



MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

June - July 2018

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LeBlanc is 2018 Volunteer of the Year

The 2018 MSU Retirees Association Outstanding Volunteer Award was presented to Al LeBlanc at the Annual Membership Meeting on May 7, 2018. Al served as editor of Spartan Senior since 2011. The newsletter is published seven times during the academic year and keeps MSURA membership informed about Association activities and relevant issues for retirees.

Al stands on the shoulders of previous newsletter editors. He had a vision of professionalism for the newsletter and worked diligently to bring his vision to fruition. Under his leadership a newsletter team was established consisting of a designer, an e-notices manager, an underwriting manager, and several columnists who enrich the expanded editions of the newsletter.

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He reformatted the newsletter and added color until the cost became too prohibitive (color is still available for online versions of the newsletter). Every edition of the newsletter goes to all MSURA members by e-mail or hard copy.

Patrick Scheetz, Past President of MSURA, wrote: "When Al LeBlanc approached me to volunteer as Editor of the MSURA newsletter, he had questions about how much time it would take and how much freedom



Al LeBlanc, center, received the 2018 MSURA Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award, which was presented to him by award chair and former president Angela Brown. Current president Rick Vogt was on hand to congratulate LeBlanc.

he might have as editor. During his tenure as editor, the MSURA newsletter became better, more entertaining, and more informative. He took the 'bull by the horns' and made it more valuable as a communications media for keeping our MSU retirees fully informed about events, people, and benefits which were important to their lives."

Al's team describes working with him as a pleasure. He was always reaffirming and appreciative of the tasks they were willing to take on to make the newsletter publication

effort efficient, attractive, economically viable and accurate. On a personal level, when I took on the task of coordinating and communicating with underwriters, Al took the time to meet with me more than once to give me some background on the newsletter, his ideas to keep improving the newsletter and he was open and patient with my questions and first missteps. That's the sign of a good leader.

Al was a K-12 school band director in his early career. He came to MSU in 1976 and served as Coordinator

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rick Vogt

Thanks to all the volunteers, guest speakers, sponsors and underwriters for making this a very good year. We look forward to a fantastic line up of events in the upcoming year. Watch for details in the up coming August-September newsletter. Plan on attending and bring a friend.

The Annual meeting was held May 7, and Rick Vogt, Roger Baldwin, Pam Marcis and Bruce Smith were re-elected as President, Vice President and At-Large Board members respectively. Thank you for your commitment to MSU Retirees Association.

This year's Volunteer of the Year is Al LeBlanc. Al has been active in MSURA for a number of years in many ways. Thank you, Al, for your service to MSURA.

Congratulations to the two MSURA Scholarship recipients, Amanda Pohl and Callahan Riggs.

MSU will be upgrading the MSU eMail Service for retirees over the summer in small groups. Watch your MSU eMail in the coming weeks for details and instructions.

Have a great summer. See you in the fall.

It's our turn! Retirees to get new email system

The long-standing email service at Michigan State has reached limitations, and a newer system needs to be put in place.



expand storage space for email.

The new email system, which has been used for active employees and students for more than two years, provides cloud

Modern cloud computing services are the most cost-effective way to

storage with much more capacity per user than the old system.

MSU will be converting retirees' email service over the next few months in small groups. MSU IT Services (ithelp@msu.edu) will communicate details and instructions to individuals a week and day before their email service is converted.

Look for an email from IT Services. That email will tell you the steps to take.

If you have questions, call MSU IT Services Help Desk, Ph. 517-432-6200 or Toll Free 844-678-6200.

MSURA Scholarship winners awarded at luncheon

Students receive \$2,500 each

The MSU Retirees Association Scholarship recipients for 2018-19 were announced at the Association's Annual Membership meeting on May 7 at Kellogg Center. They are Amanda Pohl and Callahan Riggs. Both students were in attendance, with their mothers as guests at the luncheon, to accept the \$2,500 awards.



Amanda Pohl, a kinesiology major, has received the MSURA Retirees Scholarship for the past two years. She will be a junior at MSU this fall. Her mother, Julie Pohl, works in Contracts and Grants.

Amanda Pohl has received the MSURA Retirees Scholarship for the past two years. She was our first recipient and has maintained an excellent academic record to be eligible for additional support. Amanda just completed her sophomore year at MSU as a kinesiology major with a minor in Health Promotion. Her long term goal is to become a physical therapist. This past year, she volunteered at the McLaren Rehabilitation Center where she shadowed several physical therapists every week. This experience reassured her that this is the right career for her. This summer she will be at Sparrow Hospital in a similar role.

Amanda also volunteered with Camp Quality last summer. Camp Quality is a camp offered at no charge for children who have or have had cancer. This experience was instrumental in her decision to focus on pediatrics. She plans to work there again this summer.

In her free time, Amanda enjoys spending time with her family and friends, playing sports, watching movies and camping. She also has a job as an office aide for the MSU Parking Office. (She assured us at the luncheon that she is not responsible for tickets!)



Callahan Riggs is a senior at Grand Ledge High School. He plans to major in supply chain management when he arrives on campus in the fall. His mother, Elizabeth Riggs, is employed by the Public Safety Department.

Amanda graduated from Portland High School in 2016. Her mother is an MSU alum and has worked at MSU for the past 28 years, currently in the Contracts and Grants office. Her brother will also graduate from MSU in December. She said she always considered attending MSU because of her MSU family connections and one of her happiest moments was when her acceptance letter arrived in the mail. She considers MSU her official home.

Amanda stated "I cannot thank you, the MSU Retirees Association, enough for choosing me as a recipient for this scholarship. It is a true honor to have been selected."

Callahan is a senior at Grand Ledge High School and has been a member of both the football and track teams. He plans on studying supply chain management at MSU and hopes to stay in Michigan after graduation. He loves the outdoors in Michigan and in his free time he likes to fish, golf and ski.

His family connections at MSU run deep. His grandfather, Dr. William Joyce, was a professor in the College of Education for 53 years. His mother has been employed in the MSU Public Safety Department for 28 years. His great grandfather, grandpa, great uncle, mom, another uncle and sister have all gone to MSU. Go Green!

Scholarship Update

MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship continues to grow and evolve. The endowment has grown to over \$100,000. The MSURA Board expanded the scholarship eligibility to include current MSU students along with incoming students. Future scholarships will be for a year.



The 2018-2019 MSU Retirees Association Board

Front row, left to right: Mike Gardner, Liz Thomas, Angela Brown, Jacqueline Babcock, Etta Abrahams, Daniel Mackey **Back row, left to right:** Dave Brower, Pam Marcis, Rick Vogt, Roger Baldwin, John Forsyth, Bill Anderson
Board Members not in the photo: Nancy Craig, Dan Chegwiddden, Anders Johanson, Cheryl Pell, Bruce Smith, Darlene Wenner

LEBLANC, continued from p. 1

of Evening College in Music and as Associate Director of the School of Music in charge of graduate studies. Al retired after 27 years on the music education faculty.

Al's contributions to MSURA do not stop with the newsletter, however. Al started an opera study interest group which has since disbanded, but two groups remain active. The World War II interest group was established in 2011 and has evolved into Military History, one of the largest interest groups associated with MSURA. This active group has scheduled programming for the larger membership, as well. The most recent addition is a travel interest group for those looking for

advice and ideas on where and how to travel around the world.

On stepping down as newsletter editor Al said he needed to stop running the "relay race." This allows him more time to spend on his other activities closer to home, "low level" handyman, gardening and, yes, TRAVEL.

All agree Al has done a superb job as editor and making the MSURA newsletter a first class publication. He has worked hard and is very deserving of the award.

Congratulations to Al LeBlanc, recipient of the MSURA 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award!

—*Jacqueline Babcock*

WANT TO VOLUNTEER WITH MSURA?

If you're new to the world of retirement, we know you'd probably like to take a break for a bit. But after that, how about joining in to help the Retirees Association with its various activities? And if you're used to the retirement thing, you might be searching for something new to do. There are lots of ways to get involved, and it's a great way to meet your fellow MSU retirees. Let us know if you're interested, and we'll get back to you. Email msura@msu.edu or call Rick Vogt, president, at 517-242-1324.

MSURA SPEAKER & MEETING RECAP



March speakers Erin Carter (above left) and Clare Luz shared exciting news about what's happening with aging initiatives on campus. Carter, who works in Auxiliary Enterprises, talked about plans for a University Based Retirement Community (UBRC), which would be built where Spartan Village was located. Luz talked about the University's commitment to becoming an Age-Friendly University and its recently established program AgeAlive within the Department of Family and Community Medicine. Luz was named the director of AgeAlive.

In April, Bob Hoffman (above right), public relations manager at the Wharton Center, talked about the Wharton's new programming for people on the autism spectrum, which will allow theatre goers to attend performances that provide less stimulation in terms of noise levels and lighting. Much to the delight of the retirees in attendance, he also gave hints about the upcoming season, which Wharton was officially announcing that evening.

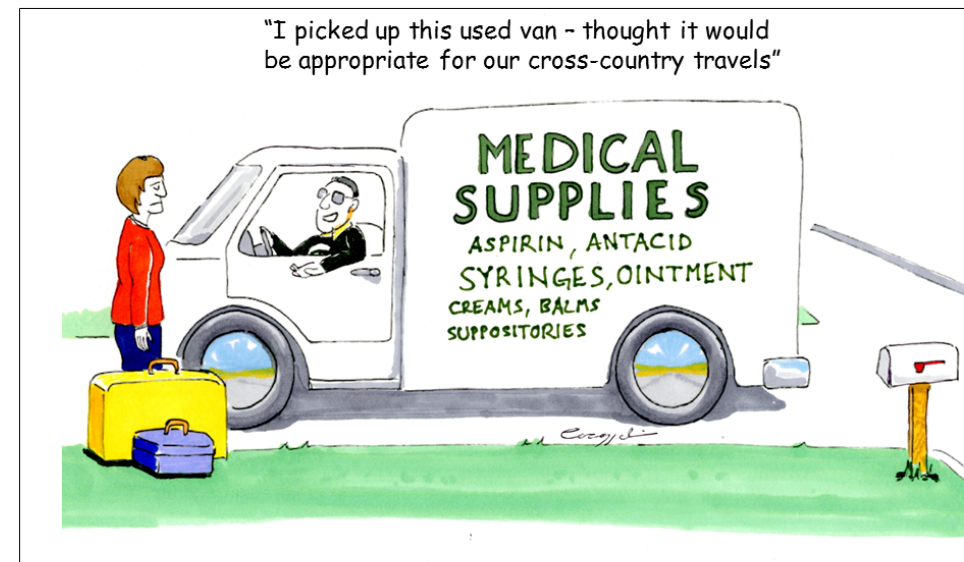


MSURA vice president Roger Baldwin gives the winner, in this case Kriss Ostrom, two Eat at State gift cards courtesy of MSU Culinary Services. This drawing is fast becoming a popular moment at the monthly meetings as everyone gets a numbered ticket at the door and one of the numbers is drawn at the end of the meeting. The tradition will continue in the fall.

Watch the fall Spartan Senior Newsletter for a list of the 2018-2019 speakers.

Retirement is Work!

By Tom and Kevin Coccozzoli



We hope you enjoy this cartoon called "Retirement is Work!" by Tom & Kevin Coccozzoli.

Tom is an MSU alum (1977) and an MSU retiree after 39 years (2017). Kevin is a MSU alum (1978) and a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel.

If you like what you are seeing in these cartoons now and in the future, then check out Tom and Kevin's book "Cartoons That Changed The World!" available at Amazon.



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2018 MSURA Annual Luncheon Photo Album

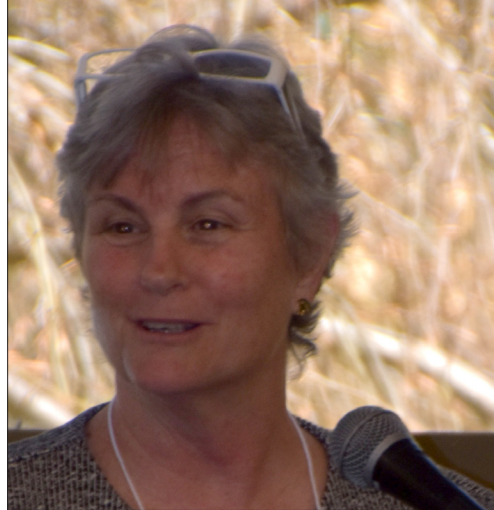
More than 90 people attended the 2018 MSU Retirees Association Annual Luncheon on May 7. The scholarship winners, Amanda Pohl and Callahan Riggs, were on hand with their mothers to meet and thank the MSURA. The annual business meeting was held, including election of board members for the 2018-2019 year. Al LeBlanc received the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award, the event ended with door prizes.



Members of the knitting club displayed some of their work at the luncheon. This popular special interest group has about 30 members, and they meet bimonthly in the Nisbet building. They donate the knitted items to a variety of charities, including St. Jude and a South Dakota reservation.



Rick Vogt, president of the MSURA



Beth Mosshart, CEO of StraightLine



April Clobes, President/CEO of MSUFCU





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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 - Stock markets remain volatile and the S&P 500 has traded in a narrow range. Markets are likely to remain somewhat choppy, at least until we're past the midterm elections. Corporations continue to show strong numbers and we believe that markets have room to move higher both in the short and medium-term. Earnings growth for S&P companies has been hovering somewhere in the 20-25% range in Q1, while revenue growth has been close to 10%. To be fair, some of this is due to the benefits of the recent tax changes, but there's more to the story than just tax changes. After a slowdown to start the year there are signs that global activity is rising once again, which should strengthen the bottom line.

Investment Implications - Markets should be primed to break higher. As you know the S&P has been playing a nice game of volleyball and when that happens it usually resolves itself one way (up) or another (down) and, in recent days, the market has strung together some nice gains. International markets haven't fared quite as well, but we believe that this is temporary due in part to the short-term rise in the US Dollar. We continue to favor stocks and believe a mix of defensive (value and/or hedged) and higher growth strategies are the best way to play both offense and defense in this market environment.

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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