



MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

January 2021

VOL. 42, NO. 4

Reminders for retirees as MSU transitions health care to Humana

As MSU continues work on the transition to Humana for retiree health and prescription drug coverage, please note the following items.

ID Cards

Humana ID cards were mailed starting Dec. 7 for retirees and dependents on the Humana Medicare and Non-Medicare plans. Mail delivery at this time may cause a slight delay, but you should receive them before Jan. 1. Cards are sent individually, so all family members may not receive cards the same day. We recommend

waiting until closer to January before calling Humana about missing cards to give this mailing time to reach you.

Who to Contact

Due to a large volume of calls and emails, those who call the MSU HR Solutions Center are experiencing extended wait times. If all representatives are busy, you can leave a voicemail for a call back instead of waiting. Hanging up and calling back moves you to the end of the queue and could lengthen your wait.

MSU HR is working diligently to

respond to all questions as quickly as possible. It may take a few days for a response. Your patience is greatly appreciated. We will follow-up to each contact; if you've spoken to a representative, they will be back in touch once they have an answer.

Please note:

The Solutions Center cannot answer questions about plan coverage, using plan benefits or Humana ID cards. Contact Humana about these and any mailings you receive from them at 1-800-273-2509.

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

COVID-19 vaccines topic of Jan. meeting

Dr. Raza Haque will help us understand COVID-19 vaccines that are available or expected to be available soon and will talk about why getting vaccinated is important for you and everyone.



Raza Haque, M.D.

Haque performs clinical work, geriatric assessments, skilled nursing facility care and medical directorships. He teaches at the medical student, resident and fellowship levels and participates in other scholarly activities.

He has been a guest writer for the MSU Retirees Association Senior Newsletter for a number of years. One of the articles he wrote was on the different flu vaccines available, which was published in the January 2019 newsletter.

Haque earned his medical degree at Dow Medical College, University of Karachi, which was followed by a residency in Internal Medicine at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, and completion of the Geriatric Fellowship at MSU in 2004.

When Monday, Jan. 11, 2021 Time 2-3 p.m. via Zoom How to Join retirees.msu.edu

Learn about 'Bias Busters' in Feb.

Joe Grimm has taught in the MSU School of Journalism since 2008. He joined the faculty after more than 25 years at the Detroit Free Press, where he spent most of those years as the recruiting and development editor. One of his missions was improving news coverage of diverse populations.



Joe Grimm

Even in the years before Sept. 11, 2001, Grimm published "100 Questions and Answers About Arab Americans: A Guide for Journalists." Once at Michigan State, he expanded that idea into the "Bias Busters" series. His students have now published about 20 guides. They cover ethnic, racial, religious and occupational groups. So far, his classes have interviewed and published guides about African Americans, Muslims, Jews, Hispanics and Latinos, veterans, Chaldeans, sexual orientation and gender identity, and more. Students have visited a mosque, a synagogue, Hindi and Buddhist temples,

Please see BIAS BUSTERS on page 3

When Monday, Feb. 8, 2021 Time 2-3 p.m. via Zoom How to Join retirees.msu.edu

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.

Cathy E.A. Berney	10/15/20
Henry Bredeck	9/5/20
Pamela L. Brown	11/1/20
Carlton Buehrly	10/14/20
Helen Castillo	9/29/20
Don Childs	10/22/20
William H. Colter	9/7/20
Charles L. Cooper	10/27/20
Geraldine Cords	11/1/20
Muriel Cruzan	9/15/20
James Easley	11/4/20
Lowell Ewart	10/20/20
Janet Lee Kann	10/19/20
John Kloswick	10/5/20
Barbara J. Koski	10/18/20
George A. McLachlan	10/3/20
Suzanne Peacock	9/19/20
Martin Rabb	10/12/20
Charles Roberts	10/22/20
James E. Roper	10/16/20
John D. Shaw	10/29/20
Dozier W. Thornton	11/12/20
Richard Travis	11/7/20



New Retirees

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 periodic E-Notices. Please get involved by coming to a membership meeting. They are normally held the second Monday of every month, September to April. Currently these meetings are held on Zoom. Visit retirees.msu.edu for more information.

Watch for E-Notices from us

Want to get our E-Notices? MSURA's e-Notices are published twice each month and are sent to your email address. To SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, or CHANGE an email address for delivery of E-Notices, please email:

MSURA.List.Manager@gmail.com.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roger Baldwin

2020 is not a year we will soon forget. While the Covid-19 pandemic altered nearly every aspect of our lives, most of us have met the challenge, followed the guidelines of medical professionals, and are looking forward to a new year with cautious optimism. The promise of a coronavirus vaccine in the near future may enable us to return to something approximating "normal" in 2021.

In the meantime, MSURA is working to help our members remain safe, connected and actively engaged as we move into the new year. Two mid-December programs were designed to help our members manage their lives effectively while the pandemic continues to restrict our activities. Recordings of the "Overview of EAP/Health4U Services for Retirees" and "Mindfulness: Introduction and Overview" are accessible to view on the MSURA website for anyone who missed these programs when they were offered via Zoom. On Jan. 11 Dr. Raza Haque will lead a membership meeting presentation on vaccines. This timely event will provide much basic information on vaccines and provide an opportunity for our members to ask questions on important topics such as vaccine development, effectiveness, safety and distribution.

In addition, the MSU Alumni Office is welcoming MSU retirees to some of its outstanding programs. A Spartan Book Club begins on January 11 and on select Wednesdays in January and February, the Alumni Office will provide overviews of upcoming travel opportunities as well as protocols for healthy and safe travel. I encourage our members to explore these interesting programs the Alumni Office makes available to us.

Each of these opportunities demonstrates how greatly MSURA members benefit from our continuing connection with the university we served for many years. MSURA wishes to have a mutually beneficial relationship with MSU. For this reason, a key part of our mission is service to the university. One way we serve MSU and its students is to offer annual scholarships to family members of MSU retirees or current employees. We usually award two scholarships per year, but due to increased need in 2020, we gave three scholarships to deserving applicants. We hope to increase our scholarship support by enlarging the endowment that permits MSURA to make these generous awards. To achieve this goal, the MSU Retirees Association is in the process of planning a fundraising initiative that will enable us to better serve MSU students with increased scholarship support.

We will be communicating regularly with our members as this fundraising effort takes shape. As you think about your resolutions for 2021, I hope you will consider a gift to the MSURA scholarship fund. It is a great way to give back to the university we love.

Wishing you a happy and healthy new year.

BIAS BUSTERS, cont. from page 1

an evangelical church, community centers and a gathering place for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Grimm believes clear, accurate answers to basic questions can help people overcome fears about hurting each other or admitting what they don't know. Then, he hopes, they can talk directly to each other and go so much further. More than 200 students have published Bias Busters, which are available in print and digital formats from Amazon and other booksellers.

'Mints: Unlocking their secrets to advance medicine, spices' is March topic

Dr. Robin Buell will share her latest work, including research on mint plants—Buell is a University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Plant Biology. She also directs the Plant Resilience Institute.

Buell received her Ph.D. from Utah State University in 1992 and was a postdoctoral fellow in the DOE Plant Research Laboratory at Michigan State University, followed by a USDA and then a NIH postdoctoral fellowship at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Department of Plant Biology in Stanford, CA. She joined the MSU Department of Plant Biology in 2007.



Dr. Robin Buell

Her research is focused on the genome biology of plants and plant pathogens, including comparative genomics, bioinformatics, and computational biology. Her research involves crop plants (corn, rice, potato, sweet potato), biofuels (switchgrass), and medicinal/herbal plants (periwinkle, mints, nightshade, ginseng, Camptotheca) while her work with plant pathogens has focused primarily on bacteria and oomycetes.

A prolific researcher, she has published more than 200 papers. Dr. Buell has an active research group composed of postdoctoral research fellows, research assistants, graduate students, undergraduate students and high school interns and collaborates with scientists across the United States and throughout the world.

When Monday, March 8, 2021 Time 2–3 p.m. via Zoom How to Join retirees.msu.edu

StraightLine announces a new investment series

2020 has been an extraordinary year for investments and the future looks no less dynamic! To keep our membership informed on ever-changing market activity, the MSU Retirees Association has partnered with StraightLine on a new series of quarterly investment and market updates. These live, virtual sessions will begin in early 2021 and will be customized to provide ongoing market insights and answer timely questions. Please stay tuned for future e-notices and newsletters for upcoming dates and details.



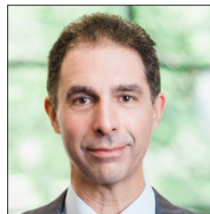
Mike Bisaro AIF
President
StraightLine



Steve Mosshart AIF
Chief Investment Strategist
StraightLine



Andy Melnick
Managing Partner & Chief
Investment Strategist, Skyview



Steve Turi
Managing Partner & Chief
Investment Officer, Skyview



Ph. 877.338.4032
www.straightline.com • info@straightline.com

3% CASH BACK ON GROCERIES

MSUFCU Visa Signature® Credit Card

Apply today!
msufcu.org/visasignature

Building Dreams Together

Visit msufcu.org/visasignature for terms and conditions.



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



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 - The elections came and went, and while there was some volatility and waiting for the results, markets generally held up well. Elsewhere, investors continue look towards the COVID vaccines/treatments and not the continued rise in cases. We expect that in the short-term these two areas will remain at odds, but as long as recent measures work and case growth levels off soon, we should continue to see the more positive news override the bad. On the hopes for widespread vaccination, investors continue to see a path towards normalization in the global economy. We continue to expect to see some sort of short-term fiscal help from the government as highly likely, with the expectation that it will arrive by early Feb at the latest. This will help bridge the gap between the current turmoil and the expectation of an eventual return to normal once the vaccine has been widely distributed, later next year.

Investment Implications - Stocks have done well since early November and there are good reasons to be optimistic. We are in a period of historically strong seasonality and post-election patterns. Perhaps more importantly, the global economic outlook has improved with the good news on the COVID vaccines. We view this as a potentially big positive for stocks over the coming year, particularly as global fiscal and monetary policy remain accommodative. Markets will fluctuate and there are always risks and the potential for surprises, but all else being equal, we see stock markets maintaining the momentum that has been building in recent weeks.

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.

From StraightLine Higher Education Services



Headquarters
165 Kirts Blvd, Suite 100

East Lansing Office
2911 Eyde Pkwy, Suite 100

(877) EDU-403B
info@straightline.com



SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER MSU Retirees Association, 1407 Building, MSU, 1407 Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48823-5239 • **Phone** (517) 353-7896 • **Email** msura@msu.edu • **Editor** Rick Vogt (517) 242-1324 • **Website** retirees.msu.edu • **Facebook** www.facebook.com/MSURetirees • **Change of address or MSU benefit questions**, contact MSU Human Resources at (800) 353-4434