



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

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Winter 2009

CLELLA DICKINSON

Our Longest-Serving Board Member: 1977 to 2007

Your editor had a pleasant chat with Clella a few weeks ago in her home on icy and gravelly Corcoran Road in the countryside near Haslett. Sitting in easy chairs and surrounded by photographs of friends and relatives, she warned me that at 91 years of age, she might forget a date or a name, but her books were always in order. I recalled with admiration the index-card tour she had given me before she closed her books and handed the treasurer's job to Bob Wenner. It was pre-computer bookkeeping and when done scrupulously—as Clella does everything—produced a nearly infallible subscription record for this newsletter, as well as other financial records the Retirees Association requires.



She told me that she was born Clella May Weissinger to a farming couple living on Raby Road, her father having served in the Navy, and then attended Michigan Agricultural College before turning to farming. In 1934 she graduated from Haslett High School and attended Lansing Business University, before beginning to work at Michigan State College in the payroll department in 1936. When she retired in 1977, she was assistant manager in that department. Thanks to excellent memory for names on the payroll over the decades, Clella often recognized the names of MSU retirees whose death notices were in the newspaper, but were not identified with our school, and she was able to alert Human Resources personnel to stop medical benefits payments, and save the U some money. (Rosemary Pavlik told me this, not Clella.)

Her first husband, Rex Norris, was manager of the Union Desk, and was a noted Lansing area tennis player before a sudden heart attack ended their life together. Later she married a widower, Dr. David Dickinson, who had taken a position in nuclear engineering at the University after a career in building nuclear facilities in Nevada. He brought along a daughter, Sheri, who now lives in Florida. Sheri created a memorial photo poster, framed and inscribed, for her mother when Clella was given an award by her church for her long service as treasurer a few years ago. Clella also has a brother living in Arizona, and her sister in Florida usually escapes the mugginess of summer to spend some time with Clella.

Thirty years is a long time to volunteer for any job, and it is even more amazing that Clella kept the books for our Association that long. She was awarded the MSURA Volunteer of the Year award in 1995. At our May Luncheon we will give her a special award for all these years of keeping perfect accounts.

(Fred Graham, Ed.)

Presidential Message

by Kay Butcher

ANOTHER LOOK AT OUR (ALMOST NEW) WEBSITE

I know I have mentioned our Website on a number of occasions, but here we go again. Pat Scheetz and John Forsyth have done an excellent job on the website that I would hate to not have as many as possible take a look. They have included a number of important things, the scheduled meetings, benefits, a list of officers and committee chairs, our Newsletter, and links to a large number of items that are of interest to our retirees, e.g. the health programs, volunteer and paid opportunities as well as, but not limited to, the history of the Association.

Even though many of you travel a lot, that shouldn't be a deterrent to accessing the site. We travel often, but the laptop goes along. Also, when there is no service, I have used the computer labs at the local library or the school library in the area. This can be a learning experience also as I have found some real unique libraries around the country. The library in Carthage, MO is in a historical building, which offers a contrast between the space age computer, and the past battles fought in the area. In our own state, the Marquette library had a fantastic historical exhibit that we spent a lot of time enjoying, and Munising has its library in the high school where we met some real bright young students.

The local libraries sometimes are free or have a nominal fee for the use of their computers. I know a lot of seniors do not use the computer, but I have also found that the people who work at these facilities are more than happy to show anyone how to get to the website. I would highly recommend that you take advantage of these services and enjoy all of the information available.



Kay Butcher

MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Co-offic Mgr	John Roetman	517-349-1090
Budget	Don Jost	517-927-2216
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Membership	Gloria Kielbaso	517-349-2095
Membership	Velmer Oakley	989-224-2015
ComputerMgr	Richard Reid	517-337-1407
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Webmasters:	Patrick Scheetz	517-355-7698
	John Forsyth	517-332-6683



Dr. Patrick Scheetz



Dr. John Forsyth

NEW MEMBERS OF THE RETIREES BOARD: FORSYTH & SCHEETZ

Back in February, local folks found out that the creators of our new website, John Forsyth and Patrick Scheetz, have been added to our Board. Both are listed as Website Managers, and John is also the rep for the Faculty Emeriti Association, for which he also serves as president. Patrick is retired as Director Emeritus of MSU Alumni Career Services, John as professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

It occurred to our President Kay Butcher that people who live outside the 40 miles or so that the local issues travel should also know that these two valuable fellows have joined with us in this enterprise that some of us oldsters are not yet comfortable with using, let alone setting up.

It's easy. Go to your internet server and after the www. put in the following: msu.edu/~msura/ You'll find it in the box on this page as well. Good searching!

BASKETBALL GREAT

GREG KELSER

Former MSU basketball great Greg Kelsner continues to prosper in television broadcasting, a profession he entered after four standout years in the late 1970s with the Spartans and six seasons of play in the National Basketball Association. Kelsner, a product of Detroit Henry Ford High School, teamed with Earvin Magic Johnson to lead State to Big Ten and NCAA championships in 1979. Kelsner was a fourth-round draft pick by the Detroit Pistons and saw service with them and with Seattle, San Diego and Indiana before a series of knee injuries forced him into retirement.

With the Spartans, Kelsner was the team's MVP in 1977 and co-MVP, with Johnson, in 1979. He was the team's leading scorer (18.8 points per game) and rebounder (8.7 boards per game) in 1979. Greg was a team co-captain in 1978 and 1979. In career listings, he was tops in rebounds with a total of 1,092, and fourth in scoring with a total of 2,014 points. He made the All-Big Ten team in 1979 and was a third team Associated Press All-American, as well as a first team All-American by Converse Yearbook and the Wooden Award. Greg was a solid student as well, and was named to the All-Big Ten Academic team in 1979, and to the NCAA All-Academic top five.

The latter was a program I chaired as a member of the College Sports Information Directors of America. A special tribute to Greg was MSU's retiring his uniform Number 32. Still more honors came his way in 1996, when he was inducted into MSU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Kelsner prepared for life after the NBA, by learning about TV broadcasting from a friend who was in the business. I put him in touch with former ESPN founder Bill Rasmussen who helped Greg get started. Greg made his first on-air appearance for Black Entertainment Television. He soon worked steadily for BET and Pro-Am Sports Systems (PASS), a Detroit based regional cable network. He also has done ESPN and CBS Regional work, and Big Ten games for Raycom; worked briefly for the Pistons' radio network and did Minnesota Timberwolves telecasts for four years. He then began his current job as a Pistons TV analyst in 1993. Kelsner has served the community by speaking to youth about goal-setting and drug awareness and prevention. He also is a director of summer basketball clinics that are free of charge for inner-city Detroit youth.

The NCAA named Kelsner one of five Silver Anniversary winners in 1994 for his collegiate and professional achievements. Greg is another of the former MSU Spartan athletes who makes us all proud. **(Nick Vista)**

QUICK WARNING FROM YOUR EDITOR

Phishing expeditions by the scum who try to extract money from your bank account or use your credit for their own purchases seem to be a shadow demon that accompanies all the good our modern technologies provide us. I found two new ones on my email this month and I suspect you have received them, or others like them, on your email as well.

The first came from some idiot called "Website Adminitrator," (yep, like emails from Nigeria, the spelling is wrong) who wants me to update my email address and password, or my email will be cut off after seven days. I left it on the screen for at least two weeks so I would remember to put it in this little piece, and I still have my email. I shall kill it in a few minutes.

The second comes from some pretend corporation called "Frostbank," and provides a link to click on in order to update my database, or someone's database. Naturally I have not clicked on it, since it probably brings disaster of some sort.

Remember: No legitimate person or corporation is going to ask you to click on unknown attachments; no email server or bank or credit union is going to ask you to provide your password or credit/debit card number. If you are suspicious of any such email, please check with someone you trust—perhaps your bank or credit union or email server—before you become the "phish" some crook is angling to hook.

What's New at the U

By Charles Downs

IT'S OFFICIAL. The Department of Energy says MSU – not rival Argonne National Laboratory- is the place to locate a \$550 million facility that will take 10 years to plan and build.

Yes, that's more than a half billion dollars that will be coming to MSU. As the Detroit Free Press said in an editorial:

“You don't have to understand nuclear physics to grasp that Michigan State University and the State of Michigan got some monstrously good news Thursday (Dec. 11) about something called a rare isotope accelerator.

“Just know that this is a really big deal and the best thing to happen to these battered peninsulas in long, long time.”

But for those who really want to know the scientific significance, the following is from the DOE news release.

FRIB – Facility for Rare Isotope Beams — will provide research opportunities for an international community of approximately 1,000 university and laboratory scientists, postdoctoral associates, and graduate students. The new lab, “promises to vastly expand our understanding of nuclear astrophysics and nuclear structure,” said Eugene Henry, acting associate director of the DOE's Office of Science for Nuclear Physics.

“This capability will allow physicists to study the nuclear reactions that power stars and stellar explosions, explore the structure of the nuclei of atoms and the forces that bind them together, test current theories about the fundamental nature of matter, and play a role in developing new nuclear medicines and techniques.” The research conducted at FRIB will involve experimentation with intense beams of rare isotopes—short-lived nuclei not normally found on earth—and is expected to advance critical applications in the areas of materials science, medicine, and stockpile stewardship. Construction will include a 10,000 square-foot addition to the present experimental center but most of the funds will go for a linear (straight-line nuclear accelerator) to replace the present coupled cyclotrons, which accelerate nuclei in ever-widening circles.

AIDING HARD-HIT STUDENTS — MSU has set aside more than half a million dollars

to help students and their families who have suffered serious financial setbacks due to loss of income. Students and their families who find themselves in difficult economic circumstances are urged to contact the MSU Office of Financial Aid. From there they can speak with an adviser who can help them determine a course of action.

“They can work one-on-one with an adviser about their circumstances, help to document them, and determine what they are eligible for,” said Rick Shipman, MSU financial aid director. “And it's not just limited to those who have lost jobs. People could be facing mortgage foreclosures and have been using their home equity to pay for school.”

Other MSU programs already in place help students and their families meet their financial obligations.

- The Spartan Advantage helps those students most in need by guaranteeing that the average costs of tuition, fees, room and board, and books are covered with a combination of work study and gift aid. In 2008-09, the third year of the program, 925 students took part
- Each year more than 18,000 students work on campus to help meet expenses.
- More private scholarships are available to more students than ever before. MSU students received more than \$16 million in private scholarships last year alone and this amount has risen each of the last many years.

AFRICAN STUDIES – It's not often that MSU gets a new director for its internationally prominent African Studies Center. David Wiley has been on the job for 31 years. But as of January, Wiley will be succeeded by one of the nation's foremost experts on the interaction between tradition and modernity in contemporary Africa.



Charles Downs

What's New at the U

By Charles Downs

James A. Pritchett comes to MSU from Boston University, where he had served since 1990, most recently as director of African Studies and professor of anthropology. He said he was honored and that, "MSU has long stood as the exemplar of excellence in African areas studies and long resided at the cutting edge of efforts to demonstrate its ever-evolving relevance."

Originally from Alabama, Pritchett earned a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University, and master's and doctoral degrees from Harvard University.

Founded in 1960, the MSU African Studies Center is considered by many as the most comprehensive of its kind in the country. It was designated as a National Resource Center on Africa by the U.S. Department of Education and receives a portion of its funding under Title VI of the Higher Education Act. With approximately 170 faculty from 13 MSU colleges providing broad research, teaching and service in Africa, the center has the largest Africanist faculty in the country. In addition to courses and seminars on Africa, the center offers instruction in 30 African languages.

TRUSTEES – Dianne Byrum and Diann Woodard were elected to the Board of Trustees giving the Democrats a 5-3 margin. Fortunately partisan politics has been notably absent in recent years. The new additions also give women a 5-3 majority. (Have women ever had a majority before?) Byrum has served for many years in the legislature, both the House and the Senate. Woodard is a Detroit area school administrator.

GEORGE PERLES, who was elected to the Board of Trustees two years ago, is now talking about running for governor according to the Detroit Free Press. He says he likes Lt. Gov. John Cherry, a presumed nominee, calling him "a class guy." Perles, the last football coach to take the Spartans to the Rose Bowl, also served as athletic director.

SAMARITAN PENTATEUCH — Three Samaritan manuscripts dating to the 15th century have languished at MSU for 58 years.

Now, thanks to modern digital wonders, they will become readily available for scholars around the world to look at and discuss.

They contain what Jews call the Torah and Christians know as the first five books of the Old Testament. E.K. Warren, a Michigan businessman bought them in 1901 from the Samaritan community in what was then Ottoman Palestine. Warren's family gave them to MSU in 1950 but it wasn't until many years later that they were properly identified by Robert T. Anderson, professor of religious studies and a Hebrew scholar.

More recently, they attracted the interest of James Ridolfo, a Ph.D. candidate in rhetoric, and William Hart-Davidson, co-director of the Writing in Digital Environments research center. With seed money from the National Endowment for the Humanities, they have digitized 20 pages that will allow scholars to see high-resolution images via the Internet. Success is expected to lead to funds to digitize more pages.

The Web site will also contain social networking software that will allow members of the Samaritan community and scholars to share observations with one another. In Biblical times, Samaritans were one of the tribes in northern Israel. Today, about 700 of them live in Holon, Israel, and Nablus, on the West Bank

RAISE DECLINED – President Lou Anna Simon declined a raise in December, saying, "I believe it sends the right signal." She now makes \$572,000, about mid-range for Big Ten presidents.

TRULY A WONDER – The days when MSU wouldn't consider hiring a "Michigan person" to a high-level position are apparently gone. Robert Groves, who provided day-to-day direction for the U-M's recent unprecedented \$3.1 billion fundraising campaign, takes over in January as MSU's vice president for university advancement.

Charles Webb, who was vice president for Development at MSU, was named president of Spring Arbor University in February. Subsequently, the Board of Trustees created the position of vice president for advancement with responsibility for development and the MSU Alumni Association.

Upcoming Meeting of Your Association

Monday, January 12, 2009: “Michigan Geography and Population.”

Richard Groop, Chairperson, Department of Geography will survey demographic trends in the state of Michigan.

Tour of the expanded MSU Skandalaris Football Center - Monday, January 26, 2009.

The tour starts at 4 p.m. Parking is available at the south side of the Stadium and we will meet inside the front door. One highlight will be the Paul Bunyan Trophy residing here since MSU defeated the University of Michigan.

Monday, February 9, 2009: Bioeconomy, Michigan’s new Economy.

Steve Pueppke, Director of the Office of Biobased Technologies, describes his work to identify, encourage and support research programs that will position Michigan State University as a world leader in the development of the bioeconomy.

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

Charles Reid of the Land Management Office will tell us about Michigan State University sites we see on our travels as he describes Michigan State University beyond East Lansing. These include 14 field research stations, two conference centers and other real estate holdings.

Monday, April 13, 2009: “The Forests of Michigan.”

Donald Dickmann, Professor Emeritus of Forestry, presents a program on a walk in the woods.

Monday, May 11, 2009: Annual Luncheon Meeting, Big Ten Room, Kellogg Center.

Unless otherwise noted above, Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in the Community Room of the MSU Credit Union on Crescent Drive. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Coffee, donuts and conversation are served and the program will start at 2 p.m.

MSU Moving to New Email Service

It’s a major upgrade of our email service and retirees who use mail.msu.edu can access a beta version to see how it works. Go on the web and find beta.mail.msu.edu and if naught gets in the way, you put in your email address (Net I.D.) and password and off you go.

You keep your present email address. Enhancements include a Calendar, an advanced search system, Sorting based on date, subject, from, etc., HTML inline and compose, Global address book, and more. (No, your editor doesn’t know what all these mean!)

There will be a better graphical interface, storage space will increase from 128 megabytes to 1 gigabyte. Katherine Ball, communications manager for Academic Technology Services, says both systems will be up after December 22, when it becomes the new system, until everyone is comfortable with the change. Enough time will be allotted for everyone to get on board, several months at least.

And—this I applaud—a stronger spam filter will be installed in light of recent “phishing” attaches by crooks who try to obtain personal information by posing as a trustworthy entity. I recently had to ignore a Bank of America inquiry that asked me for info I knew they had no business asking for. I’m sure it was not a genuine request. So give it a try and see if you can tell the difference.

We Hear From Our Members

With Pat Jeffries and Stephanie Barch

Jeffrey Gierman (Admin info Serv) and Cheryl write that both of us are enjoying our retirement in Clermont, FL. We've been here for just over 3 years and actually like winter now!

We are keeping busy by working at Disney World one day a week. We work at Animal Kingdom in the gift shops on Discovery Island. It's fun meeting people from all over the world... but especially people from East Lansing and MSU in particular. If you find yourself traveling this way, please look us up!

We do return to the MSU campus each fall to take in at least one home football game and, for the last two years, we have also attended an away football game. Not having season tickets for football has been the hardest for us, but we are able to watch most, *if* not all, games we don't attend.

We really appreciate receiving the Spartan Senior Citizen to keep us up-to-date on happenings. Keep up the good work!

Barbara McWilliams Tarbell (Student Life) tells us retirement is great!! I am coming up on my 2nd anniversary and enjoying it. I am fortunate to have Bob as my companion on this retirement adventure. It would not be the same..

I must say that I miss the interactions with all my co-workers and all the students but I had had the pleasure for nearly 34 years and I was happy to "make room" for someone else to experience it.

We spend a good bit of time in the summer in Au Gres, Michigan. We tried 3 weeks in Florida in the Tampa area last February and liked it enough that we are going back for 5 weeks this winter. We also have been fortunate enough to make three trips to Mexico since we've been retired so the statement "the suitcase is always out" is not an understatement.

Thanks for the encouragement to include my own news at this time. I really enjoy the newsletter and appreciate reading about other retirees as well!

Janet A. Wessel (Kinesiology) Since retiring in 1984, I co-authored I CAN-ABC books: Smart

Start: Preschoolers and I CAN K-3. Another book, Everyone Can. is to be published in 2009. Having presented I CAN Workshops (Costa Rica, St. Croix, S1. Thomas, Bogota, Columbia) while at MSU, two Spanish books adapting I CAN -ABC for different cultures have been published. Working with the U.S. Department of Defense Educational Agency I provided with former MSU doctoral students I CAN-ABC Workshops for physical education personnel at U.S. Bases who came to sites in Japan, Germany, and United States. In between times I have been and am enjoying golfing, friends, relatives, reading, and hiking and some volunteer work while staying at my home at Phoenix AZ as well as sailing, swimming and golfing with friends and family at my home on Lake Michigan, Shelby MI. **In the summer of 2009, I am celebrating my ninetieth birthday!**

Charles Mange (Dir Spec Edu) enclosed a check for \$15 to make up for a year or two when I may not have paid my appropriate fees for the Newsletter - and to make me current again.

I very much appreciate the news including both personnel and the University developments.

My great years of retirement since 1985 have included world travel, flying as a commercial glider pilot and a power pilot and wonderful great lakes fishing.

My wife of nearly 60 years is now receiving hospice care, but has been a very special companion and mother to our three sons. We wish all retirees the very best yet to come.

Merle Potter (Mech Eng) received the James Harry Potter Gold Medal at the '08 International Mechanical Engineering Congress.

He came to State in 1965 and retired in 1998, and has spent much of his time before and after retirement on issues relating to energy conservation. In addition to beaucoup publications, as chair of his college's Curriculum Committee he was leader in founding the Engineering Arts program. Congratulation's Merle! (Ed)



MSU and the Great Depression

by Historian Milt Powell

The recent collapse of financial institutions and capital markets has all of us thinking about historical precedents. President Bush finally used the “R” word, admitting we are in a recession. But many of our age cohort wonder if it’s the “D” word we should be thinking about, and whether credit freezes, mortgage defaults and rising unemployment might create a Depression lasting for several years as happened in the 1930s.

Michigan suffered badly in that era. Automobile production dropped quickly from five million vehicles in 1929 to nearly a fourth that number in just three years. Nearly half the state’s non-agricultural workers were unemployed by 1932. Thousands of farms went into foreclosure due to falling commodity prices and farmers often protested by intimidating bidders at the sale of a neighbor’s farm. In a typical case a hundred fifty farmers picketed a Sheriff’s sale, warned others not to bid, paid pennies for what they bought, and returned everything to the owners.

The College, officially Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science in those years, was dependent upon state government for most of its budget and the state was deeply in debt. Michigan had issued bonds totaling over \$100,000,000 to build roads and pay bonuses to veterans of the Great War. There was no state income tax and no sales tax. Revenues came almost entirely from real estate taxes and with many properties lost to foreclosure and others in prolonged tax default the state’s coffers were quickly depleted. MSC’s budget was cut by 15% in 1932 and by 39% the following year.

They were indeed “Hard Times,” but my reading suggests that the impact on the College was not as bad one might have predicted from such widespread financial distress. For one thing, MSC was in fairly strong financial shape when the stock market collapsed in 1929. President Shaw had managed the budget so well that the reserve fund had nearly \$100,000. And when the budget required salary cuts Shaw insisted that they be graduated: no cuts for salaries under \$1000, 5% for those making \$1500 to \$2000, and so on. Over these years of austerity instructors’ salaries fell by just 12%, Deans’ salaries by 19%. (I have tried without success to find a useful contemporary application of this curious precedent.)

The College did enjoy a gradual increase in state support after Michigan adopted a sales tax in the 1933 session. In addition the Board’s new secretary, John Hannah, began a vigorous, and ultimately successful, campaign to persuade the legislature that MSC deserved more than a mere one-third the funds given to the University of Michigan. “Finding merit in the Secretary’s reasoning,” wrote Madison Kuhn, the state’s representatives doubled the College’s appropriation in 1937, “and changed the ratio between the two schools to about two to one.”

Hannah was also quick to take advantage of the New Deal’s “stimulus package”. Between 1938 and 1940 six buildings — Abbott and Campbell Halls, the Auditorium and Health Center, Jenison Field House and the Music Building – were constructed with substantial funds from the Public Works Administration. This attention to the happy agreement of MSC’s mission with various federal initiatives became a hallmark of Hannah’s presidency, most notably in his anticipation of, and preparation for, the postwar GI Bill.

The labor unrest of those years touched the campus in at least one memorable event. There were strikes and shutdowns all over Michigan in 1937 as workers tried to regain a share of the reviving economy. In June of that year UAW members, protesting the arrest of union pickets, temporarily enforced a general strike in Lansing. A few of them tried to extend the strike to East Lansing — to persuade shop owners, or their employees, to close their doors.

(cont. on the next page)

The Great Depression

A former MSC football player owned one such establishment. His student friends grabbed the three union members and threw them into the Red Cedar River. Soon after, five carloads of union men showed up to “revenge the incident” and were met by an even larger contingent of students (including the young Art Brandstatter) who, as you’ve no doubt guessed, threw them into the Red Cedar River.

This confrontation, says MSU historian David Thomas, “quickly became part of campus lore . . . and was retold for many years.” Detroit newspapers praised the students and members of the legislature congratulated President Shaw for leading young minds in the proper direction. But no hint of student-worker solidarity appears in this narrative. Perhaps that would wait until a blue-collar middle class, enabled by union success and post-war prosperity, could send its own children to Michigan State University.

What No Santa Claus?

Some people say there is no Santa Claus. He certainly never had wee elves to help him out. Wrong! I happen to know the pudgy guy indeed exists and has the most creative helpers you’d ever want to meet. They even come with names like Anna, Betty, Bert, Lorane, Jackie, Toni, Erma, Marlene and so on.

These teensy folk worry that someone may not have a warm place to sleep tonight so they whip up an afghan to keep them warm. They feel bad for the unwed teenage mother who has no clothes for her newborn so they make a sweater, blanket, hat and booties to help her get a start.

They want to make sure someone confined to a wheelchair is comfy so a shawl or maybe a lap robe magically appears. And oh how they care for the little ones who are fighting cancer at St. Jude’s Hospital, so Abracadabra — little chemo hats and slippers get lovingly spun from their yarn.

As Santa Claus once said, “an idea can turn to dust or magic, depending on the talent that rubs against it”. Well, he has many talented helpers with great ideas but he is in need of many more. So, if you have a spare minute or two and want your heart to be a temple of kindness let me know. Just call the head elf, Rosemary Pavlik at (517)882-2030. We meet every other Tuesday at 1:00p.m. in the basement of the Nisbet Building and all are welcome.



“A Real Christmas Tree Means a Green Christmas”

Says Marsha Gray, Michigan’s Tannenbaum Queen. ‘Twas fitting that our speaker on December 9 was Director for the Michigan Christmas Tree Association, the official rep for the 98 farms that make Michigan the third largest Christmas Tree producing state in the nation. Marsha says she is the only employee for the Association, which makes her its chief spokesperson, lobbyist, cheerleader, and has turned her home into the Association headquarters, where she also makes the coffee. As you can see by the accompanying picture, no one could be more enthusiastic about her job, as she gave us all sorts of information, sprinkled with humor and the spirit of giving. Among her factoids:



Marsha Gray

- We rank behind North Carolina and Oregon for numbers of trees. In a down market, like ours today, people prefer to save money by buying real trees.
- Michigan tree growers pioneered in sending Trees for Troops overseas, aided by Federal Express.
- Growers plant three trees for every tree they cut, thus adding to Earth’s oxygen production and cutting down on carbon dioxide. Each provides enough oxygen for eighteen people!
- Our growers are really expanding their “green” credentials, since fake trees are made from petroleum and their carbon footprint is huge.

Our attendance was down a little, but the 50 members had a good time, filling up on pre-holiday donuts and good conversation. **(Sharon Debar, reporter)**

The Old Newsboys Thank You

Do you remember what the weather was like on Friday, December 5? My guess is that you don't. But I am sure some MSU retirees will remember. Friday, December 5, was the Old Newsboys sale day and 14 of your fellow retirees braved the 20 degree weather to sell this year's edition of the **Lansing Spoofo Journal**. The only thing that they received for doing this was the wonderful feeling one receives when helping someone less fortunate. And that is what the proceeds from this sale do. The Old Newsboys Association works with area schools and helps provide new boots, new shoes and/or new socks to children that otherwise wouldn't have any. With the condition of the economy, the need this year is enormous. So, thanks go to Dick Bernitt, Nancy Craig, Sharon DeBar, Fred Graham, Jim Graves, Don Jost, Fred Kletke, Bob Muhlbach, Rosemary Pavlik, Ron Smith, Brenda Spackman, Virginia Stewart, and Bob and Darlene Wenner for coming out on that very cold day. Also, to Dick Thelen and Rudy Abood who are not retirees but come out on that day to help us. Special thanks also go to the Physical Plant for allowing us to use their break facilities so we could organize and get warm. Thanks folks. . .hope we see you next year on Friday, December 4, either as a worker or a volunteer.

For your information, this year's overall goal is \$140,000. The team of workers at the University raised over \$2,800 and as of this writing no total has been announced, but you can check their web site. It is www.lansingoldnewsboys.org. **(Brenda Spackman)**



THANK YOU!

MSURA honors these folks for charitable donations that support the association's programs and services. Do join them. Instructions on how to make a gift to University Development in support of these purposes are in this newsletter.

Thanks to the most recent donors:

- Lon and Carolyn Hoover of Vashon, WA
- Sharon DeBar of DeWitt, MI
- Fame and Gale Arent of DeWitt
- Wayne and Delores Williams of San Diego, CA
- Donald and Rebecca Jost of Holt, MI
- Nancy Craig of East Lansing, MI
- Joan and Ron Smith of Lansing, MI
- Fred and Jean Graham of East Lansing, MI

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION FORM

I _____ wish to make a charitable contribution to support the educational programs & services of MSURA. Enclosed is payment to: "MSU—Retiree Association Programs." Mail this to: University Development Office, 300 Spartan Way, East Lansing, MI 48824. NOTE WELL: You won't get IRS Credit unless you send your check to the Development Office. Please don't send your gifts to our treasurer. Send Bob Wenner only newsletter subscriptions. We know it is tempting to write one check to cover both the newsletter and a charitable gift, but it complicates things badly!



WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR SPARTAN SENIOR BY EMAIL?

Several people have suggested that we put in a little query about emailing issues of our retirees' newsletter to faithful readers. Your editor likes to hold what he reads, but he acknowledges that some of you have probably adapted your habits to the screen. Since it is cheaper to get the newsletter to readers by email (like free! For crying out loud!), here is the question:

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE SPARTAN SENIOR BY E-MAIL?

_____ YES _____ No

Name _____

Email address _____

Send it to Editor Fred Graham. My email is: grahamw@msu.edu

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

I wish to renew/start my subscription for the MSURA newsletter at \$5 per year with the enclosed payment to "The MSU Retirees Association."

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS/
PICK-UP _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SECOND ADDRESS _____ DATES FROM _____ TO _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

YEAR RETIRED _____ DEPARTMENT AT RETIREMENT _____

e-mail ADDRESS _____

Make check payable to MSURA. Mail to Bob Wenner, MSURA Treasurer, PO Box 203, Okemos, MI 48805

THANK YOU to those MSU Retirees who support the Spartan Senior Newsletter.

If you are not sure if it is time to renew, you can check the address label on this newsletter. The two numbers after your name (for example: Sparty Citizen 08) shows the year through which you have paid. If it is time for you to RENEW your subscription, just fill out the form above and send your \$5 (payable to MSURA) to Bob Wenner, MSURA Treasurer, P.O. Box 203, Okemos, MI 48805.

If you have never subscribed to the newsletter, please take a moment to fill out the form, and start the New Year out right with a \$5 subscription to Spartan Senior Citizen. Better yet, make your editor, Fred Graham, happy and drop us a line about what you've been doing. Remember: Every MSU employee who has retired is automatically a member of MSURA. However, if you wish to receive all issues of the Spartan Senior Newsletter, we need your \$5 subscription fee. There are exciting programs and news in store for you in 2009.
Gloria Kielbaso, Membership Committee

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN COULD USE SOME HELP!

A year ago in December Darlene Wenner reported that we retirees had pledged or contributed over \$69,000 to the Campaign. But this year she reports only \$63,250, nearly \$6000 behind a year ago, when the needs are deeper and more widespread than a year ago. Last year's final total was \$80,859 from 387 retirees, a new record for both money and for donors. So if you haven't made your pledge or have lost your pledge form, just create your own:

For example, I _____ pledge (or am sending a check for)
\$ _____ to United Way of Lansing, 2009. Make the check out to "United Way"
and send it to: MSURA, 22 Nisbet Bldg, 1407 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823.

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

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Nominate Someone Now for VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Awards Committee of your association is ready to receive nominations for the Spartan Senior Volunteer Award. This is the only annual award presented by MSURA. It is a significant achievement award in the retirement community of the university.

MSURA makes this award to recognize persons whose voluntary activities have had positive influence and important impact on the retiree community, the university, and service to others. The award will be presented during our annual luncheon meeting on Monday, May 11th.

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

MSURA Senior Citizen Volunteer Award Nomination Form Format to Use:

Name & Address of this MSU Retiree or Retiree Spouse Nominee.

Where has the nominee been active as a volunteer? (this award emphasizes service to MSURA and to MSU but also service in other organizations and "person-to-person" helping roles).

List specific volunteer responsibilities and activities (include leadership roles, accomplishments, length of service times, etc.). Describe your perspective on how this person's work has brought significant benefits meriting special recognition.

Name, address and phone of you, the nominator.

Nomination deadline is: April 1, 2009. Send to Don Jost, Awards Committee Chair, 3910 Willow Ridge Drive, Holt, MI 48842 or donjost@hotmail.com.

The award is given once to any person. Occasionally two well-qualified persons have received the award in a single year.

Past recipients of the award are: Ruth Jameyson, Walker Hill, John Roetman, Clella Dickinson, Russell Hill, Pat Ralston, George Dike, Don Gregg, Erling Jorgensen, Harold Davidson, Rosemary Pavlik, Lorraine Demorest, Velmer Oakley, Fred Graham, Charlie Downs, Stephanie Barch, Judy Bukovac, Dick Reid, Gary Stone, Mary McCartney and Fred Kletke.