



# WHAT WE ARE DOING WHILE STAYING AT HOME

**O**ur world has changed in the past few months. We asked MSU retirees how they are managing the Stay-At-Home order during the pandemic. Are they keeping busy, staying healthy, and connecting socially with family, friends and colleagues?

Some of their activities may inspire us to try new things. It's good to have a hobby, a sense of humor and yes, it's good to know how to use Zoom, the video conferencing software.

Numerous programs, media, websites and Facebook pages exist making it easy to pursue music, art, online classes, dance, movies, Broadway plays, concerts, games, cooking and more. The possibilities are endless.

With a few edits here and there, we kept most of the responses in the words of the people who wrote them. We love the humor included in some, the sense of purpose in others, the setting of goals, and the power of determination to make this time productive. We hope you enjoy these stories as much as we enjoyed reading them.

We hope to include more of our MSURA friends and colleagues in future issues of this newsletter depending on the progress of "opening up" during COVID19. Send your ideas and your stories to Jacqueline Babcock at [jbabcock@msu.edu](mailto:jbabcock@msu.edu).

Meanwhile, know that we are all in this together, but we are finding ways to be active and connected in our new reality. Stay safe. Be well.

—*Jacqueline Babcock*

■ **Rich Triemer**

Following retirement, my wife Linda and I developed a company called More Than Magical, LLC. Linda, a.k.a. Klinker the Clown, has been doing balloon twisting, face painting and balloon twisting workshops for kids of all ages, while I (a.k.a. Professor Magic), have been doing magic shows and magic training workshops for kids, families and adults. During the pandemic we have had to find new ways entertain. Linda is now doing balloon yard displays for birthdays, graduations and special events. She also delivers balloon bouquets for special occasions. Since I can no longer do magic shows in the traditional way, I am now doing interactive Zoom magic shows for kids and adults alike. Repurposing



our talents has been challenging, but with guidance from many of our professional colleagues and societies, we are moving ahead into a new phase of entertainment.



■ **Lois Purcell**

I have been making homemade greeting cards and doing some scrapbooking. I also enjoy reading with a main focus on mysteries and crimes. I believe I have read around 27-30 books since the pandemic began. I have also started cooking again — no not hamburgers and hot dogs, but full meals. My husband loves this. Since visiting family and friends is not possible, I have been doing a lot of FaceTime and have been part of a few Zoom meetings and club gatherings. My husband and I have been doing great during this time. Of course, I wish everyone would follow the guidelines so we can get out and see everyone in person and go camping.

Please see more STAY AT HOME stories on page 5



## 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 Bandurski	2/16/2020
Ruth Bisard	4/7/2020
Nancy L. Burd	4/10/2020
Jo Russell Codde	2/19/2020
Richard Cole	3/29/2020
Jean Draper	2/22/2020
Thomas Edens	3/15/2020
Sophia Estee	2/21/2020
Jeanne L. Fancher	4/27/2020
Martha M. Ford	4/19/2020
Carl C. Ganser	4/15/2020
Phyliss Hale	4/23/2020
Fred Henderson	4/5/2020
Nancy A. Hufnagel	3/20/2020
James Maine	3/10/2020
Glafira O. Manuell	2/27/2020
Camille D. McKinley	2/22/2020
Martha L. Meaders	3/31/2020
John J. Michels	3/25/2020
Douglas Noverr	2/14/2020
Sai Van Pham	4/6/2020
Mary Ethyl Pierce	2/17/2020
Sandra L. Posey	2/16/2020
Russell Roosa	3/1/2020
Laurance Salisbury	4/17/2020
Dale Shaw	4/5/2020
Marilyn Shiels	2/28/2020
Jeanette St. Clair	3/4/2020
Donna Sweeny	1/16/2020
James Walser	2/27/2020
Deloris E. Weaver	3/6/2020
Robert Weisflog	3/3/2020
Shirley Yelvington	2/11/2020



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roger Baldwin

I hope you are enjoying the spring and summer months even though you probably are not able to engage in many of your favorite summer traditions. Picnics, baseball games, family reunions and other summer activities may have to be postponed or moved to virtual formats as we all do our part to end the coronavirus pandemic. In spite of all the challenges we are facing, I trust you are having fun, being cautious, and staying healthy.

Like each of you, MSURA is working to define a new normal while we continue to serve our members and offer informative and engaging opportunities to learn, socialize, and serve the university and larger community. We were sorry we had to cancel a varied group of events we had scheduled for spring 2020. These included our first Volunteer Fair and our annual member luncheon where MSU's new president Samuel Stanley had agreed to speak. We hope to reschedule some of these events for our next season of programs. We also had to move our annual MSURA board elections from the annual luncheon to an electronic format. The clear message from each of these developments is that we must rethink business as usual, at least for the near term.

We were able to provide a StraightLine webinar on financial issues of concern to retirees in late March. StraightLine President Mike Bisaro hosted this session using Zoom, a video conferencing system. Zoom has been around for a long time, but its use has grown exponentially since COVID-19 has virtually eliminated face-to-face meetings. Since April, the MSURA Board has also been holding our monthly meetings on Zoom as well. We are on a learning curve, but we are finding electronic communication technologies offer the potential to continue many of our MSURA activities while also reaching out to more of our members who no longer live within easy driving distance of East Lansing. If we move some of our future monthly MSURA events to Zoom, we will offer a few brief introductory tutorials to acquaint our members with the basic steps for using Zoom.

Due to our need to rethink our programming and member services, the MSURA board has scheduled a special June meeting to discuss creative ways we can continue to support our members when face-to-face meetings are not advisable. This meeting will focus specifically on new ways to engage and communicate with our members, information and services MSURA members may need to remain safe and healthy during this time, and interesting topics for membership meetings for the new season that begins in September. We encourage you to share with us any program topics that would interest you. We also hope you will share your experiences with electronic communication platforms that you believe might be useful to MSURA. Please send us your ideas and suggestions at [msura@msu.edu](mailto:msura@msu.edu). We will keep you posted on new developments through our newsletter and E-Notices so you will know how to stay actively involved with MSURA.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and healthy summer.

# Quilters make masks



The MSU Quilters, an MSURA special interest group, have been meeting the challenge to sew fabric face masks. Seven of the quilters have made more than 800 masks that were given to McLaren Hospice, Potters Park and Holt Eldercare. They also supplied a large number of masks to the East Lansing Rotary, which distributed them to the Lansing Rescue Mission and Advent House. The mask makers include Pam Marcis, Gail Dummer, Cindy Chalou, Pat Enos, Ann Booren, Melba Lacy and Jane Johnson. Please contact Ann Booren at [boorena@msu.edu](mailto:boorena@msu.edu) if you are willing to sew masks.

## Board members reelected

This year's MSU Retirees Association board member elections were done electronically. Normally, the election is conducted at the Annual Membership Meeting, but that event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and safety concerns.

We thank you for participating in our 2020 election of MSURA officers and Board members. We look forward to seeing you at future MSURA events. Until then, please stay home and healthy.

*Here are the results:*

Roger Baldwin, President

Rick Vogt, Vice President

Pam Marcis, At-Large Board Member

Bruce Smith, At-Large Board Member

–William A. Anderson, chair,  
Nominating Committee

## HOW TO DONATE TO THE MSURA ENDOWED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

There are two ways to send in your contribution.

### Mail

Make checks payable to Michigan State University with MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship written in the memo line.

Mail to:

University Advancement  
535 Chestnut Road, Room 300  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824

### Online

- Go to <http://givingto.msu.edu/gift/>.
- Type in "MSURA Endowed Scholarship Fund" for Areas to Support.
- Click on "Add to Cart."
- Enter your gift amount.
- Click on "Proceed to Checkout."
- Complete donation.



Reason #87  
Road trips in  
my new car,  
financed at  
**MSUFCU.**

Find your  
reason today!

[msufcu.org](http://msufcu.org)  
517-333-2424

 **MICHIGAN  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
*Building Dreams Together*

Federally Insured by NCUA

# Meet the 2020 scholarship winners

The MSU Retirees Association gives endowed scholarships every year to deserving incoming or current students. The student needs to be a child or grandchild of an MSU employee or retiree. Read more about this year's exceptional recipients.



**JILLIAN DEMPSEY**

**JILLIAN** is from Long Beach, California, and she will be a freshman at MSU this fall. Her grandfather, Peter Marabell, was a professor in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures.

**Major:** Marketing

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to join an established corporate company as a part of their marketing team — preferably a company that uses clean products and has outreach to its community.

**What do you think you will like about being a student at MSU?**

I think I will like being a part of a strong community most. If there is one thing I know about Michigan State it's that the love and spirit students have for the school runs deep, I can't wait to share that passion.

**What do you enjoy during your free time?**

I enjoy dancing and writing in my free time. I have been dancing since I was three years old and it acts as an outlet for me, helping me release any negative emotions as well as celebrate the good ones.

Please see JILLIAN on page 5



**ANNIE HEEDER**

**ANNIE** is from is from East Lansing, and she will be a sophomore at MSU this fall. Her mother, MaryBeth Heeder, works in the Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and is also a faculty member in Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures.

**Major:** Journalism

**Plans after graduation:** I would like to eventually work in the NBA covering a team or writing sports stories about the athletes in the NBA

**What do you like about being a student at MSU?** I like how welcoming and supportive the College of Communication Arts and Sciences is.

**What do you enjoy during your free time?** I love to watch basketball, run, and ride horses (I've been riding since I was 5).

**How have you spent your time during the quarantine?** Taking summer classes, running, watching lots of Netflix, riding horses — basically anything to keep my mind busy!



**AUBREE CAMILLE MUETHEL**

**AUBREE** is from Lansing and will be a freshman at MSU this fall. Her mother, Tamara Muethel, is the conference and event manager for the Broad College of Business.

**Major:** Genomics & Molecular Genetics

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to become a research geneticist with a focus in the study of viral genetics and genetic disorders.

**What do you think you will like about being a student at MSU?**

I am very excited to be a student through the Lyman Briggs College at MSU because of the inclusiveness of the students with similar interests in the sciences within the college. I am very excited for that atmosphere as well as new challenges I will face with taking more difficult classes. Being a student at MSU will also provide me many opportunities in being a part of clubs that suit my interests.

**What do you enjoy during your free time?** I enjoy playing the clarinet, which I have been playing since the 7th grade. I have been a part of the Lansing Everett High School

Please see AUBREE on page 5

**How have you spent your time during the quarantine?** During quarantine I have spent most of my time working and enjoying time with my family. I work two jobs, thankfully both remained open, so I have been working almost everyday. Anytime I'm not at work I've been able to share time with my family, laughing and cherishing the time I have left before I go away to college.

**What else would you like to tell our readers?** I am eager to attend MSU so I can get out of my comfort zone and grow beyond what I'd be able to by staying in California. Go green!

**AUBREE, continued from p. 4**

marching band all four years and was the clarinet section leader my last two years. I also enjoy many forms of art: drawing, painting, brush pens. I love to sing, specifically Broadway Musicals, which I sing very loudly throughout my house. Another hobby is researching genealogy with my dad, which sparked my interests to pursue a career in Genetics.

**How have you spent your time during the quarantine?** My dad and I have been making little music videos of us playing popular songs, many Beatles songs, where he plays piano and sings and I record clarinet parts. I have picked up video editing skills. I have also have been trying painting, which was the only art medium I hadn't done before. Additionally, I have spent my time studying for my two AP exams, working hard to do well despite the changes in format.

**What else would you like to tell our readers?**

I am the Valedictorian of my 2020 graduating class at Everett. I have worked very hard during my four years of high school, overcoming many struggles and always pushing to do my best in everything I do.

**PLEASE NOTE:** To donate money to the scholarship fund, please see page 3 for directions.

■ **Barbara McMillan**

What am I doing???? Well, I've cleaned all the drawers in my bathroom cabinet, cleaned out and replenished the canisters in my kitchen, cleaned the silverware drawer, read four or five books, walked every nice day,



searched my house for my missing hearing aid (since I live by myself, it isn't a crisis as I can turn the TV as loud as I need), watched many episodes of Blue Bloods, napped, wondered why beauty salons are not an essential service, worked to the bottom of the ironing pile, drove around campus (no traffic and wonderful blossoming bushes), did exercises, and, as one of my neighbors said, "I love waking up in the morning and knowing I don't have to do anything!" Today I will, once

again, disinfect my kitchen and bathroom, do laundry (so I can start a new ironing pile), and anything else that looks like fun or something that will make me feel like a good and productive person.

■ **Judith Miller**

I walk most days outside with a daughter or friend — 6 feet apart, wearing masks. I have an exercise bike and rowing machine in my basement that I've been pretty diligent about using. I play Scrabble online with a friend in Chicago and I play Yahtzee with friends. Fridays, as a family, we indulge by ordering takeout and then sharing dinner together via Zoom. It keeps us connected, breaks the monotony and helps the local economy. I've also been playing a lot of ukulele with friends. Below is a link using the Acapella app — something new we had the time to explore because of our slowed-down lives.



This was recorded with friends who live in Haslett, Waterford, and Cleveland. The photo above is a ukulele strum with a group in Grand Rapids. <https://mixcord.co/acapella/p/hVoKoNP2xznAhWJxL-CaoMg/>

■ **Rosemary Walker**

My cohort of grad students in Consumer Economics at Purdue University are Zooming one hour weekly. I had even forgotten that I ever knew them. Very enjoyable.



■ **Cindy Roach**

I take long walks to stay active, house cleaning like crazy, yard work — a lot of time covering things because of the unusual cold spell, reading, a little Pickleball, feeding/watching the birds, and lots of purging of stuff hardly ever touched since putting it in a cupboard.

Please see more STAY AT HOME stories on page 6

■ Tina Oxer

The Potters' Guild is closed for the most part, so most of us are working at home. My new hobby is keeping up with the bird feeders and watching the birds at the feeder and identifying the different birds. I also found my Mark Chatterley bird feeder that was tucked away in the garage — so now it is put to good use. The orange and the little cups filled with grape jam attract the orioles and that's a first for my feeders. The main birds that I love watching are the woodpeckers. We have a regular red headed woodpecker and many downy woodpeckers coming to the suet feeder. I have a couple of bird houses, and they're



also fun to watch them in and out making their nests.

■ Ed Oxer

Ed Oxer spends a lot of time in the basement working with his ham radio. (As a side note, he is the contact person for the MSU-RA radio group, if you are interested.)

■ Christina Defouw

I've been lucky to continue many of my weekly/monthly gatherings of friends on Zoom. It brings some normalcy to get together virtually with friends. I've picked up old hobbies, including playing the flute and embroidery. While my daughter has been great at FaceTiming, I miss my nearly 3-year-old granddaughter. I thought it would be nice to read her a bedtime story over FaceTime. In my mind she would lie down, snuggle in, close her eyes and listen to the story and fall asleep. On



the appointed night and time, I come in on FaceTime. She is lying down, and as the story starts, she snuggles in and closes her eyes. Ah, this is good. Then all of a sudden, she pops up. I soldier on with reading. She is quiet, but she is here, she is there, she is everywhere except lying down. At the end she is sitting up and doesn't look sleepy at all. While story time didn't go exactly as planned, I still enjoyed our time together.

■ Kate Wight

My dogs are loving it! I have walked them at least as much since early March as I did in all of the nine years prior. I've met friends on the trails at Lake Lansing Park North for long meanders too. My yard has also had more of my attention this year than in previous years. It will never be Better Homes and Gardens worthy, but I'm happy with it.

I exercise via several Zoom links for yoga, Zumba and strength training. I stay in touch with the Potter Park Zoo staff and volunteers via Zoom meetings. The same is true for the MSU Retiree genealogy group. Through the zoo I'm helping several different research groups transcribe data and identify animals.

I connect with several groups of friends, on different days of the week and at different times of the day, via Zoom. I've reconnected with one of my high school classmates. We talked nearly three hours one afternoon. After more than 50 years, it seems we had a few things to catch up on.

In the kitchen, I've made creamed artichoke soup, Irish soda bread, eggplant par-



migiana, sweet potato chili, and I'm going to try creamed carrot soup next.

Life is good! I still don't have time to clear clutter, but that's OK. I may let my kids worry about the clutter.

■ Jean Buhler

I walk every day, averaging about four miles per day. I've made it my goal to walk every street in East Lansing during the pandemic. I've pretty much covered the Glencairn, Shaw Estates, Chesterfield Hills, Pinecrest, Flowerpot, Oakwood, and Tamarisk neighborhoods, as well as downtown and MSU campus. I'm missing a few streets in Bailey and Whitehills, and have yet to hit Southeast Marble, Walnut Heights and Brookfield Heritage. I work in my yard when the weather permits.

We'd love to hear what you are doing and possibly put it in the fall newsletter. Please send your story and attach a photo to Jacqie Babcock at [jbabcock@msu.edu](mailto:jbabcock@msu.edu). Thanks!



**We miss your smiling faces and hope we can get together soon!**





**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** - Markets have taken us on a wild ride in the first half of 2020. The year started off with a bang, with good news on the trade front with China, then the COVID-19 outbreak brought the world to a virtual standstill. Now, even as the effects of the virus are not yet fully known, stock markets have rallied after some of the worst selling we've seen in some time. The S&P 500 peaked on Feb. 19th at which point it started a decline into one of the quickest bear markets in history. In all, the index was down 33.47%, bottoming on March 23rd. Since then, the market has rallied 27.54% (as of 5/6) erasing most of the losses in an equally short period of time.

**Investment Implications** - The question now for investors is, where we go from here? Although we feel that markets may be a bit ahead of themselves, the incredible actions of the Fed, along with some good news on medical treatments of the virus, have created a more positive tone for investors. We expect that stocks will remain volatile for the remainder of the year, but patient investors can take advantage of new opportunities this volatility has brought about, whether it's in certain stock sectors or industries, or parts of the bond market. These events are likely to accelerate existing global trends, for instance, the build out of technology and de-globalization, and well positioned investors stand to benefit. We will be adjusting our portfolios in the coming weeks and months to take advantage of this changing landscape.

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.

#### From StraightLine Higher Education Services



**Headquarters**  
165 Kirts Blvd, Suite 100

**East Lansing Office**  
2911 Eyde Pkwy, Suite 100

**(877) EDU-403B**  
[info@straightline.com](mailto:info@straightline.com)



**SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER** MSU Retirees Association, Suite 22 Nisbet Building, MSU, 1407 Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48823-5239 • **Phone** (517) 353-7896 • **Email** [msura@msu.edu](mailto:msura@msu.edu) **Editor** Rick Vogt (517) 242-1324 • **Website** <https://retirees.msu.edu> • **Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/MSURetirees>  
**Change of address or MSU benefit questions**, contact MSU Human Resources at (800) 353-4434