



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

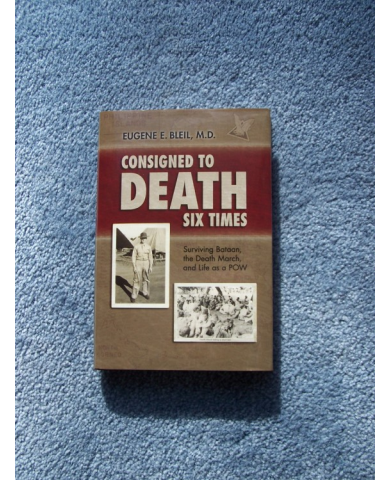
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MSU Retiree Recounts His Experiences in the First Battle of the Philippines, the Bataan Death March, and Japanese Prisoner of War Camps



Michigan native and MSU retiree **Eugene E. Bleil, M.D.**, has published his World War II experiences in the book ***Consigned to Death Six Times***. After a brief introduction portraying the economic conditions in depression era Michigan, Bleil chronicles his enlistment and training in the U. S. Army Air Corps. Sent to the Philippine islands during the tense buildup to the war, Bleil was on the front lines during the Japanese onslaught, serving as an aircraft mechanic. Bleil does not mince his words, and is very critical of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and General Douglas MacArthur for their insistence that Japan should strike the first blow if there was going to be a war. As a mechanic, he saw most American planes destroyed on the ground in the initial attack because of MacArthur's order that they remain on the ground even as the Japanese approached.

MacArthur's hope of stopping the Japanese landing at the water's edge didn't exactly work out, and Bleil's unit joined the retreat to the Bataan peninsula, where they served as infantry riflemen and helped to hold back the Japanese invasion army for several months. When food and ammunition ran out, they had to surrender, and Bleil took part in the infamous Bataan Death March to a far away prisoner of war camp. He survived as a prisoner of war by virtue of some quick thinking and the ability to be a jack of all trades.

Dr. Bleil was also a featured presenter at a monthly meeting of the MSU Retirees Association World War II Interest Group. Copies of the book are available at Schuler Books and Music in Meridian Mall or can be ordered by sending e-mail to ConsignedtoDeath6Times@gmail.com. The price of the book is \$ 30.00.

--Al LeBlanc

MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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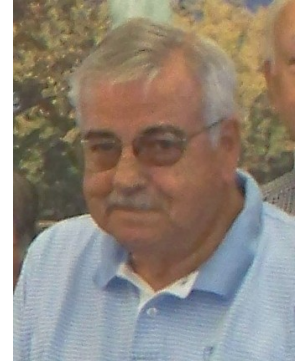
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MSURA Welcomes our new President Ron Smith



When our incoming President Ron Smith first came to MSU in 1960, he never expected to stay beyond his graduation day. He was attracted to the university's program in hotel and restaurant management, and the Rhode Island native completed a degree in that program. He went on to serve in the management of university housing, beginning at Brody and ending his MSU career at Olin Graduate Center, retiring in 2007.

Smith served a two year term on the MSU Retiree Association Board, and then spent two years as Vice President, responsible for the selection and scheduling of speakers and for MSURA's behind the scenes tours that take place every semester. He says that his most memorable tour was the behind the scenes tour of Wharton Performing Arts Center.

Smith says his goal as President is to improve the association's communication with retirees, but not in a way that becomes overly obtrusive. It is important, he says, that we stay in touch with people, but there is such a thing as too much of a good thing. One retiree recently reported getting four e-mail announcements of the same event (we should point out that MSURA only sent one announcement). Smith also wants to achieve a balance of program topics so that our association will have something to interest everyone.

--Al LeBlanc

News from MSU Pharmacy

The MSU Pharmacy has installed a new automated 24 hour 7 days a week prescription telephone line. The phone numbers are (517) 353-4930 for the Clinical Center and (517) 353-9165 for Olin Health Center. **It is important to note that the new software will not record your spoken voice and will not take any information that you speak into the phone. What it records is the numbers that you press on your telephone keypad.** The new software was selected to help pharmacists cope with the "log jam" of very numerous prescription refills called in during the week-end. Now the pharmacists will get a printed list of prescriptions they need to fill rather than having

(Cont. on Page 4)



MSU RETIREE PARKING PERMIT RENEWAL 2012-2014



It is time to renew your retiree permits. The current retiree permits will expire on June 30, 2012. In keeping with the University's efforts to "Go Green", mail-in registration packets will no longer be used. Instead, beginning on Monday, June 04, 2012 you may order a new retiree permit online at <https://reg.parking.msu.edu> The new retiree permit will be valid until June 30, 2014.

As a retiree of Michigan State University you are allowed to register one vehicle at no charge as long as you are no longer receiving pay from MSU. Retirees being paid by MSU (i.e. on-call, temporary, contract, appointment, etc.) are not eligible for a retiree permit and must pay for parking privileges. A retiree permit provides faculty/staff parking privileges and is valid for use by the retiree to whom the permit is issued and on the vehicle registered with the MSU Parking Office. In order to activate the parking privileges, the permit must be displayed on the vehicle according to the instructions printed on the permit. Ordering your retiree permit online is quick and convenient.

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS JUNE 04, 2012:

To start, have your MSU NET ID, password, and your current state-issued vehicle registration available.

Go to <https://reg.parking.msu.edu>

Log in with your MSU Net ID and password, and order your permit. The on-line system will prompt you to complete your shipping address and your vehicle information. Permits are mailed to the shipping address you enter into the system.

If you prefer not to register online, then starting Monday, June 18, 2012, you may obtain a permit at the MSU Parking Office by presenting your current state-issued vehicle registration and your MSU Spartan retiree ID. The MSU Parking Office is open Monday – Friday from 7:30am until 4:45pm (except for University Holidays or if posted otherwise). It is located at 1120 Red Cedar Road in the MSU Police Building on campus. If you have questions, please call (517)355-8440.

Editor's Note: With some misgivings, I decided to try the online registration procedure. It was amazingly easy and my permit arrived two days later!

Pavlik and Brower Join MSURA Board

We welcome two new members of the MSURA Board, Rosemary Pavlik and David Brower. Pavlik is well known to our members, having served as Office Manager for 15 years and as coordinator of the MSURA knitting group. She will serve as Vice President, responsible for scheduling and programming our meetings. Brower is recently retired from the MSU Comptrollers Office where he served as Assistant Vice President. He will serve MSURA as Board Member At Large.



**Marlene Wamhoff
and Gale Arent**

Marlene Wamhoff 2012 Volunteer of the Year

By Gale L. Arent, MSURA Past President

The MSU Retirees Association has selected Marlene Wamhoff as its 2012 Volunteer of the Year Award recipient. She was a faculty member in MSU's College of Human Ecology for over 25 years and is an active member of Ascension Lutheran Church. In every aspect of her busy life, she finds ways to serve others with her love of sewing and knitting. At any moment in time, one

can find a collection of finished projects in her house — tiny hats for newborn babies, larger hats for cancer patients, and small blankets and quilts for needy people in our community.

Marlene joined the MSURA knitting group about ten years ago and has made hundreds of knitted and quilted items to be given to the various agencies for the needy. She is extremely talented and gives generously of that skill. She also has gotten several of her friends to help the group out. She collects these items and then brings them in to be delivered. She is more than willing to teach and instruct where and when it is necessary.

Marlene has helped seven of her MSU colleagues and friends move into retirement centers, clearing out their homes and taking all their yarn, fabric, and unfinished projects into her own home to be purposed for her charitable sewing and knitting. Her home is overflowing with all this kindness that fills her basement, garage, and barn.

Marlene is one of the most caring and giving people we know. She is always concerned about how we can help others, whether she knows them personally or not. She is most deserving of our association's Volunteer of the Year award.

(cont. from Page 2) to repeatedly listen to spoken words on the recording. This will help them to get your prescription ready more quickly.

The new service will announce the pick up time for your prescription, but you will be able to request expedited service, using your telephone keypad, if you need your prescription more quickly. It is easy to ask to speak directly to a pharmacist, but remember that this is only available during open hours. You should request a pharmacist when your old prescription number has expired and you want to check that your doctor's office has authorized a new refill.

You may notice a small change in the size and shape of the plastic container holding your tablets or capsules. This is to accommodate the needs of the new robot that will count out and dispense your prescription. Your prescription will still be supervised from start to finish by a licensed pharmacist, but the robot will save the pharmacist from having to count out the prescribed number of capsules or tablets. Since many of the prescriptions filled at the MSU Pharmacy are for a 90 day supply, you can see that installation of the robot will save pharmacist time and allow customers to get their prescriptions more quickly.

--Al LeBlanc

Is your senior moment due to normal aging or cognitive impairment?

MSU neurologist Dr. Andrea Bozoki spoke to the Faculty Emeriti on April 11 about different kinds of memory loss in older people. People who forget names, phone numbers, and what they were doing if they are interrupted are likely to have the kind of normal memory loss associated with aging. Those who forget the content of a recent conversation, the location of a frequently used item like the refrigerator, and who repeat themselves without realizing it have a more dangerous kind of memory loss that can be called mild cognitive impairment [MCI]. The bad thing about MCI is that people who have it also have a 12% chance per year of progressing to dementia. Dementia is a cognitive decline so pronounced that the patient is impaired in performing normal daily activities. Alzheimer's disease is one form of dementia.

How prevalent is mild cognitive impairment? Bozoki said that at age 70, 5 to 14% of the population has MCI, but by age 80, 40% have MCI. The problem rises with increasing age, and it is noteworthy that countries with the longest life expectancy have the greatest incidence of MCI and dementia. Both MCI and dementia can be caused or made worse by factors other than cognitive decline, for example, certain medications, psychological stress, sleep apnea, dietary deficiencies, and certain other diseases. Bozoki said that much additional research is needed, and closed with an invitation for retirees to participate in studies that are currently recruiting at MSU. --Al LeBlanc

MSU Brain Imaging Studies seek Participants with or without Mild Memory Impairment

We are looking for participants over age 70 to serve as comparison groups for our Alzheimer's patient sample. You must be ok to get an MRI scan (no claustrophobia, no pacemaker or cardiac stent, no metal in the head, neck or eyes).

The purpose of these studies is to improve understanding of how changes in the brains of those with Alzheimer's disease and those with mild memory and thinking impairments are related to behavioral changes.

The study involves two components, and takes place on campus, in the Clinical Center/Radiology complex on Service Road. First, you will be asked to answer questions that assess thinking abilities. Participants without cognitive impairment will also be asked to identify themselves in photographs and will partake in measurement of behavioral responses to various levels of minor discomfort (forearm pressure). This component of the study takes 20-40 minutes.

The second part of the study lasts for about an hour and involves an MRI scan of the brain (NO radiation or injections are involved). During part of the scanning, participants with no memory or thinking impairments will view pictures of faces followed by laying in the scanner at rest. Those participants with mild memory and thinking impairments will only lie in the scanner at rest. After scanning, you will also have a blood draw for genetic testing (a single vial). You will be paid \$20 for completing the study.

If you are interested in participating and are a senior with no memory impairment, please contact Paul Beach at (269) 251-0027 or pabeach1@gmail.com. If you have memory or other thinking impairments and wish to participate, please contact Ashley Hannah at (216) 370-1900 or hannah@msu.edu. —Andrea Bozoki, MD

Time to Pass the Torch!

So quickly two years have passed and now it is time to deliver you into the hands of the new President of the MSU Retirees Association, **Ron Smith**. These last two years have concluded so quickly. Now you are in very good hands!

To work with the fine leaders of the MSURA was most gratifying. Together, we worked with the MSU Human Resources Department on adoption of the new generic drug prescribing program; upgraded the MSURA website; merged the MSURA database with the MSU HR database; installed a new computer and a new printer; began distribution of e-Notices to all MSU retirees with email addresses; entered the social media frenzy with retirees communicating via Facebook and Twitter; maintained audited financial records for the MSURA; developed an excellent new membership brochure; installed new desktop publishing software, Microsoft Publisher, for newsletter publication; provided photographs of MSU retirees in action; staffed the MSURA office with volunteers to answer phones, check mail, and review emails; and welcomed a new Assistant VP for HR, **Sharon Butler**. Behind every one of these achievements were several dynamic MSURA leaders. Please thank them for their work when you next see them. Their names are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please give Ron Smith and his leadership team your fullest support. Ron needs your help to fulfill the mission of the MSURA. Would you take a few minutes to share your thoughts on future directions for the MSU Retirees Association? Tell him by e-mail: msura@msu.edu or leave a message at: (517) 353-7896. Thank you.

— **L. Patrick Scheetz, MSU Retirees Association Past President**

Subscription Fees vs Dues

There is a challenge for the MSU Retirees Association (MSURA) which deserves your attention. It is requested that MSU retirees pay a yearly subscription fee but only 10% of MSU retirees pay. Why?

It is called a subscription fee because no dues are required for membership. All MSU retirees and their spouses are automatically members of the MSURA for life.

If \$10 per year pays for the newsletter, but MSU retirees can get the newsletter online for nothing, then why does the MSURA need \$10 from every retiree? Financial support from all retirees affects the amount of information in each newsletter, the number of newsletters published, and how widely the newsletters are distributed. Frankly, beyond the newsletters, the funds support initiatives for retirees such as interaction with peer retiree associations in the Big Ten and throughout the nation, representing MSU retirees with the University, acquiring new technologies and educating MSU retirees to effectively transition to life following full-time employment.

When discussions arise related to benefits or other aspects of the relationship of retirees to the University, the MSURA is the only organization that views issues first and foremost from the viewpoint of retirees and advocates for the interests of retirees.

What does the MSURA do for MSU retirees? It was established and is maintained as a community of MSU retirees. It stimulates interests and concerns of MSU retirees; brings MSU retirees together for social, recreational and educational purposes; communicates information that has special impact for MSU retirees and surviving spouses (especially health benefits

Cont. next page

Human Resources Welcomes New Assistant Vice President



Sharon E. Butler became the Assistant Vice President for Human Resources at Michigan State University on May 1, 2012. In her new role at MSU, she assumes the senior leadership position in HR and is responsible for not only the day-to-day operations but also the development of a long-term strategic vision and plan for the HR department.

After graduating from Indiana State University, Sharon, a native of Gary, Indiana, began her teaching career with Detroit Public Schools as a Speech and Hearing Therapist. Her extensive career as a Human Resources professional began with General Motors. She has held leadership positions in several industries including manufacturing, banking and higher education. Sharon brings over 35 years of extensive experience in all aspects of human resources including labor and employee relations, training and staff development, staffing services, compensation and benefits work including health care strategy, and human resource information systems. Sharon was most recently the Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer at the University of Cincinnati.

Sharon has been a member and held leadership positions on several of her church's committees and community outreach programs. Her hobbies and interests include researching her family's genealogy and creating one-of-a-kind art pieces in fabric, yarn and silk thread. She and her husband, Thomas, have two adult children and twin grandchildren.

Sharon looks forward to working with all of MSU's constituent groups, including MSU Retirees. Sharon says, "It was a pleasure to meet many of MSU's retirees during the May board meeting and annual luncheon. I look forward to meeting many more of you and listening to the challenges the retiree community faces."

Please join us in welcoming Sharon to the Spartan family! If you'd like to contact Sharon, you can send an e-mail to hmail@msu.edu or write to her at MSU Human Resources, Office of the Assistant Vice President, Ste. 250 Nisbet Building, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823.

—Bethany Belks, MSUHR Department

news); provides liaison between MSU retirees and the University community, especially key administrators; and helps MSU retirees to participate in service projects and programs that benefit other retirees, MSU and local community organizations.

MSU retirees are encouraged to pay \$10 per year, and you may pay ahead if you wish. However, there is no longevity insurance provided with this paying ahead (smile). Download the Newsletter Subscription Form, print the form, and mail it with your check. Thank you.

Help make MSURA better, **Make a tax deductible donation to MSURA** By making a charitable contribution to University Development for the "Retirees Association", your gift is tax deductible. Your gifts also will count toward university donor recognition clubs and societies. Your association is financially stable because former MSU employees have chosen to make charitable contributions to the association. Thanks for any comments 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

— **L. Patrick Scheetz, MSU Retirees Association Past President**

WHAT'S NEW AT THE U

By Stan Hecker

---Hats off to MSU's College of Education; for the 18th year in a row, their graduate programs in Elementary and Secondary Education rank as tops in the country, according to the oft-maligned annual report on graduate education by US News and World Report. Yikes! You can argue until the research cows come home, but EIGHTEEN YEARS is a long time to be in any winner's circle. They're doing it right in Erickson Hall! A dozen other Spartan programs ranked well, too.

---If you have a good computer connection for video, try these links:

MSU Today, a campus media outlet, is teamed up with the BigTen Network for enriching and interesting Spartan video. But, if you go to their website (<http://www.msutoday.msu.edu/shows/?shows>) you can watch the same shows on your schedule and without interruptions. Great video about MSU research and student life, and heart warming Spartan stories.

Got a yen to check out the MSU campus right now? Connect to the live Beaumont Tower Webcam at <http://news.msu.edu/webcams/webcam01.html>. In all seasons, you can get an immediate check on north campus weather and traffic

--North campus traffic, by the way, is mightily disturbed this summer, and into fall, as steam tunnels are renovated. Navigate to <http://construction.msu.edu/> and click on "West Circle Steam Loop" for details.

--The more other customers look and act like us, the more likely we are to stay loyal to a particular store or product, according to a ground breaking study co-authored by Michigan State University marketing expert Clay Voorhees. "We're sizing up other customers all the time," said Voorhees, assistant professor of marketing in the Broad College of Business. "Customers want to be around people they relate to, and the effect that the image of other customers has on loyalty was surprisingly dramatic." The study which appeared in the Journal of Retailing, is the first comprehensive examination of the role of other customers on customer loyalty.

Land-grant updated: Supply-chain students help non-profits stretch scarce donor dollars—

In the last two years, undergraduates have identified about a half-million dollars in potential annual savings for Michigan non-profits, including Peckham Inc. and the Hope Network.

At Lansing-based Peckham, where people with disabilities make clothing and other products, hundreds of thousands of boxes are needed every year to ship the products. But officials at the nonprofit weren't sure they were getting the best prices on their packaging and didn't have time to do a full-scale pricing comparison, said Allison Parker, materials manager for Peckham. So earlier this academic year, a team of supply chain students evaluated the market for box suppliers and came back with recommendations that stand to save Peckham as much as \$160,000 a year.

Peckham plans to make a decision relatively soon on which vendor to choose, Parker said, adding that any savings will allow the nonprofit to enhance existing services and even develop new programs. Serving more than 1,400 clients a year, Peckham works to create positive change in the lives of people with barriers to employment.

"The student team identified a significant cost savings and can feel good knowing that it will have a positive impact on many individuals," Parker said.

At Hope Network, a Grand Rapids-based nonprofit that operates dozens of residential treatment homes across the state, a team of supply chain students in fall 2010 developed a concept for a centrally located "store" at one of Hope's facilities that would stock nonperishable items such as cleaning supplies and tissue paper. Delivering those items from the central store eliminated the need for staffers at the residential homes to make frequent trips to retail outlets to buy the items, saving significant money on transportation and lost employee hours.

The project launched for a limited number of residential homes in late 2011. It hasn't taken off as much as officials had hoped – not because of the plan itself but because old habits die hard, said Joe Seeber, director of purchasing for Hope Network. Seeber hopes that will change. He said the student concept, if fully applied, has the potential to save about \$250,000 a year. "It's a great opportunity for Hope Network," Seeber said. "As a nonprofit, savings like this is a big deal for us."

In 2010, Dr. Tobias Schoenherr had a novel idea: turn his supply chain management students at Michigan State University into volunteer business consultants for non-profit organizations. The undergraduates in SCM 371 needed real-world experience. And the nonprofits were too busy running day-to-day operations to focus on streamlining their supply chains. "I had high hopes with the projects, but I really didn't expect these tremendous savings," said Schoenherr, assistant professor in the Department of Supply Chain Management. "It illustrates the future potential that projects like this can have on the community."

WHAT'S NEW AT THE U cont.

From a student perspective, the class – required for supply chain majors – was a refreshing change from the usual bookwork, said Alex Zuellig, who was part of the Hope Network project.

“It was a lot of work,” said Zuellig, who has since graduated and landed a job in the purchasing department of a Chicago-area distributor. “But it was great, because with most class projects you can’t necessarily relate them to what you might be doing in the real world.” The students also worked with Goodwill Industries, Gift of Life, Greater Lansing Food Bank and other organizations.

Schoenherr said this appears to be the first time that such a real-world project has been undertaken by supply chain students. He’s writing an academic article highlighting the results.

Michigan Tourism is up!

If you missed it in your local paper, Spartan researchers reported tourism spending in Michigan jumped a surprising 8 percent in 2011. Tourism spending should increase by a healthy 6 percent clip this year, reflecting the ongoing economic recovery.

Michigan’s \$17-billion-a-year tourism market – one of the state’s largest industries – should have a “very strong” 2012, said Dan McCole, assistant professor of tourism. “As long as the weather is good – and that’s always the big ‘if’ – I think we’re going to see a very strong year for tourism.”

McCole and Sarah Nicholls, associate professor of tourism, presented their report at the Pure Michigan Governor’s Conference on Tourism in Grand Rapids in late March. Even though 2011 was 3 percent cooler and 16 percent wetter than 2010, spending on tourism still doubled the projection the MSU researchers made last year. Spending projections are based on state sales tax and use tax collections.

Hotel occupancy in 2011 was up 7 percent statewide and 10 percent in Detroit, marking the second straight year that Detroit saw the biggest gain of any of the 25 major metro markets, Nicholls said.

“Recovery continues to occur at a steady pace,” said Nicholls, who is overseeing the state’s effort to create a five-year strategic plan for tourism.

In August, Good Morning America named Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore the “Most Beautiful Place in America” – the kind of publicity that could help the Traverse City area have an outstanding year for tourism, McCole added. That’s a conundrum; just when we get some elbow room to celebrate Michigan’s summers, the world beats a path to our beaches!!

Fuel from waste—the next step.... step...

MSU will soon begin a \$5-million project to build a new anaerobic digester, a system that will not only help reuse waste from MSU’s farms and dining halls, but also will create energy for some on-campus buildings. This is MSU’s second anaerobic digester; the first is a smaller device used for research.

When completed (probably in 2013) it will convert cattle and food waste to gas used to generate electricity for some of the buildings south of the main MSU campus. The investment payback will be fifteen years or less, depending on the utility-cost-avoidance.

An anaerobic digester is a sealed tank, deprived of oxygen, in which organic waste is degraded at an elevated temperature. This allows the waste material to decompose quickly and produce methane that can be captured and used as fuel.

“Once complete, this system will be the largest on a college campus in the United States,” said Dana Kirk, a specialist from MSU’s Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering who is overseeing the project. “It will be the largest in volume and in energy output.” MSU’s device will decompose a third of a million gallons of waste at about 100 degrees in about three weeks. The result is biogas and a slurry of partially decomposed organic matter, water and nutrients. “Only about 20 percent of the energy we produce is being used to sustain the process,” Kirk said. “The other 80 percent is available for other uses.”



April Meeting — MSURA Hears about an Old Military Base and a New Historical Society

James Spackman, a retired Colonel with the U. S. Army, delivered an interesting presentation at our April meeting. His topic was Fort Custer, situated on land first inhabited by the Potawatomi Indians, later settled by the Quakers, in the Battle Creek area. Camp Custer was built in 1917 as a training post, and later became home to a 59 building hospital installation. The present Veterans Administration hospital in Battle Creek was built on part of Camp Custer's land. During World War II the base housed 20,000 troops, it later served as home of a branch of the North American Air Defense Command, and in 1981 a national cemetery was established there. There is now a Fort Custer State Park. Spackman described the work of the Fort Custer Historical Society, which is currently developing a military museum and historical center in one of the remaining barracks buildings. Their web site is www.fortcusterhistoricalsociety.org. Interested persons may call the society at (269) 731-6563.

--Al LeBlanc

WORLD WAR II INTEREST GROUP

The new MSURA World War II Interest Group normally meets at 3:00 p.m. on the second Friday of the month at the coffee shop in the Schuler Book Store in Meridian Mall. Just look for the table with the American flag proudly flying! Everyone is invited.

May Meeting — World War II Interest Group Tours Private Museum

At its May meeting, the World War II Interest Group got to tour a military history museum in a private home, and we extend our thanks to Ron Springer for hosting us. We will continue to hold our regular meetings at 3:00 PM on the second Friday of the month at the coffee shop in the Schuler Book Store in Meridian Mall. Just look for the table with the American flag proudly flying! At each meeting we explore something about the history of World War II. One item to be considered as we go along is whether or not to broaden the topic of this study group to include all of American military history. We are grateful for the presence of our surviving veterans of World War II, but we will not always have them with us and as we saw in the Springer museum, American military history is an ongoing saga.

--Al LeBlanc



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.

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

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

University Advancement

Juxtaposing the Old and the New Morrill Hall and the Broad Art Museum

Retirees in East Lansing sometimes drive along Grand River Avenue just to see how the angular, gleaming shape of the Broad Art Museum is progressing. It's been in the works for some five years -- planning, site clearance, design competition, ground-breaking -- and we now have a good sense of what it will look like when it opens this fall. Readers can go to the Museum's website <broadmuseum.msu.edu> to watch the construction unfold and take a virtual tour of the interior.

The building is a striking departure from the rectangular brick and glass buildings which covered the university grounds in what we now call "the previous century." And it comes just as one of our oldest buildings, Morrill Hall, is scheduled for demolition. This coincidence has had me thinking of both buildings, the new and the old, and what they tell us about constancy and change in MSU's history.

For most of its existence Morrill Hall has been home to the College of Arts and Letters -- History, Literature, Philosophy and Religion. Professors in those disciplines enjoy the spacious, high-ceilinged offices lined with tall bookshelves, but the building itself, a wooden structure despite its brick clad appearance, has deteriorated to the point where repair is more costly than replacement. It opened in 1900 as the Women's Building and was renamed in 1937 when women students moved to the new West Circle residence halls. The genesis of the building and its names combine two major themes of MSU's nineteenth century history: the Morrill Land Grant act and the emergence of a women's curriculum.

The institution that would become MSU was created by the state legislature seven years before the Morrill Act. At that time most land in the former

Michigan Territory was still held by the Federal Government. The Land Grant Act gave each qualifying institution 30,000 acres, multiplied by the number of Congressmen from its state. Proceeds from the sale of the land were placed in an endowment fund; the interest income went to the college.

Members of Michigan's state legislature naturally hoped that the land grant fund would support the Agricultural College in perpetuity and for the rest of the century they gave it little additional support. By the 1890s, however, the logging boom was over, the unsold acreage had little value, and an endowment income that seemed generous in 1862 was woefully inadequate for the much larger institution of 1895. In that year the Legislature was surprisingly generous and granted the College \$93,000 for a Women's Building, the future Morrill Hall, which provided housing for 120 women students, complete with classrooms, offices, kitchen and sewing labs, and a gymnasium.

A few women had been attending classes since 1870, perhaps a half dozen or so each year. Most took only the courses that interested them; only a few were admitted and earned degrees. The Morrill Act had required instruction for women in "domestic economy" but until 1900 the College had had no dormitories for women and no facilities for teaching what would soon be called "home economics."

By the 1930s enrollment of women far exceeded the capacity of the Women's Building. New class rooms, offices, and labs were provided in the Home Economics building, opened in 1924, and women began moving into new dormitories going up on West Circle Drive. Though "Home Ec" was now one among many options for women to study it re-

(Cont. next page)

Morrill Hall and Broad Art Museum, continued

mained a popular choice with an increasing number being trained to teach such courses in the secondary schools.

One more Home Economics building opened after World War II. Located on Grand River, near the Collingwood entrance, the Home Management facility had several apartments where women lived for a semester practicing the skills of modern housekeeping. And in 2010 this building, having outlived its original purpose, was demolished to make way for the future Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, designed by Zaha Hadid, the first woman to win architecture's highest award, the Pritzger Prize.

I've always thought MSU's architectural philosophy – if there was such a thing – must be quite conservative. So I've wondered at the motives behind the bold asymmetry rising along Grand River Avenue, looking, at one point, like a great silver shark about to devour Berkey Hall. I raised this question, phrased more politely, to Linda Stanford, Professor of Art History, Project Coordinator for the Art Museum, and currently Associate Provost for Academic Services. She told me that some of the immediate post-war buildings in the International steel and glass box style were considered fairly radical in their time, notably the Student Services Building just south across Physics Road from the new art museum.

The galleries in Kresge Art Museum were too small, Linda added, for special exhibits which depend on artworks borrowed from other museums. The offer of a large donation from the Broad Foundation made it possible to address that issue and to express other values and aspirations for the new century. The new Museum will be open to the surrounding community, a cultural resource for Greater Lansing; it will feature the art of our time, the art of the 21st century; and befitting a world class university it will be international

in scope, embracing the art and artists of the world's many cultures.

In this light Zaha Hadid seems a perfect fit. Born in Iraq, educated in London, her creative imagination and bold designs have made her one of the most influential architects of her generation. She is better known in Italy, Saudi Arabia and China than in the U. S. -- the opening of her Guangzhou Opera House in 2010 was a major cultural event. Through the 21st century magic of Google and YouTube I have seen the sculpted exteriors and surprising interior spaces of her other buildings and am eager to get into the new building when it opens this fall.

So as MSU's first building of the twentieth century comes down next year a shining exotic new structure and its provocative contents will attract our attention. And some of us lucky enough to have prevailed for the greater part of a century will wonder how this new thing under the sun will be perceived in another hundred years or so.

—Milton Powell

May 2012

Sources for this article include the indispensable Madison Kuhn, [Michigan State: The First Hundred Years](#), and Linda Stanford and Kurt Dewhurst, [MSU Campus: Buildings, Places, Spaces](#)





MSURA members enjoy a night out at the Lansing Lugnuts baseball game, June 11.

Why Do Some Events Get Covered, but Others Don't?

We try to cover the highlights of retiree meetings and events, subject to the space we have in the newsletter, and also subject to getting an article about that event. If the Editor is able to attend, he will take notes and write something about the event if there is sufficient space in the newsletter. If the Editor is unable to attend, we can't cover the event unless someone else writes it up for us. Of course there is no need for us to cover everything, and sometimes we have to hold things back from the newsletter in order to publish something that we believe you should know about as soon as possible.

--Al LeBlanc

Spartan Retirees of Florida Hold Annual Luncheon

On March 5 eighty members of the Spartan retirees of Florida held their annual luncheon, with MSU represented by Provost Kim Wilcox and Tom Block, Associate Director of Human Resources. Wilcox couldn't resist comparing the 80 degree Florida temperature with the 26 degree weather that was taking place back in East Lansing. The university representatives gave a thorough report on what is going on at MSU, and retirees took particular notice of the fact that state funding only pays for 25% of expenses now with student tuition covering the remaining 75%. Twenty years ago the state of Michigan paid 75% of university expenses, with tuition covering the remaining 25%. With enrollment up to about 47,500 students, the greatly reduced state funding is a major challenge. Marshall Hestenes will lead the Florida group in the coming year.

--Bonnie Morrison, Secretary, Florida MSU Retirees

Avoiding Confusion about Meeting Times

Back in East Lansing, both the Michigan State University Retirees Association [MSURA] and the Faculty Emeriti Association [FEA] make a practice of offering refreshments and fellowship for one half hour before the meeting program begins. MSURA has refreshments at 1:30 with the program at 2:00, while FEA has refreshments at 2:00 with the program at 2:30. Faculty Emeriti meetings are listed on the MSURA e-notices and sometimes in the newsletter.

--Al LeBlanc

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Irv Taran, professor emeritus of art (above), recently donated his large-scale painting "Heavy Weather/ Superior" to the College of Music. A dedication ceremony in October 2011 celebrated its installation in the Music Building lobby.

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