

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

Vol. 33 No. 2

International Edition

Winter 2012



**RETIRES LEARN FROM AND ARE ENTERTAINED
BY OUR MONTHLY LOCAL MEETING SPEAKERS**



Nothing Bugs Us Anymore

A large audience of MSU retirees gathered to hear the presentation by forensic entomologist Richard Merritt of the MSU faculty. Speaking at our October meeting, Dr. Merritt told how he started out as an ambulance driver, but then became interested in his field, which applies the study of insects to legal issues. These issues can range from homicide investigations to questions of civil liability, for example "Is Hershey responsible for the bug I found in my chocolate bar?" This field of expertise is not crowded, as there are only 14 board certified forensic entomologists in all of North America.

As his lecture progressed, Dr. Merritt described some of the high profile homicide cases for which he has furnished expert testimony. This included some slides of evidence that was definitely "not for the squeamish." Your Editor kept an eye on the exits, but no one needed to leave. When this excellent presentation ended, one of our members turned to her neighbor and said "Nothing bugs me anymore!" (Al LeBlanc)

Behind the Scenes at MSU Alumni Magazine

Bob Bao, longtime Editor of MSU Alumni Magazine, recounted some of the highlights of his career at our November meeting. He has now served as Editor for 28 years, and he had worked as assistant editor before that. Here are some of the highlights of his talk:

>Bao's favorite vignette of MSU history: It was President Hannah's 1945 initiative to join the Big Ten athletic conference, and all the things he had to do to overcome conference objections. One of them was to add 20,000 seats to Spartan Stadium. Hannah's campaign succeeded when MSU was inducted into the Big Ten in 1948.

>Bao's "moment of oops": This came when the magazine had to be reprinted to eliminate a culturally offensive cartoon. It had not triggered alarms at first viewing.

>Bao's most memorable adventure: When he attended the Rose Bowl of 1987, he was smuggled into Magic Johnson's New Year's Eve Party.

>Bao's greatest disappointment: On a long car trip with MSU's noted basketball coach Tom Izzo, Bob had hoped to enjoy an interesting visit. Instead, Izzo made recruitment calls for the duration of the trip! Bao said that the overriding goal of his editorship was to present MSU in a positive light. Over the years he has done a lot to achieve this. (Al LeBlanc)

Follow us on Facebook

You do not need to have a Facebook account in order to follow our news and activities on Facebook. Our newsletter only comes out six times a year, but we can post news and information on Facebook in a matter of seconds. Just enter <http://www.facebook.com/MSURetirees> in the search window of your web browser. Be sure to "Like us", post your comments, or add an interesting photo if you do have a Facebook account. (Anders Johanson)

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United Way	Darlene Wenner	517-339-1685

Spartan Senior Newsletter Staff

Editor	Al LeBlanc	517-655-6454
MSU Reporter	Stan Hecker	517-332-3830
Production	Stephanie Barch	517-332-8523

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

Webmaster and Facebook Manager:

Anders Johanson 517-332-6683

Presidential Message

Power of Positive Attitude



Patrick Scheetz

Happiness during retirement may have more to do with your attitude than actual health. Recent research studies advise us to be as attentive to our attitudes and moods as we are to our physical health ailments. Two recent studies underscore the importance of this advice.

A paper in *Current Directions in Psychological Science* notes that a positive attitude can protect against poor health later in life and may be a powerful antidote to stress, pain and illness. Another study, published in the journal *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being*, found that happy people tend to live longer and experience better health than their unhappy peers. "Happiness is no magic bullet," says University of Illinois psychologist Ed Diener, the lead author, "but the evidence is clear and compelling that it changes your odds of getting disease or dying young." More in *AARP Bulletin*, May 13, 2011. Happiness and good health may indeed be largely a state of mind for retirees. In a study released last year, people who described themselves as highly optimistic a decade ago had lower rates of death from cardiovascular disease and lower overall death rates than strong pessimists. Research earlier this year revealed that the sick and disabled are often as happy as anyone else. These studies showed that people who spend time each day socializing, reading or participating in other hobbies generally rated their aging satisfaction higher.

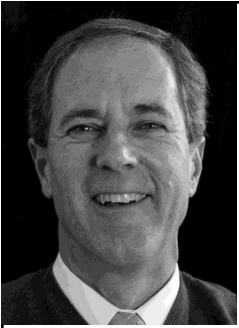
So what do you think? What makes you happy? What can the MSURA do to make more MSU retirees happier during their retirement years?

Thanks for replying by e-mail to: msura@msu.edu or contact us at: MSU Retirees Association, 22 Nisbet Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-9902. Tele: (517) 353-7896. Website: www.retirees.msu.edu

(By L. Patrick Scheetz, MSU Retirees Association President)

PLEASE "PARDON OUR DUST"

Our last issue of the newsletter was our first one produced using new desktop publishing software. This software is brand new for both Al and Stephanie, so please bear with us as we learn our new capabilities.



**Best Doctors Program
A New Benefit at MSU**

Tony Kleibecker

We are very pleased to offer MSU Retirees and their benefits-eligible dependents access to Best Doctors, a service to help you easily and confidentially access second opinions from medical experts all around the nation.

Facing a serious diagnosis or making decisions about surgery, chemotherapy, radiation or any number of other complex treatment options can be overwhelming, but Best Doctors can help. When you call Best Doctors at 1-866-904-0910, they'll discuss your situation with you and then, **with your permission**, they will collect your medical records and consult with medical experts around the nation who specialize in diagnosing and treating the condition you are facing. They will provide you with a detailed report and treatment recommendations to help you answer all the questions you may have. And, **if you want them to**, they will even consult with your own physician to make sure your diagnosis is correct and your care plan is likely to give you the best results possible. Best Doctors doesn't replace your own doctor's care. Rather, it gives you an additional expert advisor to help you navigate complex medical information and options.

There is no out-of-pocket cost to you for using this new service and it is completely confidential. If you haven't already received information in the mail from our office about this new service, you should be receiving it soon. We hope you'll take advantage of this great new resource and let us know what you think of services you receive when you call on Best Doctors.

(Tony Kleibecker, Interim Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, MSU)

**Former MSU Great Kirk Gibson
now Manages Arizona Diamondbacks**

Former MSU football and baseball great Kirk Gibson continues to prosper in Major League Baseball, a profession he entered after his Spartan sports were completed. Most recently he served his first full year as Manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks of the National League, guiding his 2011 team to the National Division Series where it lost to the Milwaukee Brewers in 5 games. For his outstanding overall work, he was named the National League Manager of the Year. Kirk made his Major League debut in 1979 as an outfielder with the Detroit Tigers who drafted him. He helped the Tigers win the World Series of 1984 and a division title in 1987.

Gibson signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1988 and assisted them to a World Series win. He later played with Kansas City in 1991 and with Pittsburgh in 1992, before returning to Detroit in 1993. He ended his active career in 1995. From 2003 through 2005, Kirk served as a Bench Coach with the Tigers. From 1988 to 2002, he was a color analyst for a Detroit broadcast station. From 2007 to 2010, Kirk was the Bench Coach for the Diamondbacks. In July, 2010, he was named Interim Manager, and was then named Manager on October 4 of that year.

In Gibson's 17 seasons in the Majors, his batting average was .268 and he connected for 1,553 hits, 200 doubles, 54 triples, and 255 home runs. Kirk earned MSU Varsity Letters (as a Wide Receiver) in 1975, '76, '77. and '78. Among his statistics were 112 receptions for 2,347 yards, and 24 touchdowns. He earned All-American and All-Big Ten Honors. He played one baseball season in 1978, with 16 home runs and 52 runs-batted-in. He earned All Big Ten and All American honors. By all accounts, Kirk Gibson has had a most successful sports career.

(Nick Vista)



Call for Volunteer of the Year Nominations By Gale L. Arent, MSURA Past President

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 established 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 at noon on Monday, May 7, 2012 in the Lincoln Room of Kellogg Center.

Gale Arent

Answer the following questions in this order and submit by e-mail or by postal mail as instructed below.

1. Name and address of this MSURA Retiree or Retiree Spouse Nominee
2. Where has the nominee been active as a volunteer? (This award emphasizes service to MSURA and to MSU but also notes service in other organizations and "person to person" helping roles.)
3. 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.
4. Your own name, address and phone, as the nominator.
5. Nomination deadline is April 1, 2012. Send to Gale Arent, Awards Committee Chair, 1595 Agnes Glen Circle, Dewitt, MI 48820

The award is given only once to any person. Occasionally, two well-qualified persons have received the award in a single year. Past recipients include: Ruth Jameyson, Walker Hill, John Roetman, Clella Dickinson, Russell Hill, Pat Ralston, George Dike, Don Gregg, Erling Jorgensen, Harold Davidson, Rosemary Pavlik, Lorraine Demorest, Velmer Oakley, Fred Graham, Charlie Downs, Stephanie Barch, Judy Bukovac, Dick Reid, Gary Stone, Mary McCartney, Fred Kletke, Nancy Craig, Bob and Darlene Wenner.

Old Newsboys Charity Drive Successful

Coordinator Brenda Spackman reports that this year's Old Newsboys drive was a big success. She especially thanks MSURA volunteers Dick Bernitt, Kay Butcher, Nancy Craig, Martha Davidson, Fred Graham, Jim Graves, Sally Harwood, Don Jost, Fred Kletke, Bob Muhlback, Lowell Rothert, Ron and Joan Smith, Sara Stid, Bob and Darlene Wenner, and Brenda Spackman, as well as non-MSURA members Frank DeRose and Cassandra Trawitz. Brenda says that this year's sale raised approximately \$ 300.00 dollars more than last year, allowing 5,203 pairs of shoes or boots to be provided for needy children as of the first week of December. We thank these volunteers for their work on this fine service project and especially thank Brenda Spackman for her leadership. See pictures next page. **(Al LeBlanc)**

Do You have Questions Regarding Health Benefits?

Question: *How do you receive approval from CVS Caremark to take a brand-name medication when a generic equivalent or alternative is available?*

Answer: Your physician needs to complete and return the Generic Prescribing Program Exception Request Form available at www.hr.msu.edu/generics/exceptionrequest.pdf. Your physician can also complete their own form and return it via fax to the CVS Caremark Appeals Department at 1-866-689-3092.

Once the request has been reviewed, an approval or denial letter will be sent via fax to your physician and via US Mail to you. If the request is denied, your physician can request an appeal. If you would like to receive an update on the appeal, you can call CVS Caremark Customer Care at 1-800-565-7105.

Question: *What are my options for filling a 90-day supply of a prescription drug?*

Answer: There are two ways you can receive a 90-day supply for your long-term maintenance medications through the CVS Caremark Prescription Drug Plan.

First you can enroll in the CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy. To get started with mail order, call 1-800-565-7105 and tell the representative you would like to enroll in the Mail Service Pharmacy. Have your member ID, physician name and phone number, and a list of all the medications you would like to receive via the Mail Service Pharmacy.

Second, you can receive a 90-day supply at both the MSU Clinical Center and Olin Health Center.

To send us your questions, please contact Marilyn Rothert at: rothert@msu.edu or 517-393-4364. When we receive questions that may be of common interest we will share the information. **(Marilyn Rothert)**



Marilyn Rothert

Old Newsboys Hawkers and their results





Collegeville in the Inter-urban Era

By Milt Powell



Earlier this year Michigan received a two hundred million dollar Federal grant to develop high-speed passenger rail service in a corridor that may someday link Detroit and Chicago -- through Kalamazoo, alas, not Lansing. Perhaps there are ideas whose time may come more than once. Over a century ago Michigan, like the rest of the nation, made dramatic investments in electric inter-urban rail. The growth of industry and commerce after the Civil War, surplus steel production, electricity and electric motors, growing urban populations – these and many other factors made travel to, from, and between cities both desirable and feasible.

By the turn of the century inter-urban rail was clearly the wave of the future. In 1903 Henry Ford could only raise a fraction of the \$100,000 he needed to start manufacturing automobiles but for years private investors and cities had been pouring money into electric rail and making substantial profits by doing so. Two decades later investors in Ford and General Motors had made great fortunes. As for the inter-urbans, said one historian, “Those who had faith in them paid dearly. Few industries have arisen so rapidly or declined so quickly.” Imagine putting your money in IBM Selectric typewriters in 1990 rather than Apple or Microsoft.

I’ve been curious about this era since I first saw a picture of a streetcar waiting at the west entrance to what would have been Michigan Agricultural College. I wondered where the cars had come from, where they went from Collegeville (East Lansing), and whether one could still trace their routes. And I’ve also been musing about passenger rail after living for a year in Japan, a country which has, in effect, a high-speed (150 mph+) national subway line with departures at fifteen-minute intervals from every station.

Neither federal nor state governments anticipated or planned for the inter-urban lines. By the 1890s the nation’s steam rail system had linked most major cities, many of which also had local horse or steam driven streetcars. A fast, cheap way to connect cities with smaller towns and rural areas seemed to be the next logical step. But the initiative was almost always taken by local communities. Ann Arbor’s experience is typical. In 1890 a promoter came to town claiming that five hundred people a day would travel to Ypsilanti and back if he could get the backing to provide them with faster, cheaper, and more frequent service than the steam train. (I imagine someone like Professor Harold Hill, in an ice cream suit and straw boater, waving a mock timetable.) A joint stock company quickly raised money, bought equipment and put down seven miles of track. In less than a year one car was making several round trips a day to Ypsilanti and back. This success, as one of the major investors noted, was partly because “Ann Arbor had three thousand boys and not enough girls [while] Ypsilanti had a thousand girls and not enough boys.”

The first cars were driven by the kind of steam engines long used in logging, but by 1896 they were powered by the new electric motors. Within a few more years the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti system had expanded east and west to link with Detroit and Jackson. The pattern was repeated in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, so that by 1905 one could travel across Michigan from Detroit to Muskegon or Chicago by light electric rail.

In Lansing, the state’s capitol since 1847, public transportation was slow to develop. The city’s first horse drawn “street railway” – didn’t open until 1886. That line began near the present intersection of Cedar Street and Grand River Avenue, ran west to Washington Avenue, and south to Capitol where one branch went east to a spot halfway to Collegeville. By 1890 this route was electrified and was soon extended north to DeWitt and St. John’s, south to Jackson, and east past Collegeville, through the swamps to Haslett, Pine Lake (Lake Lansing), and Owosso. (Continued on next page.)

The State Board of Agriculture, who were the Trustees of Michigan Agricultural College, thought the rail connection with Lansing would make it too easy for students to get to the city's saloons and opposed its extension to the campus. Yet by 1894 the electric cars reached the Beal entrance and, two years later, the main entrance at Abbott road. Soon after the line continued east to MAC Avenue, turned north to make a wide turn onto what is now Burcham Drive, and continued past the new Marble School House to Haslett. Nearly all traces of this system have disappeared but a portion of the right-of-way between Park Lake Road and Marsh Road has recently been converted to a bike and pedestrian path.

It was a lively era. The streetcar and inter-urban companies made profits, employed hundreds of people, upgraded their equipment, and extended their service outward, making a network that covered the lower half of the state. Passengers used the trains for commuting, shopping, and getting to entertainment sites; there were two Amusement Parks in Lansing by 1905, both reachable by electric rail. Travel was relatively safe though there were equipment failures and a few mishaps. The worst happened between Holt and Mason when a southbound train hit the northbound from Jackson head on, injuring 78 people.

Michigan's experiment with electric inter-urban rail was just part of a phenomenon that swept through most of the U. S. east of the Mississippi. It reached its peak around 1915 but by 1920, with Ford selling Model Ts by the millions, it was clear to all that personal transportation would prevail over public transportation. Inter-urban and streetcar riders dwindled, companies failed, their tracks and equipment and right-of ways abandoned.

This has been a short, simplified account of a brief but complex period of local history and little space remains to ask, for example, why are we thinking about reinventing rail travel in the light of our unsuccessful experience with it? Here's one observation and one conjecture.

Inter-urban rail was the first technology to make it easier for rural citizens to shop, amuse themselves, or work in cities, for workers to live at some distance from factories, and for white collar professionals to work in cities without living in them. In other words, the brief streetcar/inter-urban era ushered us into the city/suburban culture we've all grown up with.

Here's my conjecture – i.e., something I think will happen though I probably won't live long enough to find out. America's choice of personal over public transportation is probably irreversible. But the same technology that links the personal computer to the public internet may soon merge personal with public transportation. In the near future you, or your children or grandchildren, may drive the family car from the garage to a freeway, push a button on the GPS -- nap, read a book, watch movies, play euchre -- and take control of the family travel-pod just before your designated off-ramp for Chicago. So as cars get smarter automobile travel may take on some features of public transportation. If you like gambling that's where to put your money. Me? I'm sticking to TIAA-CREF.

Milt Powell



Local Historian Writes History of the Red Cedar Neighborhood

Local historian Janet Hicks Ronk has authored a booklet about the history of the Red Cedar neighborhood of East Lansing. This neighborhood is just across the street from the MSU Bricks (which were just demolished) near the Breslin Arena. This might be an area of interest to our older MSU retirees. Shortly after World War II some of them may have lived in Quonset huts where Breslin now stands. Janet writes about time early in MSU history when her grandfather owned the land where the Michigan State Police former headquarters now stands. "A History of the Red Cedar Neighborhood in East Lansing, Michigan" by Janet Hicks Ronk is available at the Curious Book Store, 517-332-0112. All proceeds from sale go to the East Lansing Historical Society.

(Patrick Scheetz)

YOUR BEQUEST WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE



A charitable bequest to Michigan State University is a thoughtful expression of your commitment to MSU and its future students. The MSU Office of Gift Planning is a valuable resource for alumni and friends to explore how they may, through their estate plans, efficiently 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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(517) 884-1000 www.msu.planyourlegacy.org www.givingto.msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE
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University Advancement



WHAT'S NEW AT THE U

By Stan Hecker

Street Addresses Come to Campus - Come April, it won't be Bessey Hall. It will be 420 West Auditorium Road, or 225 Farm Lane, or something similar. Kedzie Hall? Maybe 200 Farm Lane? Baker Hall? Uh, perhaps 600 Auditorium Road? Yes, street addresses on campus. It's on the way. But why? It's progress: quicker police, fire, and ambulance response. Think of calls to 911 and automatic addressing. Consider delivery services. The US Post Office. Google Maps, Garmin, TomTom, and Bing Maps. Mapping and global positioning systems work better in a sliced-and-diced world.

Who will remember that Ray Baker served three presidents, won a Pulitzer Prize, and honored Michigan State all his life? Will students know that professors Bessey and Kedzie were honored for helping international students as well as their academic contributions? There's something sensible about named buildings in a park-like campus. Not to be Luddite—campus planning a decade ago called for fewer vehicles and streets, particularly north of the Red Cedar River. It could be hard to assign an address without a nearby street. Consider traffic; we expect to be able to drive to a street address, don't we?

And so time marches on. Speaking of time, remember the master class schedule? Fifty class minutes and twenty minutes of passing time? No, it hasn't changed. But, it best fit (outdated) analog timepieces. If you were comfortable getting to South Kedzie for a 12:40, then you were a teacher or a student. You'd flush a pretender by mentioning a 10 o'clock (odd time) class at North Bessey (no classrooms). Best of luck, everyone, using your GPS to drive to a nine o'clock coffee at 420 West Auditorium Road on a Wednesday.

Video Games Help Creativity. Do you worry that the grandchildren play a lot of videogames? Here's an unexpected MSU research finding: both boys and girls who play video games tend to be more creative. And it doesn't matter if the games are violent or nonviolent. A study of nearly 500 12-year-olds found that the more kids played video games, the more creative they were in tasks such as drawing pictures and writing stories. Linda Jackson, professor of psychology and lead researcher on the project, said the study appears to be the first evidence-based demonstration of a relationship between technology use and creativity. There was no link found between creativity and other uses of computers and other electronic devices.



“Video games can be designed to optimize the development of creativity while retaining their entertainment values such that a new generation of video games will blur the distinction between education and entertainment,” Jackson said. The researchers assessed how often the students used different forms of technology and gauged their creativity with the widely used Torrance Test of Creativity-Figural. The Torrance test involved tasks such as drawing an “interesting and exciting” picture from a curved shape, giving the picture a title and then writing a story about it.

In addition, the study found that boys played video games more than girls, and that boys favored games of violence and sports while girls favored games involving interaction with others (human or nonhuman). Yet, regardless of gender, race or type of game played by the youth, the study found a relation between video game playing and greater creativity.

October Tour of Brody Engagement Center

Brody is much more than a central eating area. It is now an “Engagement Center” and not the old fashioned Beaumont Tower type engagement center. Over forty MSURA members toured the new Brody Square on October 26th after many of them sampled the wonderful cuisine in its nine venues.

The Brody Engagement Center’s first floor now has a health clinic, auditorium, classrooms, academic advising offices, glass-walled meeting rooms for students, and small and large study areas. There is a new snack and coffee shop and any number of comfortable chairs, sitting nooks and art throughout the area. A global theme permeates the building meant to foster engagement in the intellectual, social and emotional connections of students and visitors.

Upstairs in the remodeled dining area one finds foods to fit any appetite. One can opt for international cuisine (Pangea), pizza, subs and sandwiches (Ciao!) and desserts (Dolce), including Hudsonville ice cream. Or choose Brimstone Grille with its burgers and sandwiches, Homestyle, Veg Out, Cayenne, S2, (salads and sushi) or made-to-order pasta dishes from Boiling Point. The eating areas can accommodate large groups or a single person in quiet, bright or secluded areas. Retirees can find health food recipes or purchase a reduced price meal package on line, in person or by phone at <http://eatatstate.com>

The legacy of Alice M. Creyts lives on through a financial gift to the Residential and Hospitality Services Division, (formerly Housing and Food Services Division). The Food Dud, Bruce Haskell led our tour and entertained us in the new Alice M. Creyts training room. Alice’s gift assures that employees of the division have the opportunity to learn in comfort with the latest technology for years to come. **(Joan Smith)**

World War II Interest Group Holds First Meeting

On Veterans Day, 11-11-11, our new World War II interest group held its first meeting. This group is open to veterans and nonveterans, male and female. All you need is an interest in World War II.

Veterans Mel Buschman and Shirley Schaible attended, and Mel recounted some of his experiences from the Italian campaign. Mel told of very frequently being hungry on the front lines in the mountains of Italy. One evening his buddies spotted a roaming pig, which they promptly dispatched and roasted over their campfire. He said it was their best meal in weeks.

Come join us at our next meeting, at the coffee shop in the Schuler Book Store in Meridian Mall, at 3:00 PM on Friday, January 6, 2012!

A Reading Suggestion from the World War II Interest Group

Raw courage, good luck, bad luck, and even cannibalism -- *Flyboys* by James Bradley has it all. Bradley tells the story of the navy dive bomber mission in the Pacific in which former President George H. W. Bush was shot down. The future president made it back but many of his comrades did not. In telling their individual stories, Bradley gives some social history of America in the 1920’s and 30’s. **(Al LeBlanc)**



We Hear From Our Retirees

I love photography! Whether it be to the wilds of Africa or right in my own back yard, I can never get enough of it. Retirement has given me the time to collect memories of being close enough to an elephant to smell its breath, watch the setting sun cast a glow of orange in the eyes of a lion, see a young fawn suckle from its mother not 10 feet in front of me and be in awe of the flutter of a hummingbird's wings. It's a time in a fast paced world to stop and enjoy the beauty that nature affords us if we just take the time to look for it. I find it relaxing not only capturing these memories via scrapbooking, but also taking my images to create personal greeting cards for Christmas, birthdays, and to comfort friends during their time of loss. Not only is it a more personal greeting than what the store offers but it provides others an opportunity to see how much they have to look forward to when they retire. **(Laurena Hoffmeyer, retired 2007)**



Retirement Activities: Rocking Chair. Paul Slocum was having lunch with family members at the Flap Jack Restaurant in Frandor on Friday. At the next table, MSU Career Services and Placement office retirees (**Gale Gower, Sarah Fryer, Ed Fitzpatrick and Patrick Scheetz**) were enjoying lunch too. I asked Paul what he was doing for fun in retirement, and he said sitting in the rocking chair on his front porch was his favorite activity, and he even made it rock once in a while. **(Patrick Scheetz)**

Harold and Dorothy Riley write that they will celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary on January 29, 2012. Family will join them for their celebration in Sarasota, Florida.

So tell us, what are you doing for fun? Don't be shy. Send your stories and pictures to: msura@msu.edu or mail to: MSU Retirees Association, 22 Nisbet Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-9902. Get your story and picture printed in a future issue of this newsletter. Thank you.

Have You Read a Good Book Lately? Tell Us!

Local author, Richard Baldwin, has written numerous mystery novels with Michigan locales. One is especially interesting with many places mentioned in this area that everyone would recognize. It is **Murder at the Ingham County Fair**. **(from Margaret Twarozynski)**

The Last Blackrobe of Indiana is an excellent book about the history of Indians of Indiana, the Potawatomi. It makes you realize the plight of the Indians and wonder why they were removed from their lands. The towns in the book are all around my hometown of Lucerne, Indiana. **(from Pat Scheetz)**

PROUD TO BE A SPARTAN

On December 4, 2011, In *Spartanology*, By Scott Westerman

I wrote this the night of the Big Ten championship game. It was as much a cathartic exercise for me as it was a re-statement of how I think real winners should behave. It must have touched a nerve because it's been viewed nearly 150,000 times, shared all over Facebook and tweeted about by Spartans and non-Spartans alike. Tony Kornheiser of PTI fame retweeted it. The tailgate hosts for UofM football interviewed me about it and the hundreds of emails I've received from you remind me, again that....

Looking back on these last two years of MSU football, I have never been prouder to be a Spartan. Some might say, "It wasn't fair." Last year another team in our league broke some major NCAA rules. It was decided to wait to impose sanctions and they got a BCS [Bowl Championship Series—Ed.] game that many now believe they didn't deserve. That knocked us out of the Rose Bowl. This year, we had the best record in the Big 10. We beat everybody who was important. Under the old rules, we would be Pasadena bound.

But now there is this conference championship thing where we had to play the team we already beat, again, to see which one of us would go to the Rose Bowl. We didn't win that game. And because of the machinations within the BCS calculations, that team down the road, who we have beaten four years in a row, is going to the Sugar Bowl.

It would be easy to be angry about this if you were a member of the MSU football team. You've played your heart out for two straight years, fighting from behind to win the tough ones, slowly and surely improving with every game. You've demonstrated that you can learn from your mistakes. Every one of your key players is academically eligible, didn't break any rules, and came back to the fight, again and again, even as the sports media failed to believe in you and forces beyond your control conspired to keep you from the prize. This is how life works. You can do your best work. You can be the best. And despite all of this, you may still not be recognized as the best.

There will be those who will beat you fair and square. This is how you learn. And some who others may call "winners" will bend the rules, perhaps even break them. But history will ultimately paint the true picture. And the hearts of those who deviate from the right path will inevitably know the truth. As Joe Paterno apocryphally put it, "Success without honor is an unseasoned dish; it will satisfy your hunger, but it won't taste good."

Wisconsin won this time and deserves congratulations for playing a terrific game. The MSU Football Team did not take home the Big 10 Championship trophy, even though by every traditional standard we deserved it. We will probably have to wait another year to play in Pasadena. These *Spartans Will* continue to improve and I believe we *Spartans Will* end up in California on New Year's Day. And, even though we didn't "win"

(Cont. on Page 13)



The Essence Of Chutzpah

Chutzpah is a Yiddish word meaning gall, brazen nerve, effrontery, sheer guts plus arrogance; and, as the late American humorist and Yiddish lexicographer Leo Rosten once wrote, no other word, and no other language, can do it justice.

A little old lady sold pretzels on a street corner for a dollar each. Every day a young man would leave his office building at lunch time and as he passed the pretzel stand he would leave her a dollar, but never take a pretzel.

This offering went on for more than 3 years. The two of them never spoke. One day as the young man passed the old lady's stand and left his dollar as usual, the pretzel lady spoke to him for the first time in over 3 years. Without blinking an eye she said: "They're a dollar and a quarter now."

(Cont. from Page 12)

tonight, our football team of *Spartans Will* be playing in the post season, just as we've done every year since Mark Dantonio became our head coach. I will be there to cheer them on. If you are a true Spartan, you will, too.

But don't forget what's most important. We will graduate one of the highest percentages of senior athletes in Division 1. The vast majority of these young men and women will live Spartan Lives. Some may not be stars by the media's definition. But nearly all will do good things, be great role models, and inspire the next generation to work harder, reach higher and dream bigger. This is how real winners behave. This is what Spartans do.

[Scott Westerman is Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations, MSU. Because of space limitations, we were unable to print his entire article. You may read the entire article on the Internet at <http://scottwesterman.com/?p=3023>. –Editor]

Save the Date

Taste of the Town 2012

Celebrating the 24th Year!

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Fifteen dollars of each twenty-five dollar ticket

is a tax-deductible contribution to the

MSUCC Endowed Scholarship fund.

Eighty-seven percent of the 2011 fund-raising proceeds were deposited

in the MSU Community Club Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Tickets will be available starting about March 1, 2012

Additional information @ <https://www.msu.edu/~msucclub/taste.html>

Save the date for an interesting lecture sponsored by the **Faculty Emeriti Association:**

January 18, 2:00 PM, Radiology Lecture Hall

Leonard Fleck, Medicare Reform: JUST Rationing or just Rationing.

Health care costs in the US have increased from \$26 billion in 1960 to \$2.6 trillion in 2010 with projections of \$4.5 trillion in 2019. A major part of the problem is that roughly half of that \$2.6 trillion represents government health care costs. Medicare is the largest part of that. In 2010 Medicare costs were about \$530 billion with projections to to 2019 of \$1 trillion. The two biggest drivers of health care costs are all manor of new medical technologies and a growing elderly population. The practical implication of this is that the need for health care rationing is inescapable. How can such rationing be made justly?

Len Fleck is a Professor of Philosophy and Medical Ethics in the Center for Ethics, College of Human Medicine. He is the author of "Just Caring: Health Care Rationing and Democratic Deliberation." In 1993 he was a member of The White House Task Force on Health Reform for the Clinton Administration.

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2012 Upcoming Meetings and Events

Monday, Jan 9--Kelly Bishop, Assistant Vice-President Strategic Initiatives, Division of Student Affairs, MSU, will talk about the new neighborhood concept in the Residence Halls.

Monday, Feb 6--Dr. Charles Ballard, MSU Economics Professor, will talk of the state of the National and Michigan economy and how it will affect the elections in November.

Monday Mar 12-- Tony Kielbecker and Rene Rivard, MSU Human Resources Office, will present their annual program on health benefits and the upcoming enrollment period.

Monday, April 9--James Spackman will give a presentation on the new Military History Museum in Battle Creek.

Monday, April 16 — Tour of National Semiconducting Cyclotron.

Monday, May 7— Annual Luncheon. Lincoln Room, Kellogg Center.

**MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
22 NISBET BUILDING
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HAPPY NEW YEAR

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