Bruce Smith named 2024 Volunteer of the Year

Bruce Smith, an active participant in the MSU Retirees Association for nine years, received the Volunteer of the Year award at the annual meeting on May 7.

He has served on the board as an at-large member and has played a vital role in helping design how we use Zoom to broadcast events to our members. He is at every membership meeting recording the speakers for publication on the MSURA website. He also manages the content on the media server for MSURA too. Smith is a key person in reaching out to the retirees and making our events accessible to more retirees.

Smith worked on campus for 27 years. He spent time in several units, but ended in Administrative Information Services/IT Services. He retired in 2013.

Smith is active in his church. His dedication to MSURA and the community is appreciated by many.

“I was totally surprised and moved by being granted this award,” Smith said. “I am glad to have been able to contribute. It has been rewarding to work with MSURA and its leadership.”
Hard to believe, but here we are at the end of our 2023-2024 academic year. Congratulations to recent graduates and their families. This is what MSU is about — students, laying the foundation for life-long learning, and moving forward for future generations.

This newsletter completes the celebration of the 75th Anniversary year of MSURA. The board worked hard to provide programming and events for all members and we appreciate every member who participated. YOU are MSURA.

This is also my last report to you as President of MSURA. Thank you for allowing me to represent all of you. I look forward to working with the new board and David Brower as your President.

It has been exciting this year to see some new volunteers in various capacities. Thank you for your time and energy. There are lots of small ways to participate and everyone is welcome. Over the summer months the Board will be looking at potential speakers for next year’s monthly meetings and member suggestions are welcome.

Dave Brower and Bill Anderson will represent MSURA at the B1G Retirees Association meeting in Columbus, OH in July. Angela Brown and Bill Anderson attended a luncheon of The University of Michigan Retirees Association in April. The two boards are exploring ideas for possible collaboration of events for our two organizations. You will recall there was a representative from UMRA at our kick-off meeting in September 2023.

Wishing you a great summer. MSURA continues with some summer social gatherings which are listed in this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

Are you a new retiree? Welcome to the MSU Retirees Association! You are already a member. There are no membership fees. 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 E-Notices (emails) a month. Please get involved by coming to a membership meeting. They are normally held the second Monday of every month, September to April, at the MSUFCU branch on Mt. Hope and Farm Lane. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please email msura@msu.edu.
Dave Brower elected president of MSURA

At our recent 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting, David Brower was elected to be the MSURA president for FY 24-25. Dave has served as the MSURA Treasurer for the past 10 years and was an at-large board member prior to that. Brower is a native of the Lansing area, having graduated from Okemos High School in 1965. He attended MSU, completing his BA in accounting in June 1969 and his MBA in finance in December 1970. He was an auditor at the public accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst, Lansing Office, from 1971 until October 1979, when he started working at MSU as an assistant controller. He held various positions at MSU over the next 32 years, retiring at the end of December 2011, as MSU assistant VP, CFO and controller.

Brower is honored to serve as the next MSURA president and to continue working with a great group of board members and other volunteers to serve MSURA members.

“Together we will strive to continue to provide our members an interesting array of programs and opportunities, providing opportunities to connect with other MSU retired faculty and staff and, to support MSU students and programs,” Brower said.

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.

Maryann Banner 4/6/2024
Robert Eash 4/5/2024
Frederick Fico 3/29/2024
Sheila Fitzgerald 2/22/2024
Gale I. Harris 4/16/2024
Kenneth W. Harrow 4/14/2024
Robert D. Helman 3/27/2024
Crystal A. Hyde 2/19/2024
Richard Ives 4/27/2024
Mary M. Kostecki 4/1/2024
Kyung W. Kwun 3/29/2024
Andrew McEntee 3/29/2024
Charles McKee 3/25/2024
Judith M. Peterson 3/26/2024
Laura R. Roehler 3/14/2024
Susan Kay Smith 3/5/2024
Stuart G. Verhaeghe 3/11/2024
Brigidanne Warren 2/20/2024

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Jeanette Robertson dedicated 41 years to Michigan State University working as a secretary in both the College of Business and the College of Engineering before her retirement in 2017.

Robertson’s favorite part about working as a secretary was the students, as she was always eager to help. She recalls that it was extra special seeing the athletes walking around campus and assisting them, as it was always a surprise to see a 6’6” man right in front of her desk.

Robertson has been immensely enjoying her retirement.

“Life has been amazing. I think to myself, why didn’t I do this earlier?” Robertson said.

She enjoys her retirement living on the same farm she grew up on with her soon-to-be 94-year-old mother.

“We used to have a dairy farm, there were about 60 head of cattle and the crops usually were soybeans and corn,” she said. “It was always fun for me because I named all the cows. All 60.”

Even though she doesn’t take care of 60 head of cattle, she does take care of some kittens and other animals that come to her door seeking some food. Robertson enjoys the calm that comes with living on the farm.

“The peacefulness of it,” she said. “You know you can take a nice walk down to the lake. It’s just really meditating.”

In her free time, Robertson likes to get involved with theater arts.

“I belong to the Fowlerville Community Theater. It’s really fun to get together with all these people,” she said. “It is just a really fun group to be around and connect with the arts.”

In the past, she has participated in plays, such as Footloose, Wizard of Oz, and Beauty and the Beast, with her most recent one being Cinderella.

Robertson and her castmates spent three months preparing for their big show. Robertson played both the minister and a townspeople this year, as well as helping out backstage.

“I helped with a lot of props, putting them up, helping Cinderella put on outfits,” she said. “You just feel like a family, you really do. The neat thing about it, too, is you are meeting all of these people — you know these young kids who are in high school or even elementary. You get to know people in the community.”

Robertson has always had a passion for choral music. She has been in quite a few symphony orchestras throughout cities in Michigan, such as Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing, and the Livingston County women’s chorus for 20 years.

A special memory she has is performing with a 1200-member choir in 1987 when Pope John Paul II visited the Silverdome.

“I have a big love for music and chorus music, so this was a nice avenue to go and you know, use my craft, as they say,” she said.
We are excited to let you know that our new initiative of having a monthly lunch at Brody Hall is going well, and we are continuing this fun program throughout the summer. There is no program at these events. This is just time to meet and socialize with your friends and meet some new ones. Plan to attend and invite your friends as well. Luncheons are held on the second Friday of the month at MSU Brody Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Please note the time change for the summer.)

Purchasing your meal

Meals can be purchased in advance for a discounted price at EatAtState.msu.edu or in person. Also daily menus are available on the EatAtState.msu.edu website. Prices at the door: Lunch or Dinner: $14 plus sales tax. Debit & Credit cards accepted. If purchased in advance on the website, $9.50 per meal plus sales tax, 10 meal minimum purchase.

Purchased meals on the EatAtState.msu.edu website are placed on your MSU ID card. If you need an MSU Retiree ID card, you can get one at the MSU ID Office located in the MSU International Center.

Location of the luncheon

The Brody Hall Cafeteria is located on the second floor. An elevator is located near the front entrance that will take you up to the cafeteria. Stairs are also available.

Parking

Your MSU retiree parking permit allows you to park on campus anywhere an MSU employee parking permit is allowed to park.

If you need an MSU retiree parking permit, you can order one for free on the MSU Parking Office website at https://parking.msu.edu/. From the menu at the top of the page, select “Permits” and “Retiree.” Follow the instructions to order your permit. Note: You will need to know your MSU NetId and password. If you do not know your MSU NetId and password, contact MSU IT Services Help Desk at 844-678-6200 or 517-432-6200.

Parking is available at Jenison Field House with your MSU retiree parking permit or by Pay-By-Plate. Kellogg Center parking ramp is now Pay-By-Plate.
Meet the 2024 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, and if you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please see below.

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 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 https://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.

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MARSHALL HUDSON

MARSHALL is from East Lansing and will be a sophomore this fall. His father, Michael Hudson, is the director of Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities on campus.

■ Major: Business, Supply Chain Management with a minor in Sustainability
■ Plans after graduation: My degree allows me a wide range of possibility, but I recently began an internship with John Deere which is providing me new insights and holds the potential for turning into a career
■ What do you like about being a student at MSU?
One of the things I most enjoy about MSU is the green space present on campus. The Sanford Natural Reserve as well as the nature spread throughout my walk to classes makes everything feel more alive and welcoming. Also, the opportunities offered through Broad for networking have proven to be very beneficial for my career development so that has provided for a great experience during my first year.
■ What do you enjoy during your free time?
In my free time I tend to enjoy taking walks, reading and participating in various club around campus. During the school year, I became

LILLIAN JEHL

LILLIAN is from Chicago and will be a freshman this fall. Her paternal grandfather, Joseph Jehl, was a pharmacy supervisor in the Department of Veterinary Medicine.

■ Major: Theatre
■ Plans after graduation: Stage manage. I also plan to dual-degree and get a degree in biology if possible. I’m not sure what bio field I would like to go into, but I will likely pursue a masters after undergrad.
■ What do you think you will like about being a student at MSU?
Virtually my entire family attended MSU at some point, and they’ve all had a good time, so I’m assuming I will too. MSU seems like a great college with a great community where I can make friends and enjoy my independence.
■ What do you enjoy during your free time?
Reading, creative writing, playing piano, drawing, and watching movies are some hobbies I enjoy!

Please see MARSHALL on page 7

Please see LILLIAN on page 7
HAZEL VON MAUR

HAZEL is from Grand Rapids and will be a 5th year senior this fall. Her grandfather was an associate clinical professor for the College of Medicine.

■ Major: I am working toward two degrees simultaneously—a BA in Spanish, and a BS in nursing with minors in global studies in the arts and humanities and environmental & sustainability studies.

■ Plans after graduation: I chose nursing to contribute valuable skills to my community and to ensure all patients receive equitable care. I hope to use my Spanish speaking skills to ease the stress and uncertainties that native Spanish-speakers often face in the healthcare setting. In addition to this, my two minors guide me toward being a more effective and empathetic member of my profession and community.

■ What do you like about being a student at MSU?
I enrolled at Michigan State University because of the wide range of opportunities available to engage socially, educationally, and in service. MSU’s College of Nursing stands out from the rest, as it highlights the importance of cultural competence, ethics, and advocacy in nursing practice makes everything feel more alive and welcoming.

MARSHALL, cont. from page 6

very involved with the MSU Spartan Catholics so I have spent a lot of time going to Church as well as participating in activities around that.

■ What else would you like to tell our readers? I thank everyone for the incredible opportunity the MSU-RA has provided. I look forward to the rest of my time at MSU and this financial contribution will help me to achieve my goals. Go green!

HAZEL, cont.

■ What do you enjoy during your free time?
In order to maintain a healthy work/life balance, I’ve been exploring my creative side outside of the classroom. During my time off I love to crochet, take care of my house plants, sew and mend clothes, draw, and photograph my surroundings. These creative practices help me to de-stress, and learn about who I am through art.

■ What else would you like to tell our readers?
My Opa served as my father figure, and was one of my staunchest supporters. We lost him to cancer earlier this year, but I know he would be delighted to hear of this award, which stems from his acts of service. As I follow his footsteps into a career in the healthcare field, I will carry forward his legacy of dedication to service in the community.

NATHANIEL TORRENCE

NATHANIEL is from DeWitt and will be a freshman this fall. His mother, Liberty Torrence, works in the College of Nursing.

■ Major: I plan to major in business.

■ Plans after graduation: I would like to eventually start my own business.

■ What do you think you will like about being a student at MSU?
I have always been an MSU fan so it will be very cool to experience the campus.

■ What do you enjoy during your free time? I like to hangout with friends and play baseball and soccer.

Please see HAZEL in far right column
Warmest congratulations to the MSU Retirees Association on this milestone anniversary! MSU is the leading global public research university it is today thanks in part to our retired faculty and staff members and their years of dedicated service. I am grateful to the association for its continuing service to retired members and spouses.

Sincerely,
Kevin M. Guskiewicz
MSU President

Congratulations on 75 Years!

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MSU’s new president, Kevin Guskiewicz, gave many attendees their first in-person glimpse of him, and he congratulated MSURA on its 75 years of service to retirees.

The keynote speaker was Mike Garland, former assistant coach of the Spartan men’s basketball team, and forever friend of Tom Izzo. Garland talked about the power of relationships and how his relationship with Izzo began when they were college freshmen.

Garland’s book, “Agoge,” was also for sale at the luncheon, and he was available for signings before and after the program.

Other highlights included the introduction of two of this year’s scholarship winners; the announcement of this year’s Volunteer of the Year award; and the presentation of a certificate of appreciation to the MSU student journalist who writes for the newsletter.

Dave Brower was elected president and Angela Brown was elected vice-president. New to the board is Bill Humphrey, who was elected to the treasurer’s position. Bill Anderson and Bruce Smith were reelected as at-large board members. Terms begin on July 1.

Thanks to MSUFCU for donating a gift bag and MSU Culinary Services for Eat At State meal tickets for doorprizes. In addition, each attendee received Michigan Mints by Hanover Chocolates, donated by Mary and Warren Faloon, a 75th Anniversary ink pen and a special commemorative booklet celebrating the event. MSURA would also like to acknowledge StraightLine for helping to underwrite the cost of the luncheon.

These are just a few of the convenient features found within the MyHumana app:

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Moments from the 75th Anniversary Luncheon

Mike Garland, former assistant coach of MSU men’s basketball, was the keynote speaker at the annual luncheon and shared details about his long friendship with Tom Izzo.

MSU President Kevin M. Guskiewicz spoke briefly to the retirees and congratulated the organization on its 75th Anniversary.

Download a copy of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Program here.

To watch videos of various parts of the event, please click here.

It’s always a special moment when scholarship committee chair Angela Brown introduces the year’s scholarship winners. Nathaniel Torrence (L) and Marshall Hudson (R) both attended the luncheon with their parents, and each expressed gratitude to those who have donated to the scholarship fund. See pages 6-7 for more information on this year’s scholarship winners.

JaTasia Powers, who writes Spartan Spotlights for this newsletter, was honored by MSURA with a certificate of appreciation from Cheryl Pell. Pell works with Powers on the stories she writes.
Straight to the Point

Market Update • Stock markets have done well in recent months, as earnings and economic data have continued to signal strength in the US economy. Additionally, there has been a broadening of returns, as tech stocks have taken a breather and other sectors have managed to catch up. Recent weakness in the April labor data has opened the door to a summer interest rate cut from the Federal Reserve. Further easing of monetary conditions only adds more optimism to the outlook for investors and would be positive for lagging areas such as small-cap stocks and bonds. We remain cautiously optimistic about the outlook for the economy and markets. The larger trends around the reshoring of manufacturing and the buildout of AI capabilities are likely to remain the driving force behind economic activity for the foreseeable future, and despite some inevitable ups and downs, the US economy remains the envy of much of the world.

StraightLine is a fiduciary that provides professional financial planning and account management. Our experienced advisors and dedicated research staff allow us to offer unbiased information to the MSU faithful. Our quarterly newsletter (StraightTalk) highlights our recent educational content, our current thoughts on markets, and additional company updates.

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Happy Summer!

SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER MSU Retirees Association, 1407 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 Phone (517) 353-7896 • Email 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