



# MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

## SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

June 2017

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### Claire Weessies is scholarship recipient for 2017

At the May luncheon, Claire Weessies was named recipient of the MSURA Scholarship to attend MSU. She is the daughter of Kathleen Weessies, Head of the MSU Map Library.

Claire was unable to attend the luncheon because she was taking the Advanced Placement Examination in Chemistry while we were enjoying lunch.

Our scholarship winner attends Mason High School, where she is active in band and in the writing club. She is a clarinet player, active in both concert and marching band, and at the time of this writing was playing in the pit orchestra for the school's production

Please see SCHOLARSHIP on page 3

## L. Patrick Scheetz named Volunteer of the Year

At our May luncheon, L. Patrick Scheetz was named MSU Retirees Association Volunteer of the Year.

Scheetz will need no introduction to our members, because he has served the association in many different roles during the past few years. His most notable service to the association has been that of serving two different terms as President (2010-2012, and 2014-2015), and serving as the first coordinator of the MSU Retirees Association annual golf outing, which is the primary funding activity for the new MSU Retirees Association student scholarship.

He retired from Michigan State University in August 2007 as Director of Alumni Career Services, MSU Alumni Association.

His earlier assignments included Director of the Collegiate Employment Research Institute, Assistant Director of Career Services and Placement, and Adjunct Professor for Educational Administration. He received BS and MS degrees from Purdue University and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

He is a Vietnam veteran of a Hawk Air Defense Artillery unit and a former U.S. Army officer. For 27 years, he authored Recruiting Trends, a report of job market trends



L. Patrick Scheetz receives the MSU Retirement Association's Volunteer of the Year Award plaque from Angela Brown, president of the MSURA. Scheetz was recognized for his two terms as president of the association as well as his service as coordinator of the annual golf outing, which provides scholarships for students.

for new college graduates, which received significant national media attention. He and his wife Janet have three children: Dominique, Michael, and Danielle; and five grandchildren. His wife just retired in August 2016 after 46 years as an elementary school teacher in the Lansing

School District.

Scheetz has an outgoing, optimistic, friendly personality and has offered his talents without reservation to the MSU Retirees Association. We have benefited from his talents and we cherish his friendship.

Al LeBlanc



# A Message from the President Elect

Rick Vogt

**F**irst, a little about myself. I retired a couple of years ago after 26 years with the Information Technology Services Department. I grew up in East Lansing and Waverly. The past 36 years I have lived in Okemos, raising two daughters and a son, and we all are Spartans. Go Green!

I have served on a variety of organization boards in different capacities over the years. Being involved and participating in our community makes it a better place. The MSURA community is strong and one I am happy to be a part of. People doing good things and helping others, is that not the MSU way? For me, being connected to such a group enhances my retirement experience.

We have monthly meetings September to April where a guest speaker presents to the retirees. These meetings are on the second Monday of each month from 1:30 to about 3:00 PM, and are held at the MSU Federal Credit Union branch at Mt Hope and Farm Lane in the Community Room. Come join us! We are currently working on lining up speakers for next year's monthly meetings. Watch the MSURA eNotices and the August/September Spartan Senior Newsletter for announcements.

I welcome MSU retirees and their spouses to volunteer and/or participate in MSURA events and activities. Come and meet up with old friends and make new friends. We recently completed another tremendous year. We had eight outstanding speakers, a tour of WKAR, and an MSU Theater Backstage tour. A special thank you to President Simon for talking to the retirees on April 10 about successes and challenges facing the University and

higher education. Special thanks also to Kirk Domer of MSU Theater, who put together the April 20 tour for us. We have a number of special interest groups which get together regularly to share common interests from knitting and quilting to military history. Check the MSURA web site ([retirees.msu.edu](http://retirees.msu.edu)) for a list and contact information for our special interest groups. If you do not see a group with your interest, we are happy to help start one.

The MSURA communications team publishes seven newsletters a year, eNotices, and manages the MSURA web site ([retirees.msu.edu](http://retirees.msu.edu)) to help keep you informed with good information. Take a few minutes and visit the web site. I would like to thank our sponsoring organizations that fund MSURA newsletters and activities and allow MSURA to operate without membership dues or newsletter subscription fees. Our sponsors are the MSU Federal Credit Union, MSU College of Music, MSU University Development, MSU Human Resources, and StraightLine.

Some upcoming events include the 3rd Annual MSURA/StraightLine Scholarship Golf Outing, which will be held September 19, 2017, at Forest Akers West Golf Course. All funds raised will go to the MSURA Student Endowed Scholarship. Golfers, volunteers and sponsors are needed for the golf outing. If you are interested in signing up to golf, volunteer, or to be an event sponsor, call the MSURA office at 517-353-7896 and leave your name and phone number. This year's MSU Retirees Association Student Scholarships were awarded to Claire Weessies and Amanda Pohl. Amanda's scholarship is a renewable scholarship.

Congratulations to Claire and Amanda! MSURA's Lugnuts baseball game is on Friday, June 16, 2017, 7 p.m. Join us and have some fun! It's senior night – free hot dog, chips and pop.

The annual luncheon was held on May 1. Officers and board members were elected. Frederick "Rick" Vogt, President; Roger Baldwin, Vice President; Dave Brower, Treasurer. Board members-at-large are William Anderson and Michael Gardner. Angela Brown, Past President; Secretary, Jacqueline Babcock. Thank you to our past officers, board members and committee chairs for their service, Patrick Scheetz, Past President; Angela Brown, President; Nancy Craig, Past Board Member-At-Large.

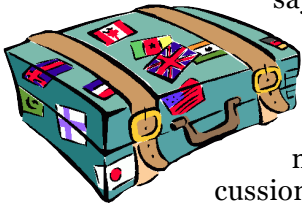
This year's Volunteer of the Year Award was awarded to Patrick Scheetz. He has served MSURA for many years on the board, chairing committees and serving as Vice President as well as President. Thank you, Patrick, for your years of service to MSURA.

MSU Retirees Association is an all-volunteer organization. Everything that MSURA does is made possible by people sharing their ideas, time and talents. There are many good things happening that enrich our lives. We are fortunate to have volunteers helping to bring ideas, activities and information to enhance our own retirement years. If you have interests and would like to share them or help in some way, please give us call at 517-353-7896 and leave your name and phone number. We welcome your ideas, time and talents to make MSURA even better resource for retirees.

Enjoy your summer. I look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

# Interested in joining a travel discussion group?

Over the last few years, we have been hearing about potential interest in a travel discussion group. Travel, after all, is one of the main things people say they want to do in retirement. If enough people are interested, we could meet from time to time to talk about our travel experiences, what to do and what not to do, and share our thoughts on destinations that offer the most enjoyment for one's effort and money. If you would like to participate in a travel discussion group, please send your e-mail or phone number to Al LeBlanc, phone (517) 655-6454 or e-mail [aleblanc@msu.edu](mailto:aleblanc@msu.edu). Experience has shown that it is much easier to communicate with a group via e-mail, so that is the preferred contact method.



## SCHOLARSHIP, continued from p. 1

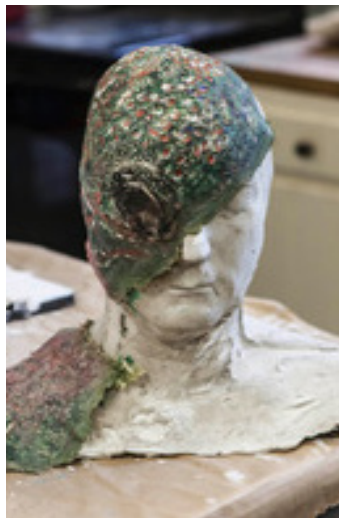
of the musical "Into the Woods." She has earned a varsity letter in band and in academics, and has received an excellence in mathematics award.

Her hobbies include knitting and reading, with Kurt Vonnegut one of her favorite authors. She listens to alternative music, and currently her favorite band is Metric. When she begins her study at MSU, she is hoping to help new students and international students by sharing the knowledge she has already acquired about MSU's expansive campus.



## THEATER TOUR

MSURA sponsored a special backstage tour of the MSU theatre department in April. Kirk Domer and other theater staff shared what goes on behind the scenes to produce a play.



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Have a  
wonderful  
summer!

### Lessons on Investing – Did you know?

StraightLine is a fiduciary that was chosen by MSU to provide professional advice and management to both employees and retirees at MSU. Our experienced advisors and dedicated research staff allows us to offer unbiased information to the MSU faithful. We present the following for your review:

#### Straight to the Point

**Market Update** - Not much has changed since our last update, stock markets continue to build on the momentum they've exhibited all year. We did see markets retreat slightly a few weeks ago, but it's hardly worth mentioning. Of more importance has been the continued strength in international equities, where both developed and emerging markets have posted double digit gains. The market friendly election result in France over the weekend should only provide further support for stocks. Meanwhile, the most important factor for markets, earnings, continue to strengthen both domestically and abroad. Economic conditions have also held up well, leading to an all but certain interest rate hike at the June Fed meeting.

**Investment Implications** - It's been hard to ignore the results across equity markets in the last six months, and while a run like this may bring about fears of over exuberance, market fundamentals have justified the move. We continue to see greater mid to long term return potential in international stocks, but can't dismiss domestic equities entirely. Geopolitical risks are always out there, but for the time being the French election results have lessened those fears. Bonds continue to produce modest gains and we'd expect more of the same going forward. Now is a time to benefit from market momentum, but as always to do so in a risk appropriate way.

Our quarterly newsletter (StraightTalk) walks through the macro information that we are utilizing in respect to our near term strategy. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving these newsletters or discussing our macroeconomic views.

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