

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

LANSING AREA LOCAL EDITION April 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:

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

Total : _____

Clip and Mail this form with check payable to: MSU Retirees Association BEFORE MAY 1st
to BOB WENNER: MSURA TREASURER, P. O. Box 203, Okemos, MI 48805

DO NOT MAIL TO THE MSURA OFFICE.

MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Officers and Board for 2008-2009

President	Kay Butcher	517-882-3534
Vice Pres	Gale Arent	517-669-8985
Secretary	Sara Stid	517-676-1702
Treasurer	Bob Wenner	517-339-1685
Past Pres	Don Jost	517-927-2216
At-Large	Stephanie Barch	517-332-8523
At-Large	Ron Smith	517-482-3801
At-Large	Gloria Kielbaso	517-349-2095
At-Large	Patrick Scheetz	517-351-7538

Committee Chairs and Special Assignments

Co-offic Mgr	Nancy Craig	517-351-1391
Co-offic Mgr	John Roetman	517-349-1090
Budget	Don Jost	517-927-2216
Historian	Milton Powell	517-351-1032
Health Info	Mary McCartney	517-372-2872
Police Info	Virginia Stewart	517-371-5504
Co-Off Memb	B. Spackman	517-651-9101
Membership	Gloria Kielbaso	517-349-2095
Membership	Velmer Oakley	989-224-2015
ComputerMgr	Richard Reid	517-337-1407
United Way	Darlene Wenner	517-339-1685

Spartan Senior Citizen Newsletter Editors

Internat/Local	W. Fred Graham	517-332-6184
Intnat Reporter	Charles Downs	517-337-2778

Website: <http://www.msu.edu/~msura/>

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

Presidential Message

by Kay Butcher

An End and a Beginning



Kay Butcher

Since this will be the last message I write as President, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals who give so much of their time and efforts to keeping the Association running smoothly. I will not name names because I would probably forget someone. It is hard for me to tell you how much time these individuals give to the Association: there is someone staffing the office each day during the academic year, there is the enormous job of preparing the Newsletter for publication, updating our website and keeping it relevant, securing speakers for our monthly meetings and just keeping up with name and address changes.

It has been a great experience for me to have been President. I have had the opportunity to get to know a lot of great people, to represent the Association at Big Ten Retirees meetings and to see the effort and dedication that members of the Association exhibit. I look forward to being part of the Association's future.

MSURA By-Law Changes to be Voted on at May Luncheon

Jerry Hull, chair of the by-laws committee (with Rosemary Pavlik) has informed your editor of the following changes in the by-laws. These changes were approved by the Board of Directors, presented at the April meeting (per by-law requirement), and will be voted on at the Luncheon on May 11.

UNDER BOARD OF DIRECTORS PARAGRAPH:

The Board of Directors shall consist of all elected officers, the Immediate Past President, a representative of every Standing Committee appointed by the President, and two (changed from "four") At Large members elected for overlapping two-year terms with one (changed from "two") term expiring each year.

UNDER THE SECTION "OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:"

All committees, including standing, annual, and ad hoc (changed from ("both standing and ad hoc")) are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors....(Add sentence: "**The President will recommend a representative from each Standing Committee to serve on the Board of Directors for approval by the Board of Directors.**")

UNDER MEMBERSHIP SECTION:

Add a sentence to the paragraph to read: "**Active MSU employees can become active members of MSURA upon payment of annual newsletter subscription fee.**"

Community Volunteers Need Volunteers

By Pat Barrett

Community Volunteers for International Programs (CVIP) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization supported by the Office for International Students and Scholars at Michigan State University. Perhaps some of you retirees are already members; after all, CVIP has been active on campus since 1964. Our mission is to increase mutual cross-cultural understanding and goodwill between MSU's international students, and the greater Lansing community. We do this by organizing activities and programs that supplement and enhance specialized services offered by various units at MSU. Perhaps you attended the MSU Global Festival last November—CVIP has been a major organizer and sponsor of the Festival since its inception twenty-four years ago. Peggy Arbanas, co-chair of this year's Festival, says we could use more volunteers on the planning committee. If you would like to help, call Peggy at 517 669-1239.

Iris Horner, co-chair of the Friendship Family Program, needs a few more families to "adopt" an MSU international student with whom to share occasional family-oriented activities—a home-cooked meal, a ball game, or maybe a picnic in the park. Call Iris at 517 349-1865 if you would like to begin a friendship with an international student.

The CVIP Lending Center really needs some volunteers soon. The Center is moving to new digs and will need help transporting a ton of household items that it lends to international students—lamps, dishes, cookware items, etc.—before May 16. That's the date of the Open House to celebrate the new location (1434F Spartan Village). Erika Nwankwo Larson is the one to call, at 517 351-4548, if you would like to help. Erika also needs staff persons for a few hours on Tuesdays or Thursdays after August 18.

The two Carols, Carol Bryson and Carol Towl, the co-chairs of the CVIP Speakers Bureau, wish they had a few more drivers to take their international students to speaking engagements at local schools and community organizations. The drivers usually stay to listen to the students' presentations and say they enjoy learning about the various cultures and countries represented by the speakers. If this is something you might enjoy also, Carol's number is 517 351-5976 and Carol's is 517 882-4391 (Bryson and Towl respectively).



Future ID Cards

Around the end of April all present employees and retirees of MSU will receive in the mail a new ID card with your Z-Pid number. The Z-Pid number is your personal ID number that is now used frequently within the University instead of your Social Security number. Included will be a letter of explanation on why you are receiving a new ID card and all the benefits that will be offered with just this card.

This one card will be all inclusive and offer access to the Library, parking facilities, IM buildings, will serve as a bus pass, and more. The University will update the card automatically as needed.

Anyone who does not have a color pictured ID card with a Z-Pid number on it can go to the Employment Office at Room 110 Nisbet Building, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the staff will be happy to take your picture. If you wish to call that office for any further questions, the number is (517) 353-3720. **(Rosemary Pavlik.)**

SUBSCRIPTION TERMINATION YEAR

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



Our Association History needs Help

Your editor decided to check the websites of our club and of the U's new Healthy State (www.hr.msu.edu/healthystate/) before sending this newsletter to Steffe Barch for her message to our message. I had never checked the Retirees Association History button on the right side of the page, so I did so and found a long summary of the history written originally by Jodi Reid, and summarized by our own Virginia Stewart. But it ends at 1997! Well done, Virginia (and Jodi, now with the saints). Anyone out there want to check old newsletters to see what's been going on the past dozen years? Our historian, Milt Powell, works on other kinds of material, as faithful readers know. Let me know: Fred Graham, 332-6184, or grahamw@msu.edu.

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Getting the newsletter by e-mail

About twenty-five to thirty readers emailed in saying they wanted to receive the Spartan Senior by email. (A couple or three contacted me to make sure they would NOT receive it that way. As one wrote: "how can I read the newsletter on my computer monitor in the bathroom?" How indeed!) It's not too late, and saves us money. Email your editor at grahamw@msu.edu

March Meeting Land Management A Little known Facet of MSU



Picture of Charles Reid & Sharon DeBar

And a large one too, according to Charles Reid, director of the U's Land Management Office, which is located in the new addition to the football stadium. MSU manages fifteen Ag Experiment stations, two conference centers, as well as other real estate holdings. Some of the farms used as experimental farm centers were donated, but many were purchased in regions where researchers and resident farmers cooperate to make Michigan one of the leading crop producing states in the nation. We are #1 in black bean production, #2 in dry (navy) beans and sugar beets, #4 in grapes and carrots, #10 in potatoes, and we supply 40% of the nation's tart cherries. Varied soils and temperature, from Lake Superior's cold waters and deep snows down to our southern borders that touch both Lakes Michigan and Erie, make Michigan ideal for diversified forms of food production, as well as the development of forestry products.

How varied? Think genetic manipulation for Christmas tree farming, improved varieties of fruit and vegetables, management and use of pesticides and herbicides, robotic milkers, better-tasting steaks via experimenting with better methods of beef cattle raising, and trials to find or to develop trees that resist the Asian ash tree borer. And who knew, until the director told us, that pulpwood is now the third most valuable agricultural crop in Michigan our Michigan?

To complicate Land Management's work a bit more, they are over-seeing the construction of the 7-story building to be occupied by MSU's medical school in Grand Rapids, as well as the building of the Demmer Shooting Sports Education and Training Center, and oversee the Leland (Mich) Art School, and Hidden Lake Gardens near Tipton, which many of us retirees have visited over the years. And more!

Director Reid gave us a great presentation, eliciting lots of questions, so a good time was had by all. See you at the May Luncheon in the Kellogg Center. Get your reservation to Bob Wenner by May 1. **(Sharon DeBar)**



Hank Bullough & Norma Johnston

April Meeting Retirees get Two for the Price of One



Mike Moore & Don Dickman

Two speakers for the price of one donut, MSU's friendly retirees discovered as they assembled for the last regular meeting of the school year. (But don't forget to register for the May luncheon that celebrates the return of Spring, where we elect new officers and vote on by-law changes.)

Hank was a surprise speaker, as he touted a new book, *The Tradition Continues—Spartan Football*. This coffee table tome covers over 600 pages and contains over 1900 pictures, most of them in color, covering Spartan football in yesteryear, back when we were the Aggies, right up thru last season. Proceeds go to benefit ex-players. Bullough, former assistant coach here and in the pro ranks, says every player who ever put on a uniform can be found there, or so he claims. Buy it at a local bookstore and support the local economy as well as former Spartan players.

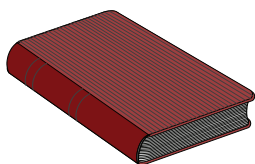
He also told us of a gutsy bike ride as several 60ish ex-players leave at the half-time of the Spring practice game and head to Metamora, Mexico. For 2000 miles John Shinsky & Joe DeLamielleure will plug along collecting pledges as they go. They are asking Spartan lovers to make a per-mile pledge to build a 12 unit school and orphanage in that country. Check it out at shinskyorphanage.com

Don Dickman, retired professor of forestry, presented a beautiful travelogue and commentary he titles "Michigan Forest Communities: a Road Trip." And it was quite a trip thru the different kinds of forests in the Lower Peninsula, stopping at the Bridge. (Your editor presumes that Don had planned to cross to the UP and keep going, but Hank's talk reduced his time somewhat.)

Summarizing: we found out what a forest community is: all organisms and plants in an area that is dominated by trees. (Don counts over 20 kinds of communities.) We found that islands develop different kinds of forests...that manmade communities can be beneficial or accidental and usually destructive, as, for example, the October, 1871 fires that not only destroyed Chicago, but much of Michigan....how forests recover from disasters, such as fires or logging...and why we should buy the new *Michigan Geology and Geography* at local bookstores (what else?), a great successor to Larry Sommers' *Michigan Atlas*.

Then Don took us on the trip, beginning with the Toumey Woods on South Hagadorn (on campus), one of few never-been-logged maple-beech forest communities. 'Twas a great trip!

Then we applauded our out-going president, Kay Butcher, picked up an extra donut and went home. Thanks to Don Dickman, and thanks to Gale Arent, Veep, who has scheduled these programs for the past two years, and who will no doubt soon be president. (Ed)



**MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION
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This and That BUT All Important

SEND YOUR LUNCH RESERVATIONS TO BOB WENNER

Bob would rather get your May Luncheon reservations near his home rather than come into the retirees' office. Send them to Bob Wenner (or MSURA), Box 203, Okemos, MI 48805. But if, like your editor, you have already sent them to the office, he will still pick 'em up.

FINAL TAB ON UNITED WAY

We retirees did not pledge/pay quite as much this year as last to the Lansing Area United Way. 328 donors gave \$75,183, according to Darlene Wenner, our United Way rep. That's down about \$6000 from a year ago. But, as several folks said, not bad for an economy in so much turmoil.

A REQUEST FROM PATRICK SCHEETZ, VEEP-ELECT

Patrick says he would like some suggestions for Programs and Events beginning in the Fall. Each year the Association provides programs and events of interest to our members. All MSU retirees are welcome. No prior registration is required for any meeting except when announced (e.g. the Annual Luncheon Meeting in May).

What would interest you? MSU retirees are encouraged to recommend topics, tours, or programs for future events. Contact the MSU Retirees Association with your suggestions: msura@msu.edu or call: (517) 353-7896. Thanks for sharing your ideas. (Patrick)