



# MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

## SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

October 2019

VOL. 41, NO. 2

### UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

## Oct. meeting features two theatre directors



Kirk Domer



Tony Caselli

Williamston Theatre and the MSU Department of Theatre have a dynamic partnership that ensures collaborative projects between the two producing units on an annual basis. The purpose of this alliance is to continue the successful mingling of academic and professional theatre artists. Please join us to learn about this exciting collaboration and to hear about

their 2019-2020 Seasons. Two local theatre powerhouses, Kirk Domer and Tony Caselli, will talk about this collaboration.

Domer is the chairperson and professor of scene design for the Department of Theatre at MSU.

Caselli is artistic director and co-founder of the Williamston Theatre in Williamston, Michigan.

**When** Monday, Oct. 14, 2019

**Time** 2 p.m., refreshments at 1:30 p.m.

**Where** Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing

## Cancer researchers to present at Nov. meeting

Hear an update on a very promising breast and lung cancer drug developed by MSU researchers at the Nov. 11 membership meeting. Also, Dr.



Dr. Karen Liby



Dr. Jamie Bernard

Karen Liby will be discussing how chronic inflammation contributes to the development of numerous chronic diseases, including cancer, and how to target this process with novel drugs. Dr. Jamie Bernard will discuss how studying environmental risk factors for carcinogenesis has led to the discovery of new

pathways that can be targeted for prevention and treatment.

Dr. Liby joined the Department

of Pharmacology/Toxicology at Michigan State University as an associate professor in August 2015. She is actively involved in identifying and testing new drugs that target the immune system for the prevention or treatment of cancer.

Dr. Bernard joined the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Michigan State University as an assistant professor in March 2015. She has received numerous awards throughout her career including recent recognition from American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

**When** Monday, Nov. 11, 2019

**Time** 2 p.m., refreshments at 1:30 p.m.

**Where** Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing

## Join fellow retirees for an afternoon at the Williamston theatre

Join your fellow retirees on **Nov. 24 at 2 p.m.** for an afternoon of theatre at Williamston Theatre (122 S. Putnam Street in downtown Williamston) to see "A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show." Single tickets go on sale Oct. 29.



Individuals should purchase their own tickets beginning October 29.

Those wishing to join a group for dinner and conversation at the Red Cedar Grill (150 E. Grand River, Williamston) should email, text, or call Jacqie Babcock (jbabcock@msu.edu; 517-282-6861) so we can have an accurate count for the restaurant. (Participants will order from the menu and pay their own check.)

This play has MSU connections: Kirk Domer, chair of the Department of Theatre, as scenic designer, Karen Kangas-Preston, faculty, as

Please see THEATRE on page 5





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roger Baldwin

community by employing the expertise and many talents retirees have in abundance. Ideas we generated included potential programs on developments in medicine, health, and wellness, theater events including meals and conversation, tours of interesting MSU facilities, travel opportunities, more direct communication between MSURA and key university offices, and a variety of service projects where retirees can use their time and abilities to benefit the university and the surrounding community.

Over the next few months the MSURA board will be discussing the range of ideas we developed at the retreat, identifying short-term and long-term goals, and working on exciting strategies to enhance the vitality of the association and engage more of our 5000+ members. Many of the ideas we identified at the retreat emerged from discussions with our members and feedback from the survey MSURA members completed last year.

We hope you will always feel welcome to share your ideas for enriching the life of MSURA. Feel free to call us (517-353-7896), send an email (msura@msu.edu), or offer a suggestion when you attend one of our monthly membership meetings. Our goal as a board is to align our programs and services with the interests and needs of our members. By sharing your thoughts and suggestions, you will help us to fulfill the potential of MSURA and ensure your years as a university retiree are filled with interesting, informative, and rewarding activities.

The mission of MSURA is built around four key purposes or pillars:

- Maintaining a community of fellowship among MSU retirees
- Providing social, recreational, and educational programs to enhance the retirement experience
- Facilitating an ongoing constructive relationship between MSU retirees and the university's administration
- Promoting service projects and programs that benefit MSURA members, the university, and the larger community.

On August 21, the MSURA board held its annual retreat focused on these four pillars. We had a lively discussion considering how we can best fulfill the association's mission in each of these four areas. Board members generated a lot of good ideas for social activities, educational programs, communication with the university, and ways to serve the university and

## Retirement is Work!

By Tom and Kevin Cocozzoli



## Signed up for Detroit trip on Oct. 15? Read this first, please

The Detroit Architectural Tour scheduled for Oct. 15 is sold out. Thanks to everyone who signed up.

A couple of reminders. We'll leave the Lake Lansing Meijer at 8:15 a.m. and return by 5:30 p.m.

Also, guests must follow the Detroit Athletic Club dress code, which is Professional Business Attire. This includes business suits, sports coats and ties for men or skirts, pant suits and dresses for women. No denim of any style or color, no capri pants or leggings. No bare shoulders, no open toe shoes or tennis shoes, no visible tattoos or piercings (except earrings), no Smoking, no gum chewing, no ringing cell phones and no vulgar language. If you choose to pack a pair of dress shoes and change them out on the bus before and after lunch, you are welcome to do so!

# Meet the man behind ‘Retirement is work’



Tom Cocozzoli retired from MSU Libraries in 2017 after 39 years. Now, he enjoys creating music and art.

**M**erriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary defines a Renaissance man as one “who has wide interests and is expert in several areas.”

MSU retiree Tom Cocozzoli—a self-described guitarist, songwriter, cartoonist, and artist — would readily agree that the first half of that definition fits him to a T.

But Cocozzoli, who retired in 2017 after 39 years in various capacities with MSU Libraries, would just as readily dispute the second half.

“I’m not trained in anything, but I enjoy what I do,” he says, adding, “There’s enough going on in this world, so I like to laugh and bring joy.”

In fact, since the April-May 2018 issue, Cocozzoli has been sharing his humor with readers of the MSU Retirees Association Spartan Senior Newsletter through a cartoon called “Retirement is Work!” created with his cousin, Kevin Cocozzoli, whose artwork brings Tom’s ideas to life.

After Tom’s first cartoon book with artwork by MSU graduate student Raghav Sundar, the Cocozzoli cousins, who overlapped as MSU students in the 1970s — with Tom graduating in 1977 and Kevin a year later — collaborated

on a book called *Cartoons that Changed the World*, available at Amazon.com. The sales hype, written by Tom himself, claims “the cartoons in this book will change your life — not necessarily for the better, but you will be affected.”

An acoustic guitarist, Cocozzoli recently completed a project with vocalist Irene Mongrain — available at [reverbnation.com](http://reverbnation.com) — which features his music, lyrics, instrumentation, and recording talents in 11 original songs including “Reflect/Regret” and “The Best is Yet to Come.”

Also available at [tomcocozzoli.bandcamp.com](http://tomcocozzoli.bandcamp.com) are five more of Cocozzoli’s digital albums — *Stairwell Tour*, *Gossip in the Forest*, *Tom’s Past Faves*, *TC*, and *Mannequin Black* — released since 2013.

**I’m not trained in anything, but I enjoy what I do. There’s enough going on in this world, so I like to laugh and bring joy.”**

—Tom Cocozzoli

Please see COCOZZOLI on page 5

## SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT



BY CARLA FREED

## MSU athletic director shares sports philosophy

**M**SU athletic director Bill Beekman was the September membership meeting's speaker, and he provided an overview of athletics at MSU.

He said the Athletic Department prioritizes the health, safety and well-being of the student athletes. Beekman stressed that MSU supports and encourages student athletes to be successful in the classroom, in life and on the field by striving to be an "AND" organization, instead of an "OR" organization.

MSURA holds a monthly drawing for two "Eat at State" tickets. This month, the winner of the tickets was Marty Ewing. The tickets are provided by the MSU Culinary Services and Residence Halls.



Bill Beekman, MSU athletic director, kicks off the 2019-2020 season of speakers at the September membership meeting.



MSURA president Roger Baldwin presents "Eat at State" meal tickets to winner Marty Ewing.



A capacity crowd turned out for the first membership meeting of the 2019-2020 season and were treated to an engaging talk by Bill Beekman, MSU athletic director.

## TRAVELTIPS

Did you know MSU Main Library offers Passport Services?

Give them a call at 517-353-8700 or check out the web site for details at lib.msu.edu. Select "Using the Library" menu option and select "Passports."

All Air Travel after of October 1, 2020, will require a "REAL ID." What is a REAL ID?

The United States Department of Home Land Security, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will require identification that meets its "REAL ID" requirement. Check out their web site for details at www.tsa.gov/real-id. If you have an enhanced Michigan Driver's License with a gold star in a circle, this will suffice.

—Rick Vogt

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Not long ago, Cocozzoli was immersed in yet another artistic passion — digitally altered photography, or as he coined it, “artography.” During a musical dry spell, he was touching up some digital photos and became intrigued by the abstract effects available in his photo-editing software.

His exploration and the creativity that resulted led to an exhibit of his work at the East Lansing Public Art Gallery in the Hannah Community Center in 2016 and the subsequent selection of “Capitolfest,” his digital alteration of a photo by his wife, Carol Ann, to kick off the 2016 Summer of Art sponsored by City Pulse magazine and the Arts Council of Greater Lansing.

Although his artography is still available at pixels.com, Cocozzoli says, it is a passion that has run its course and he is back to “ping-ponging between cartooning and songwriting,” both of which challenge him to get his ideas across in a small space or a short time frame.

His ultimate creative challenge? “I am still looking to do that one song that gets to a working artist with an acoustic guitar sound like mine,” he says. “I’m never going to totally give up.”

A Detroit native and graduate of West Bloomfield High School,

Cocozzoli was just a youngster when a family vacation road trip took him up I-127 past the MSU campus. A big sports fan, he glimpsed Spartan Stadium and was hooked.

Years later, his artistic bent and aversion to math led him to study consumer community services in MSU’s College of Human Ecology. A few months after graduation — thanks, in part, to working four years as a student employee, he started what turned out to be a lifelong career in MSU Libraries.

“I ended up doing just about every job, including working with the public and technical services,” he says, noting that his “claim to fame” was a 22-year stint in the Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture branch library before rounding out his career as a cataloger in the Main Library.

He and Carol Ann, who retired from MSU in 2012 after 39 years in various units in the Main Library, have lived in Lansing’s Groesbeck neighborhood for more than 30 years and enjoy coming to campus to walk and swim in the outdoor pool when possible. Travel is also on their retirement agenda.

“My interests sway with the seasons,” Cocozzoli admits. “It doesn’t matter, as long as I can be creative.”



## In Memoriam

The Spartan Senior Newsletter is now printing in each issue of the newsletter the names of MSU retirees who have died. In publishing this notice to mark their passing, we honor them for their contributions to improve MSU and the Greater Lansing community.

Robert C. Anderson	8/13/19
Cherie Blonde	7/24/19
Beverly Bunton	7/26/19
Hartley Cunningham	8/11/19
Elizabeth B. Daly	7/21/19
Michael Ellis	8/11/19
Louis F. Hekhuis	8/25/19
Taylor J. Johnston	7/26/19
Herbert Josephs	7/27/19
Bertram Karon	8/25/19
John R. Kinney	7/2/19
George Lauff	8/7/19
Charles McDermid	7/21/19
Budd K. Pulver	8/3/19
Kurt W. Schild	7/23/19
Robert Sebenick	8/11/19
Mary Dee Sist	8/19/19
Bobbie J. Slider	8/13/19
Alexis C. Smith	8/18/19
Stanley Stark	8/4/19



It’s always a good time at a Lugnuts game. MSURA goes every summer and sometimes more than once! Join us next year!



## JOIN IN!

# Planetarium and riverwalk campus excursion planned

MSU's Healthy4U program, "Relaxing Under the Stars" at the MSU Planetarium is offered free throughout the year. It's a great way to relax and rest while listening to music.

October is also a great time to walk the campus riverwalk along the Red Cedar and take in the colors and sounds of fall.

We will meet at the MSU Planetarium at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 16 for the "Relaxing Under the Stars" program and following it, we'll meet outside the Planetarium and walk over to the riverwalk at 1 p.m. We'll walk from Farm Lane east to Bogue, cross the river and back west to Kalamazoo, cross the river, and west to Farm Lane. It will be about a 50 minute walk.

There is parking near the Planetarium. If you have a Retiree's Parking Permit, you have more parking options and can park for free. Contact MSU Parking office to acquire a Retiree's Parking Permit.

**Event:** Planetarium & Campus Walk

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019

**Time:** 12 p.m.-2:30

**Meeting Point:** Planetarium

# You're invited to a special benefits open enrollment overview

This year the Overview of the Benefits Open Enrollment is a special event being held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 1:30-3PM at the Community Room of the MSUFCU branch at Mt Hope and Farm Lane. Coffee and donuts will be served 1:30-2PM with the program starting at 2PM.



Dan Mackey



Tabatha Dixon



Sandra Campbell

Dan Mackey and Tabatha Dixon from MSU Human Resources will provide an overview of the Open Enrollment process and options available. Question and answer session will be part of the program. Also Sandra Campbell of the MSU Pharmacy will tell us about services the pharmacy offers which retirees should be aware of.

Mackey has more than 25 years of experience in the benefits, retirement, investment, fi-

ancial services and human resources industries. Currently he is the Human Resources manager for retirement and leaves at MSU, where he manages the daily administration of the university's retirement plans and helps with the benefits provided to employees and retirees of MSU. Dan earned his finance degree from MSU.

Tabatha Dixon is a senior human resources professional II/S at Michigan State University. She received her B.A. from MSU in InterDisciplinary Social Science: Human Resources and Society. She has 21 years of experience working in Human Resources. Currently, she is the benefit data quality and analysis supervisor and is a part of the benefit administration team.

Sandra Campbell is the chief pharmacist at the MSU Pharmacy.

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019

**Time:** 1:30-3 p.m.

**Where:** Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing

## THEATRE, continued from p.1



as costume designer and John Lepard, faculty, as sound designer.

**Description of the play:** It's Christmas Eve, 1947, and with the actors snowed in and unable to make it to the studios of WXMS for the live radio performance of A Christmas Carol, the sound effects man decides to take the audience through the classic tale himself. A rollicking, creative adaptation of Dickens' classic work that is sure to warm the hearts of even the chilliest audience members. This one-man tour de force features Williamston Theatre favorite Aral Gribble as our endearing and engaging storyteller.



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# ATTENTION MSU RETIREES:

MSU Benefits Open Enrollment is **October 1–31, 2019**

*Save time and enroll online at [ebs.msu.edu](http://ebs.msu.edu) in October.*

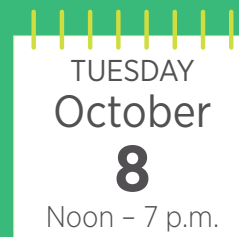


More info will be sent out in September

## MSU Benefits Fair

Visit the MSU Benefits Fair at the Breslin Center to ask MSU benefits vendors and MSU Human Resources staff questions about your benefits.

### BENEFITS FAIR DATES AND TIMES:



Human Resources  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

[hr.msu.edu/open-enrollment](http://hr.msu.edu/open-enrollment)



**Suite 22 Nisbet Bldg. MSU  
1407 S. Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823-5239**



### 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** - After some nice returns in the early part of the summer, August proved to be a tough month for equity investors. Markets have been especially volatile as investors react to the ever changing news around US/China trade talks, and some uncertainty as to the future policy changes at the Fed. Somewhat lost in the ups and downs of the recent weeks is the fact that this is a seasonally weak period for stocks, one that has historically been more volatile. August and September are often two of the worst months for the stock market and with everything going on it's not surprising to see some selling.

**Investment Implications** - Despite the volatility and ongoing uncertainties, we continue to believe that it would be wise for investors to remain invested and keep a longer term view in mind. There is nothing new that is significant to report in terms of trade talks, other than that the new tariffs went into effect on 9/1. Risks to the US and global economies have risen, and we believe so has the pressure on both sides to reach some sort of compromise. We continue to see a deal as the most likely outcome, the timing of which remains up in the air. Once a deal is reached, however, we would expect a meaningful rally in global equity markets. Additionally, we expect that the Fed will cut short-term rates further at their meeting later this month, appeasing markets and lessening the recessionary fears around the inverted yield curve.

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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