/6 SUN. 3 PM
FAIRCHILD THEATRE
MSU vocal artists put their glorious voices on full display in this special performance of scenes from operatic masterworks.

MSU Symphony Orchestra

Sounds of Oppression, Resilience, and Transcendence
2/13 SUN. 3 PM
WHARTON CENTER
Program includes Transcend by Zhou Tian, and Symphony No. 10 in E Minor by Dmitri Shostakovich. Octavio Más-Arocas, conductor.

Artist-faculty and Guest Recital Series, sponsored by WKAR

Accorda Trio
2/20 SUN. 3 PM
COOK RECITAL HALL
A unique instrumental chamber combination performs a variety of lesser-known works for violin, cello, and harp.

MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence

Jazz Orchestras with Stefon Harris, vibraphone
2/25 FRI. 6:30 and 8 PM
MURRAY HALL
Stefon Harris's recent album Sonic Creed was named album of the year by WBGO, the world's leading jazz radio station.

MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence

Jazz Octets with Regina Carter, violin
3/18 FRI. 6:30 and 8 PM
MURRAY HALL
Detroit native Regina Carter defies traditional musical categories and presents a unique style all her own.

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season

Albert Herring by Benjamin Britten
7 PM; 3/23 WED., 3/25 FRI., 3/26 SAT., 3 PM; 3/27 SUN.
FAIRCHILD THEATRE
Comedic tour-de-force tale of the last "innocent" young person from an English village.

MSU Wind Symphony

March Forth!
3/24 THU. 7:30 PM
WHARTON CENTER
Program includes March in F, "York" by Beethoven, Marche Hongroise by Berlioz, Moorside March by Gustav Holst and more. Kevin L. Sedatole, conductor.

Taylor Johnston Early Musci Series

Aldo Abreu and Friends
3/29 TUE. 7:30 PM
FAIRCHILD THEATRE
Presenting music masterpieces from lesser-known Italian Baroque composers, performed on instruments reminiscent of the era.

Artist-faculty and Guest Recital Series, sponsored by WKAR

International Chamber Soloists
3/31 THU. 7:30 PM
FAIRCHILD THEATRE
A variety of string works celebrating the birthdays of Johann Sebastian Bach and Joseph Haydn.

College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

DETAILS, TICKETS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND OTHER EVENTS AT: [MUSIC.MSU.EDU/EVENTS](http://music.msu.edu/events) | 517-353-5340

In Memoriam



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

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



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

MSU Volunteer of the Year Award nominations being accepted

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

Award Criteria:

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



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

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

Faculty Emeriti Association Corner

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

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

locations and scheduling conflicts.

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

How to win the Big Ten Quilt

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

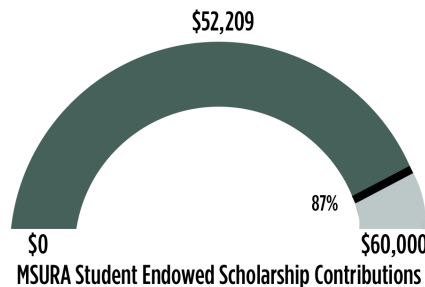
Any Spartan fan, or even fans of other Big Ten teams, would love to own this beautiful keepsake. We encourage you to donate to the Scholarship Endowment before March 31, 2022, to be certain you are eligible to win this handsome prize. You may donate to the MSURA Scholarship Endowment in one of two ways.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

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

—Roger Baldwin, Past President, MSU Retirees Association



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



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

HOW TO DONATE TO THE MSURA ENDOWED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

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

Mail

Make checks payable to Michigan State University with MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship written in the memo line.

Mail to:

University Advancement
535 Chestnut Road, Room 300
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Online

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

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US
ENDOW ANOTHER SCHOLARSHIP!**

Spartan Senior Newsletter looking for stories. Got one?



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

APRIL MEETING, continued from p. 3

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



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THEIR
FUTURE.

LET'S TALK.




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**StraightLine, your MSURA Partner, has been recognized
by CNBC as one of the Top 100 Firms in the Country!**

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

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

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

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

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