



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# SPARTAN SENIOR

A Newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

Vol. 35 No. 1

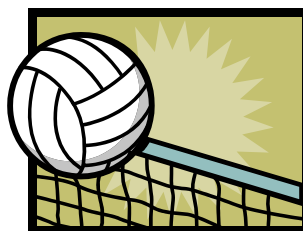
INTERNATIONAL EDITION

Fall 2013



Coach Cathy George

## Spartan Enthusiasm is Contagious as Retirees Learn about MSU Women's Volleyball



Player Kori Moster

At our season opener meeting on September 9, Spartan enthusiasm waxed contagious after high energy presentations by Coach Cathy George and her team member Kori Moster. It is no secret that women's volleyball is an up and coming sport at MSU, and we could tell that this is no accident as we heard the methodical way that coach and students work to build an unquenchable team spirit. Keep reading ...



## We are Invited to Attend an MSU Women's Volleyball Game as Guests of Coach Cathy George!

There will be an MSU Retirees night at the MSU vs. Iowa women's volleyball game on Friday, October 11. Coach Cathy George is providing FREE tickets for our group. The event is set for 7:00 PM at Jenison Fieldhouse. We need to know if you are coming and how many tickets to reserve for you. Call the MSU Retirees Office at 517-353-7896 (we have an answering machine if no one is there) or Nancy Craig at 517-351-1391, or send e-mail to Nancy at [craign@msu.edu](mailto:craign@msu.edu) to reserve your tickets. The deadline for reserving tickets is 5:00 PM on Tuesday, October 8. When you come to the game, use the main entrance off of the parking lot. Some of our members will be in the lobby to give you your tickets. Please come and sit with our group even if you already have admission to this game. Please come join us and cheer our great volley ball team on! And our thanks go out to Coach Cathy George and the MSU Women's Volleyball program!

## MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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#### Webmaster and Facebook Manager:

Anders Johanson 517-974-8994

#### E-notices and Twitter Manager:

Gordon Williams 517-349-9032

## President's Message



**Ron Smith**

In any volunteer organization there is always a need for more people to get involved. MSURA is no exception. Let's start with people volunteering to work in our office. The office is opened from approximately 9 AM to noon Monday-Friday during the Academic Year. In other words you wouldn't have to work during semester breaks or the summer. Your duties would include checking the mail, answering the phone and writing down or responding to phone messages, and perhaps, checking messages that are sent to us by e-mail. I am sure many people can do these basic duties. Contact Gale Gower at [gowerg@comcast.net](mailto:gowerg@comcast.net), if you are interested.

We have a great need for retirees to consider running for either the Board or an officer's position. Some of us have our term expiring and are ineligible to run again. We have board members who are away either in the summer or winter, but we make adjustments for it. Don't let that discourage you. We can cut deals. Volunteering for the Association can be both fun and rewarding. Think about it, please.

### **Mark Your Calendar for these Future Meetings**

October 7: Baseball Fantasy Camp. **Including special appearance by baseball great Mickey Lolich, most valuable player for the Detroit Tigers in their victory in the 1968 World Series!**

November 11: Evening College at MSU

December 9: The MSU Museum Holiday Collection

## **Reading Your Newsletter on the Web: See it more quickly and see it in color!**

Something to consider about reading your newsletter on the web: You will see it more quickly, and you will see it in color. Our completed newsletter always appears on the MSURA web site before it is printed and mailed. The August 2013 Local Edition appeared on our web site on August 12. It arrived in the Editor's mailbox on August 21, which was nine days later. As a cost saving measure, we are now printing all paper newsletters in black and white. But you will always see it in color on the web site. If you would like to view the newsletter on the web and not receive a paper copy, please send an e-mail with that request to [msura@msu.edu](mailto:msura@msu.edu). If you do that, we suggest that you still subscribe or donate to the association to help cover newsletter and association expenses.

## Information from MSU HR Department: Benefits Open Enrollment for 2014 Plan Year

Overall, there will be no major plan design changes, including no changes to deductibles or co-payments for the 2014 plan year. MSU Human Resources does want to note a few especially important things. Please make sure to review your open enrollment packet you'll be receiving by early October for additional information on these items.

1. **All benefits are now offered on a calendar-year basis.** Open enrollment will now be held annually in the fall rather than the spring, and plan selections will be effective from January 1 through December 31. This change to a calendar-based plan year will better align MSU with health plan deductibles and Affordable Care Act regulations from January 1, 2014 moving forward.
2. **Voluntary vision insurance now available.** Retirees and their benefits-eligible dependents can now purchase vision coverage through VSP® Vision Care.
3. **Autism coverage now offered.** Some new coverage related to autism services for children under MSU Health plans will take effect in January 2014. Services to assess, diagnose and/or treat Autism Spectrum Disorder will be covered subject to applicable costs like health plan deductibles and co-pays.
4. **Rates have changed for 2014.** Please review the health plan contribution rates in the open enrollment guide to see your plan options and associated costs.
5. **Health Advocate service available to MSU retirees and dependents.** MSU health plan enrollees and their family members can take advantage of Health Advocate, a patient advocacy service.
6. **Best Doctors is a service offered to MSU retirees and their families.** If you are facing a serious diagnosis or recommendations for medical care like surgery, chemotherapy, or other complex treatment options, Best Doctors can help. You can call the Best Doctors service at 866-904-0910 for help getting expert second opinions or help locating doctors and specialists. Best Doctors is completely confidential and could provide you with vital information and options you might otherwise miss. There are no out-of-pocket costs to you related to using the Best Doctors service. However, be aware that your medical providers may charge you for copying and forwarding your medical records to Best Doctors.
7. **Importance of October 31 enrollment deadline.** It is important to review enrollment materials carefully to make sure you are comfortable with the coverage and cost of the plan options you select for this 2014 plan year. Please note that after the October 31 Open Enrollment deadline, you will not be able to make changes to your selections again until the next open enrollment. Except in cases related to specific life-event changes, you will not be able to switch plans, add or remove dependents, cancel or add coverage, or make any other changes to your plan selections after October 31.  
--Bethany Balks

# What's New on Campus, Fall 2013

## Enrollment Count Up

About 49,300 students are in East Lansing for the Fall semester; it should be a new record. Details are expected at a Board of Trustees meeting later this fall.

## A Distant Galaxy

Brush up on your relativity and astrophysics—the methods of science are as interesting as the results. A Michigan State astronomer, Megan Donahue, is part of an international team of scientists that has discovered a galaxy so far, far away that its light was emitted not all that long after the Big Bang occurred. Dr. Donahue, professor of physics and astronomy, and her colleagues detailed their research in a recent issue of the journal *Nature*.

But the methods they used are just as interesting as the galaxy they found. Remember how Einstein predicted that a large mass would bend light? What else bends light? Prisms? Mirrors? Lenses? All those parts of a telescope, right?

Here's the interesting part: Peering out past the constellation Leo, the scientists used a light-bending "lens" formed by the gravity of a large galactic mass in a particular formation to see what they could see. Apparently this lens brightens and concentrates light waves beyond it, relative to earth. It's a very rare gravitational phenomenon.

They were able to spot a galaxy born long ago, which is now one of the farthest and oldest objects ever seen from earth. The galaxy they found was formed only 490-million years after the big bang. Considering that the big bang was some 14 billion years ago, the newly-spotted galaxy was one of the early galaxies. According to Dr. Donahue, the discovery helps confirm that stars were generated soon after the big bang. Yes, a "gravity lens," if you will, helped them see a galaxy which ranks among the most distant objects visible from earth. MSU's Dr. Donahue and her colleagues used the Hubble Space Telescope and Spitzer Space telescope, in several wavelength bands, to see the galaxy through the gravity lens.

## Sparty's Glass Sidewalks

Worn sidewalk sections around West Circle have been replaced by ... well ... *glass* and concrete sidewalks. A research and infrastructure partnership at MSU, the sidewalks are 20% ground glass. The project supports mixed-glass recycling, and the ongoing research suggests that the combination makes the sidewalks more durable.

According to Parviz Soroushian, professor of civil and environmental engineering, lab results show the glass concrete is stronger and more resistant to the elements, which will lengthen a sidewalk's useful life. From an environmental aspect, the replacement of cement by waste glass reduces carbon dioxide emissions that are generated from cement production. Adding glass to the concrete mix also creates an outlet for the excess glass waste, keeping it out of landfills. The Infrastructure Planning and Facilities Division has been collecting mixed glass, grinding it into a powder, and adding it to concrete for the test sidewalk sections.

## Beverage Education

No doubt about it; undergraduate education in alcoholic beverages is haphazard and disruptive. Even so, licensed beverages are a multi-billion-dollar combination of agriculture and industry. Kris Berglund, University Distinguished Professor of Food Science and Chemical Engineering and an AgBioResearch scientist, is coordinating MSU's first trio of undergraduate courses studying the licensed beverage industry. The classes attract students interested in the process and production of winemaking, brewing and distilling as well as the resulting properties, Berglund said. Well-schooled graduates in food science, chemistry, chemical engineering, biosystems engineering, and microbiology are needed in the industry.

This fall's courses are 1) Fermented Beverages and Science, and 2) Technology of Wine Production. A third class, Brewing and Distilled Beverage Technology, will be offered in the spring. Students must be 21 to enroll, and the classes will be held at Lansing area wineries, breweries, and distilleries, and the MSU Artisan Distilling Research Facility. The courses form a specialization area in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition.

Dr. Berglund is a consultant to a number of local craft beer and wine makers, and teaches distillation seminars nationally. "We're the only university that has access to a commercial license and commercial-scale equipment," he said, "so we're able to teach students how to be successful on a corporate scale."

Remember when East Lansing was *dry*? What a change! --**Stan Hecker**

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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.

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**MICHIGAN STATE**  
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University Advancement

## MSU Prof Helped to Break Japanese Military Codes in WW II

Several years ago I read a short piece by Bob Bao in the Alumni Magazine about Professor David Mead of MSU's English Department. Mead had written an article in Cryptologia describing how he left graduate school in 1942 to become a military intelligence analyst, and he played a crucial role in breaking Japanese codes. It seemed remarkable that a scholar in the humanities would succeed in a specialized field usually dominated by mathematicians and linguists.

Mead's decision also resonated with my lifelong process of revising a child's impression of the war. I've often pondered the accident of fate that made me a boy of eight on December 7, 1941 rather than a young man of eighteen. The home front war of my childhood dominated every facet of life and seemed to last a very long time. It was fought by grownups, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines whose bravery and skill made an Allied Victory inevitable.

The astonishing truth is that innumerable events could have changed the outcome, and that the war was fought largely by farmers, clerks, schoolteachers and schoolboys who, if they survived, became part of a formidable military force that won a two front global war. It lasted just forty-five months, a bit less than four years. And, I might add, they did it despite having a physically disabled Liberal Democrat as Commander-in-Chief.

Young David Mead's circumstances typified the constraints forced upon his generation by historical events they could not have anticipated. In the summer of 1942 he had just completed qualifying exams for a Ph. D. in English at Ohio State University. But the war now dominated everything; the country was in the throes of total mobilization. Young people by the tens of thousands were leaving families, jobs, and their plans for the future to take up a new profession of warfare for "the duration," the nation's term for an undetermined and uncertain future. Mead's account is laconic, matter-of-fact: "I decided to put aside my studies and to try to help in some small way in the war effort."\* He wrote to the Army Signal Corps describing his background and interests ("an infatuation with solving puzzles . . .") and was quickly invited to join the Signal Intelligence Service.

The SIS had been formed to analyze and decrypt the new machine-based codes used in Japan's diplomatic correspondence. The operator entered text on something like a typewriter keyboard; an array of switches then produced one of many possible scramblings of the text. The coded incoming message then told the receiving operator how to set his own machine to the same configuration and get the original message.

The Japanese had introduced a new model of this machine 1939. It took the SIS team eighteen months but they cracked the new code, built their own replica of the machine, and were back in the business of reading Japan's diplomatic dispatches. David Mead's training was in the mastery and application of the same methods.

Diplomatic messages, however, provided no information about troop and fleet positions or strategic targets. So by Fall 1942 SIS was trying to break the Japanese Army Administrative code, used for orders from Tokyo and between units in the field. This task, as Mead describes it, seems mind-numbing. Their raw material, from Morse code intercepted by US listening stations, contained page after page of four digit number sequences – 4612 7861 9113 . . . (cont. next Page)

From experience with earlier codes, "We were confident," Mead writes, "that the encoders were using an additive book of four digit numbers and that there was an indicator informing the recipients how to decode them."

In April of 1942, Mead, now working alone through sixteen hour days, made a breakthrough. He found a pair of matching numbers sent on the same date from Tokyo; these led to another pair and then to more. He made an informed guess about the underlying pattern and requested several IBM runs (these were early punch-card days) to test his hypothesis. The results solved the part of the code that told the receiver how to decode the message. Mead and a colleague rechecked his work and sent a message to their Commanding Officer: "WE'RE READING THE ADMIN CODE!"

Much work remained to be done, but this was the key to breaking the entire code. By 1944 "virtually every message between Japanese stations was being intercepted." This advantage was kept so secret during the remainder of the war that few in the US command knew of it and more importantly the Japanese never suspected or caught on. It is hard to separate the impact of any one factor in a war so large and complex but many historians think this secret information may have shortened the Pacific campaign by a year or more or, at least the "... victory would have been incalculably more expensive in time, effort and blood."

The remainder of Mead's service seemed anticlimactic -- some "minor code breaking," training of new analysts, and administrative duties. He received the Legion of Merit in 1945, and soon returned to graduate school and a distinguished academic career at Michigan State University. Only after his retirement did he decide that his was a story worth telling, one uniquely his but one of millions in a generation whose lives were interrupted and indelibly changed.

Milt Powell  
East Lansing May 2013

\* This and other quotes are from "The Breaking of the Japanese Army Administrative Code," David Mead, Cryptologia, July 1994



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## Old Newsboys Need Your Help

In 1924, Lansing truant officer George Palmer discovered that many children were not attending school because they lacked proper footwear. With the help of the community, he created what has become known as the Old Newsboys Association. In cooperation with the Lansing State Journal, a single day publication is sold in December. It is a “fun” edition, spoofing many of the year’s events.

All proceeds from the sale are used to purchase footwear for needy children living within a 25-mile radius of the City of Lansing, with no funds from the sale being diverted for administrative costs. From September 2012 through August 2013 approximately \$253,000 was spent helping approximately 5,900 children with footwear needs.

Your Retirees Association decided in 2006 to help this organization either through providing volunteers on the day of the sale to “hawk” the “spoof” edition of the Lansing State Journal or through contributions by its members. The sale this year will be held on Thursday, December 5. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Brenda Spackman at 651-9101 or the Retirees’ Office at 353-7896. You will be contacted and given complete instructions. If you cannot volunteer but would like to learn more, please check out our web site [Lansingoldnewsboys.org](http://Lansingoldnewsboys.org). Contributions can also be sent to the following address:

Old Newsboys Association of Greater Lansing  
P.O. Box 14058  
Lansing, MI 48901-4058

## Opera Study Group Will Preview Met Season Opener

The opera study group is largely focused on the Metropolitan Opera Live in HD series shown in local theatres. In recent meetings we discussed the past year’s season as well as the four operas shown in the summer encore series. Professor Emeritus Mark Johnson, retired from the MSU College of Music, will present a preview of the coming season opener, Peter Tchaikovsky’s noted opera *Eugene Onegin*. The Johnson presentation will include HD video. Other programs being considered include an opera-oriented tour of the MSU Fine Arts Library and a program on the first modern opera, Claudio Monteverdi’s *Orfeo*, composed in 1607. To join the group and receive e-mail notifications of coming meetings, please send an e-mail request to Al LeBlanc at [aleblanc@msu.edu](mailto:aleblanc@msu.edu).





# IN MEMORIAM

JAMES ADAMS 12/29/2012  
LULU ALONSO 11/03/2012  
KEITH ANDERSON 12/20/2012  
JACK MANSFIELD BAIN 07/01/2012  
JON BAISCH 07/09/2012  
MARTIN BALABAN 10/14/2012  
ALBERT BALGOYEN 10/18/2012  
R NEAL BAND 10/12/2012  
RALEIGH BARLOWE 05/18/2013  
FLOYD BARROWS 08/17/2012  
HAZEL BENNETT 12/12/2012  
ROBERTA BERGIN 02/03/2013  
JANET BETTS 06/25/2013  
DOROTHY BILDNER 11/14/2012  
ROSE BINKLEY 07/10/2012  
WALTER BLINN 11/22/2012  
HENRY BLOSSER 03/20/2013  
SUZANNE BONJOUR 06/08/2013  
RALPH BONNER 05/24/2013  
W BROWN-STONE 04/03/2013  
THOMAS BURTON 06/03/2013  
DOROTHY BYRNE 12/14/2012  
JOAN CARPENTER 04/18/2013  
CLEO CHERRYHOLMES 04/18/2013  
SHARON CISCO 10/28/2012  
VERA COOLEY 05/03/2013  
MARJORIE CURTIS 03/06/2013  
MARGARET CUSHION 09/22/2012  
E DEMBOWSKI 02/14/2013  
GURDON DENNIS 08/26/2012  
EUGENE DICE 01/02/2013  
ANNA DOEBLER 05/06/2013  
JAMES DOMPIER 01/12/2013  
BETTY DUNKEL 02/05/2013  
THOMAS DUTCH 12/06/2012  
MARY EDDY 09/23/2012  
JIM FARAONE 11/15/2012  
MERRITT FELLOWS 09/22/2012  
GEORGE FERNS 10/03/2012  
FREDERICK FINK 02/11/2013  
HAROLD FOSTER 02/18/2013  
HARRISON GARDNER 01/15/2013  
WALTER GOURLAY 02/06/2013  
NAOMI GREEN 04/23/2013  
PHILIP GREENMAN 02/05/2013  
IRENA GROFOVA 02/14/2013

DONNA GUBRY 02/16/2013  
EMANUEL HACKEL 07/09/2012  
WILLIAM HAMILTON 09/26/2012  
MERLE HAMMOND 10/06/2012  
MARY HEMPSTED 10/30/2012  
MARGUERITE HIGBEE 06/04/2013  
THOMAS HILL 05/11/2013  
JOHN HOAGLAND 03/06/2013  
SETH HOOTMAN 09/21/2012  
ALVIN HOUSE 10/03/2012  
LIZZIE HUDSON 01/08/2013  
WILLIAM HUGHES 02/07/2013  
HAZEL JEFFREY 12/19/2012  
PATRICIA JEFFRIES 08/20/2012  
WILBUR JOHNSON 10/09/2012  
BERNETTA KAHABKA 11/08/2012  
DON KEBLER 11/30/2012  
DONALD KEMP 04/22/2013  
JEAN KENNEDY 11/17/2012  
RUTH KILBOURNE 01/11/2013  
WILLIAM KIMBALL 05/24/2013  
FREDERICK KLETKE 12/06/2012  
ALBERT KOGLIN 09/20/2012  
STANLEY KONOVAL 12/31/2012  
MARY KOONS 01/28/2013  
BARBARA KRAUSE 06/25/2013  
JAMES KRENEK 06/07/2013  
RAYMOND KROMER 01/31/2013  
LILLIAN KUMATA 04/02/2013  
MARY LAFORGIA 03/07/2013  
JUNE LASS 03/07/2013  
ALBERT LEVAK 03/23/2013  
LOWELL LEVI 08/25/2012  
THELMA LOVE 04/30/2013  
SOPHIE MACHINCHICK 08/10/2012  
MILDRED MAHAN 01/22/2013  
MERRY MALFROID 07/18/2012  
LESTER MANDERSCHIED 10/23/2012  
ROBERT MANTHY 11/11/2012  
KEIJI MARUSHIGE 11/28/2012  
ROBERT MCINTOSH 03/17/2013  
T HARRY MCKINNEY 10/07/2012  
O DONALD MEADERS 12/10/2012  
GEORGE MONROE 01/14/2013  
MAX MORTLAND 06/29/2013  
JOHN MULLINS 06/08/2013

HAROLD NEWSON 02/07/2013  
ELDON NONNAMAKER 11/12/2012  
VELMER OAKLEY 07/02/2012  
JAMES OAKS 08/18/2012  
SADAYOSHI OMOTO 03/04/2013  
NORMAN OSWALD 07/06/2012  
VICTOR PAANANEN 03/24/2013  
PAUL PARKER 03/04/2013  
GERALD PAULINS 03/28/2013  
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JOHN QUISENBERRY 01/12/2013  
FRED RACLE 03/05/2013  
SUNDARI RAJAN 03/09/2013  
GORDON RAPELJE 04/14/2013  
NORMA RAY 01/06/2013  
ARDA REEDY 10/21/2012  
ROBERT RENTSCHLER 09/01/2012  
ELIZABETH RIMPAU 12/28/2012  
SHARON ROBACK 08/16/2012  
ELIZABETH ROBERTS 08/24/2012  
MARY ROBINSON 01/08/2013  
EMILY JEAN ROSE 05/22/2013  
EDWIN RUTHERFORD 10/29/2012  
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NANCY SMITH 06/13/2013  
RALPH SMUCKLER 11/15/2012  
JOAN SOBER 08/14/2012  
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PHYLLIS WEST 10/05/2012  
FRANK WHEELER 03/19/2013  
ERNEST WICKHAM 03/12/2013  
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The above list included deaths of MSU retirees and spouses between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.



## Spartan Senior Subscription Form

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### United Way Campaign Update

The 2013-14 United Way Pledge Forms will be mailed to you in the first part of October. Please take a minute and consider making a contribution to help the MSU Retirees meet their goal for the 2013-14 campaign year. Thank you! --Darlene Wenner

## Military History Interest Group Studies War of 1812

MSU Professor Emerita Ann Harrison presented a fascinating talk on the War of 1812 to the Military History Interest Group. The presentation was based on a very popular Evening College course that Harrison taught last year. Many crucial events of the War of 1812 took place in Michigan and Ohio, and Americans and Canadians have very different memories about the war. It is not surprising that each side has its clearest memories of its own victories, and tends to forget its defeats. To join the Military History Interest Group and receive e-mail notifications of future meetings, send your e-mail address to Al LeBlanc at [aleblanc@msu.edu](mailto:aleblanc@msu.edu). If you don't use e-mail, leave a telephone message for Al at (517) 655-6454 and be sure to include your phone number. The group also studies books about military history. Recently reviewed books include *Death Traps*, a participant's story of tank warfare from D-Day to the German surrender; and *Sage*, the story of an American soldier attached to OSS, who spent much of the war in various German prisoner of war camps.

**MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
SUITE 22 NISBET BLDG. MSU  
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EAST LANSING, MI 48823-5239**

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3. Mail both to us at the address above.

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