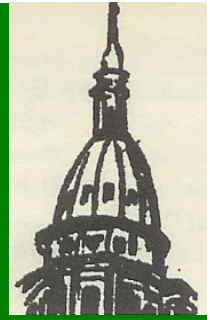


MICHIGAN STATE  
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## ***SPARTAN SENIOR***

A newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

LANSING AREA LOCAL EDITION August 2013

### **Changes Coming in the MSU Benefits Plan Year**

During our spring open enrollment period, MSU Human Resources announced that we would be moving from a fiscal year-based benefits year to a calendar year-based benefits year. As of July 1, we began a six-month benefits period that will run through December 31, 2013. During the entire month of October, we will hold open enrollment to select benefits for the 2014 calendar year (January 1 through December 31, 2014).

This combines all of our open enrollments that have traditionally happened during different times of the year, allowing faculty, staff and retirees to make all their selections at one time each year. Also, the change to a calendar year-based plan year will better align MSU with Affordable Care Act regulations from January 1, 2014 moving forward.

Our Benefits Fair will be held on October 15, 16 and 17. Please note that all days of the fair will be held at the Breslin Center. For the first time, all our benefits program vendors will be invited to the fair, including health, dental, retirement and voluntary vendors. There also will be information sessions regarding the Affordable Care Act and other benefits-related topics. Please look for further information about open enrollment and the Benefits Fair from us in September.

--Bethany Balks, MSU Human Resources

### **Come Listen to the first Speaker of the New Season**

#### **Monday, Sept 9, 2 pm -- Cathy George, MSU Head Volleyball Coach, and One of her Athletes**

Before arriving at Michigan State, Cathy George established herself as one of the most well-respected volleyball coaches in the nation. Since arriving at MSU, she has returned women's volleyball team to an elite status among programs in the Big Ten Conference. This is her eighth season as head coach. Coach George ranks 34th among active coaches for total wins in NCAA Division I volleyball with 486 victories. In addition, she ranks among the top 80 coaches all-time with a career winning percentage of .597. Every year, she has her teams in the top-25 in annual attendance among all NCAA Division I teams, including a national high of eighth in 2008. Coach George currently boasts a career record of 486-328, and is 121-104 while at MSU.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome you back from your summer break and hope that you will join us at the MSURA fall meetings. As we did last year, we will meet for coffee and conversation at 1:30 pm with the speaker starting at 2 pm. on the second Monday of the month at the MSU Federal Credit Union at the corner of Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Rd

**September 9, 2013 -- Cathy George, MSU Head Volleyball Coach**, and one of her athletes

**October 7, 2013 — Fred Graham and Steve Mosshart** will recount their athletic feats at the Detroit Tigers Fantasy Baseball Camp



### MSU RETIREE STARS AT DETROIT TIGERS FANTASY BASEBALL CAMP

Back when I was young in January of 2006, I took the dare from Don Jost (former president of MSURA) and flew from Detroit with him to Tampa. There were about 80 men and a few women on the bus that took us from the airport to Lakeland, where we were put up in a hotel and told to get ready for one of the greatest experiences an ex-ballplayer can have. Prior to leaving, Don and I had prepared as best we could in January's icy fields for an intense week of baseball in the sunny clime of Florida. (A cliché? Yes, all sports writing is an art of stringing clichés together to fill columns of print.) Actually, we found Jenison Fieldhouse warm enough to throw and run, while we dreamt of hitting baseballs thrown a bit faster than the slow-pitch softball we had played for many summers.

On Monday morning seventy-eight eager oldsters gathered at the Tigers Marchant Field, home for major league spring training beginning 6 weeks later. Coaches—all former Tigers—showed us the basics of catching flies and grounders, fielding our positions, pitching and running the bases. Each team of 13 players had batting practice on one of the four playing fields. We were told that we would bat alphabetically; pinch runners were allowed; no base stealing; our bats would alternate between wood and metal, from one day to the next.

Our first game began right after lunch in the Tiger clubhouse. Don strode out confidently to 2<sup>nd</sup> base, where he played with skill the whole week. Dan Petry told me to warm up because he was a bit worried about our first pitcher's control. Good thing. A guy who should have been playing first base (he stood at least 6 foot 4) walked the first three batters, and I was called in to quell our opponents in the opening inning. I did pretty well, throwing from about five feet in front of the pitcher's rubber, as Mickey Lolich had advised 70-plus throwers to do. (My three stints on the mound resulted in four walks, a few hits, one win and no losses.)

Each day we played two games, acting as home team (white uniforms) one day and the visiting club (gray with orange piping) the next. I batted well for the week, getting ten hits in twenty official at-bats over nine games. I knocked in the tying run in our last game and won kudos from Willie Horton, who said, "Moonlight, you are a hero." (Where was the camera when he threw his arm around my shoulder?)

It was truly a wonderful week. The five 70 year-olds were treated with a bit of caution, in case we should break. I had to have a pinch runner most of the week, despite my regular running schedule at home. I enjoyed being Moonlight all week, a moniker given me by Coach Dan Petry (see the movie Field of Dreams for Moonlight Graham). And I would've gone again had not my Jean pointed out that the two of us could've attended three Elderhostels for the price of my Fantasy Camp. I'm not sure which uniform to wear when they put me in the casket and the fans walk by to pay their respects.

--Fred Graham



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## Campus Drivers, Pedestrians Yearn for the Return of Normalcy

“If I had \$ 10,000.00 for every time MSU has torn up West Circle Drive, I could have retired years earlier!” “If you want to get from here to there on the MSU campus, it would help a lot to have a helicopter!” Those are two of the wry comments noted as MSU was in the throes of an especially disruptive summer construction season. Campus buildings are heated with steam from the T. B. Simon Power Plant, and the steam and other utilities are routed to the buildings through a network of steam and utility tunnels. The current site of tunnel work is between the Library and MSU Museum. Additional work centers on the Bogue Street – Shaw Lane traffic circle, including additional steam tunnel work. The main impact area is between the Business Complex and Owen Graduate Hall. The good news is that this work will greatly improve the university’s steam distribution and utility infrastructure, and all work is scheduled for completion by August 16, in time for student move in.



### BLINK AND IT’S GONE



Blink and summer is gone. Soon a white cloak of snow will cover our landscape and cold will descend with a vengeance. For some it represents loads of fun; for other loads of suffering. But, a priceless gift can emerge when you pick up your needles and have a molten lava of yarn flow into creating warmth in a hat, scarf, blanket or even a pair of mittens. You can give a certain peace of mind and brighten a life just by showing you care. To someone on the street or in a shelter it can mean that you have truly made a difference.

The power of one is an awesome force which can change the lives of many. Are you ready to be that force? If you are, just call Rosemary Pavlik at (517) 882-2030. The knitting group meets every other Tuesday in Room 27 in the basement of the Nisbet Building from 1:00-4:00 p.m. If you choose to knit, crochet or quilt at home that is also great. Why not join us to multi-task in having fun and helping others. Hope to hear from you soon.

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