



Annual Meeting features President, awards

This year's Annual Membership Meeting was held virtually using Zoom because of COVID-19 restrictions. Roger Baldwin, president of MSURA kicked off the program with an overview of the past year and plans for the coming year. Baldwin shared plans for in-person social events this summer. See your MSURA E-Notice emails for details on upcoming events.

Dr. Samuel L. Stanley, M.D., MSU President, was our guest speaker. He thanked the retirees and employees for their past and continued support of MSU as donors, advocates, volunteers and fans.

He talked about how MSU handled the challenges it faced with COVID-19 and expectations for returning to normal. Noting the important of getting vaccinated, he encouraged everyone to do so.

He answered a number of questions from retirees. Here are two of them



Dr. Samuel L. Stanley, Jr.

with paraphrased answers.

What do you see as the post COVID, new normalcy? The key is getting 50% and more of the population vaccinated. A survey of faculty and staff found 87% said they have received or will get the vaccine. Of the student population, 76% of surveyed said they would get vaccinated. More than 80% of classes will be in person

this fall. Some lecture classes could remain online for students' convenience or be a combination of online and in-person. Large outdoor events could happen again, with people wearing masks. Keeping people safe is the university's primary goal and will continue to be.

Will MSU mandate vaccination of employees and students? At this time MSU does not see mandating vaccination. Based upon surveys, the high percent of vaccination will not require mandating.

The MSURA is grateful to Dr. Stanley for addressing the retirees at its annual meeting.

To hear his remarks, please go to <https://retirees.msu.edu/Zoom%20Meeting%20Videos.html> and click on the first item.

See the MSURA scholarship award winners on pages 4-5

Pell, Vogt receive Volunteer of the Year awards



Cheryl Pell



Rick Vogt

This past year added extra burdens as MSURA went to Zoom meetings for our monthly meetings, our board meetings, committee meetings and planning meetings. The entire board deserves an award for pulling together and MAKING IT ALL HAPPEN during the pandemic. It was a collective effort and the respect and admiration that we all have for each other was evident when the nominations for Volunteer of the Year award came into my inbox with a record number of nominees. Thank you to the committee who helped make this difficult decision, Roger Baldwin, Pamela Marcis and Liz Thomas.

In the end, it came down to teamwork. Communication is key to our organization and today's volunteer of the year award winners have been bringing MSURA members newsletters, e-notices and in-person and

Please see VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD on page 3

MSURA Quilters donate work to a local cause



The MSURA quilters made 45 placemats for Meals on Wheels as our Global Day of Service Project. Some of the members gathered at Ann Booren's home to show and tell before they were donated. Members in the picture are Jane Johnson, Ann Booren, Melba Lacey and Pam Marcis. If you're interested in joining the quilting group, please contact Ann Booren at boorena@msu.edu.

Save the dates!

The MSURA board has decided to schedule some social activities this summer for those who feel safe to attend. These will all be outside. Watch the E-Notices for more information about these events. There will also be a Zoom financial planning seminar sponsored by StraightLine Financial Planning.

June 16, 2 p.m.

StraightLine Financial Planning

June 23, 11 a.m.

Social Gathering at MSU Horticulture Gardens

July 20, Noon

Social Gathering at Newman Lofts, East Lansing

August 13

Lugnuts Baseball Game



Newman Lofts, East Lansing



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roger Baldwin

A recent TV news report on the return of the Lansing Lugnuts to Jackson Field is a sure sign of spring. It is also an indication that life is moving closer to normal after an unprecedented year of challenge and change. Like MSU as a whole, MSURA has had to make many adjustments and experiment with some new strategies to continue serving MSU's 5,000+ retirees. Fortunately, thanks to many volunteers working quietly behind the scenes, MSURA continued its programming in support of retirees near and far.

As we begin to think about returning to more normal operations, this is an ideal time to thank those who kept MSURA moving forward over the past year. This includes those who helped with program planning and delivery, our technology experts who managed our Zoom lifeline and recorded our membership meetings, our publication team that prepared our regular newsletters and E-Notices, and those who enabled our work by managing our finances and office operations or reviewed MSURA scholarship applications and Volunteer of the Year award nominations. I also want to thank the team that planned and launched our new fund drive to increase our MSURA Scholarship Endowment. Thanks is also due to those who put together a full slate of MSURA officers for next year and managed our second online election without a hitch. Finally, I am also grateful for the many anonymous acts necessary to support MSURA. As a completely volunteer-run organization, MSURA could not function without the aid of many able and generous retirees.

Once a year MSURA honors volunteers who deserve special recognition for their service to the association, MSU or the larger community. This year Cheryl Pell and Rick Vogt received the MSURA Volunteer of the Year award. Both Cheryl and Rick serve MSURA in innumerable ways. Their work on our newsletter and E-Notices is particularly noteworthy. By facilitating our communication with each other, Cheryl and Rick keep us informed and connected. Their important work is essential to maintaining a vigorous MSU retiree community. Congratulations to Cheryl and Rick.

Of course, President Stanley's talk at our annual May membership meeting was a highlight of our 2020-21 MSURA season. It was good to get better acquainted with MSU's president and to learn how he has navigated the COVID pandemic as a university leader who is also a physician and infectious

Please see **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** on page 7

monthly meetings for many years. MSURA is proud to announce that the Volunteer of the Year awards are going to the communications team of Cheryl Pell and Rick Vogt. Cheryl and Rick are co-editors of Spartan Senior, the MSU-RA newsletter.

At many of our events you see Cheryl Pell behind a camera lens. Behind the scenes, she is the design editor for the newsletter. This year she also worked with the scholarship fundraising committee to launch this important effort. Cheryl retired from Communication Arts in 2015 and immediately volunteered to work with MSURA.

Cheryl earned her M.A. degree from MSU in 1981. She taught high school for 11 years before joining the School of Journalism in 1987 as a faculty member and executive director of the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association, an organization that promotes excellence in student media.

Inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2007, Cheryl has also been recognized with an MSU Distinguished Academic Staff Award and a School of Journalism Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Cheryl's experience taking students on study abroad cemented her love of Barcelona and led her to live there for a year after her retirement. She called it her gap year between work and the rest of her life.

Rick is Mr. MSURA. He works very hard for this organization, is constantly coming up with ideas about how MSURA can serve the retirees and truly believes in MSURA's mission.

Rick received his B.A. at MSU in accounting and was employed by MSU, retiring in 2014 after 26 years in the Administrative Information Services (AIS) and IT Services Departments. He worked with the Enterprise Business System (EBS) transition the last ten years of his career.

His loyalty to MSU led him directly to MSURA where he has served as a board member since 2015. He will serve as President of MSURA for the coming academic year. He has served as co-editor of the newsletter and editor of E-Notices.

He MCs MSURA monthly membership meetings, and the special meetings we have enjoyed this past year such as the Broad Art Museum director, the new Department of Theatre chair, Straightline presentations and presentations with HR to help retirees transition to the Humana Health Insurance program.

Rick participates in several MSURA special interest groups and enjoys travel, golfing, fishing and going to movies.

Rick takes seriously the commitment of MSURA to create opportunities for the MSU retiree community.

—*Jacqie Babcock*

In Memoriam

The Spartan Senior Newsletter prints 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.

Cheryl A. Akers	3/20/21	John T. Greene	3/14/21
Cyril A. Akpom	2/28/21	Howard G. Grider	3/1/21
Don W. Allen	4/6/21	Ronald L. Haas	4/21/21
Juanita E. Bopp	4/30/21	Donald Herrington	3/12/21
Beverly Bramer	3/21/21	David C. Libey	3/21/21
Richard Brundle	4/13/21	Veta Lupien	3/14/21
Walter W. Burinski	3/24/21	Marcelle Macdonald	3/2/21
Jacqueline A. Carlson	4/30/21	Alice Z. Pfeiffer	4/30/21
Kent Creswell	2/28/21	Thomas Schwab	3/17/21
Joan M. Dunn	2/16/21	Vivion Shull	3/2/21
Dennis Dunninger	4/2/21	Chitra Smith	4/8/21
Virginia D. Egnatuk	3/11/21	Pauline Ann Sondag	4/16/21
David A. England	3/31/21	Beverly Vandenberg	2/18/21
William L. Ewens	4/30/21	Angelos J. Vlahakis	4/1/21
David N. Falconer	3/30/21	Kenneth Welch	3/29/21
William M. Falls	2/23/21	Henry Willis	4/8/21



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Meet the 2021 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.



BRYNA ADAMS

BRYNA is from Portland, and she will be a freshman at MSU this fall. Her mother, Carolyn Adams, has worked on campus for 25 years is currently the accountant in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology departments.

■ **Major:** Elementary Education

■ **Plans after graduation:** After she graduates, Bryna would love to be a teacher.

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

As an incoming freshman to MSU, I am very excited to experience life on campus. Being able to meet new people and become involved in different organizations is something I look forward to as I enter this new phase of my life.

■ **What do you enjoy during your free time?** Some hobbies and activities that I enjoy participating in include dance, tennis, and theater. I have been an Irish dancer for 15 years. I currently dance with the Hubbardston Irish Dance Troupe in

Please see BRYNA on page 5



TYLER KROLL

TYLER is from Williamston, and he will be a freshman at MSU this fall. His grandfather, John Schwartz, was a professor in Fisheries and Wildlife.

■ **Major:** Construction Management

■ **Plans after graduation:** After he graduates, he would like to manage a construction company.

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

I will like the size and diversity of campus. I'm excited for the opportunities and experience that I will get in the upcoming years.

■ **What do you enjoy during your free time?** I enjoy hunting, fishing, and anything outdoors.

■ **How have you spent your time during the quarantine?** I spent a lot of my time during quarantine working and fishing on my days off.

■ **What else would you like to tell our readers?** I would like folks to know that I'm very excited to be a Spartan!



TAYLOR LITTLE

TAYLOR is from Mason and will be a junior at MSU this fall. Her grandmother, Sonya Little, worked as an accounting clerk in cooperative extension from 1969 to 2012.

■ **Major:** Social Work

■ **Plans after graduation:** I plan to continue on to get my Master's Degree, in hopes of becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, hopefully in a hospital setting.

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

I am most excited to be a part of the Spartan community by living on campus, and making new friendships, as well as getting an amazing education that will make me ready to step into my career after graduating!

■ **What do you enjoy during your free time?** In my free time I enjoy playing golf and going on walks, and going to the gym where I love to run on the elliptical. I enjoy playing piano and singing, as well as spending time with my friends!

Please see TAYLOR on page 5

BRYNA, cont. from page 4

Portland and really enjoy improving my skill. I have played on the girls tennis team for three years, one year being cut short due to the pandemic. I love to spend time with my teammates and encourage them to have fun at practices and our matches. With theater, I have been involved in a local acting program for seven years. I also joined the Drama Club at school during my junior and senior years.

■ How have you spent your time during the quarantine?

During quarantine, I spent lots of time with my family. I also worked on a project for my church where I made handmade rosaries for the children of my parish who were making their First Communion in the spring of 2020. Along with this, I baked plenty of different types of desserts and watched many movies.

■ What else would you like to tell our readers?

It truly is an honor to receive such a generous scholarship from the Retiree's Association. I am beyond grateful for being chosen as one of the recipients. Thank you so much!!

TAYLOR, cont. from page 4

When I have free time I also like to do word search puzzles.

■ How have you spent your time during the quarantine?

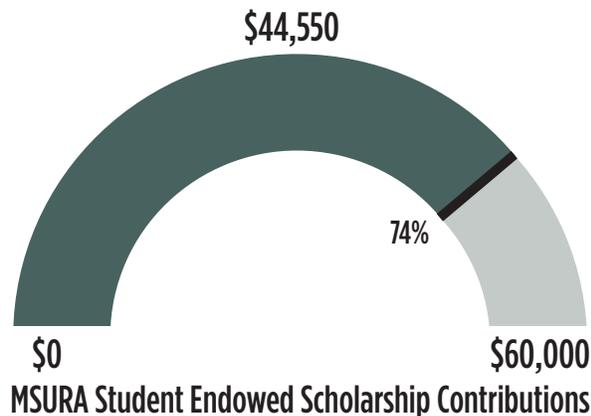
Throughout quarantine I have been working, as well as going on a lot of walks in my neighborhood.

■ What else would you like to tell our readers?

I am very appreciative of this scholarship and am thankful for everyone who participated in donating to help make this possible. Education is very valuable, and I cherish the assistance I am getting from the MSURA that allows this to be possible!



Photo courtesy of MSU Photography Services



■ MSURA is working to endow another scholarship for deserving students. Already 74% of the \$60,000 goal has been pledged. Help MSURA meet its goal. If you are reading this online, you can click on the photo above to make a donation to the scholarship fund, or you may mail in your donation. See the info box on the right.

■ Did you know these scholarships are reserved specifically for the children or grandchildren of MSU retirees or current MSU employees? Check out the this year's recipients on the previous page and see where their relatives work or worked. You might know them!

HOW TO DONATE TO THE MSURA ENDOWED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

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

Online

- Go to 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.

OR Click on the banner at the top of this page.

MSURA election results for 2021-2022

The election for the 2021-2022 officers was held electronically in late April. Here are the results. Two people new to the board, Neelam Kher and Kate Wight, will be formally introduced in the fall newsletter.

President: Rick Vogt

Vice President: Neelam Kher

Secretary: Kate Wight

Treasurer: David Brower

Members at Large: Mike Gardner and Pamela Marcis

You're invited to join the Travel Discussion Group

When I first joined the MSU faculty in 1976, there was an ongoing series of weekend travelogues presented in the university auditorium. Helen and I enjoyed attending these, until I got so busy that I didn't have time for them. We have always enjoyed travel, and looked forward to traveling in retirement. In retirement, we have enjoyed some wonderful trips to places that we never dreamed we would be able to visit.

For us, one of the great pleasures of travel has been telling friends and family about our trips, and hearing about their own travel. In early 2017, I published a call in the Spartan Senior newsletter asking if other MSU retirees would like to form a group to discuss travel. This led to formation of the MSU Retirees' Association Travel Discussion Group in the spring of 2017. Its purpose is to bring friends together to discuss travel, including reports of travel that have been undertaken by the members.

This is not a group that routinely views travelogues, although members who can use photographs and videos to describe their travels are encouraged to do so.

Travel Discussion Group

If you would like to learn more about future meetings, please contact Al LeBlanc at aleblanc@msu.edu, and he will put you on the email list or call him at 517-655-6454.

In the pre-COVID era, the Travel Discussion Group usually met in a coffee shop on a weekday afternoon to discuss travel. Because of COVID, our meetings have gone over to a Zoom format and this has been very successful. It has always been something of a challenge to get this group together for an actual meeting, and it has jokingly been said this is because our members are always out traveling. Instead of having a regular meeting date and time, I propose a meeting time via email, and schedule an actual meeting if enough members are available at the proposed date and time. Meetings are announced via e-mail.

Meetings in member homes may be arranged for special presentations. Apart from a general review of member travel, discussions have included travel insurance, frequent flyer programs, recommended travel accessories, customs and security considerations, and the best times of year to visit certain attractions.

A recent highlight has been a Zoom presentation by our member Laurena Hoffmeyer on her series of trips to Kenya to view and photograph wildlife. Laurena has offered some of her African travel information online at the following link <https://laurenajenkinshoffmeyer.com/laurena/africa-jan-2021-itinerary-favorite-photos/>.

The usual attendance at our meetings has been four to six members, so there is plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion. We discuss travel within the United States and also worldwide. Please send me your e-mail address if you would like to be placed on the e-mail list. —Al LeBlanc



Laurena Hoffmeyer took this photo of Najin in Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya in October 2015. Najin is one of two remaining Northern White Rhinos in the world. You can see more of Laurena's photography at <https://laurenajenkinshoffmeyer.com/laurena/africa-jan-2021-itinerary-favorite-photos/>. Photo by Laurena Hoffmeyer



Medieval cemetery in rural Azerbaijan. Photo by Helen LeBlanc

disease expert. President Stanley made clear that a high level of vaccination in our population is the best path to a more regular life for the university and all its stakeholders, including retirees.

Looking ahead, we plan to resume some face-to-face events soon. Please check this newsletter and forthcoming E-Notices for details on several outdoor events, including a Lugnuts game, scheduled for this summer. We also plan to return to indoor membership meetings later this fall as soon as health and safety guidelines permit us to do so.

I cannot write my final message as MSURA president without urging you to donate to our MSURA Scholarship Endowment fund drive.

Service to the university, including its students, is a key part of the mission of our retirees association. Hearing from the 2021 MSURA scholarship recipients at our annual meeting made clear the purpose and importance of this fund drive. We are doing our part to ensure that students with family connections to MSU faculty and staff have the opportunity for a first-class MSU education. Increasing our endowment over the next few years will guarantee that we have the funds to continue this valuable service to the university community. (You can find information on how to donate to the MSURA Scholarship Endowment on page 5 of this newsletter.)

My term as MSURA president ends

on July 1. Thank you for the privilege of serving as vice president and president over the past four years. You provided me with the opportunity to make many new friends while I participated in a vital organization with an important mission. You also helped me make a smooth transition to my own retirement with a sense of meaning and purpose. Essentially, that is the mission of MSURA. We work to enhance the retirement years of each of our members. As I symbolically turn over the MSURA keys to new leadership, I wish all the best to our officers, board, and thousands of MSURA members. This past year has demonstrated MSURA is a resilient organization. It has a bright future as we move forward together.



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FOR MSU RETIREES & THEIR FAMILIES ^{AGES} 12+



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MSU Health Care Pharmacy is providing Pfizer COVID vaccines to retirees and their families 12 years of age or older. A parent or legal guardian must accompany those under the age of 18.

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Make an appointment now at PHARMACY.MSU.EDU or by calling (517) 353-3510



**1407 Building, MSU
1407 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823-5239**



HAPPY 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 - Markets have cooled recently, after some ups and downs to start the year. Stocks have generally done well, as there has been a clear rotation favoring cyclical sectors. Bonds, meanwhile, after dropping to start the year, have clawed back a little bit of the losses, but they remain firmly in negative territory. Recent market movements have been more muted despite good news on earnings and the overall economy. Commodities have also rebounded broadly as global deflation takes hold from the pandemic lows.

Investment Implications - In the short-term we could see a period of rangebound and largely directionless market movements as investors hit pause and focus on other activities during the warmer months. Perhaps more importantly, they may be waiting for some clarity on the medium-term inflation outlook. The question of transitory (as the Fed puts it) vs structural inflation is a big one that will dictate movement across markets, but still very much remains a mystery. There’s no shortage of views on this topic, but little certainty at this time. We will be waiting for more data before making any judgments or adjustments to our overarching investment views. In the meantime, strong earnings will continue to help to bring down stock valuations and could set the stage for the next market rally.

Our quarterly newsletter (StraightTalk) walks through the macro information we are utilizing with 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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