



MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

February-March 2017

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March speaker to share poetry



Dr. Gordon Rohman

Gordon Rohman, retired MSU professor of English, will speak to retirees on Monday, March 13. Rohman will share some thought provoking and entertaining poetry.

When Monday, March 13

Time 2 p.m., refreshments at 1:30 p.m.

Where Community Room, MSU Federal Credit Union, corner of Farm Lane and Mt. Hope

President Simon to speak in April



Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon

President Lou Ann K. Simon will be our speaker on Monday, April 10. She will talk about MSU's recent successes and future challenges and opportunities for higher education.

When Monday, April 10

Time 2 p.m., refreshments at 1:30 p.m.

Where Community Room, MSU Federal Credit Union, corner of Farm Lane and Mt. Hope

United Way Campaign Update

We have collected \$63,396.00 so far for the campaign, which is ahead of last year. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped with the mailing of the retirees campaign and the campus campaign.

—Darlene Wenner, United Way Campaign Coordinator

SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT



Timothy Little was a professor in the College of Education at MSU when he was introduced to bluegrass music by a student. He and his family formed a bluegrass band and still play together after 25 years.

Retirement is music to his ears

“IF I had known I was going to live this long, I’d have taken better care of myself.” —Eubie Blake

This is how the conversation began with Timothy Little, retired Professor from the College of Education (2006).

Tim arrived at MSU in 1971 with an Assistant Professor appointment after teaching high school in the Chicago area and completing his PhD from Northwestern University.

Tim’s MSU academic career was in social studies, but he also had a unique emphasis on law related education (LRE).

While still a doctoral student, he became affiliated with the Law in Amer-

ican Society Foundation, rising to the position of Assistant to the Program Executive Director

He brought a model Law Related Education course to MSU with the goal of motivating teachers to include lessons on the law in their classrooms. The course lecturers included judges, lawyers, police, and representatives from civic organizations.

Tuition scholarships for the program were made possible over many years through grants from the Michigan State Bar Foundation. This endeavor attracted many loyal students and was very pop-

Old Newsboys volunteers saluted

Many thanks go to MSU retirees and friends Rudy Abood, Jacqie Babcock, Dave Brower, Kay Butcher, Nancy Craig, Jim Detjen, Mary Faloon, Fred Graham, Carolyn Graves, Jim Graves, Mary Herdt, Nikki Johnson, Vern Johnson, Rosemary Pavlik, Bruce Smith, Joan Smith, Ron Smith, Brenda Spackman, Sara Stid, Rick Vogt, Bob Wenner and Darlene Wenner for volunteering to “sell” the spoof edition of the Lansing State Journal to raise funds for the Old Newsboys Association who, in turn, use the funds to purchase footwear for needy children.

Although the Old Newsboys Association has not announced the final figures from this year’s sale, all indications point to a successful fund raiser.

We here at the university raised approximately \$100 more than the \$2,600 raised last year with several people calling and wanting the address for the Old Newsboys Association in order to send funds because they had missed the sale. The goal for this year’s sale was \$167,000. Thanks also to the MSU Federal Credit Union, The Infrastructure Planning and Facilities Department and the Department of Public Safety. Thank you all again.

—Brenda Spackman, Old Newsboys Coordinator



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Angela Brown

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Have some free time during the week? We are looking for members to cover the Association office each day. The tasks are simple, answer the phone, take messages, check for mail. It is usually very quiet, and is a good time to catch up on emails, snail mail, read a book or knit.

Contact Liz Thomas at thomasc@msu.edu. She is the keeper of the calendar. This is a very easy way to support MSURA.

Mark you calendars for the annual MSURA luncheon—May 1, 2017, at the Kellogg Center. This luncheon is a great time to renew friendships and make new friends, celebrate the Volunteer of the Year and listen to music by Ben Hassenger. Registration information will be included in future newsletters.

I had dinner with three good friends the other evening. We toasted in the new year and promised to have a truly “good and positive” new year. My wish to you all is happy, positive new year!

Award winning photo by MSU retiree

Check out this photo of zebras in Tanzania, taken by retiree **Laurena Jenkins Hoffmeyer**. This photo won an award in the MSU People’s Choice Photo Contest, Global Focus, 2014. Keep your eye on the Spartan Senior for a future Spartan Spotlight feature describing Laurena’s career at MSU and her photography and scrapbooking hobbies.



TIMOTHY LITTLE, continued from p. 1

ular. Tim also co-wrote four textbooks which incorporated LRE chapters as major themes.

He was honored after his retirement when he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation for his “significant contributions to the work and mission of the Michigan State Bar Foundation.”

He continued his interest in the law by co-authoring an LRE themed “Discussion and Teaching Guide DVD” and serving on the committee which created the Access to Justice Exhibit in the Supreme Court Learning Center.

So, what does a retired social studies professor do with his newly freed up time? When Tim and his wife, Roberta, and their daughter, Jennifer, first moved to East Lansing, they encountered bluegrass music. The introduction was made through a student who mentioned an outdoor music festival taking place at the Eaton County Fairgrounds. Bluegrass was on the program and the entire family fell in love with it. Tim had come from a family which both performed music and enjoyed the music of others, but this was an entirely new genre.

Tim took up the banjo, mandolin and guitar; Roberta took up the acoustic upright bass; and Jennifer took violin lessons. It didn't take long before they formed a small family bluegrass band and even recorded some of their evenings for sentimental keepsakes. Tim and Roberta subsequently added on to their home, creating a music studio for their personal enjoyment.

The Little family started attending concerts around the state, joined jam sessions and became acquainted with

other bluegrass musicians. A natural progression was the formation of a new and larger band, “Under Construction” (named because the band spent so much time traveling to gigs on Michigan's highways that were under construction or repair).

The group continues to play 25 years after their formation which is quite a record, given how many bands break up due to “ego invasions.” This gives Tim pride and great comfort.

Tim also served as Managing Editor of the Michigan Bluegrass Newsletter for 24 years, producing nine issues per year, and has served as Master of Ceremonies for many events, including four years at the Brevet monthly bluegrass jam session at Elderly Instruments.

He continues to serve as a member of the Lake Lansing Band Shell Committee that selects artists for the summer Friday night concerts. Tim is also a member of the MSU Retirees Association Military History interest group.

Music keeps you young. We ended the conversation with this quote: “To me, age is always fifteen years older than I am.” (Bernard M. Baruch, NYT, 6/6/84). —*Jacqueline Babcock*

EDITORS NOTE: Many of our retirees have taken up fascinating hobbies or even launched new careers in retirement. We will feature some of these people in our Spartan Spotlight column. Please contact Al LeBlanc, Editor, at aleblanc@msu.edu or leave a message at (517) 655-6454 to suggest a retiree that you would recommend for this coverage. Feel free to nominate yourself, but please be sure that any person you nominate is willing to be featured in our Spartan Senior newsletter.

Retirees warned of university employee data breach

You have probably received at least one notification about the university employee data breach via U. S. Mail. The incident took place on November 13, 2016, with unauthorized access to a database, which contained about 400,000 records, including names, social security numbers, MSU identification numbers, and in some cases, date of birth of some current and former students and employees. The database

did not contain passwords, financial, academic, contact, gift or health information. Of those records, 449 were confirmed to be accessed by the unauthorized party. The affected database was taken offline within 24 hours of the unauthorized access.

Visit this website (<https://www.msu.edu/datasecurity>), which will be the central location where all updates regarding this incident will be posted.

85%
of grandchildren
ages 18-24 want to have
conversations with their
grandparents about money
and savings.



Share Your Knowledge

Your grandchildren are listening. Share your financial experiences with them, including the benefits of your MSUFCU membership.

Family members of MSUFCU members are eligible to join. Refer a new member and you'll each receive a gift.

msufcu.org
517-333-2424



Statistic provided by TIAA CREF
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Happy Valentine's Day

Lessons on Investing – Did you know?

StraightLine is a financial education and management company that was created to be a fiduciary. A fiduciary ALWAYS acts in the best interest of its clients – a rarity in the financial services industry. Many firms do not accept or abide by this standard. Be sure to ask your advisor if they do!

Straight to the Point

Market Update - Market fluctuations have moderated in the last few weeks, after the big moves post election. Stocks have continued to do well and are off to a good start in 2017. Meanwhile, things have calmed down in fixed income markets as bonds managed to claw back some modest gains to end the year. We expect the relative calm to be short lived as things pickup in the coming weeks. Soon month, quarter, and year end data will start streaming in and earnings season will start. Additionally, once the new administration takes office everyone will be watching to see what specific policy changes will be outlined and where the top priorities will lie.

Investment Implications - Our investment views haven't changed much recently, we continue to favor stocks, but remain cautious about the chances of a short-term pullback at some point. Although domestic equities look better positioned, we continue to believe that eventually more attractive valuations in international stocks will prove to be advantageous to diversified investors who have stayed invested in overseas markets. Sector and stock picking should continue to play a prominent role in determining investment success, and we expect that many of the trends we saw to end the year are likely to continue early on in 2017.

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.

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