



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

LANSING AREA LOCAL EDITION March 2009

MSURA Annual Meeting & Volunteer Award Luncheon Monday, May 11, 2009, Kellogg Center Big Ten Room

TIM SKUBICK: Behind the Capitol Façade Local Political Pundit to speak at May Luncheon

At the February Board meeting Kay Butcher announced that the speaker at our May 11 luncheon will be none other than Michigan's star political commentator, Tim Skubick. Tim is known for his penetrating insights, sharp analyses, and pungent judgments on notable Michigan political figures. You won't want to miss his far-ranging and humorous presentation at our annual luncheon and meeting.



In addition to a great meal and warm conversation with old friends, you will elect a president and vice president for 2009-2010 to keep your association in good hands. We will also announce the retiree who is being honored as the Volunteer of the Year. Please fill out the reservation form and mail it to the MSURA office. We are looking forward to see you all there! see you

LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Monday, May 11, 2009, 11:30 a.m.
Kellogg Center, Lincoln Room

MICHIGAN CHICKEN, SALAD, RICE PILAF, ROLLS AND BEVERAGE, CARROT CAKE
Cost \$19.50 per person (includes tax, gratuity & free parking)

Please hold reservations for:

Number:

Total : _____

If dietary supplement is needed, please call
Kay Butcher at 882-3534 before May 1.

Clip and Mail this form with check payable to: MSU Retirees Association BEFORE MAY 1st
to the Retirees Office: MSURA, 22 Nisbet Bldg, 1407 Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823

MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Membership	Velmer Oakley	989-224-2015
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Spartan Senior Citizen Newsletter Editors

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

Presidential Message

by Kay Butcher



Marilyn Rothert

We keep up with Health Benefit changes

All of you received the letter from President Simon regarding the establishment of a Health Care Strategy Advisory Committee. Health care as we all know has become a major problem for every employer, as well as individuals trying to support their family.

It is a pleasure to tell you that the MSU Retirees Association representative on this committee will be former Dean of the College of Nursing, Marilyn Rothert. We feel this is great representation for our Association since she has the experience and expertise to provide guidance we need as the committee progresses.

As we receive additional information it will be relayed on to you.

Think of MSU Retiree Association as Your Voice at Michigan State University

MSURA fights for health benefits and other perks you have as a retiree from a great university. While you are busy enjoying your life as an MSU retiree, the Association is fighting for your interests. (For example: we'll be involved in the President's Health Care Advisory Committee, that you read about in the two-page letter you received from President Simon.)

All retirees and their spouses are automatically members of MSURA for life; there are no dues. BUT MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER FOR \$5 PER YEAR. (See subscription form on the last page.) Additional contributions are also welcome.

If you live locally, you will receive 5 local issues and 3 international issues. (Only one of each if you do not subscribe.) Retirees who do not live locally receive only the international issues.

Make sure you are heard loud and clear through your Association.

Check out our website : www.msu.edu/~msura/

SUBSCRIPTION TERMINATION YEAR

You will find your subscription termination year under the line FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED on the mail section of the newsletter.

Rutabagas For Hydrocarbons



Bryan Ritchie MSU's Prosperity Center Or, more prosaically, Bryan is Associate Director of the Office of Bio-based Technologies, where MSU experts in technology, politics and economics are brought together to help our nation discover and use alternative bio-mass for fuel and other products that we are now dependent on the oil from other countries to supply. (That's Bryan with retiree Joanne Schultink.) The Office works with industry or individuals to discover and invent bio-mass products to replace those based on hydrocarbons.

Listeners have read a good deal about technology, as corn, grass, municipal waste, meat frying waste have been used or genetic structures augmented to produce oils for energy. (Hence rutabagas, which have large cells just waiting to be engineered to hold oils!) Right now most of the substitutes for hydrocarbons are too bulky to make them economically feasible. Then there are political issues. We want a small carbon print; we want free of dependence on Near Eastern countries. Are we willing to pay for more expensive energy production, to use cleaner burning fuels when coal or oil is cheaper? And so economics comes into play. Energy from bio-mass will probably be more expensive than oil from Venezuela for a long time. How affordable? What political or economic advantage can we gain by lowering our imports?

It was a delightful talk, even though the power-point was off. About fifty-five retirees were enlightened by learning much we didn't know, and encouraged by Dr. Ritchie's pep talk, as he touted Michigan brains and Michigan workers to lick the technological problems, and win the political and economic gains our state needs so desperately today. **Sharon Debar, reporter.**

Check for Truth or Fiction

Emails arrive daily in our mail boxes with wild claims: Entering your PIN in reverse at any ATM will summon the police (False). Or did instant cake mixes sell poorly until one food company decided to require the addition of a fresh egg to their product? (False)

Want to check the authenticity of a claim? Then go to Snopes.com at www.snopes.com/ or TruthorFiction at truthorfiction.com/ for any late-breaking stories or updates. There are many reasons to accept these websites as the authorities on any topic, but reference sources are included too where relevant. Unlike the plethora of anonymous individuals who create and send unsigned, unsourced email messages that are forwarded all over the Internet, these websites show their work. The research materials used in preparation of any particular topic are listed in the bibliography at the end, so readers can verify the validity of the information used when checking the sources for themselves.

Here's an example: The U.S. Senate has Voted to Give Social Security Benefits to Illegal Aliens—Even Though They Have Not Paid Into It - Fiction! A keyword search box is contained at the top of these websites to save time when searching for related articles. Use just one or two unique words from the story to search for related rumors or stories. Stop forwarding the messages and notify the sender, once you find false articles. Help all of us reduce the clutter in our email boxes.

To receive automatic notification of additions to the Snopes website, sign up for their update mailing list. They send update mailings every week. Subscribe to the TruthOrFiction.com newsletter for email alerts, advisories, and virus warnings! Be among the first to know about new eRumors, viruses, Internet hoaxes...and more. Add these weblinks under "Hoaxes" in the bookmarks on your computer software browser so you can quickly access them. Thanks for helping to stop false rumors, hoaxes, myths, and legends. **Pat Scheetz**

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