



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

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Winter 2010

THE 70s: REMEMBER LASH LARROWE?



If you spend too much time in libraries you'll sometimes be led astray by some curious volume shelved right next to the books you've come to find. That's how I learned, a few months ago, that Charles P. "Lash" Larrowe, WWII veteran, MSU Econ. Prof., Faculty Grievance Officer, and gadfly of five administrations, had published a collection* of the opinion pieces he wrote for the *State News* during the 1970s.

I read several of these pieces, sat down and read several more. Then, inspired by the impetuous, dissolute, arrogant persona Larrowe had created for himself, slipped the book under my jacket and sneaked it past the check-out desk.

In his preface former President Walter Adams makes the improbable claim that Larrowe first arrived at MSU in 1956 dressed like a banker in ". . . dark suits, bow ties, and wing-tip shoes." He was nevertheless an outspoken advocate of civil rights and social justice whose conduct, real and imagined, was extensively documented in files kept by the FBI and the State Police Red Squad.

Larrowe first decided to put one of his opinions into print when he thought President Hannah was trying to stifle dissent by accusing three students of being Communists. He asked Walter Adams to read his first draft. "Too polemical, too earnest, downright dull," thought Adams and encouraged him to find a larger audience through humor. "Poke fun," he suggested, "at the absurdity of a university with 35,000 students trembling at the thought of three 'commies' in its midst."

And so he did. From the start Lash created a larger than life character to speak in his name: an unprincipled, philandering blowhard who pompously defended the very positions Larrowe would have attacked in a straight critique. He wrote the pieces in first person, present tense, with an artfully ungrammatical style.

Here are some samples (compressed with out the usual indicators of what's skipped): "I'm out at the gravel pit, tootin' coke and skinny dipping. I see this guy heading towards me. I can tell he's one of your bleeding hearts I always avoid. 'Would you believe it,' he says, 'the U puts its money into stocks of corporation that have branches in a lot of countries like South Africa with repressive regimes. Can't you see the immorality in that?' 'Negative,' I says, 'You show me a stock that'll get me 11 or 12 per percent, I'm buying it. Company could be making neutron bombs. I could care less.' "

(Cont. on Page 8)

MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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The Spirit of Giving

By Gale L. Arent, MSURA President

The holiday season can be the best time of the year, primarily because of the relationships nurtured with family and friends — often expressed through the practice of giving. I expect that, regardless of your age, opening a wrapped package remains as one of life's enjoyable experiences. I also expect that as we mature, the joy of giving increases. One of my most gratifying gifts of 2009 was a bicycle to the MSU Museum. I purchased the Schwinn bicycle for \$23 in 1962 to bring with me to MSU as a freshmen. It served me well as a source of transportation around campus. My son, Lee, also used the bike for MSU transportation when he was a student in 1987. The bike had MSU registration stickers from both eras on the back fender. I stored the bike inside our home for 47 years, believing that son Lee or his sister, Amy, would recognize its excellent condition and share my sentimental attachment. Not so... They refused the gift of this

legacy bike on several occasions. I decided to ask Val R. Berryman, MSU Museum Curator of History, if his collection could use the bike. He was pleased with its condition, surprised that I could also provide a purchase receipt, and that it had two generations of MSU registration stickers. It is now preserved with other MSU Museum artifacts between the west upper and lower decks of Spartan Stadium — a far better place for it than in Amy's or Lee's garage! I hope this story can remind all of us of the gratification that can result from giving. I am reminded of a quote of Esther Baldwin York:

"Giving is a joy if we do it in the right spirit. It all depends on whether we think of it as, 'What can I spare?' or as 'What can I share?' "

Best personal wishes for a wonderful 2010. I hope all of us will discover meaningful opportunities to share our time, talent, wisdom and treasure.



President Gale Arent presenting his MSU bike to Val R. Berryman, MSU Curator of History

GREAT MONTHLY MEETINGS BECKON

These are all Monday meetings that begin at 2 p.m., with coffee and donuts at 1:30. Place: the first floor in the Crescent Rd. branch of the MSU Credit Union. (That's the old main office, just off Harrison Rd.)

January 11, 2010: Don Nugent, Board of Trustees (former Chair), notable cherry farmer and spokesperson for that farming industry.

February 8, 2010: Dr. John Shinsky, who with three friends, rode their bikes from Spartan Stadium last spring, and traveled all the way to Metamora, Mexico, where John has established an orphanage for abandoned or orphaned children in the region. John taught in the Lansing schools for 35 years, and was himself an All-American defensive tackle for the Spartans back when. He is also a cancer survivor.

March 15, 2010: (NOTE: THIS IS THE 3RD MONDAY, NOT OUR USUAL 2ND MONDAY GATHERING.) Our own **Brent Bowditch, Assistant VP for Human Resources** at the U. Here, finally, will be your chance to hear and engage with the one who knows the most about your health benefits!

April 15, 2010: Robert Groves, VP for University Advancement. Last summer this new unit was created with the inclusion of University Development and the Alumni Association under this new umbrella. He tells folks that such events as the U.S. Department of Energy's decision to put its rare isotope beam facility here, as well as IBM's recent move onto campus, and the success of athletic programs has made the U a prime place for innovation and growth. Bob comes to us from the school down in Ann Arbor where he was campaign director for University Development.

May 10, 2010: Our annual luncheon Meeting. Former President **Gordon Guyer** will give his "Ten Top Memories of Michigan State University." Gordon came about the time the Dead Sea took sick, so this should be a walk through memories for many of us. (This meeting will be held in Kellogg Center.)

SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT GENERICS

Human Resources will hold 14 Info Sessions in January

Now that you have all read the information from Human Resources/Staff Benefits on Generic Drugs and the changes taking place March 1, 2010, if you have questions you can discuss them at fourteen sessions at several different venues. Reps from MSU's Pharmacies and from CVS/Caremark will be there to answer your queries.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

11 a.m. to Noon at the International Center in Spartan Room C

Noon to 1 p.m. at the International Center in Spartan Room C

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the International Center in Spartan Room C

3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Credit Union on Crescent Dr. (Go thru main entrance)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

11 a.m. to Noon at the MSU Union, Green Room

Noon to 1 p.m. at the MSU Union, Green Room

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the MSU Union, Green Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

11 a.m. to Noon at the MSU Union, Green Room

Noon to 1 p.m. at the MSU Union, Green Room

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the MSU Union, Green Room

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

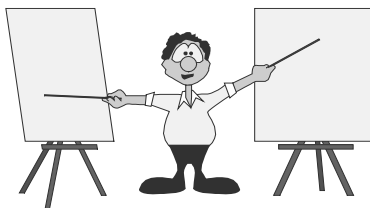
11 a.m. to Noon at the International Center in Spartan Room C

Noon to 1 p.m. at the International Center in Spartan Room C

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the International Center in Spartan Room C

3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Credit Union on Crescent Dr. (Go thru main entrance)

Alice Smith, Communications Manager for Human Resources says you can also get information at www.hr.msu.edu/generics. (Ed)



What's New at the U

By Charles Downs

A rash of news stories this past fall foretell the possible demise of a wide variety of programs and departments at MSU. Even geology – specifically listed in the 1855 legislation that created MSU – is in peril.

To the casual, disconnected observer, the process might seem chaotic and secretive. But it is all part of a master plan called “Shaping our Future.” Anyone can view — and contribute to — the process on the Web at <http://www.shapingthefuture.msu.edu>

As stated in the guiding principles, “The task before Michigan State is to evaluate everything we do, not from the perspective of what can be cut, but from the perspective of what the university must do. We must shape our activities to support our priorities. . . .”

The need for the plan is said to stem from a financial climate in which health care and energy costs continue to rise significantly above inflation and “a decline in state support will likely be severe and permanent.” The plan assumes a four percent reduction in General Fund operating budgets for all units this year, a six percent reduction next year and perhaps “comparable or more severe reductions in following years.”

Provost Kim Wilcox said he will decide the fate of many of the programs by late spring. He expects the phasing out process will take several years.

DIARRHEA VACCINE – Ever experienced what is politely called “travelers’ diarrhea”? And are you aware that this E. coli disease kills two to three million children each year in developing countries? If so, you will be happy to know that an MSU scientist has developed a vaccine for 60 to 70 percent of such diseases. It’s not yet on the market pending human trials and assignment of patent rights.

Development of a vaccine has been difficult because the molecules of the toxin made by the E. coli are so small they do not prompt immunity, allowing people to get sick repeatedly. Mahdi Saeed, a professor in both Veterinary Medicine and Human Medicine, found a way to overcome the problem. By mapping the biology and structure of the molecules, he created a biological carrier that could be attached to the toxin molecules to induce a response that alerts the body’s immune system.

The vaccine might also be used to protect newborn calves and piglets from diarrheal disease that causes a loss of \$300 million in agricultural products each year. Saeed’s research has been named one of the top stories of the year by *Discover Magazine*.

WE RETIREES often hear – or say – words like these, “Well, now that Henry is gone, Henrietta will probably follow soon.” That kind of conventional wisdom has now been substantiated by the research of Hui Liu, assistant professor of sociology.

While married folks live longer than single ones, the widows and widowers have a higher mortality rate, Liu reports in the December issue of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

“It’s a bit surprising to me,” said Liu, “With the improvements in medical technology, it seems all population groups should be healthier and living longer.” However, she also points out that widowhood is associated with reduced economic resources and loss of social support. For more detail, see <http://news.msu.edu/story>.

ART MUSEUM – The Board of Trustees has given the green light to construction of the Broad Art Museum. Groundbreaking for the ultra-modern building will be in the spring. A projected 23 months of construction would have it ready to go in 2012. The building features a “pleated” aluminum and glass exterior by London-based architect Zaha Hadid, who won an international design competition sponsored by the U. Her love-it or hate-it design contrasts sharply with other campus buildings but landscaping is expected keep it connected.

Concerns have been expressed about the functionality of the design in a Michigan winter and the feasibility of bringing construction in at a projected cost of \$40-45 million. Those concerns have apparently been resolved.

Construction is being financed by a gift of \$18.5 million from MSU alumnus Eli Broad and his wife, Edythe. Private gifts are expected to fund the balance. The Broads also gave \$7.5 million to commission a signature sculpture and acquisitions, operations and endowment.

What's New at the U

MSU IN DUBAI – Global economic problems have caused a sharp downturn in the economy of Dubai, which until recently was the boomtown of the Arabian emirates. The emirate's grand plans for creating a regional hub of higher education helped to persuade MSU open a campus there in 2008.

Most of the students for MSU and the other Dubai campus were supposed to come from the families of the workers who have been attracted there from many nations. But with the economic downturn, many of these expatriates have gone home, leaving a limited number of potential student applicants.

MSU was looking for 250 students but had only 100 this past fall. It seems to have solved this temporarily by offering half-price scholarships (annual tuition is \$15,840) to the first 100 applicants who qualify for admission.

Other universities in the area protested, saying the action was unprofessional. Nevertheless, more than 220 students have applied and that is expected to be enough to meet MSU standards, which are the same as in East Lansing.

Problems in Dubai have been compounded by the inability of the emirate to pay off the massive debt it has accumulated. That eased somewhat in December when the neighboring very, very oil-rich emirate of Abu Dhabi said it would provide a \$10 billion support fund.

A NEW WAY to convert a gas or a liquid fuel into electrical energy has the support of a \$2.5 million grant from the Department of Energy to Norbert Mueller, associate professor of mechanical engineering.

That creates a problem for me as a guy who used to make a living explaining technology to lay people. But at this point I can't explain a "wave disk generator" because I have only a very vague idea of how it works. But from what I read, it is a simpler, smaller, lighter, cheaper-to-make engine for keeping hybrid cars charged. It also has the potential to produce 95 percent less carbon dioxide than conventional engines.

Mueller's task over the next two years is to build on his recent research by working toward the production of a vehicle-size wave-disk generator. I'm sure that this project has great potential and maybe I'll

be able to provide a better explanation when I write my next column this spring. In the meantime you can find a lot on the Web about wave disk generators. Maybe you can help me understand.

GRAND RAPIDS COUP – An elite group of scientists known for their research on Parkinson's disease has been lured from the University of Cincinnati to MSU's medical campus in Grand Rapids. They bring with them a \$6.2 million grant to continue their research.

The grant, expected to be transferred this summer, would put MSU into an exclusive group of 14 universities with a Morris K. Udall Center of Excellence for Parkinson's Disease Research.

A motivating factor was the presence in Grand Rapids of the Jay Van Andel Parkinson Research Lab. The lab is part of a \$170 million expansion of the Van Andel Institute. CEO Dave Van Andel has a personal interest in Parkinson's in that he lost his father, Jay Van Andel to the disease in 2004.

IZZO DOLLARS – The highly respected *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported in December that basketball coach Tom Izzo received \$8.7 million from MSU in 2006. Previous press reports had his income in the \$7 million range. However, his contract as described in an Oct. 8, 2004 news release indicates a number of factors that might explain the discrepancies and why 2006 was a special year.

"The contract remains a seven-year roll over deal with a base salary of \$320,000 and supplemental income of \$1,010,000. Additional compensation in the amount of \$300,000, which was deferred under the previous contract, becomes current compensation in the new agreement. Remaining in the contract is a performance bonus of 30 percent of the base salary if the Spartans reach the NCAA Final Four. The base salary and supplemental income will be adjusted each July based on the national Consumers Price Index.

"As laid out in the previous contract, Izzo receives at the end of the 2005-06 season the value of \$3.4 million invested in 2001, so long as he remains the head coach. Under the new terms and beginning with the 2006-07 season, Izzo will receive an additional \$1 million at the end of each season through the 2009-10 season, as long as he remains the Spartan head coach."

IZZO SUCCESS – Sports Illustrated has named MSU as its "Best School" for college basketball in this decade.

next page

What's New at the U

The Spartans who have won only one national championship during the period beat out two-time national champions North Carolina and Florida. "But while the Spartans only won a single championship (in 2000), they also went to four Final Fours," the magazine said. "Moreover, unlike the other two candidates, the Spartans made the NCAA tournament every year this decade. That is a remarkable achievement in an era when the best teams so frequently lose young players to the pros." This year, the Spartans appear to be on the road to success once more.

WHAT WERE they thinking? That's what people were asking when a number of football players got involved in an altercation with members of Iota Phi Theta. And the answer always was, "They weren't thinking."

The upshot was that two players were kicked off the team and another 14 suspended and made ineligible to play in or even to practice for the Alamo Bowl game on Jan. 2. Some of the suspended players were key starters during the regular season. As I write this, I'm wondering if the Spartans will manage to look respectable in the Alamo Bowl. While fans may be unhappy about the incident, the players who didn't take part in the fracas are the main victims. Coach Mark Dantonio has taken some blame but has firmly established his intolerance for bad behavior. Fans that I know continue to support him.

FINALLY, we have an executive director of the MSU Alumni Association who doesn't have the word, "acting" before his title. He is Scott Westerman, an alum with 25 years experience in cable television, most recently as an area vice president for Comcast in Albuquerque. He succeeds two acting directors, Stella Cash and William Beekman, who followed after Keith Williams. The association is now part of the recently created Office of the Vice President for University Advancement headed by Robert Groves.

A Michigan native, Westerman obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in telecommunication from MSU in 1978. In 2001, he was awarded the MSU College of Communication Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumnus award. During the past year, Westerman has served as president of the MSU Alumni Association's national alumni board. He and his wife, Colleen are life members of the MSU Alumni Association. They are also members of the Jonathan A. Snyder Donor Society, having established the Scott and Colleen Westerman Technology Endowment to support MSU.

A Ton of Info from Steve Webster

That's the way reporter Sharon Debar opened her summary of the November 9th, 2009 meeting, talk and conversation with Steve Webster, the U's VP for Governmental Affairs. Michigan (my Michigan) is 49th among the states in investment in higher education. State money at one time supported about 75% of the cost of an education at MSU; today it pays for about 30%. So a Public Land Grant Institution is forced to act like a private university. This means fewer Michigan students can afford to come here, the 10,000 employees must have their numbers reduced, their health care benefits pruned, research stunted, and on it goes.

People see new buildings and think the U has plenty of money. But the state has not funded a new building since 1997. Forty four percent of this year's state funding to our College, Agriculture's experiment stations and all MSU Extension programs is one-time federal stimulus recovery act money. MSU must begin to wind down these many programs and services immediately, with no clear funding in the future. Who would believe this state of affairs, when agriculture is the state's #1 economic base? (Tourism and manufacturing follow in importance.)

After telling retirees that we must help tell the university's story, Steve went on to describe new job-creating industries we have helped bring into our area. IBM has created a new unit for workers and located it in the old MSU Federal Credit Union headquarters building. houses the company's only stateside location in the U.S. Neighbor America, a social media corporation, came here because of our skilled workers, their work ethic and company loyalty. Liquid Web, a warehouse of computer services is the Board of Water and Light's #1 user of electricity in Delta Twp.

A sobering hour for sure. But the coffee was hot— thanks, Credit Union workers.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

We do dental. *Better.*

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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, 2010. Send to Kay Butcher, Awards Committee Chair, 610 Emily Ave, Lansing, MI 48910 or butcher@msu.edu.

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, Ciella 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, Fred Kletke, and Nancy Craig.

(History cont. from Page 1)

On supply-side economics and Reagan budget cuts: “David [Stockman, Reagan’s Budget Director] was my protégé. All he knows about econ, he learned from me. These ADC cuts’ll drive all the welfare chiselers right into the factories where they belong. You’ll see productivity go up then.”

A female student asks Larowe about gender equality in sports: “When the women’s team went on the road their meal allowance was only half what the men’s team got. They had to sleep two in a bed too.” “I don’t see no violation of your Title IX there,” says Lash, “Women eat less than men, right, so their meals don’t cost ‘em as much. They’re a lot smaller, too.” This stance on implementing Title IX was persuasive enough to draw three serious rebuttals, also included in the book.

There are running gags throughout the book that remind me of the old Jack Benny show. Lash recovers with quick alibi’s when he’s discovered, once by President Harden, reading Hustler at the airport news stand, or standing in line for the skin flicks in Wells Hall. He denies, often and indignantly, that he’s used the same lecture notes since 1958, forges his own student evaluations, and gives 4.0 grades to female students who, ah, well, you get the idea.

Adams thinks Larowe may have been influenced by the turn-of-the-century (and you know which turn-of-the-century he means) Chicago writer, Peter Finley Dunne. Dunne’s character, Mr. Dooley, puzzling over the day’s news with his friend “Hinissy,” gave voice – and what a thick, nearly unreadable Irish voice it was – to Dunne’s own Anti-imperialist misgivings about American adventures in Cuba and the Philippines. Indeed there is a long history of American homespun humor, regional and ethnic dialect, and writers who make their own points through characters who overstate or naively voice the positions under attack. Think of Huck Finn who expects to go to hell for the sin of helping a slave escape. The tradition continues in a new venue these days in the feigned bombast of Steven Colbert on the Comedy Channel.

Dunne, like Colbert, addressed national events and appealed to large national audiences. Alas, Lash’s literary art was constrained by the events at one mid-western university during the 1970s. But it is certainly an entertaining nostalgia trip back to that turbulent era of sex, drugs, rock and roll, gender politics, and foreign policy debates at faculty meetings.

Larowe’s book is out of print but inexpensive used copies can be found online. (This is the Age of Google; what can be named can be found.) And if yer still hangin’ out in East Lansing there’s a copy in the MSU library – leastwise there will be. Soon’s Suzy here finishes my massage I’m gonna sneak it back onto the shelves ‘fore them fussy librarians come lookin’ for me. Yessir! Damn tootin’ I will. (* “*Lashing Out: the Best of Lash Larowe*”, The Irrepressible Press, East Lansing, MI, 1982. (Milt Powell, Historian)

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In fact, we appreciate all the support we've received over the last 29 years from all our members, employers and providers.

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Physicians Health Plan 
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Our Busy Retirees Volunteering



Old Newsboys

Vern Johnson, Old Newsboys Association;
Brenda Spackman



Vern Johnson, Brenda Spackman,
Fred Graham, Ron Smith



United Way Mailings

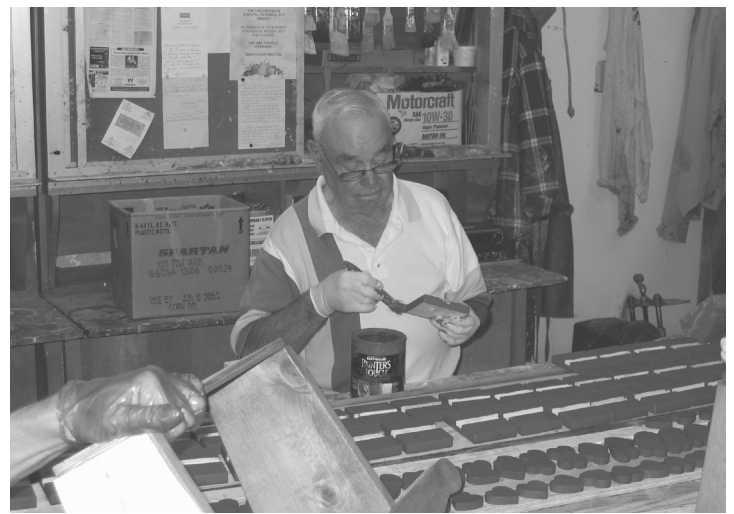
TOP LEFT: Stephanie Barch; MIDDLE:
Nancy Craig; RIGHT: United Way em-
ployee; Virginia Stewart.

LEFT: Darlene Wenner, Joan Gilliland,
Patrick Scheetz



Membership

Bottom Row: Joan Smith, Don Jost; Top Row: Herb Bucholtz, Joe Lessard, Kathy Lessard, Marilyn Rothert and Patrick Scheetz



R.J. Scheffel Toy Project

Dick Bernitt



Some of Our Knitters

FROM LEFT: Anna Brand, Becky Blair
Marilyn Boger, Betty Dunkel
Burt Smith

Jackie Hornick, Sterling
Tryon- Hartwig, Lorone Deyoung

Your Opinions and Actions Matter!

As 2009 draws to a close and we look to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, there is no doubt that health care costs and other budget issues will continue to be a major challenge for Michigan State University in the months and years ahead. MSU faces some difficult decisions.

But the Spartan spirit is alive and well and the MSU community is doing what we have always done during tough times – we’re tackling those challenges together.

As I continue to meet with various groups to discuss ideas to cut health care costs, I am grateful and impressed by the strong desire I’ve encountered from retirees to be an active part of the solution. Every MSU employee and retiree can help us control health care costs by doing common sense things like choosing generic medications, eating healthfully, getting enough exercise and sleep and working hard to keep chronic conditions under control. Little steps, taken by many, really can add up to substantial savings.

And your ideas can be as helpful as your actions. The feedback and ideas we’ve received through the MSU Retiree Association and individual retirees continue to be helpful and valuable to our decision-making processes. Please keep them coming. We’re listening. Send them to hmail@msu.edu or mail them to MSU Human Resources, Ste. 250 Nisbet Building, East Lansing, MI 48823. **(Brent Bowditch, Assistant Vice President MSU Human Resources.)**



DONORS SUPPORT MSURA

RON SMITH, our Budget chair, has sent your editor a note containing a list of donors since our Fall Spartan Senior. Thanks, loyal Spartans, retired!

Dr. and Mrs. James Lubkin, Gaithersburg, MD
Ms Ritta Rosenberg, Okemos, MI
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Williams, East Lansing, MI
Dr. Lee Winder, East Lansing, MI
Mr. Neil Snepp, Haslett, MI
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Dr. Rachel Schemmel, East Lansing, MI
Jean Rooney, East Lansing, MI
Fred and Jean Graham, East Lansing, MI
John Casbergue, East Lansing, MI

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: 300 Spartan Way, East Lansing, MI 48824-1005.

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!

We Hear from Our Readers

EVERYBODY wants to hear from other readers, but not enough of you write in to provide writing for readers. (Was it Snuffy Smith who said, "I can read writin' but I cain't write readin'?) Of course, when someone signs up for 5 years that's 5 years between messages. Maybe we ought to open a box in the MSURA office for folks just to send in letters?

Anyway, **Connie Skidmore (Intcolleg. Athletics)** writes from Battle Creek that her Bill almost put their subscription notice in the shredder! She also wants to donate lots of yarn to the Knitting Group if we can put her in touch with the leader. (*Wonder who that is?*)

Jim Mulvany (Extension) writes from Mason that reading the list of the deceased in the last international issue brings home how many have gone, and he finds himself reminiscing about events, trips and workdays that he experienced with colleagues of old. He worked with great people, fast friends. (*I think many of us resonate with Jim's nostalgia.*)

Verna Hildebrand (Fam&ChildEcology) writes from Mile High City that she swims daily and really enjoys her health benefits and MSURA's work in representing her and other retirees.

Lynn Brumm, D.O. (Osteo Med) writes from nearby East Lansing that at the recent convention of the American Osteopathic Association in New Orleans, out of 150 nominees, he was selected Mentor of the Year. It was quite an honor to be nominated by past and present students in his college and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at the U. In retirement, he continues to consult with the athletic departments, and is principle investigator in a research study of stress fractures in athletes. (*I wonder if he could check out my aging, aching bones?*)

Alan Anderson (Ag Coll Budget) complains from Blue Lake about a two-fold increase in the Spartan Senior's cost, and is shocked to read that our governor proposed to end financial support

for the Extension Service and the Experiment Station. But, he goes on, financial shenanigans are nothing new in Michigan. He and Frieda also spend time in Florida and attend the March retiree luncheon in Bradenton.

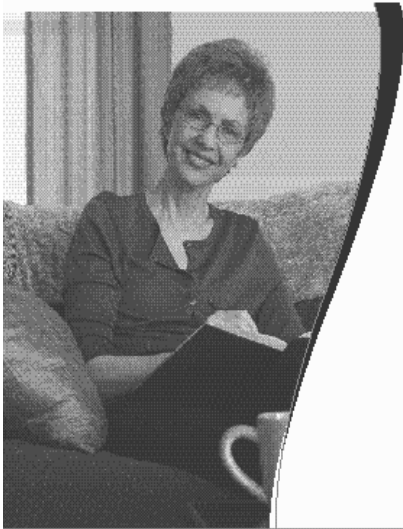
Dorothy Boettger (Chemistry) writes from Brighton just to thank us for 18 years of the Spartan Senior.

And out West in Byron Center, **Willard Bosserman (Ext)** had to give up lip sync impressions, but still sings "a pleasant sound unto the Lord" in the church choir. Two stents means he's good for another ten years (*30 years retired; what a record!*)

Up in Traverse and soon in Sun City for the winter, **Dean Rhoads (Ext)** seems to spend both summer and winter on golf, with fishing & hunting & family keeping 'em busy while up North. He and Bonnie will host the Fairview high school class's 58th reunion in Frankenmuth. 23 graduated and 22 are still kicking. (*Michiganders are tough people!*)

Finally, **Merle Potter (Mech. Eng)** was awarded the The James Harry Potter Gold Medal for eminent achievement in the application of the science of thermodynamics in mechanical engineering, at the 2008 International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition. Merle began teaching at the U in 1965, retiring in 1998. In addition to teaching and publications, he was chair of the committee that created the Engineering Arts B.S. degree program. (*He writes strong Letters to the Editor in the Lansing State Journal, as well.*)

All these letters are interesting to your Communications Committee as well as to your editor. We like to know that people are strongly involved in life-after-retirement.



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OLD NEWSBOYS COME THROUGH

The picture (page 10) is not quite correct. Vern Johnson, on the left, is past president of Old Newsboys Association. But Brenda Spackman, our campus organizer, is definitely not a boy by any definition. Fred Graham and Ron Smith really were old newsboys.

Brenda tells your editor that the \$119,100 raised so far this winter (by December 15) is below the \$140,000 goal. Among features of the sale of the Spooft edition of the Lansing State Journal are the following: fourteen retiree volunteers, plus three friends brought the campus total to \$2,739. Another \$500 was donated by fans attending the women's basketball game that evening, thanks to Coach Suzy Merchant, the honorary sales chair for the 2009 sale. The Lansing State Journal donated all the printing costs.

Thanks to prudent investments, vouchers to the amount of \$224,600 have been made for the purchase of shoes, boots, and socks for 4,893 youngsters. It's still not too late to contribute: Box 14058, Lansing, MI 48901.

RETIREES VISIT DEMMER SHOOTING SPORTS CENTER

On November somewhere between forty and fifty retirees jaunted out by Jolly and College to visit the new John and Marty Demmer Shooting Sports and Training Center, where we were instructed on the various ways in which this recent gift to the University will be used for classes, for local and state police training, and just for the fun of target practice. Thanks for MSURA V.P. Patrick Scheetz for arranging a fascinating venue in an area of the University's work that only a few of us would've found on our own. You'll see about thirty of us lined up for the camera in the photo (page 10).

“The Green Corner”

by Kirk Heinze

Since retiring a year ago, I have had the good fortune to host a radio show, “Greening of the Great Lakes,” each Friday from 7:05-8:00p.m. on WJR 760 AM. The show and companion Web site (www.greeningofthegreatlakes.com) had their genesis in a conversation between President Simon and WJR President & General Manager Mike Fezzey.

The Web site and show serve as examples of how the vibrant MSU-WJR partnership extends beyond athletic broadcasting to encompass MSU’s teaching, research and outreach efforts. The show, which is artfully produced by Russ White in University Relations, focuses on the interconnectedness of environmental, economic and social sustainability and features guests from academia, government and the private sector.

Issues range from constructing LEED-certified buildings to controlling invasive species in the Great Lakes to developing battery-powered cars to conserving energy in homes and offices. MSU faculty and staff are frequent guests, which gives me the opportunity to showcase the myriad sustainability initiatives underway across the University. Following are just a few selected examples from recent shows:

Climate Change Research: Julie Winkler, MSU geography professor, is leading a \$1.5 million research project that will measure the effects of climate change on specific global industries. Researchers will use the tart cherry industry as one example and attempt to develop a climate change impact assessment system that will enable producers world-wide to make more informed management and marketing decisions.

The theme for this year’s Homecoming weekend was “We’ve Always Been Green,” a spin-off of MSU’s robust “Be Spartan Green” environmental stewardship initiative (www.bespartangreen.msu.edu). Major objectives of “Be Spartan Green” are to reduce campus energy use by 15%, reduce landfill waste by 30% and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15%—all by 2015. Undergirding these laudable goals, however, is a deeper institutional commitment to make bold, systemic changes in the way we understand and address environmental stewardship—across the mission of the University. The “Be Spartan Green” leadership team includes students—along with faculty and staff.

The New MSU Surplus Store and Recycling Center: In September MSU formally opened the Surplus Store and Recycling Center located off Service Road, just west of Farm Lane. The \$13 million Center was inspired by MSU students—something VP Fred Poston warmly acknowledged in his remarks. Features of the building include rainwater collection tanks on the roof, low-flow fixtures in restrooms, rooftop solar panels that will produce 10 percent of the building’s electricity and recycled green-glass countertops. MSU has applied for “silver” LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Carbon2Markets: David Skole, MSU forestry professor, is spearheading a program that helps farmers in five developing Asian and African countries, including Laos and Thailand, integrate high-value forest crops into the crops they are already producing. Not only do these high-value crops produce additional income for the farmers, but because they also sequester carbon, the farmers can earn additional money by selling carbon credits on the Chicago Climate Exchange

Student Organic Farm: Under the leadership of Dr. John Biernbaum, MSU professor of horticulture, a group of visionary students established the Student Organic Farm a decade ago and began production in 2002. Subsequently, a certificate program in organic farming was developed and has attracted students from across the nation. During the growing season, students and volunteers sell vegetables and spices on campus at a stand on Farm Lane in front of the MSU Auditorium. Business is generally quite brisk.

You can hear these interviews and others like them by going to www.greeningofthegreatlakes.com and clicking on the audio archives.

Russ and I also blog on www.mlive.com/environment where you can also find audio files for selected interviews. If you get a chance to either tune into the show or listen on-line, I would be most interested in your feedback. (**Kirk Heinze, Chairperson and Director Emeritus Agriculture and Natural Resources Communication heinzek@msu.edu**)

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

I wish to renew/start my subscription for the MSURA newsletter at **\$10** per year with the enclosed payment to "The MSU Retirees Association."

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Some Member's Thoughts on MSURA

The following recently retired members have chosen to be active in the MSURA. This is what they have to say.

From Joan Smith, "I've always enjoyed helping with community events, keeping up with the latest campus happenings and especially 'putting a face with a name'. I've enjoyed working with and meeting university retirees that I may have talked to on the phone or whose research I may have read about."

From Don Jost, "Our former employer's sources of revenue are threatened severely. MSU must make lots of lose-lose decisions. Therefore, retiree and spouse benefits are threatened. MSURA is a capable voice if thousands of retirees actually show they support it as the 'messenger' on their behalf."

From Herb Bucholtz, "I support the MSURA because I wanted to continue to be involved and give back to MSU. As a retiree I want to be informed on university issues that can affect me and my family. I feel that supporting the MSURA allows all retirees to be represented by an association that is interested in retiree issues."

From Joe Lessard, "My wife, Kathy, and I have enjoyed a long history of affiliation with the MSU community—both as MSU students and employees and parents of MSU students. Becoming a member of the MSURA seems a very natural next step in maintaining and building on this long standing relationship. We look forward to many more satisfying years as MSU affiliates through an association with MSU retirees."

From Kathy Lessard, "It is an opportunity to stay connected to MSU and also to meet new people. Many of the retirees didn't know one another before and now we have a common interest—we are retired! I have always loved and been proud of my connection to MSU and knew that when I retired I would want to give back in some way. I would encourage ALL retirees who can and are able to get involved in some way. There are many committees and interests—just ask. MSU needs us now even more!"

From Marilyn Rothert, "The MSURA is a wonderful opportunity to stay connected and informed about MSU and to continue and expand relationships with colleagues. There are opportunities to be involved with the University and it is a group that has great fun. It is a privilege to be a member and I encourage all retirees to support the MSURA."

From Patrick Scheetz, "The MSURA is your representative with Michigan State University, so stay connected, listen attentively, and actively participate in MSURA events. The cost for the newsletter is \$10 a year. Support the association and be active!" **(Nancy Craig, Membership Chair)**

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EXTENSION AGENTS REUNION

Does any U group keep in touch as well as Extension Agents, especially the Home Economists? Anyone who worked in MSUE's Family Living Education, Home Economics, or Consumer and Family Sciences "programs" please mark September 15 on your calendar. It's a day of visiting and learning about MSU Extension 2010.

We will gather at the MSU Extension Office in Mason from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. You will get a postcard reminder in the Spring and how-to-register in the Summer. If you want to add your name to the "list" contact Sandy Draheim at draheim@msu.edu, or 15308 Mercury Dr, Grand Haven, MI 49417. Previous listees need not contact Sandy. (All this is from Sandy Clarkson Stuckman. Ed.)