



MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

January 2022

VOL. 43, NO. 4



The Villages has an active alumni group with monthly meetings and other activities including a coaches club, where people talk about sports. A couple of retirees were spotted at a recent gathering, Anders Johanson and Brenda Spackman as well as friend Joan Webster.



Spartans are everywhere

The Villages in Florida has its own Spartan alumni club, which meets monthly for fun and fellowship. Retirees can often be found at such events, no matter where they are in the world. Here's the link to see if there is an active organization near you. This is a great way to keep up with all things MSU. <https://alumni.msu.edu/connect/alumni-clubs/>

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Facing environmental, economic challenges topic of Jan. meeting

“We must finally face the reality that population growth and industrialization have created unprecedented environmental, and economic challenges,” says Dr. Larry P. Walker, adjunct professor in MSU department of Bio-systems & Agricultural Engineering.



Larry Walker

“Addressing these challenges will require us to innovate at the local, regional, and global scale.”

Walker will explore how the science, technology, economics, and cultural nexus must be navigated to support the co-design of innovative solutions at these

different scales.

Walker is a native of Detroit and a retired Cornell University professor. At Cornell, he was director of the Biofuels Research Laboratory, from 2009-2015. His research activities yielded more than 200 peer and non-

Please see JANUARY MEETING on page 3

When Monday, Jan. 10, 2022 **Time** 2 p.m., Social time at 1:30 p.m.

Where Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing & via Zoom. Watch E-Notice for sign in info or visit <https://retirees.msu.edu/>

Feb. meeting to feature newly retired W.J. Beal Botanical Garden director

Dr. Frank W. Telewski will focus his talk on addressing the question of seed viability and share insight on an experiment started by W.J. Beal — an experiment considered to be “the longest continuously monitored experiment in the world.”



Dr. Frank Telewski

Telewski retired in October from his position as the director of the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden and Campus Arboretum and professor in Plant Biology. He arrived on campus in January 1993 and has guided the garden program from a small office of three employees to its own academic unit.

Prior to his arrival at MSU, Telewski was the Director of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens in Buffalo, N.Y. from 1990 to 1993 and before that an assistant professor at the University of Arizona. He

Please see FEBRUARY MEETING on page 3

When Monday, Feb. 14, 2022 **Time** 2 p.m., Social time at 1:30 p.m.

Where Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, East Lansing & via Zoom. Watch E-Notice for sign in info or visit <https://retirees.msu.edu/>

MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Are you a new retiree? **Welcome to the MSU Retirees Association!** We publish this newsletter seven times a year to keep you informed about membership meetings, campus issues surrounding retirees and more. You'll also receive two eNotices a month. Please get involved by coming to a membership meeting, hosted via Zoom until further notice. They are normally held the second Monday of every month, September to April. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please email msura@msu.edu.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rick Vogt

Happy New Year!!!

2021 is behind us, and I — like everyone — am praying 2022 is better and a more normal year. For 2022, MSURA plans to continue to offer monthly membership programs virtually using Zoom and recordings of them. As conditions allow us to meet in person, we will. We hope to return to dinner/theatre events, bus tour and other events soon. We do request people be fully vaccinated with boosters for COVID-19 if attending an in-person event. Also, wearing of masks is required.

We will monitor and take action as needed to ensure events are safe. **Watch MSURA E-Notice emails and newsletters for any change in plans to upcoming events.**

MSURA had a first in November — an in-person monthly membership meeting was also broadcast virtually using Zoom to members. I want to thank Neelam Kher, Kate Wight, John Forsyth and Bruce Smith for their help in making this a smooth and successful first. This is a challenging thing to do. Thank you.

Thank you for your support of MSURA and the MSU-RA Endowed Student Scholarship fund. We appreciate your generosity. Just a friendly reminder to have your MSU student apply for one of three \$2,500 MSURA Student Scholarships, application deadline is coming up.

If you're reading a paper copy of this newsletter, you may notice a change. We have started to use white paper instead of ivory for the printed copy. We hope you like it!

We wish you and your family the best in the coming year.



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

MSU SHARES

If you haven't had a chance to donate to MSU Shares, now is the time! So far the campaign has \$193,001 in pledges, and \$70,847 of that is from retirees. If you would like to still help out, please go to the site listed below to learn how to contribute to this good cause. <https://msuccc.msu.edu/pledgeform.htm>

JANUARY MEETING, continued from p. 1

peer reviewed articles. Walker has served in numerous leadership roles including membership on the National Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee and leadership of the Northeast Sun Initiative, a regional bioenergy and bioproducts initiative. He serves on the Governing Board of K. J. Somaiya Institute of Engineering and Information Technology and the Academic Council of Somaiya Vidyavihar, Mumbai, India. Dr. Walker is a current member of MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association.

He is currently an adjunct professor in the MSU department of Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering.

FEBRUARY MEETING, continued from p. 1

earned his Ph.D. from Wake Forest University in 1983 and earned his M.S. from Ohio University in 1980.

Telewski is known internationally for his research on tree responses to wind and mechanical loads, tree biomechanics and dendrochronology — the science of dating events, environmental change, and archaeological artifacts by using the characteristic patterns of annual growth rings in timber and tree trunks — in addition to his administration of botanic gardens.

Get vaccinated



Make it a New Year's resolution! It's a great idea to get current on all of your vaccinations, including COVID-19, the booster and flu shot.

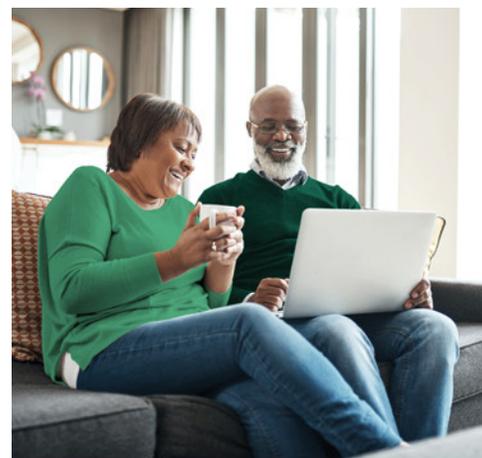
Faculty Emeriti Association Corner

The Faculty Emeriti Association periodically surveys its membership to determine the issues and concerns that are important to them. Six years have passed since the prior survey was conducted. This past spring an updated survey was emailed to more than sixteen hundred retired faculty focusing on three main areas: 1) exploring ways in which faculty have remained involved with MSU, particularly with their prior academic unit, 2) the role of the Faculty Emeriti Association in supporting retired faculty and 3) identifying some of the major concerns of retired faculty.

The 2021 survey was completed by over 300 faculty and the response rate was fairly evenly distributed across the major colleges but was more heavily weighted towards those who have recently retired. With respect to retired faculty's continuing interaction with MSU, nearly half indicated that they maintained interaction. The most common method of interaction was part-time teaching, followed by conducting research and assisting the unit in differing ways including mentoring students and young faculty and attending department seminars and lectures.

Of those indicating that they have not been involved, the main reasons given were living away from MSU or lacking interest to be involved. Interestingly, 13% indicated they would like to be involved but had no opportunity to do such. Half the retired faculty indicated that their college has remained in contact with them following retirement. The same percentage was also noted at the department level.

With respect to the other two focus areas of the survey, this will be addressed in future Faculty Emeriti Association Corner articles. You can contact the Faculty Emeriti Association by sending an email to fea@msu.edu.



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Consider joining an interest group in 2022

GROUP	GENERAL INFORMATION	CONTACT
Amateur Radio Club	We are amateur radio enthusiasts.	Ed Oxer, W8E0 at oxer@msu.edu
Genealogy	Meets monthly. Contact Cathy Estrada for more info.	Cathy Estrada at cje1026@yahoo.com 517-256-3733
Knitters	Second Tuesday of the month in Room 27, 1407 Bldg, 1407 S. Harrison, E.L.	Rosemary Pavlik at pavlik@msu.edu, 517-882-2030
Quilters	Second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the University Lutheran Church, 2010 S. Harrison, EL	Ann Booren at boorena@msu.edu
Travel Discussion	Meetings announced through email. Contact Al LeBlanc for more info.	Al LeBlanc at alleblanc@msu.edu, 517-655-6545
Military History Study	Meetings announced through email. Contact Al LeBlanc for more info.	Al LeBlanc at alleblanc@msu.edu, 517-655-6545
Walking	Walk the campus river trail & other places with your fellow retirees. Contact Rick Vogt for more information.	Rick Vogt at vogtrick@comcast.net, 517-242-1324

In Memoriam



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

William Abbett	9/30/21
George Douglas Allen	9/14/21
Beverly Byrnes	10/4/21
Michael V. Doyle	11/8/21
David Duckworth	10/20/21
James L. Dye	10/8/21
Christine M. French	10/9/21
Ira H. Gewolb	10/20/21
Ann Harrison	10/28/21
Roger Hoopingarner	11/6/21
William Hutcheson	10/31/21
James M. Hutchinson	10/25/21
Judy Rae Irvin	10/25/21
William Kilbourne	10/26/21
Doreen Joan Larson	11/3/21
Philip E. McAndrews	9/26/21
June Messner	10/24/21
Julia Micheal	10/7/21
Margaret Nicholas	10/17/21
Carolyn F. Paine	9/27/21
Donald L. Smith	11/8/21
E. Ruth Sober	9/27/21
Frederick Stehr	10/28/21
Marilyn Swan	11/3/21
Patterson A. Terry	10/11/21
Ralph E. Watson	11/3/21
Phyllis Weissinger	11/19/21
Michael Werbish	11/11/21



MSURA hosted its first in-person and virtual MSURA Membership Meeting on Nov. 8. John Forsyth and Kate Wight helped to make the Zoom experience possible and fielded questions for the speaker. Speaker Clare Luz, director of MSU's AgeAlive, shared the latest goings-on of the organization.

Retiree creates quilt to help student scholarship fund

Janet Louise Munn loves to make quilts. What she might love even more is giving them away.

And that's how the MSU Retirees Association ended up getting one of her beautifully crafted quilts to use in helping to raise cash for its student scholarship fund, now in its first year of a three-year effort.

The Big Ten quilt she is donating to MSURA is not the first one she's

ON QUILTING

"It's a passion. It's an incredible passion. I can't not do it."

JANET LOUISE MUNN

made, but it is the first with MSU as the major player. Her nephew asked her to create one, but he favors that university down the road, and another friend asked for one featuring Wisconsin. Knowing an MSU

fan will likely get this one felt right to Munn.

Finding all of the fabric took some time, however. Munn went online to buy all of the Big Ten material, but struggled to get Rutgers. It took her a year to find the Scarlet Knights material.

Numerous other agencies have benefited from Munn's skill as well, including Quilts of Valor, which gives quilts to retired veterans, Habitat for Humanity, the Willows and Sparrow Hospital, to name a few.

In 2005 the Capitol City Quilt Guild sponsored a quilt contest to celebrate MSU's Sesquicentennial. After taking photos on campus for inspiration, Munn created an unorthodox musical quilt, which played the fight song when you touched the sax player depicted on the fabric. Not surprising, she won first place. True to form, she gave the quilt away to a unit on campus to help raise scholarship funds.

Munn started quilting in 2000 when a friend asked her to go take a class with her at Country Stitches.

"Within ten minutes, I was



See how you can enter into a drawing to win this quilt on page 6.

hooked," Munn said.

Some days she spends eight hours quilting.

"It's a passion," she said. "It's an incredible passion. I can't not do it."

Munn started working at MSU in 1972 as a secretary in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. She worked her way to being the business manager. During her tenure, she received the Jack Breslin Distinguished Staff Award.

She loved working with students

and faculty and is Facebook friends with many of them.

"The best thing about working at MSU is the longterm relationships I've maintained," Munn said. "It's fun to hang out with former co-workers because we have so many MSU stories."

Munn retired in 2013.

"Work was getting in the way of my quilting," she said. "I should have my checks directly deposited to Country Stitches."

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

How to win the Big Ten Quilt

All persons who contribute \$25 or more to the Scholarship Endowment between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022, will be entered into a drawing for a door prize of a beautiful Big Ten quilt made by Janet Munn. (See story on page 5.)

Any Spartan fan, or even fans of other Big Ten teams, would love to own this beautiful keepsake. We encourage you to donate to the Scholarship Endowment before March 31, 2022, to be certain you are eligible to win this handsome prize. You may donate to the MSURA Scholarship Endowment in one of two ways. Please see the box on this page.

No matter how the drawing turns out, you will be a winner, because you are helping to fund the education of a deserving MSU student. Thank you for your support. Go Green!

—Roger Baldwin, Past President, MSU Retirees Association

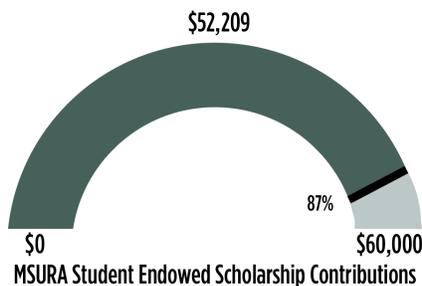
MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship applications now being accepted

Scholarship applications are now being accepted for a \$2,500 MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship for school year 2022-2023 by the MSU Admissions Office. Scholarship awards will be announced in the spring of 2022. Please let your children and grandchildren know about this opportunity and encourage them to apply for the scholarship at <https://scholarships.msu.edu/>.

These scholarships are reserved specifically for the children or grandchildren of MSU retirees or current MSU employees.



The board of the Michigan State University Retirees Association announced the start of a three-year fund drive to support scholarships for students in April. This effort will extend from April 2021 to April 2024. With support from MSU retirees and friends, our goal is to raise \$60,000 to increase our current scholarship endowment. \$60,000 is the amount we need to permanently secure another MSURA scholarship on an annual basis. These scholarships are reserved specifically for the children or grandchildren of MSU retirees or current MSU employees.



HOW TO DONATE TO THE MSURA ENDOWED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

If you're interested in giving to the MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship Fund, here are two ways to do so.

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 any gift amount you wish.
- Click on "Proceed to Checkout."
- Complete donation.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US ENDOW ANOTHER SCHOLARSHIP!

Subscribe to E-Notices to keep in the know

MSURA communicates via email to retirees throughout the year about various topics and events. If you do not receive our E-Notice emails and would like to, please provide us with your email address and we will add you to the recipient list. Email us at msura@msu.edu with your name and email address with the subject line, "Subscribe to MSURA E-Notices."

EMAIL

Spartan Senior Newsletter looking for stories. Got one?



Got an idea for a story in the Spartan Senior Newsletter? Are you doing something interesting that you'd like to share with fellow retirees? Email your idea to newsletter editor Rick Vogt at vogtrick@comcast.net.

WE'RE HIRING

Spartan Retirees!

"I originally started working at MSU in 1972, and I'm now almost 88 years old. I returned because it keeps me active and allows me to interact with people from all over. I love talking to the students and seeing both new and familiar faces when I work on campus!"

----- Clara

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Did you know that Michigan State University has a website dedicated to our job openings? We have a variety of openings, including temporary, on-call, end-dated, part-time, and full-time positions all over campus. View all postings and apply at careers.msu.edu.

Even if you aren't looking for something full-time or permanent, our end-dated, temporary, or on-call positions might be of interest to you. You'll find openings such as Professional Aide, Clerical Aide, Extension program Field Technician, Trades Aide, Events Worker, Labor Aide, Simulated Patient, and more. Refine the listings on our Careers website to only the job types you're interested in by using the filters on the right-hand side.

Maybe you've heard about the many open positions with our Residential and Hospitality Services team and you're interested in positively impacting our students by serving in RHS. They have many open positions at jobs.rhs.msu.edu. Click Non-Student Jobs to see openings that might be the perfect fit for you, such as Culinary Platform Attendant, Dining Worker, Snackshop/Concession Attendant, Cook and Decorator/Central Bake Shop, and more.

Please be aware that vaccination against COVID-19 is required for all MSU students, faculty, and staff, with limited exceptions. Learn more at <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/>.



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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 been on a hot streak since the elections and despite continued worries over COVID and the ongoing political circus, investors continue to look towards brighter days ahead. There seems to be a clear rotation taking place in markets, where cyclical laggards such as energy, financial, industrials, and materials companies have taken the lead. This has also manifested in other areas, with small caps outperforming large and international markets (particularly Asia) posting stronger results in the last quarter and to start the new year.

Investment Implications - Hopefully this rotation in equity market leadership will last more than a few weeks and provide a bit of a breather for higher momentum names, primarily in tech, to settle into the lofty expectations (and valuations) placed on them by investors. In our view, markets may also be subject to a bit of a correction at some point, however we remain generally optimistic toward equity markets this year. We continue to advocate for a diversified mix of stocks, which can take advantage of the economic normalization and to also have an eye towards longer term trends. Bonds, meanwhile, should be viewed as a measure of safety in this extremely low rate environment and not, necessarily, as drivers of portfolio returns.

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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