



MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

April - May 2020

VOL. 41, NO. 6

President Samuel Stanley to speak at annual MSURA luncheon May 5



Dr. Samuel L. Stanley

MSU President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., will speak to MSURA members at our annual luncheon at the University Club on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

Dr. Stanley was selected by the MSU Board of Trustees as the 21st president. He started the position on Aug. 1, 2019.

Before joining the MSU community, he served as president of Stony Brook University in New York. He earned his B.A. in biological sciences from the University of Chicago, his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and his resident-physician training at Massachusetts General Hospital. He took a fellowship in infectious diseases at Washington University and soon became a professor in two departments, medicine and molecular microbiology.

We have asked Dr. Stanley to talk about his experience so far as MSU's

president and actions he is taking to strengthen it. We hope he will also share his thoughts on the role retirees can play in continuing to support and serve the university.

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Stanley to our May MSURA meeting.

In addition to listening to Dr. Stanley, attendees will enjoy good fellowship, help elect officers, meet the scholarship winners, celebrate the volunteer of the year and more. The doors open at 11:30, and lunch begins at noon. Please go to page 7 to fill out the reservation form. The deadline for reservations is April 20.

See page 7 for the reservation form to the annual MSURA luncheon, which will be held at the University Club on Tuesday, May 5.

Nominations sought

We are seeking nominations for the MSURA Volunteer of the Year Award, which will be presented at our Annual Luncheon on Tuesday, May 5. Please submit the name of the nominee to Jacqueline Babcock, jbabcock@msu.edu, by April 15.

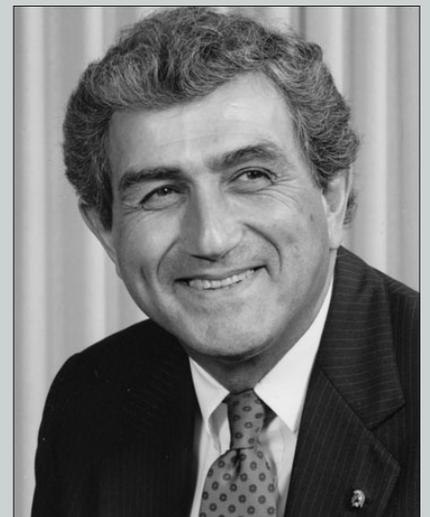
The 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Angie Brown (L) by Jacqie Babcock (R).



IN MEMORIAM

John A. DiBiaggio 1932-2020

MSURA would like to extend its sympathies to John A. DiBiaggio's family. DiBiaggio was MSU's 17th president and served from 1985 to 1992. He died on Feb. 1 at the age of 87. To read about his legacy, see a photo gallery and tributes, please go to <https://msu.edu/tributes/dibiaggio>.





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.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| David E. Andersen | 2/11/20 |
| David Calvin Baker | 1/2/20 |
| Robert Bickenbach | 1/14/20 |
| Lawrence M. Busch | 12/28/19 |
| Virginia Cannell | 12/11/19 |
| Joyce A. Capoccia | 1/24/20 |
| Richard W. Chase | 12/21/19 |
| Howard Hickey | 1/30/20 |
| Dallas Hyde | 12/22/19 |
| John W. Judy | 1/11/20 |
| Fluvanna Koslowski | 1/25/20 |
| Clinton Lockert | 1/26/20 |
| Richard Menke | 2/6/20 |
| Denton Morrison | 12/12/19 |
| Collette Moser | 1/11/20 |
| George Perles | 1/7/20 |
| Patricia Riley | 12/27/19 |
| James E. Snoddy | 1/19/20 |
| Geneva A. Speas | 1/30/20 |
| Rose Watson | 1/23/20 |



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roger Baldwin

We have the good fortune, and sometimes the misfortune, to live in interesting times. I am old enough to marvel at the many innovations and advancements that have occurred in my lifetime. These include space exploration, satellite-based communication, laptop computers, and smart phones. This list could go on and on. Some developments, however, are less favorable. The current COVID-19 global pandemic is one example. It has disrupted our daily lives and inserted a level of uncertainty we must cope with as we work together to overcome this challenge to humanity.

In this edition of our newsletter, I had planned to write to you about an exciting array of upcoming spring MSURA events both on and off campus. Regrettably, we have had to cancel our April 1 Volunteer Fair, the April 10 theatre evening, our April 13 membership meeting, and the April 20 bus trip to Grand Rapids. We are being cautious to do what we can to ensure our members' safety and good health.

MSURA will plan to reschedule our Volunteer Fair for some time in September or early October. Under the leadership of Lori Strom, we have spent considerable effort planning the Volunteer Fair, and we want to make sure our members have the opportunity to learn about the wide variety of volunteer opportunities that are available in our region.

Our annual luncheon at the University Club on Tuesday, May 5, is still on our schedule. President Stanley will speak at this event, and we truly hope the luncheon will take place as scheduled.

Of course, we are monitoring developments associated with the spread of the Coronavirus very closely and will send out an E-Notice to our members if we need to cancel our May 5 luncheon. Whether we are able to go forward with the luncheon or not, we urge our members to use discretion as they decide what events they should or should not attend. If you do not feel well or have any health concerns, it is probably best for you to stay at home. We will miss seeing you, but first and foremost, we want all of our members to stay healthy.

With the hope that the impact of the Coronavirus gradually dissipates, MSURA activities will continue into the summer season. Be sure to check your newsletters and E-Notices for details on upcoming events, including a tour of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) and Lugnuts games at Cooley Law School Stadium. We hope you will be able to join us at these events.

In the meantime, let me ask you for a favor. As we conclude one season of MSURA programs, we begin to plan another. We would love to know what issues interest you, what speakers you would like to hear, and what MSU or other nearby facilities you would like to tour. We want to plan programs that are interesting and important to our 5000+ members. Please send your suggestions to us at msura@msu.edu. We look forward to learning more about your interests and recommendations.

I hope we all will be able to meet together again soon. Wishing you a happy spring and good health.

STATUS OF MSURA EVENTS

Due to the Coronavirus, Michigan State University has canceled face-to-face classes for the remainder of the semester. In accordance with this directive, the MSU Retirees Association has canceled the following events to protect our members and guests. Here is a list of events and the status of each at this time. For the latest event information, check the [MSURA web site](#) you can call the MSU Retirees Association office (517-353-7896). The answering machine will have the latest information on MSURA event cancellations or changes.

March 24, MSURA/StraightLine Financial Planning Event. StraightLine is going to present this as a virtual seminar using web conferencing technology. You can attend the event via the Web. Please RSVP to Rick Vogt, vogtrick@comcast.net, for more information to attend the live seminar. The event will be recorded and made available to retirees in the future. Watch E-Notices for more information on this.

The event will cover markets and economic outlook given the Coronavirus. Also, changes to income tax laws and investment retirement accounts.

April 1, Volunteer Fair. Canceled. Will be rescheduled.

April 13, Membership Meeting. Canceled.

April 10, Dinner/Theatre Event. The dinner has been canceled. MSU has postponed its production of "Marian, or the True Tale of Robin Hood." Please call 1-800-Whar-ton to receive a refund, or hold on to your tickets for rescheduled dates when they are announced.

April 20, Grand Rapids Bus Tour, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Gerald R. Ford Museum. Event has been canceled. Refunds will be mailed to attendees on March 15.

May 5, Annual Membership Meeting Luncheon. This has **NOT** been canceled.

Join MSURA members at a Lugnuts game

It's almost time for an outing to see a Lugnuts game at Cooley Law School Stadium. The date is Monday, June 8, at 7:05 p.m. Cost is \$11. Watch your E-Notices for a link to the registration form, which is due on May 15 or use this form.



Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

of Tickets _____ @ \$11 each = _____

For more information, please contact Dave Brower at brower@msu.edu.

Please make checks payable to MSU Retirees Association. Please return this form with your payment to MSURA, Suite 22 Nisbet Building, 1407 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

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MSU designated as Age-Friendly University

Michigan State University has achieved a major international mark of distinction, acceptance into the Age-Friendly University, or AFU, network. This designation is reserved for universities who subscribe to 10 AFU principles, <https://www.dcu.ie/agefriendly/principles.shtml> endorsed by the World Health Organization and the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education, and commit themselves to becoming more age-friendly in their programs and policies.

Joining this network of global partners offers MSU the opportunity to learn about emerging age-friendly efforts and to contribute to a movement that benefits students, staff, faculty, retirees, emeriti, communities and the world. The concept of an AFU and AFU principles started with an international, interdisciplinary team that convened in 2012 at Dublin City University in Dublin, Ireland. It has grown to include over 60 universities worldwide.

Why is it important to be an AFU? The population is rapidly aging at unprecedented rates. This major demographic shift will affect all of us, collectively and personally. As a land-grant institution of higher education, we are poised, indeed obligated to respond to the many social issues that this change brings.

It is our role to make the world a better place by generating new knowledge through research that solves challenges, exploring opportunities and innovative practices to improve health and wellbeing for all people, and preparing students not only for an aging world post-graduation but also for life.

MSU has offered programs for years that embrace AFU principles including all MSURA's offerings that provide opportunities for engag-



The AFU designation is something to be proud of and gives us all the opportunity to live its principles for greater wellbeing for everyone.

ing in life-enriching activities and lifelong learning. MSU AgeAlive, established more recently in the College of Osteopathic Medicine and dedicated to serving as MSU's hub for information on aging-related research, teaching, service and outreach, recognized MSU's rich aging resources and led the effort to attain AFU status.

A crosswalk between the 10 AFU principles and MSU programs illustrated how MSU already meets all 10 criteria. The timing is perfect since East Lansing was just designated as an Age-Friendly Community and Governor Whitmer has declared Michigan as an Age-Friendly State.

How can retirees benefit? AgeAlive (www.agealive.org) is building a complete inventory of MSU's rich aging-related activities to connect people so that collaborations grow and resources are leveraged. Three areas of focus include meaningful retirement pathways for older adults,

support for caregivers, and providing intergenerational and life-enrichment experiences.

One example is a new program, Senior Ambassadors, being developed with East Lansing Prime Time Seniors Program that will match MSU students and retirees with older adults at risk for isolation and loneliness. A big draw is the annual AgeAlive Forum that features a keynote speaker, a panel of researchers showcasing research in topics from Alzheimer's Disease to the connection between art, culture and health, and an opportunity to network with others interested in aging-related news. Stay tuned for information on the next forum which will focus on Lifelong Wellbeing.

Another signature program has been the Healing Flower and Butterfly Gardens that have been springing up around town. Each unique garden is designed by AgeAlive's Artist in Residence, Zahrah Resh, who makes the paper flowers from hand-dyed coffee filters. The colorful paper butterflies, a symbol of new life and hope, are all made by community members who have joined intergenerational workshops sponsored by different organizations. This special activity has proven to promote unity across groups and bring beauty, joy and solace to everyone involved. More information will soon be available about the next Garden coming to a spot near you.

The AFU designation is something to be proud of and gives us all the opportunity to live its principles for greater wellbeing for everyone. We welcome key partners such as the MSU WorkLife Office and the MSU-RA as we make age-friendliness a reality.

—Clare Luz, AgeAlive director



Membership meetings off to good start in 2020

Far left: Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, director of the Michigan State University and Hurley Children's Hospital Pediatric Public Health Initiative, presented a lively talk on the Flint water crisis at the February membership meeting. Afterwards she autographed copies of her book, "What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City," attendees brought with them.

Top left: Dr. Charley Ballard shared his take on the economy as it relates to Michigan and the coronavirus and took time to talk with individuals after his talk.

Bottom left: Dr. David Thornton, director of the Spartan Marching Band, shared the secrets to creating a half-time show at a Spartan football game when he spoke to retirees in January. He is shown here with Pat Eisele, winner of the the Eat at State tickets.

Bottom right: MSURA President Roger Baldwin presented Lee Jacobs with his winning Eat at State tickets at the March meeting. Residential and Hospitality Services donates two tickets to MSURA to present to attendees at every meeting.

MSU Pharmacies announce new prescription app

Filling a prescription with MSU Pharmacies has never been easier with the launch of our new mobile app: PocketRx.

PocketRx allows users to upload their prescriptions 24/7 and set reminders for when to take them. Users can send and receive messages directly to their pharmacy through the app and can manage prescriptions for multiple members of their family in one place.

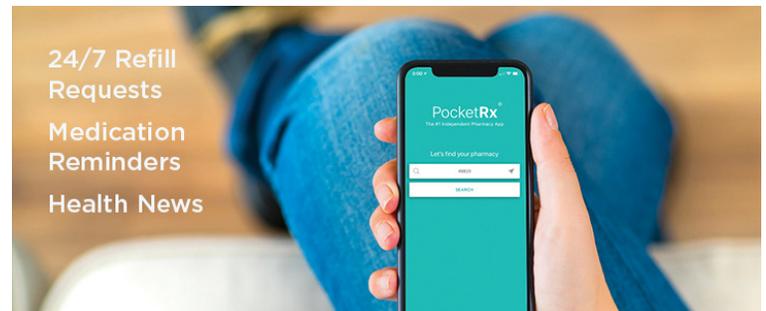
Patients can also receive refill reminders to make sure they don't run out of medications as well as get detailed information on the medications they're taking, including side effects, ratings and more.

PocketRx has co-pay coupons where you can save up to \$450 on top brand medications. With the health news tab, you can stay informed with pharmacist-approved news, videos and articles about your condition or medication.

To download the app:

Search 'PocketRx' in the Apple store or Google Play and click download.

Once downloaded, search for the zip code '48824' and select your preferred MSU Pharmacy (Clinical Cen-



ter or Olin).

Create your account, customize your profile and begin using PocketRx for your pharmacy needs.

Please note: Once you select your pharmacy, you cannot change the location unless you create a new account.

PocketRx is replacing the current mobile app MobileRx effective Jan. 31, 2020. Those who currently use the MobileRx app should switch to PocketRx as their MSU HealthTeam information will no longer be compatible with MobileRx. Current MobileRx users are advised to update to PocketRx before Feb. 28, 2020.



Please support our sponsors. They do a lot to help us defray the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter.

Next FRIB tour set for June 2

We are happy to announce a special tour of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) guided by its director, Dr. Thomas Glasmacher. The tour takes



FRIB

place on **Tuesday, June 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** and is

limited to 50 people. Please RSVP to Rick Vogt, by calling 517-242-1324 or emailing vogtrick@comcast.net.

The FRIB is located at 640 South Shaw Lane. We'll meet in the lobby of the building to start the tour.

Want to volunteer? We can help

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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. For more info, email msura@msu.edu or call Rick Vogt, vice president, at 517-242-1324.

Changes to MSU retirement plans halted

Earlier in March, MSU announced intended changes to the MSU retirement plans. Since that time, the University has determined to halt these changes due to the quickly changing coronavirus situation.

MSU began working towards these changes prior to the coronavirus outbreak. As the situation has continued to

change, the University determined that it is not the appropriate time to implement such changes. It is a time to focus on the health and safety of our communities.

MSU will re-evaluate these changes at a later time, and the University will communicate with impacted individuals of any future changes.

Knitters enjoy camaraderie, giving projects to local organizations



The knitting group generally enjoys its bi-monthly get-togethers, but for now they're knitting in their homes. If you like knitting or crocheting, you might like to help. Here members display some of their work. Seated from left: Kathy Billings, Jackie Harnick and Alice Kalush. Standing from left: Kim Dyer, Jane Johnson and Rosemary Pavlik.

What a great time to start a new hobby that will help people in need. The MSURA knitters, one of several interest groups, is making a difference in the Lansing area, and you can help. Currently there are 30 knitters, but they would love to have even more.

For the past 24 years they have knitted more than 36,000 items and then delivered them to numerous organizations in the Lansing area, including Pregnancy Services, Grace Hospice, McLaren and Sparrow Hospitals, and both the men's and women's rescue missions. They have even sent boxes of items to a Native American reservation in South Dakota.

A skein of yarn, a pair of knitting needles, a few minutes of your time,

can put a warm hat on some cold head. Add a few more moments and a lap robe or a shawl appears to keep a shut-in a little bit warmer and gives her a feeling someone cares.

Would you like to be a part of this army of knitters? All yarn is provided. If you are interested in contributing to this wonderful cause, please call Rosemary Pavlik at 517-882-2030. Although the group is not meeting face to face right now during this time of "social distancing," they normally meet every other Tuesday from 1-4 p.m. in Room 27 of the Nisbet Building.

If you prefer to knit/crochet in your own home, that's great — as long as those needles get clacking.

—Rosemary Pavlik

MSURA ANNUAL LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

TUESDAY, May 5, 2020

UNIVERSITY CLUB

Registration begins at 11:30, Lunch begins at 12:00 noon

Name _____

Meal Choice Combo Entrée Flank Steak & Cherry Chicken
 Vegetarian Pastry Puff

Significant Other/Spouse Name _____

Meal Choice Combo Entrée Flank Steak & Cherry Chicken
 Vegetarian Pastry Puff

Both choices come with rolls, salad, beverage and lemon wedge cake.

Cost per person: \$27.50 – includes cost of the luncheon, tip and tax.

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Email Address _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ reservation(s).

Combo Entrée is served with chef's selection of vegetable and potato or rice.

Vegetarian Pastry Puff is served with lemon beurre blanc sauce.

If a dietary supplement is needed, please call Gale Gower at (517) 332-0194 before April 20.

The location of the luncheon has changed to the University Club Ballroom on the lower level. An elevator is available.

Mail this form before April 20 with check payable to MSU Retirees Association to:

Dave Brower, MSURA Treasurer

Suite 22 Nisbet Building, MSU

1407 S. Harrison Ave.

East Lansing, MI 48823





**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 - Volatility may end up being the story of 2020. The year started with geopolitical tensions, now we're in the midst of a global health scare and just getting into the swing of things in terms of election season. Just because markets are volatile, however, doesn't mean that investors can't ultimately benefit. The fact remains that we don't yet know the full implication of the virus on the global economy and earnings. We know that there will be a disruption and an eventual recovery, but the timelines and magnitude of these moves remain very much uncertain. This will pass though and the fundamentals will come back into focus, and assuming at least a moderate recovery, we're looking at a market that's gone from being arguably overbought to potentially oversold in near record time.

Investment Implications - We came into the year expecting heightened volatility, and while there would have been no way to predict the virus outbreak, it doesn't really change our medium-term view very much. Stocks remain fundamentally more attractive than bonds or cash, and the recent selling has only created more attractive valuations. Bonds remain a ballast against equity market selling, but mostly offer little else in terms of income or forward looking returns. Markets are always subject to external shocks, but they tend to be short lived as things eventually return to normal. There's no reason to expect anything different this time around. Diversification has done its job thus far in 2020 and we expect that to continue.

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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