



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

Vol. 31 No. 3

International Edition

Summer 2010

PRESIDENT GUYER BRINGS DOWN THE HOUSE AT BANQUET

JERRY HULL EARNS SPARTAN SENIOR CITIZEN AWARD

PATRICK SCHEETZ ELECTED PRESIDENT



Gordon Guyer



Jerry Hull



Patrick Scheetz

130 of the Retired gathered to celebrate their longevity, to cheer on President Gale Arent's valedictory speech (timed at 7 minutes), to roar at former MSU President Gordon Guyer's recollections, approve the motion to incorporate the retirees association, and tweak the by-laws to incorporate that change. (Someone said that now we can insure the association from a libel suit when our editor plays fast and loose with the truth!)

In addition to the headlined activities (above), we had a great meal served by students who had just survived final exams. President Arent presented the table roses to several honorees within the association, as well as to folks not-yet-retired who have helped us this year: Dan Chegwidde, Director of Planned Giving for the U's Development Office, Patrick McPharlin, CEO of the MSU Federal Credit Union, Brent Bowditch, Assistant VP for Human Resources, Kim Wilcox, Provost, and Sally Harwood, retiring General Counsel to the U.

Former President Guyer (also former chair of Entomology, former director of Extension, former head of Michigan's Departments of Agriculture and of Natural Resources) expressed his enduring admiration for John Hannah's pioneering leadership at the U. And told lots of stories, including his words at the Gull Lake Forest's longtime director Walt Lemmien's funeral, claiming that his (Guyer's) rabbit dog was the best. (Virginia Lemmien, Walt's surviving spouse, had told Gordon that among her husband's last words was to assert that claim for his dog.)

New officers were elected, including Patrick Scheetz as president and Ron Smith as Veep. (See article elsewhere.) And Jerry Hull, a former president of the association, was given the coveted Spartan Senior Citizen Award for Meritorious Service. Jerry, along with Rosemary Pavlik, has re-written our by-laws, and the two have also edited a handbook for the use of association officers and committee chairs.

MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Officers and Board for 2010-2011

President	Patrick Scheetz	517-351-7538
Vice Pres	Ron Smith	517-482-3801
Secretary	Sara Stid	517-676-1702
Treasurer	Bob Wenner	517-339-1685
Past Pres	Gale Arent	517-669-8985
At-Large	Martha Davidson	517-337-9517
At-Large	Gordon Williams	517-349-9032

Committee Chairs

Offic Mgr		
Offic Asst	Brenda Spackman	517-651-9101
Offic Asst	John Roetman	517-349-1090
Spec Proj	Rosemary Pavlik	517-882-2030
Budget	Ron Smith	517-482-3801
Historian	Milton Powell	517-351-1032
Health Info	Marilyn Rothert	517-393-4364
Membership	Nancy Craig	517-351-1391
Membership	Velmer Oakley	989-224-2015
Computer Mgr	John Forsyth	517-332-6683
United Way	Darlene Wenner	517-339-1685

Spartan Senior Newsletter Editors

Internat/Local W.	Fred Graham	517-332-6184
MSU Reporter	Charles Downs	517-337-2778
Production	Stephanie Barch	517-332-8523

Website: <http://www.retirees.msu.edu>

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

A Spartan “Stamp of Approval”

By Gale L. Arent, MSURA Past President

As an MSU student in the early 60's, I have an enduring memory of President John Hannah's message to new graduates which was something like, "By conferring an MSU degree, the university is placing its lifetime stamp of approval on you. MSU is hopeful that, as you pursue a career and serve society, you will also place your stamp of approval on your university."

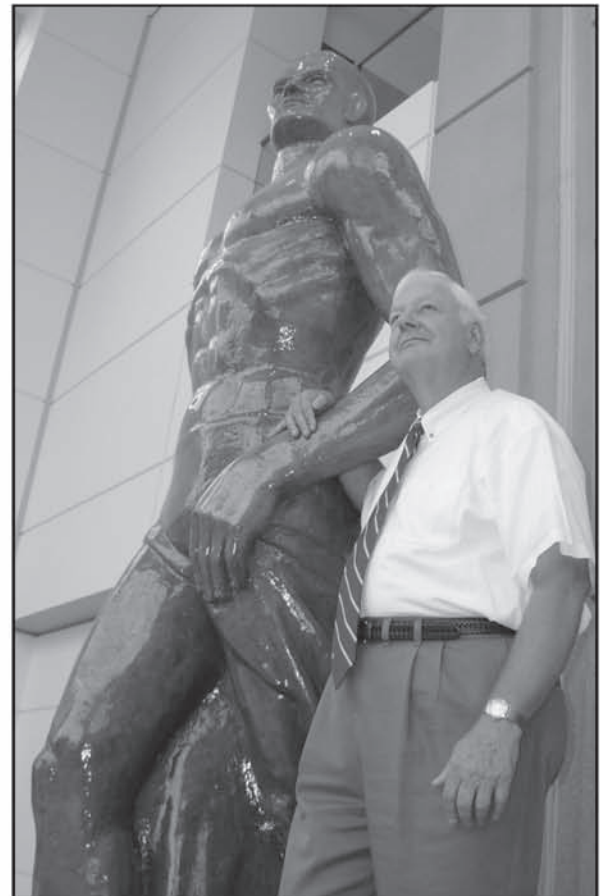
I believe that a similar message applies to MSU retirees, since MSU placed its stamp of approval on all of us by providing an employment and career opportunity. One of the questions asked by our association on this year's MSU Retiree Survey was: "How connected do you feel to MSU?" With one being "very low" and five being "very high," the response was:

1. 5.3%
2. 11.9%
3. 33.2%
4. 26.4%
5. 23.3%

The average rating was 3.5, by 455 respondents.

I am surprised by this response. I thought the connection between MSU and its retirees would be greater. One can think of reasons why the connection isn't stronger, but I would prefer to discover ways to enhance and strengthen this connection. I encourage you to embrace opportunities to nurture and honor the "stamp of approval" that we experienced as MSU employees. I believe that active participation in MSURA activities and programs is a viable way to stay connected to MSU.

Finally, I want to thank the MSURA Board of Directors, committee members, volunteers, and program participants for contributing to a successful 2009-10 year. I am especially grateful to Dr. Gordon Guyer, MSU President Emeritus, for his active support by encouraging all MSU retirees to become newsletter subscribers (\$10 per year) and for serving as the speaker for our annual spring luncheon. Dr. Guyer is a great leader and public servant. We are honored by his friendship and active support of our association.



Past President Gale Arent and Sparty, enjoying their lifelong bond.

Presidential Message

by **Patrick Scheetz**

Passing the Torch



Thank you for the opportunity to serve in a leadership capacity with your MSU Retirees Association. It is an honor and a privilege which I do not take lightly. Your vote of confidence was most appreciated. And thanks for providing an excellent leadership team: **Ron Smith**, Vice President; Secretary, **Sara Stid**; Treasurer, **Bob Wenner**; Members-at-Large, **Martha Davidson** (2011) and **Gordon Williams** (2012); and Past President: **Gale Arent**. We will do our level best to make 2010-2011 one of the very finest your Association has experienced.

Hopefully my messages to members of the MSURA are half as humorous and entertaining as those from **Gale Arent**, President for 2009-2010. By the way, **Bruce Fossum**, MSU Men's Golf Coach Emeritus, my golf game needs another lesson. Since our last tutoring session, my golfing has improved, but it has a long way to go!

Please extend thanks to Gale for his leadership and moving our Association to become a Nonprofit Corporation. Thanks so much for your excellent example of progress, patience, and getting results. You are an excellent example of a GREAT Spartan! Send messages of thanks to Gale at: arent@msu.edu

Plans for next year's MSURA will continue at a **Strategic Planning session** scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 2010, in 125 Nisbet Bldg. Members of the MSURA Board of Directors and committee chairs are invited. Other members of the Association may attend and contribute during public comment. During this session, it is expected to determine where your organization is going during the next year or more, how it is going to get there and how your Board will know if your organization got there or not. The focus of the strategic planning will be on the mission, vision, and values of the MSURA and establishing the Board's goals for next year.

(By **L. Patrick Scheetz**, MSURA President)

Will You Help Us?

Greetings MSU Retirees!

It's wonderful to finally be in the midst of summer in Michigan and I hope you are enjoying the all-too-short sunny season. I'd like to ask for your help with a fun project – nothing too strenuous – just looking for some seasoned advice. Our HR communications staff is doing some research related to materials our office offers to active employees who are beginning to think about retirement. They'd love it if you could drop them an e-mail or letter answering the following questions:

- 1) What were the biggest surprises, situations or challenges you faced right after retiring that were totally unexpected or that you hadn't anticipated?
- 2) Looking back, what is one thing (if any) that you wish you'd known or done differently before you retired that you advise employees about to retire to consider?
- 3) What is best thing you did after retiring to make the most of this new phase of your life?

If you'd like to help our communicators out by answering these questions, please send your responses via e-mail to smitha@hr.msu.edu or via regular mail to: Communications Manager, MSU Human Resources, 1407 S. Harrison, Ste. 250, Nisbet Building, E. Lansing, MI 48823. Anonymous responses are welcome, but if you are willing, please also include your name and a way to contact you so we can let you know in the future how your advice was used. Thanks and have a great summer!
Brent Bowditch, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, MSU

WHAT'S NEW AT THE U

By Charles Downs

As I am approaching my deadline for this column, the *New York Times* has just reported that MSU “is hoping that a campaign evoking its athletic prowess can help educate the outside world on its other types of achievements — not to mention reminding alumni about the importance of supporting their alma mater.” By the time you read this you will probably already be seeing evidence of “Spartans will,” the theme of the campaign. You may also be wondering about the cost. “Media spending,” says the *Times*, “is estimated at a thrifty \$478,000.” That would be cheap if it leads to many millions in gifts.

“The campaign,” explains the *Times*, “refers to all students, faculty, staff members and alumni of Michigan State as Spartans, to portray the campus as a community of doers and achievers as well as scholars.

“There are nearly 500,000 Spartans on earth,” begins a video clip on a microsite, or special Web site (<http://www.spartansagas.msu.edu/>), where members of the Michigan State community are being asked to upload videos that demonstrate what they or a Spartan they know is doing in terms of “making a difference.” (You can see a video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhYv61G2peU>).

“The campaign is indicative of how institutions of higher learning are trying to sell themselves in the marketplace with the kinds of tactics more commonly used to sell soap, soup or sedans.” The campaign is being handled by a Philadelphia “branding agency” called “160 over 90.”

TURNABOUT — I was thinking about writing about the MSU-U of M turnabout in sports. But I don't have to. Detroit News sportswriter Lynn Henning did it for me in his May 24 column.

“Once upon a time it was Michigan State that got into trouble. It was East Lansing where there were stability problems. “There were too many bad teams. Too many changes in athletic directors. Way too many football coaches. And a couple of bad NCAA probation stints in the 1970s and 1990s.

“Michigan meanwhile thrived, much to the added misery of Spartan fans. U-M's teams won on the

football field and on Crisler Arena's floor. Its two high profile Big Ten Sports reflected an athletic department that was in control and in step with a university's rich academic status.

“ . . . Michigan State is now the regional example for how a Big Ten athletic program should be run. There was a bad mess with November's dormitory fracas. But between Mark Dantonio's reconstructed football program and Tom Izzo's spotless work in making MSU basketball an elite and ongoing force, MSU has become the Michigan of 20 and 30 years ago, while Michigan has taken MSU's unenviable place as the campus where too much bad sports news originates.”

TICKET BROUHAHA — Henning went on to give praise to Athletic Director Mark Hollis. But Hollis has been taking a lot of flack from men's basketball season ticket holders who expect to get poorer seats next season than they've been getting for the past few years. When basketball moved to Breslin — and periodically ever since — the assignment of season tickets has been made according to criteria that give points to buyers for longevity as season ticket holders and also for various categories of financial support.

The bone of contention is that the points seem to be weighted more for big givers than for long-time ticket buyers. For example, a basketball season ticket holder gets three points for each consecutive year he has held the tickets. The same goes for football, hockey, volleyball and women's basketball ticket holders.

So, for example, someone who has bought season tickets for basketball for 50 years gets 150 points. If that person also has held football season tickets for 50 consecutive years, he gets another 150 for a total of 300. But someone who has made lifetime contributions of \$30,000 to athletics also gets 300 points (one point for each hundred dollars).

Another bone of contention is that no one is sitting in many of the best seats during the less important games. Hollis has answered this by making it easy for ticket holders to turn back their tickets (no

What's New at the U cont....

refunds) up to one hour before game times. This can be done on line or in person. Tickets turned back can then be given or sold to community groups

As a long-term season-ticket holder for both basketball and football, I sympathize with the protestors. Every time there has been a seat reassignment, I have ended up with poorer tickets. I also sympathize with Hollis because I might do the same thing if I had his job. Fan support is great but it takes more than ticket dollars to create and maintain the programs that bring about fan support.

I'd like to suggest a graduated system that would give more points for folks who are very long-term season ticket holders. For example, after someone has had season tickets for — say — ten years, the athletic department could increase the point value from three to four points for each of the next ten years. Then add another point per year in each successive decade. At the end of 50 years the buyer would have 250 points instead of just 150.

ART MUSEUM – I've been to a lot of groundbreaking ceremonies at MSU. But I've never seen one as elegantly staged as the one for the Broad Art Museum. It started at the site (just south of Grand River Ave. west of the Collingwood entrance). Luminaries included Eli and Edythe Broad, Zaha Hadid (the London-based architect) and Governor Jennifer Granholm. The actual digging was done with artistically designed shovels and accompanied by a fanfare from a music school horn quartet.

Then, most of the sizeable crowd adjourned to the Wharton center for a rendition by a Metropolitan Opera singer, more speechmaking and a video that provides a virtual fly-through of the building-to-be. You can see the video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z3_ApgR3X8

EVOLUTION IN ACTION – MSU made a very smart move in 1991 when they found a young associate professor at the University Of California Irvine and brought him to East Lansing as Hannah Professor of Microbial Ecology

At the time, Richard Lenski was already known for demonstrating evolution in action. He had been enabling strains of bacteria (*E. coli*) to evolve under controlled conditions for zillions of generations and

observing the results. He has expanded on that work at MSU. He has also initiated long-term studies with digital organisms (computer programs that regenerate rapidly in virtual environments).

His studies have been published in *Science*, *Nature* and other leading journal and have made him one of the world's leading authorities on evolution. More importantly, he has become the center of a coterie of scientists and computer engineers at MSU and other universities who are building on his work and further advancing studies of evolution in action.

The latest milestone came in February when MSU received a \$25 million grant from the National Science Foundation to establish one of its coveted Science and Technology Centers to study evolution in action in both natural and virtual settings.

The new Center is called BEACON, an acronym for Bio/computational Evolution in Action Consortium. It involves more than 30 researchers in four MSU colleges – Engineering, Natural Science, Agriculture and Natural Resources. It also involves four partner universities — North Carolina A&T State University, University of Idaho, University of Texas at Austin and University of Washington. Erik Goodman, MSU professor of electrical and computer engineering is the director of **BEACON**.

RAISE PRAISE – A student newspaper praising administrator raises? Unheard of! Not quite. Read these opening paragraphs of a March 3 *State News* editorial headed, "MSU administrators deserve raises, recognition." "They work hard for the money.

"In the past three years, three top MSU administrators have hauled in significant raises, despite the university cutting staff, shutting down some degree programs and slicing budgets.

"According to the *Lansing State Journal*, William Strampel, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, now makes \$324,254, an increase of more than 58 percent from three years ago. In the same time frame, College of Human Medicine Dean Marsha Rappley received an increase of 26 percent and Provost Kim Wilcox received an increase of 20 percent, boosting their salaries up to \$378,521 and \$347,000, respectively.

"MSU officials have long stated they intend to keep administrative and faculty salaries in the middle of the Big Ten and that faculty members are eligible for merit raises based on their performance every

What's New at the U cont....

year. Despite raising the salaries of the three officials, President Lou Anna K. Simon has refused raises the past two years and all of the top administrators, including Strampel, Rappley and Wilcox donated their raises back to the university, the *Lansing State Journal* also reported. An average student might look at these salary increases and be angry, especially considering MSU's recent cuts in other areas. But in the grand scheme of things, raises for university officials are a normal occurrence, and students shouldn't be upset without looking further into the situation."

PRACTICAL BENEFITS — One of the reasons for justifying esoteric basic research is that the research requires the use of new and innovative technology that is quite practical. For example, NASA's exploration of outer space has led to the development of "space-age" materials, geo-positioning gadgets, computer advancements, etc.

In much the same way, basic research by MSU's cyclotron lab has spun off new technologies that are having an economic impact on the Lansing area.

A prime example is Niowave, a Lansing company that designs and makes components for superconducting particle accelerators. It was founded in 2005 by Terry Grimm after 13 years on the faculty of MSU's National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory.

Niowave is based at a former Lansing elementary school building. The company has been amassing government contracts worth millions of dollars and its staff of 50 has more than doubled since the beginning of 2008. Grimm expects \$10 million in revenue this year and growth to 100 employees in two years.



Florida Annual Meeting

A beautiful sunny day brought approximately 80 Michigan State University retirees to the Bradenton Country Club for the 28th annual luncheon/meeting. The setting was relaxed, the food delicious and the company stimulating and fun with a great time had by all visiting with old friends and making new.

Provost Kim Wilcox was the main speaker addressing many topics ranging from the present to future concerns facing the university and how the administration will be dealing with them all. He continued referring to the "Spartan Can Do Attitude" and how MSU and its people always come shining through.

Human Resources was represented by Brent Bowditch, Assistant VP Human Resources and Renee Rivard, Director Staff Benefits, along with two representatives from CVS/Caremark. They gave a very informative overview of the new generic drug plan and how it will save the university approximately \$4 million a year.

A brief business meeting was held followed by the awarding of a multitude of door prizes.

* * * * *

A Preview of Our Fall Speakers

September 13, 2010—Scott Wasserman, Director of MSU Alumni Association

October 11, 2010—Suzy Merchant, Women's Basketball Coach

November 8, 2010—Jim Cotter, Director of MSU Admission

December 13, 2010—Erik Runkle, Horticulture Professor talking about the poinsettia industry

More detailed information will appear in the August Senior Citizen.

JERRY HULL: Volunteer of the Year

It is my pleasure to announce the winner of the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award. This year's winner has been very active both in the Association and the Community. He has served the Association Board of Directors for a number of years in many different capacities.

As President of the Association he organized a priority and strategy planning process which has served as the foundation for the development of the Association. He led the Board in the planning and funding for the 2005 Big Ten retiree associations conference being hosted by MSURA. This was a large undertaking and only occurs once every ten years.

His guidance and leadership in the development of the Operations Manual and the Bylaws of the Association has been significant. When asked, he has taken on this responsibility without hesitation and completed the task in an exemplary manner.

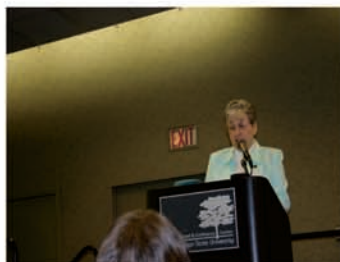
He is currently involved in teaching Christian facts and principles to four year olds, as well as organizing monthly informational programs for the seniors in his church.

He was born in Canfield, Ohio, and earned his bachelors degree at MSU. After earning his masters degree at VPI, then after U.S. Army service, he came back to MSU to earn his Ph.D. He started his career at Purdue University and then returned to MSU in the Horticulture Department.

He is still active in assisting with creating and monitoring the Hort Farms fruit spraying schedule. He also continues to be an advisor to MSU's Farmhouse Fraternity.

He and Sue have been married since 1957 and they have been an integral part of the campus and the community since they arrived here in 1965.

Again, as I said earlier, it is my pleasure to introduce the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award recipient Jerry Hull. **(Kay Butcher)**.





Your bequest will make a difference.

Office of Gift Planning
University Development
Michigan State University
300 Spartan Way
East Lansing, MI
48824-1005
(517) 884-1000
www.givingto.msu.edu

A charitable bequest to Michigan State University is a thoughtful expression of your commitment to the future of MSU and its students. The MSU Office of Gift Planning is a valuable resource for alumni and friends to explore their philanthropic desires to remember and support the college, department and/or Spartan athletic, cultural or academic program of their choice.

Remember
**Michigan State University in your will
or personal trust.**

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Robert Groves Informs at April Meeting

Our (relatively) new V.P. for University Advancement spoke to a pretty slender crowd at the Credit Union's Crescent Road branch on April 12, 2010. (Our attendance each month has crowded the Community Room this past year, save for this one meeting, so I guess finances do not rate highly with the elder crowd! ED.)

But his message was important: MSU has been very slow to connect our 421,000 alumni with the need for support from those who have benefited from their education. In fact, with the state providing a dwindling percentage of student tuition, the U has seen the need to unite the Alumni Association with University Development, and Robert Groves is its first director. We are thirty years behind other schools with only about 9% of our graduates who are members of the association, while other Big 10 schools run at about 20% paid membership. So we are using every means possible to retain and keep in touch with our alums, including all the IT channels (e.g. Facebook), promoting events in local areas where alums abound, and moving beyond the athletics-dominated contacts of the past.



As an added comment, you editor remembers meeting an alum on the West Coast who remarked that it was fine to win basketball championships, but didn't the U have anything other than sports to brag about. (Sharon DeBar and ye Editor.)

Survey of MSU Retiree Interests

As the MSU Retirees Association makes plans for next year (2010-2011), please let us know if any of the following groups would interest you:

Knitting Group _____
Retirees Book Club _____
Hiking Group _____
Brain Health Group _____
Birders Group _____
Golfing Group _____

NAME _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Please complete and return this form to: MSURA@msu.edu or call: (517) 353-7896, or mail to:

MSU Retirees Association
22 Nisbet Building
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48823

Wharton Center and New Expansion Tour

On Monday, May 3, 2010, 87 members of the MSU Retirees Association met in the front lobby of Wharton Center. Nina Silbergleit, House & Food Service Manager, took retirees and friends on a backstage tour where many had never been before. She began with a brief history of Wharton Center since opening its doors in 1982. You had to be there to get the latest scoop. There are only two universities in the country that bring major Broadway tours to their stages. The best one is MSU's Wharton Center Great Hall. Retirees got to see the Great Hall and Pasant Theatre up close and personal from each stage. Humor was provided and appreciated.

"The mission of Wharton Center is to enrich the lives of Michigan residents and strengthen the value of the arts in everyday life by serving as a leading resource for renowned arts entertainment and education programs." From this tour of the facility, it is evident that the Wharton Center staff is achieving its goal.

Wharton Center is celebrating completion of an \$18.5 million expansion and renovation project. Our tour included many new spaces, more office locations, the Cobb Great Hall and Pasant Theatre, and behind-the-scenes locations in Wharton Center. The tour spotlighted areas such as the star dressing rooms, rehearsal studios, the new patron services desk, the new gift shop, more performer dressing rooms, and much more.

With completion of its expansion and renovation, Wharton Center has new areas to enhance the experiences for patrons, especially several more restrooms. To address the growing demand for arts education, Wharton Center is aggressively growing its education and outreach programs to inspire people of all ages, retirees included. In doing so, Wharton Center is becoming a statewide resource for entertainment and arts education, which is good for our community and the State of Michigan.

Thanks, Nina, and other members of the Wharton Center staff for letting us interrupt your preparations for the next great performance. **(Patrick Scheetz).**



“The Green Corner”

MSU Researcher at Forefront of Recent Climate Change Findings

The climate change debate has had many of us scratching our heads for several years now. While the vast majority of researchers agree that meteorological data show a clear warming trend across most of the globe, there has been much debate—often strident and vociferous—on whether and how much human activity has contributed to the rising temperatures. Just recently, the National Research Council (NRC) has released three extensive panel reports that provide substantially more information on this important issue. And a MSU climate change expert has played a significant role in reviewing and assembling the scholarship.

Tom Dietz, MSU sociology professor and former director of the Environmental Science and Policy Program, served as vice chair of the NRC’s “Advancing the Science of Climate Change” panel. I recently interviewed Tom on my “Greening of the Great Lakes” radio show, which airs each Friday from 7:05-8:00 p.m. on WJR 760 AM. The show and companion Web site (www.greeningofthegreatlakes.com) are components of the MSU-WJR broadcasting partnership.

Dietz concurs with the findings of the two-year, NRC effort that “climate change is occurring, is caused largely by human activities, and poses significant risks for a broad range of human and natural systems.” He agrees that natural factors, like the sun’s radiation, are responsible for some of the warming. However, he is convinced that the majority of climate change that has occurred over the past century has been “caused by human activity, primarily by the release of greenhouse gasses.”

For Dietz and his colleagues, the evidence supporting human induced climate change is not only clear, it is overwhelmingly so. Computer simulation and modeling studies have shown that naturally occurring phenomena, like the sun’s activity, simply cannot account for the accelerated rate of warming. For example, natural trends would suggest that our atmosphere would contain about 280 part per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide. Current levels are pegged at 380 ppm.

For more information on the NRC research, go to <http://www.americasclimatechoices.org/>

Kirk Heinze, Chairperson and Director Emeritus
Agriculture and Natural Resources Communication

Thanks to all our Photographers

Jim McCartney, Rosemary Pavlik and Fred Graham did outstanding work.



We Hear from Our Readers

with Rosemary Pavlik

This time around we received a few more fan letters, notes and exciting bulletins from our energized retirees who just can't seem to sit still. Many have now returned home from their world wanderings and cross country treks (for a day or two, at least) some have even been elected to higher office.

Would you also believe that when the survey forms came back, at the very top of the favorite chart was "hearing from our retirees". So what are you waiting for? Get that pen and pencil going. For those of you who did send something in, thank you for sharing your life with us and keep the letters coming.

Sue Gibbons {Intnl Agr} starts us off by stating that I've been doing volunteer work at the MSU 4-H Children's Garden for the last three years. It is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the university and have a lot of fun with the 4-H children, volunteers and staff. The garden's main agenda is to provide learning opportunities for Michigan's children and every year over 10,000 school children visit and learn at the garden. I encourage those who love gardening, plants and children to check it out - - or just volunteer in the demonstration or Beal Gardens. *(Sounds like fun for everyone.)*

From Haslett, **Carolyn Zohott** {Hum Med} tells us she really enjoys catching up with all the news of MSU. It's upsetting to think what could happen to MSU between cuts from the State and health care costs. Enclosed is a check for my subscription.

Proud **Harold Riley** {Agr Econ} with his wife Dorothy says they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in College Station, Texas, last fall with Dorothy's two brothers and their spouses. They were all married within three months of each other. Four siblings in Dot's family were also in attendance. *(Congratulations are certainly in order for that amazing feat. Keep it going!)*

James Nelson {Educ Adm} wants to thank everyone at MSURA for the good work we are all doing. He also enclosed his modest contribution to keep up the good work. *(It certainly is nice to get a "thank you" now and then.)*

F. Richard and **Sharon Thomas** both from {Writing Rhet&Cult} states that on November 3, 2009 Sharon was elected to a four-year term as City Councilor of Las Cruces, New Mexico. She was subsequently elected unanimously by the City Council as Mayor Pro Tem. Dick's latest book of poetry, *Extravagant Kiss*, was published by Sin Fronteras Press in late 2007. *(Congratulations are again in order to two fantastic retirees who have not slowed down at all.)*

A bulletin coming from **Barbara Wheaton** {Micro&MolecGen} who lives in Mason tells us that we enjoy the newsletter. It has more info than the Alumni Magazine. *(WOW! That's great - - and we'll never tell them that.)*

A perky **Peggy Higbee** {Undergrad Univ Div} has enclosed a check for \$25 for a hoped-for enjoyment of five more years of the newsletter from the MSURA. She has informed us that in the event that I have stretched my optimism past its limit, don't attempt to reach some family member with the unspent pittance. Invest in donuts! I've out lived the age of every member of my family. In my office I was called "The Cock-eyed Optimist". Do you suppose that has a connection with longevity? I wish all you self-giving office laborers had the best Christmas ever and a wonderful New Year full of memorable events. *(You are what we all should aspire to be. In regard to those donuts - you're my kind of gal.)*

All the way from Denver **Verna Hildebrand** {Fam&ChildEcol} sends her thanks for the recent MSU Bulletin. I'm glad to subscribe and sure was missing receiving it. I highly recommend Denver for retiring - sun nearly every day - snow mostly on the mountains - 20+ miles away or more - however I can see the mountain from my porch! Nice! Great to keep in touch. *(Sounds like paradise - we're on our way!)*

From right here in Lansing **Virginia Stewart** {VP,Treas Fin-Oper} says her retirement is "time for volunteer work activities".

Rex Sieting {Ext} writes from Green Valley, AZ. You folks at the "Spartan Senior" office do a great job. Thank you. The newsletter helps keep us informed,

We Hear from Our Readers cont.....

so keep it coming. We spend some time this fall visiting three different grandchildren at their different grad schools. Remember those “good old days” or maybe “old days”? (*Vaguely – were they supposed to be fun?*)

Renee Breslin-Welsh writes that she looks forward to and enjoys every issue of the newsletter. Wonderful memories!

Lynn Harvey {Ag Econ} says I just finished reading the electronic version of the 2010 winter newsletter, you both are to be commended for a job well done, what an attractive and informative newsletter. I appreciate the electronic format, easy to access, store and read. Had a good winter. We arrived at our winter home on Hilton Head Island before Christmas to warm temperatures (high 60s) only to see temps take a nose dive as they did all over the southeast to 15-25 below normal. But alas, improvement is on the horizon and we should be back at our normal average of 60 for the rest of the month. The cool temps do not dissuade Michiganders from golfing when the temps are in the low 40s. We have an active MSU alumni group on the Island with 16-20 folks meeting at Callahan’s Sport Bar for basketball and football games. We often have to compete with the West Virginia fans for the large screen TV so who ever has the largest group gets the largest TV. Go Green! (*Go White! Just nudge those West Virginians out of the way.*)

Great news from **H. Owen Reed** {Music} and his wife who say we look forward to reading the MSURA Newsletter and we are impressed with “all” the articles. Owen will be turning 100 years old in June and is doing real well. I am in a knitting class, knitting stocking caps. When finished we will take them to Mexico to give to the children who don’t have warm clothing. (*I am truly impressed with both of you –Owen turning 100 and you doing all that knitting. That is astounding!*)

Surjit Dulai Singh (Engl) and Carolyn write about their adventure of crossing the Big Mac Bridge on Labor Day, and their hope that other retirees will take the opportunity.

They write that even Surjit’s wheelchair goes across easily and the porta potties are super clean and right at the end of the bridge. Motels are expensive, but you can take family and friends and fill your unit to floor sleeping capacity.

MSURA received a heart warming letter from the daughter of **Noel P. Ralston known to us as Pat**. She states that after retirement he remained active in the Okemos/East Lansing area. Volunteering in the MSURA gave dad great satisfaction and he was pleased to lend his organizational talents to such a worthwhile cause. During our visits to see him, he would proudly recall the accomplishments of your organization and the important role it plays in the community.

While you have likely heard the news, I am writing to make sure you know of dad’s passing on November 7, 2009, at age 93. Memories of him, his participation in the MSURA and his accomplishments will be passed on to future generations through memorabilia he has received. Thank you for the many opportunities you provided dad as it truly enriched his life.

(*Pat was a past President of the MSURA and was truly a visionary for our association. We all owe him a great debt of thanks.*)

* * * * *

Are Extra Household Items Taking up Valuable Space?

An international student will thank you! Please think about donating any household items. Donations of household items may be dropped off in the South lobby of the Communication Arts and Sciences Building, or taken to 189 Communication Arts and Sciences Building.

For more information contact: Jennifer New, CCAS Study Abroad Coordinator, 517-355-8988, jnew@msu.edu. Items will be accepted until Friday, August 27, 2010. Sponsored by the College of Communication Arts and Sciences. (**Craig Gunn**, Director of Communication Arts and Sciences and Co-Chair MSU Community Charitable Campaign).

Notes from our Busy Membership Committee

During this past year, our committee has brought news of interest to our retiree membership. We started last fall with former MSU President Gordon E. Guyer kicking off our subscription drive by stating: "I propose there has never been a time in the history of this great Land Grant University that communications and representation of retirees is so important."

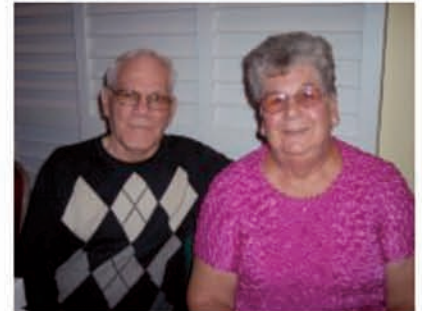
In the winter newsletter we wrote about our busy retirees volunteering at MSU and in the community; and added an article on relatively recent retirees and the reasons why they find it important to support the MSU Retirees Association. In March, Rosemary Pavlik and Brenda Spackman from our committee attended the Florida meeting of the MSU Retirees group. We asked them to take photos and interview the permanent Florida Resident retirees on how they stay connected with MSU and other retirees. Their photos and remarks follow.



Henry and Ann Silverman keep in touch through the MSU website and through the many old MSU friends and colleagues in the area.



Jim and Donna Bath stay in touch with MSU by reading the Spartan Senior and the on-line State News which keeps this Venice Florida Realtor well informed.



Beverly and LeRoy Janz – Beverly retired in 2000 from the Economics Department and stays connected by reading the Spartan Senior newsletter.



George and Marsha Ferree make regular visits to the campus. They read the newsletter and other university communications, visit with retired colleagues living in East Lansing.



Bill and Barbara Wiseman stay connected with MSU through the internet - - specifically MSU Spartans.com, Detroit News, Free Press and the Lansing State Journal. Of course we read thoroughly the Spartan Senior newsletter.



Dixie Platt, President of the Florida Branch of the MSU Retirees, stays in close contact with our Office Associates and reads the Spartan Senior.

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."

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, P.O.Box 203,
Okemos, MI 48805.

Would you prefer receiving the Newsletter by e-mail? Yes _____ No _____.

MSU Educational Program Donations

Thanks to all the friends who have sent in a check to University Development with the form you will find below, designating the gift to the MSU Retirees Association. Your editor tells me that he sees many old friends on that list and all of you readers will find the same. **(Ron Smith)**

Dr. and Mrs Donald Aschom, Senaca, SC
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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!

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

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

MSU to Halt Retiree Health Benefits for new Hires

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State University no longer will offer retiree health care benefits to new faculty and staff hires as of July 1, 2010, as it works to manage its financial obligations in light of continued health care cost increases and constrained revenues.

The policy will not impact current employees or retirees. If commitments have already been made to new hires, those commitments will be honored. Retiree health coverage will continue to be available through the university at cost.

Retiree health is an increasingly rare benefit. Michigan State is currently the only Big Ten university that still offers fully paid retiree health benefits to new hires. Read more in a [memo](http://www.retirees.msu.edu) (www.retirees.msu.edu) from MSU President **Lou Anna K. Simon**.