



SPARTAN SENIOR

A newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

LANSING AREA LOCAL EDITION April 2012

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Monday, May 7, 2012 at Noon, Lincoln Room, Kellogg Center

LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Monday, May 7, 2012, Register at 11:30 AM., meal served at 12:00 noon
Lincoln Room, Kellogg Center

Menu Selections

Turkey Scaloppini, Lemon Caper Sauce with Citrus Rice Pilaf,
Green Salad, Rolls and Beverage, Carrot Cake

or

Grilled Vegetarian Paella with Basil-Tomato Slaw, Rolls and
Beverage, Carrot Cake

Cost: \$21.00 per person

Please hold reservation(s) for:

_____ Turkey Scaloppini Vegetarian Paella

_____ Turkey Scaloppini Vegetarian Paella

Total enclosed _____

If dietary supplement is needed, please call Gale Gower
at (517)332-0194 before May 1.

Please clip this form and mail with your check BEFORE MAY 1, 2012.

Send to Bob Wenner, MSURA Treasurer, P.O. Box 203, Okemos, MI 48805



Trustee Melanie Foster

**Vice Chairperson
MSU Board of Trustees**

We welcome our Luncheon Speaker Melanie Foster, Vice Chairperson, MSU Board of Trustees.

She will discuss the following **topics**: How she became a member of the MSU Board of Trustees (now and earlier), her work as a member of the MSU Board of Trustees, her landscape and nursery business and its growth and development, her commercial landscape firm in Orlando specializing in theme park and entertainment related landscaping, her personal real estate businesses, or her other interests (i.e. Capital Area United Way, dyslexia, Artrain, etc.). She may, if time permits, include other topics of interest to MSU retirees.



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An Open Enrollment Update from the MSU Benefits Office...

This year's Benefits Open Enrollment will be held from Monday, April 16 to Monday, May 7, 2012. MSU Retirees will continue to receive their open enrollment packet through the mail. The "verification of spouse with or without other health coverage form" (the yellow Affidavit form) is required each year. Retirees may complete open enrollment with the paper forms that are mailed to them, or online through the EBS system.

There will not be any health plan design changes in 2012-13, including no changes to deductibles or co-pays. Premium rates will increase for BCBSM Traditional, BCBSM Transition and Community Blue PPO. There is no increase to Blue Care Network or CVS/Caremark.

If you have questions during open enrollment, please contact the MSU Benefits Office at 517-353-4434, toll-free at 1-800-353-4434, or via email at benefitsinfo@hr.msu.edu. You also can visit the open enrollment website at www.hr.msu.edu/openenrollment.

Help Wanted: Newsletter Advertising Manager

We are looking for an interested volunteer who would:

- Maintain communication with current advertisers
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- Work cooperatively with the Treasurer on billing and payment for ads
- Provide newsletter Editor with a listing of future ads to be printed, for the entire publication year if possible, including size on page (full, half, etc.)
- Provide newsletter Editor with electronic files of ads to be run in the coming newsletter by the content deadline for newsletter (many ads repeat)

Provide advertisers with electronic and/or hard copy files of ads that were run for them

If this opportunity for service interests you, please send an e-mail inquiry to the Editor at aleblanc@msu.edu or leave a phone message at (517) 655-6454.

FACULTY EMERITI MEETING

Friday, May 4 – 10-11:30 a.m. Reference Instruction Room (Main Library, 1st Floor, behind the Reference Desk)

Arlene Weismantel, AD for Public Services & Steven Sowards, AD for Collections

Trending Now: Not Your Grandmother's Academic Library!

The digital library means not only access to e-books and journals, but also creating online education, interacting with students in course management systems, providing IT support for online learning, negotiating e-textbook deals for campus, collaborating with other universities, running an Espresso Book Machine service, getting grants to digitize paper collections

You must register by calling Stephanie Perentesis at 517/884-0836 or emailing me at perente1@mail.lib.msu.edu

These medical-science reports highlight the diversity of MSU medical research and researchers.

Imagine spotting Parkinson's disease at inception and treating the protein that triggers it before the patient sickens. Our children and grandchildren may know this disorders only as a relic of the past.

An MSU team has demonstrated that slow-wriggling alpha-synuclein proteins cause aggregation (proteins clumping together), the first step of Parkinson's. This aggregation forms plaques (also found in Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's disease) which cause the cells to degenerate. The research was published in a recent issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. **Lisa Lapidus**, MSU associate professor of physics and astronomy has dedicated her lab to this work. "There are many, many steps that take place in aggregation, but we've identified the first step," she said. "Finding a method to fight the disease at its first stage, rather than somewhere further down the road, can hopefully increase the success rate in which the disease is treated."

Selecting a hospital and surgeon can be daunting. There may be a key indicator for breast-cancer centers and surgeons: the re-excision rate after partial mastectomies.

About three-fourths of women battling breast cancer have a partial mastectomy; nearly one in four of them undergo a later surgery (re-excision) to remove more tissue. Partial mastectomy aims to remove cancer while maintaining the appearance of the breast—but re-excision is needed if cancer cells remain. The study measured variation in re-excision rates across hospitals and surgeons 2003-2008 for

2,200 women in four locations across the country. Re-excision rates varied widely and were not tied to discernible patient characteristics. The study highlights the value of multicenter observational studies to pinpoint the variability in health care across different regions and health systems, said the lead researcher, **Laurence McCahill** of MSU's College of Human Medicine, the Lacks Cancer Center at Saint Mary's, and Van Andel Research Institute. The study appears in the Feb. 1 edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Remember an innovation controversial at the time, the sharing of some departments among the MSU's three medical colleges? Here's a story highlighting the wisdom of that innovation.

Dr. Charles Mackenzie, Veterinary Medicine and the African Studies Center, was appointed recently to the "Order of Australia" for his work eradicating tropical diseases. Australia has recognized fewer than 2,000 of her citizens (for exceptional service to the country or humanity) since the honor was launched in 1975. "I came to MSU [in 1988] because of the joint approach to human and animal pathology," Mackenzie said. "Pathology is the central piece to understanding why something is going wrong clinically. As a large research institution, MSU offers a vast array of research capabilities; I could always get the best science done on my work," he said. Mackenzie investigated filarial diseases called river-blindness and elephantiasis, infections caused by worms, that can lead to disfigurement or blindness. His work led to the elimination of river blindness in Ecuador and programs to do the same in Sudan and Tanzania.

--Stan Hecker

RETIREES PUBLISH NEW BOOKS

MSU retiree **Roy Matthews** has published a novel. *Gittin' Through: A Southern Town During World War II* follows three generations whose lives were changed by the war. The oldest generation, who had enjoyed the Jazz Age and suffered from the Great Depression, adjusted to the demands of the war, their children endured the traumas of adolescence, and the middle generation left their home town to serve their country. Their lives and the town are placed in the larger context of race, class, education, tradition and history. Available at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com and as an e-book.

Albert Drake (Department of English) has published **Overtures to Motion**, his 28th book. Three earlier books, **Tillamook Burn**, **Beyond the Pavement**, and **One Summer** have been reprinted on Amazon as e-Books.

**MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION
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SPARTAN SENIOR Local Edition, MSU Retirees Association, 22 Nisbet Building, MSU, 1407 S. Harrison Ave, East Lansing, MI 48823-9902. Tel (517) 353-7896. e-mail: msura@msu.edu. Editor Al LeBlanc (655-6454); Production Stephanie Barch Website : <http://retirees.msu.edu>

