

Spartan

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

WINTER 2025

The
campaign
for Michigan
State
University

Detroit
Symphony
Orchestra:
Spartans
take center
stage

**UNCOMMON WILL.
FAR BETTER WORLD.**

As MSU launches its most ambitious campaign yet, Professor Emeritus and basketball superfan Jan Alleman stands a shining example of what individual impact can do for the entire Spartan community.

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Spartan

Winter 2025

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MSU's largest, most ambitious campaign promises to activate talent, catalyze synergies and build futures at MSU and beyond.

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A legacy of impact and generosity by putting Spartans first since the 1970s.

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ON THE COVER Professor Emeritus and MSU Basketball superfan, Jan Alleman.
Photo: Chase Stanton



44 A Symphony of Green & White

Devotion to excellence and the community drives the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. These Spartans are instrumental in helping the DSO flourish.



UNCOMMON WILL. FAR BETTER WORLD.

The campaign for Michigan State University

*Support for Spartans by
Spartans is flourishing.*



Visit **FarBetterWorld.msu.edu** to see
how you can make an impact.

Greetings, Spartans and friends!

This month marks my first full year as president of Michigan State University. It's a milestone from which I look back with pride on our university's accomplishments — and look forward to our continuing ascent as a leading global public research university.

In the last year, we've put more than a dozen institutional initiatives into motion to support our aspirations across our educational, research and outreach missions. As I outlined at my presidential investiture, several initiatives support students' access to MSU and their success once they arrive. We're working hard to ensure the relevance of our academic programs for the world our graduates will enter.

In short, we are a talent activator for Michigan and the world.

We're also sharpening our focus on opportunities to address the great challenges facing our society by growing our research enterprise and expanding service to the public. Our inaugural Spartan Bus Tour last October took dozens of faculty and MSU leaders around the Lower Peninsula, meeting partners and residents who benefit from our engagement. It was a great success, and we're expanding to two tours this year to visit more communities.

We're building a public university for the future from a firm foundation of accomplishment. This includes

recognition for our leading academic programs, high rankings for priorities like graduate employability and sustainability, and continuing support for a caring, inclusive campus culture that empowers curiosity and nurtures excellence.

Among the greatest satisfactions of my first year has been meeting engaged Spartans at events across the country.

Now, I'm excited to help launch the next step in our drive to more fully realize our shared potential to make a positive difference for our students, our communities and our world.

Our new fundraising campaign's theme is "Uncommon Will. Far Better World." It is comprehensive in its scope: activating talent through scholarships, experiential education and programmatic support; leveraging our synergies to make a difference through research and endowed faculty positions; and building futures through facility upgrades, building projects and new programs.

Fellow Spartans, the world is changing rapidly, and our university needs to advance alongside it — indeed, to lead it — to meet our shared challenges and realize Michigan State's full potential as a transformational institution.

Last month, MSU passed the 170th anniversary of our founding. We first opened our doors with five faculty members teaching 63 students in three long-gone buildings in what was acknowledged to be an experiment in higher education.



Knowing the progress we've made over the generations — building top-ranked educational programs, conducting world-class research and innovation, uplifting communities across the state — just imagine what we can accomplish in the years ahead. As ever, we will create a far better world as one team, inspired by our uncommon will to advance the common good and the generosity of engaged Spartans and friends like you.

From day one, I have asked our university community to continue to strive to be bolder and more contemporary, to be strategic and student-focused and to serve the public good. We have determined our true north — we are Michigan's state university — and resolve to be a formidable talent activator for Michigan and beyond.

Thank you for your support. I can't wait to work with you on this powerful expression of Michigan State's vision.

Go Green!

Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D.
(pronounced GUS-ka-wits)

PRESIDENT
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY

BE Spartan GREEN

Being green is second nature for Spartans.

And that includes working to create a sustainable future for our planet!

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION of Earth Day by supporting programs and initiatives for a greener future.

LEARN MORE about ways you can support MSU's sustainability initiatives at: go.msu.edu/earth



UNCOMMON WILL.
FAR BETTER WORLD.

The Campaign for Michigan State University

FROM THE EDITOR

Spartan

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TO SUBMIT LETTERS

Email SpartanMagazine@msu.edu. Or send mail to: Editor, 535 Chestnut Rd., #300, East Lansing, MI. 48824. We reserve the right to select and edit letters for length and clarity.



Fall 2024

EVERYTHING COUNTS

It's true in sports, science and everyday life: The little things matter. But the little things aren't just part of the bigger picture, they do the actual painting.

Jan Alleman knows firsthand. As a Spartan hoops superfan, MSU professor emeritus and supporter of the arts, her enduring devotion to the university has added more vibrancy to the Michigan State canvas than I can do justice on this page.

Each and every Spartan has added something to that canvas, and I hope the stories in this edition compel you to continue to make your mark.

Be well, Spartans,

Tim Cerullo, '08

EDITOR, SPARTAN MAGAZINE

ANOTHER HONOR FOR GREEN

The Fall 2024 article, "A Difference Maker," about Ernest Green was both informative and inspirational. Mr. Green faced a huge hurdle with dignity and grace at a young age. I wish the article had also mentioned another significant accomplishment he achieved, also at a young age: On September 25, 1957, Ernest Green became an Eagle Scout – one of the first African Americans to do so in the state of Arkansas. Well worth celebrating.

Charles Bates, '75, MLIR '77, M.A. '14
BREMERTON, WA

HIGH FIVE!

Thanks for the very entertaining – and informative – issue of Spartan. I especially enjoyed the newly outspoken Sparty! Give him a high five from me.

Gayle Stephenson, '61
KALAMAZOO, MI

GUEST EDITOR KUDOS

Sparty, honey – ya outdid yourself! Bravo Zulu!! I kid you not, I started with page one and went page for page until I reluctantly had to close the back cover. Fall '24 is the BEST Spartan Magazine I've read; and there have been a lot since March of 1977. Great work, awesome subjects & layout! Thanks for a pleasurable read and walk down memory lane!

Kathleen E. M. Melville-Hall, YNC,
USNR, Retired, '77
ALPENA, MI

THE FUTURE IS FAR BETTER WITH *You*

There's a special tax-smart way those 70 1/2 years old or older with IRAs can support MSU's ambition to create a **far better world**.

This year, you can gift up to \$108,000 directly from your IRA to reduce your required minimum distribution and avoid income tax.

The MSU Office of Gift Planning can help you explore this and other ways to leave a legacy that reflects your values and passions.

By supporting students and daring to imagine what is possible, you will help build the MSU for the future.

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at giftplanning.msu.edu, by contacting the Office of Gift Planning at giftplan@msu.edu or by calling (517) 884-1000.



**UNCOMMON WILL.
FAR BETTER WORLD.**

The Campaign for Michigan State University

Beneath *the* Pines

News & Views from Campus



Music in Motion

MSU app turns campus stroll into immersive artistic journey (See more, pg. 8)

ANTHONY VALLI



“You’re the conductor. The orchestra lives in fixed space, but the pace at which it all unfolds is up to you.”

Hays Holladay, Art Moves MSU App Producer



Scan the QR code to see the backstory of the Art Moves MSU app.

Interactive music installation connects people to campus

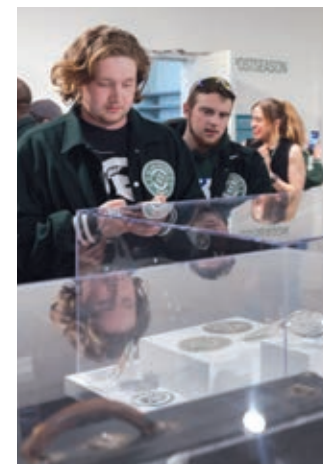
A trail runs along the winding Red Cedar River, intersecting with bridges that connect two sides of campus. For many, it’s a daily thoroughfare from class to class, but what if it could be more?

“Art Moves MSU” has transformed that ordinary walk into an immersive musical experience. The app-based installation was brought to campus in collaboration with SOZO, an international contemporary arts agency.

As users move along the trail, as well as several other scattered locations around campus, the app is activated by a series of beacons to create an auditory adventure influenced by both speed and direction. A diverse lineup of artists, musicians and aural storytellers create two distinct listening experiences on either side of the river. For those daring enough to travel by kayak, an experience that merges compositions from both sides awaits.

To participate, visitors can download the “Art Moves MSU” app from their device’s app store or access it by scanning QR codes located along the Red Cedar River trail.

ANTHONY VALLI



MSU Museum joins international cultural cohort

The MSU Museum will join the Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program, a cohort of 200 nonprofit cultural organizations across the U.S. and U.K. Through the initiative, the Museum will develop a Digital Surrogates Pipeline to bring the collection’s objects to life through immersive experiences with technology like Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and digital storytelling.

“(This) is an exciting opportunity to reimagine how we share and interpret our collections,” said Devon Akmon, MSU Museum Director. “By integrating cutting-edge technologies, we will develop innovative ways to connect with audiences, creating dynamic experiences at the intersection of the arts, sciences, cultures and technologies.”

MUSEUM FACTS

- Formed in 1857.
- Became Michigan’s first Smithsonian Affiliate in 2001, formalizing an ongoing exchange of research, programs, exhibitions and collections.
- Started an 18-month renovation project July 1, 2024 thanks to a transformative \$2 million gift from the Forest Akers Trust to redesign new spaces and foster hands-on learning and collaboration.

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/cohort



MSU MUSEUM

Bridging generations

MSU's Generations Connect program, a collaboration of the Social Science Scholars Program, MSU's AgeAlive and Prime Time Seniors Program of East Lansing, is forming intergenerational connections between students and older adults. Through shared activities, conversations and regular social interactions, participants build mutual understanding and friendships. The initiative aims to combat loneliness, promote inclusivity and enhance community ties, creating a sense of belonging across age groups while enriching the lives of all involved.



Anabelle Sanchez and Margot Kielhorn

As a first-year student at MSU adjusting to life away from home, Anabelle Sanchez, 18, wanted to broaden her circle of friends beyond campus. Margot Kielhorn, 74, a retired editor formerly with the MSU Press, missed the energy and fresh perspectives that student workers brought to her daily life. The two had an "instant connection" and enjoy meeting for coffee and conversation. Spending time with Margot helped Anabelle find her footing at MSU.

"It makes the world feel smaller knowing there are people [nearby] —people you consider to be family as well," Anabelle said.



Eleanor Pugh and Eleanor Marazita

MSU student Eleanor Pugh readily agreed when asked if she would consider being paired with a person with dementia. Now a sophomore, she visits regularly with Eleanor Marazita, 91, and her daughter Elizabeth. Pugh, who is studying international relations with a major in geography, said she enjoys hearing about the elder Eleanor's travels—she visited 140 countries after raising seven children while teaching high school and hosting exchange students.

"Eleanor has a grace about her that is far beyond her years," Elizabeth said. "Not everyone sees my mother. And Eleanor does."



Shweta Adsul and Irv Nichols

Shweta Adsul, 22, connected virtually with East Lansing resident Irv Nichols, 100, through the Senior Ambassadors Program, the predecessor to Generations Connect. Studying remotely from her home in Mumbai, India, Shweta made weekly calls with Irv. They discussed everything from politics to history to their personal lives. Irv gave her tips when she was learning to drive and attended her graduation in 2024.

"If a Zoom call from over 8,000 miles away can make someone feel less lonely and more connected, there's no way I'm not going to do it," Shweta said.

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/bridging

"It takes, above all else, being kind to thrive in a program like this. The eagerness to listen to somebody else, to see the world from their point of view, to invest in their lives while they're investing in yours. It seems to me to be one of the most important things you can learn in any kind of community endeavor."

John Waller, Generations Connect founder and Director of the MSU Social Science Scholars Program



NURSING GRAD STEPS UP TO SAVE A LIFE

Recent MSU College of Nursing graduate Marco Muñoz, BSN '24, saved a life at a metro Detroit hospital. When a patient was found unresponsive due to a suspected overdose, hospital staff scrambled for Narcan but could only find an intravenous-administered version, which was not useful given the patient was not connected to any IV.

Muñoz, equipped with nasal Narcan in his locker, stepped in to revive the patient. "I explained how MSU College of Nursing supplied each student with two sprays," he said. "They were impressed and very thankful. I guess I was just in the right place at the right time."



10 Students in the first graduating class of 1954

9,500+ Alumni of the College of Nursing

TALENT ACTIVATED: 75 YEARS OF SPARTAN NURSES

Since 1950, the MSU College of Nursing has prepared generations of skilled and compassionate nurses who continue to make a profound impact in nursing education, research and patient care. This milestone honors the dedication of faculty, students and alumni who have advanced the nursing profession and improved countless lives around the world.

Here's to 75 years of leadership, innovation and a future filled with even greater achievements!

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/nurse-grad



A new muse

Writers' Studio provides space for creativity and community

“Writing is a somatic practice, which means it integrates the body, the mind, society and the environment we live and work within,” says Divya Victor, MSU associate professor of English. “Arts practice for our students is a form of labor. As arts and culture workers in training, they deserve spaces where their ‘bodyminds’ are acknowledged and supported.”

Victor led the effort to create a new Writers' Studio in Wells Hall. The space was developed to be a welcoming environment, containing comfortable chairs, writing desks, computers, snacks and a growing library of books and writing prompts.



MORE ON **WEB** | Learn more: go.msu.edu/new-muse

NICK SCHRADER

Spartans awarded Presidential honors



Earvin “Magic” Johnson Jr. was one of 19 recipients of this year’s Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor. Johnson has dedicated himself to entrepreneurial and philanthropic ventures following a storied basketball career at MSU and in the NBA.



Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D., MSU Research Foundation Professor and former interim university president, was awarded the National Medal of Science. She is one of the world’s leading fertility experts and pioneered the science of oncofertility, allowing cancer patients to protect their reproductive futures.

Sparty poses with MSU’s two autonomous cars and its autonomous bus.



DRIVING MICHIGAN FORWARD

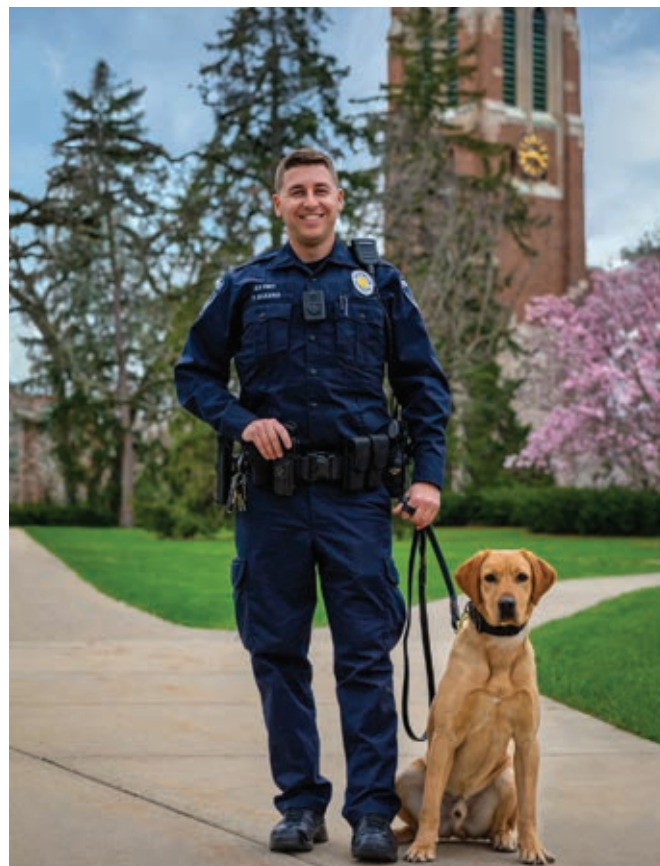
Campus recognized as testing asset for mobility innovation

Michigan State has been selected as a featured mobility testing asset by Michigan’s Office of Future Mobility and Electrification. The designation acknowledges MSU Mobility’s significant role in advancing innovation and provides startups with access to the university’s 5,200-acre campus—an ideal environment for real-world testing of emerging transportation solutions, including connected and automated vehicles.

“MSU’s expertise in research, testing and tech validation is a critical component to building a future where mobility is safer, more sustainable and more efficient,” said State of Michigan Chief Mobility Officer Justine Johnson. “The collaboration between Michigan’s world-class institutions and industry leaders is helping us lead the nation in shaping the next generation of mobility solutions.”

DERRICK L. TURNER

MORE ON **WEB** | Learn more: go.msu.edu/drive-mi



MSU paw patrol turns 40

MSU Police recently celebrated 40 years of dedication, loyalty and service from their K-9 Unit. From patrolling campus events to attending local activities like book readings at schools, their exemplary work in the community over the past four decades has made an incredible impact. These highly trained dogs are a vital part of the team, and MSU Police look forward to another 40 years of partnership, courage and excellence.



MSU POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY | DERRICK L. TURNER



Late bloomer

MSU researchers discover a native wild apple tree that stands up to Michigan springs

Every year, apple crops in the western part of Michigan's lower peninsula suffer frost damage. Some years, the results are catastrophic. Steve van Nocker, a plant geneticist and professor in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has been on a quest the last few years to find an apple species that's more tolerant to spring frosts.

Luckily, he and doctoral student Kaz Christian found one—the native Michigan apple tree, *Malus coronaria*. Van Nocker said his team is the first to scientifically document the late-blooming trait of this frost-tolerant tree.

"We found that the native apple tree is incredibly tolerant to spring frost simply because it blooms several weeks later than commercial apple trees," van Nocker said. "It also has really good postharvest resilience. The fruit also doesn't decay very quickly. In fact, I had one in my office for a year, and it never went bad."

BRIDGING THE GAP WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

New research from the College of Education shows how social media provides connections for college students, particularly those with disabilities

The study, published in the *Journal of Contemporary Issues in Education*, surveyed 147 undergraduates nationwide and showed that students with disabilities often rely on social media as a tool for navigating their disability identity. Some participants described using social media to connect with others who shared similar experiences, learn coping strategies and access professional advice. The findings highlight social media's role in promoting a sense of belonging and enriching learning environments.

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/late-bloomer



SYNERGIES IMAGINED:

FIGHTING CANCER FROM FARM TO TABLE



SALIVA THE KEY TO TRACKING MENTAL HEALTH DURING PREGNANCY

“Positive mental health is crucial for mothers’ well-being and their ability to sensitively care for infants,” said Joseph Lonstein, professor in MSU’s Department of Psychology.

Lonstein is the lead researcher on a study looking at the association between the type and number of microorganism in the mouth and throat, the oral microbiome, and maternal mental health. The results of the study, which included 224 pregnant women, showed the oral microbiome varied based on whether they had reported symptoms of stress, anxiety, depression or post-traumatic stress disorder.

With a nod to bringing local, fresh ingredients directly to our dinner plates, MSU researchers are applying their own farm-to-table approach to the fight against prostate cancer. From therapeutic ingredient production to research and testing – it’s all happening at MSU.

The special ingredient is promethium-149. This isotope has promising qualities for targeted radiotherapy—a process that delivers radioactive isotopes directly to cancer cells to damage their DNA. That treatment is being developed using cutting-edge campus facilities, including the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, the Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering and the Department of Chemistry’s expanded radiochemistry laboratories.

MORE ON **WEB** | Learn more: go.msu.edu/prostate-fight



Professors Katharina Domnanich (left) and Greg Severin in MSU’s Facility for Rare Isotope Beams.

RARE ISOTOPE BEAMS AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Lois Martin and Monza collecting truffles in a North American truffle orchard.

Buried treasure

MSU researchers and dogs discover, classify new truffle species

MSU researchers along with colleagues at the University of Florida and citizen scientists, have discovered two new truffle species with the assistance of trained truffle dogs. The first species was named *Tuber canirevelatum*, meaning “dog-found” truffle. The other, *Tuber cumberlandense*, was named for the Cumberland Plateau where it was found.

Spartan researchers aided in identifying and classifying the new species. Gregory Bonito, associate professor in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and undergraduate research student Alassane Sow, lead author of the study, used DNA analyses to identify the two truffles and place them in the tree of life.

“We hope that by describing both of these species there will be increased interest in cultivating North American truffles.”

Alassane Sow, MSU undergraduate research student

MORE ON **WEB** | Learn more: go.msu.edu/treasure



MSU DAIRY FARM NAMED ONE OF THE NATION’S BEST FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

For the second consecutive year, the MSU Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Center was honored with the National Dairy Quality Award’s Platinum recognition, distinguishing it as one of the top six dairy farms nationwide. This accolade highlights the center’s exceptional milk quality and herd health management.

The Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Center is a fully operational dairy farm that also hosts grant-funded research conducted by MSU faculty in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and College of Veterinary Medicine. The MSU Dairy Farm employs and trains MSU students, providing hands-on experience to prepare future graduates for careers working and caring for large animals.



ASK THE EXPERT: MSU football neurologist

David Kaufman, D.O., and neurology expert, is the assistant vice president for Clinical Affairs with the Office of Health Sciences at MSU and a founding chair and professor in the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology with the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and Human Medicine. He recently published his book, “We Need You in the Locker Room,” about his time working with the Spartan football team from 2010-2023.

“I realized there is danger, but there is danger in driving a car. People are not going to stop driving cars. People are not going to stop playing football. So, how do you make it safer?”

Dr. David Kaufman
Assistant Vice President for Clinical Affairs, Office of Health Sciences at MSU

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE SIDELINES AND THE LOCKER ROOM?

What got me to the sidelines was Jeff Monroe (head athletic trainer/assistant director of Athletics at MSU). He came to my house one Saturday in late July and asked, “What do you do on Saturdays, Dave?” He said the MSU football team needed a neurologist on the sidelines, and he would like me to consider that. I’m thinking to myself, oh my, this would be a dream come true.

I used to sit in the upper deck of Spartan Stadium for years. I would daydream that someone would come over the loudspeaker and say they needed a neurologist to come down to the field. And now, there’s Jeff Monroe showing me the path.

WHY WAS SERVING THE TEAM IMPORTANT TO YOU?

As a member of faculty of Michigan State University and the College of Osteopathic Medicine, for multiple years, the university was calling on me to assist them. No faculty member should say no to such a thing.

Concussion affects our warriors; it affects people in automobile accidents; it affects our seniors, so if you wanted to do research on concussion, a football field (regrettably) is the most active place to see concussion live, and the recovery period. It was predictable that somewhere between 10 and 25 student-athletes would suffer concussion during the year.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE OTHERS TAKE FROM YOUR STORY AND WORK?

The arc of the book is loving football; understanding it is a violent, collision sport; being horrified at what I saw up close; realizing what these human beings sacrifice to play and coach; and developing utter respect for the discipline; understanding each of them want to be part of something bigger than themselves.

I hope my input and contribution to concussion research was valuable. It was a tremendous opportunity.

All book proceeds will go to MSU’s George Webster Memorial Scholarship and the Foglio Endowed Chair in Spirituality at the College of Arts & Letters.

MSU OFFICE OF HEALTH SCIENCE

Dr. Kaufman discusses the impact of his work on the MSU Today Podcast with Russ White.



Herb Adderley



Andre Rison

SPARTANS NAMED TO ALL-CENTURY TEAM

Three Spartan football legends—halfback Herb Adderley, offensive lineman Joe DeLamielleure and wide receiver Andre Rison—were named to the East-West Shrine Bowl All-Century Team ahead of the collegiate all-star game’s 100th edition.

The anniversary team included 80 Pro Football Hall of Fame members, including Adderley and DeLamielleure. All three Spartans are in the Michigan State Athletics Hall of Fame.

A total of 103 Spartans have participated in the East-West Shrine Bowl, which originated in San Francisco in 1925.



Joe DeLamielleure

168
Number of MSU student-athletes to earn Academic All-Big Ten honors for the fall '24 season.

14
Number of student-athletes that carried a perfect 4.0 GPA

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/century-honors



COLLINS NAMED MICHIGAN MUSEUM EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Meghan Collins, Museum Educator for K-12 and Family Programs at the MSU Broad Art Museum, has been named the Michigan Art Education Association's 2025 Museum Educator of the Year. Collins, '06, '08, joined the museum in 2015, organizing and leading youth initiatives and a teacher fellowship program.



The art of activism

MSU students, faculty create climate project with international ballet company

MSU and the Bullfrogs Ballet from North Macedonia collaborated on "The Ripple Effect," a project using theater and dance to highlight the impact of climate change.

Funded in part by the U.S. Embassy, MSU's Office of Research and Innovation's Climate Justice and Environmental Ethics Award and the College of Arts & Letters, the initiative addressed environmental challenges in both countries using cross-cultural exchanges to develop an original performance.

Around 30 students worked with artists from the Bullfrogs Ballet who travelled to East Lansing, along with eco-activists from both Michigan and North Macedonia. The course culminated in a December 2024 performance.

"Culture and art are powerful tools for conveying a message," said Aleksandra Nikiforovski, founder of the Bullfrogs Ballet School. "Our goal is for a large audience to notice this project, enjoy it, see the quality and artistry and then take the message and ask themselves if they can make personal changes towards a better environment today and for future generations."

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/art-activism



RYAN FREDERICK | COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS | EAT POMEGRANATE PHOTOGRAPHY

DERRICK L. TURNER

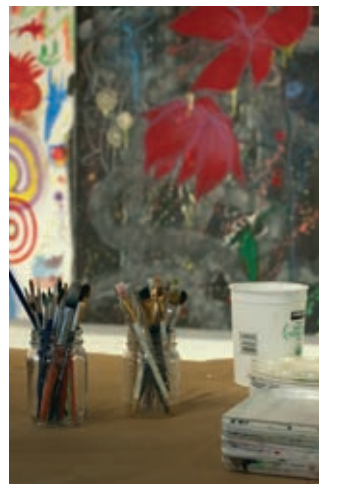
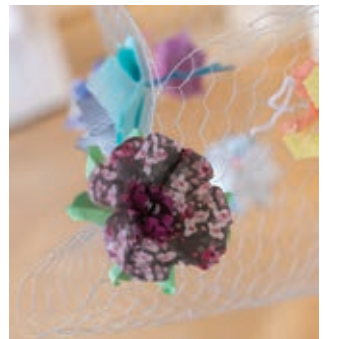


ALL TOGETHER NOW: COMMUNITY ART AT THE MSU UNION

The MSU Union Art Gallery hosted the collaborative exhibit "Reclaiming Space," calling upon the community to come together to reflect, respond and heal through artmaking. The public was invited to add their personal touch to the murals and sculptures that made up the space, creating evolving layers through every mark made and item attached that contributed to the whole.

The project was created by Laurén Gerig, assistant professor and director of exhibitions and outreach in the Department of Art, Art History and Design.

"It is my goal that participants feel warmth and welcome upon entering the space. That through artmaking they can consider what they've reclaimed or long to in their lives," Gerig said. "I hope they feel supported and loved and that when they step away from the sculptures and the canvases, they see how they are a necessary part of a beautiful, strong community. And, that they just have fun being creative."



Renowned mathematician exponentially boosts student success

Ted Petrie navigated financial hardship and the challenges that come with being a first-generation college student to earn a degree at MSU. An Honors College alum and accomplished mathematician, Petrie became a Ph.D. student at Princeton, a Guggenheim Fellow and a member of the mathematics faculty at Rutgers.

Now Petrie, with his wife Jane, is solving problems for the next generation of Honors College students. The couple has generously donated \$500,000 toward the first-ever cohort of Petrie Scholars. The Ted Petrie Honors College Scholarship has been offered to 17 students, providing thousands of dollars of annual funding for up to four academic years at MSU.



Ted Petrie, second from the left, in the bowtie.



STUDENT-ATHLETES TO BENEFIT FROM \$10 MILLION GIFT

A shared passion for the Spartan community and the success of its student-athletes, combined with their generosity, were the leading forces behind a \$10 million donation to MSU Athletics from alumni Kristen and Justin Ishbia.

The gift includes \$8.5 million in support of men's basketball and baseball, and \$1.5 million in previous Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) payments. A portion of the gift will be used to support the baseball program and upgrades to the baseball facilities. The baseball field will be renamed Jeff Ishbia Field, in honor of Justin's father.

A 2000 graduate of the Eli Broad College of Business, Justin is the founder and managing partner of Shore Capital Partners, part majority owner and alternate governor of the Phoenix Suns and Mercury, and minority owner and alternate governor of Major League Soccer's Nashville SC. Kristen graduated from the College of Education with a degree in Kinesiology in 2008.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Advancing efforts to prevent sexual harassment in higher education

For years, Michigan State University and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, or NASEM, have been working to confront one of higher education's most persistent challenges: preventing sexual harassment. Their efforts are rooted in research, policy reform, and a commitment to fostering cultures of accountability and respect.

As a founding member of NASEM's Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education, MSU has played a key role in shaping national conversations about institutional responsibility. Through this partnership, the university has collaborated with other research institutions, policymakers and advocates to develop innovative strategies, implement policy changes and establish prevention models that move beyond compliance to real cultural change.

At the heart of this work is a simple but powerful belief: higher education should be a place where all students, faculty and staff feel safe, supported and valued.

Much of the collaborative's work builds upon NASEM's groundbreaking 2018 report, "Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine." The report revealed the widespread impact of sexual harassment in academia and emphasized that legal compliance alone is not enough—institutions must proactively change the conditions that allow harassment to persist.

Taking these findings to heart, MSU has focused on implementing institutional reforms that emphasize transparency, accountability and survivor-centered support. Through the work with NASEM, the university has begun building policies to prevent "passing the harasser"—the practice of quietly allowing individuals with misconduct histories to move between institutions.

MSU's efforts are reflected in its Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct, or RVSM, Strategic Plan. The plan emphasizes the importance of reducing incidents of harassment and misconduct while increasing help-seeking for those impacted by harm.

As part of these ongoing efforts, MSU was selected to co-host the Public Summit of the Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education, bringing together researchers, policymakers and advocates to discuss solutions for addressing and preventing harassment.

"This kind of peer-based and collaborative exchange of ideas is central not only to the academic and educational missions of higher education but also to the culture and community of our campuses," said Thomas Jeitschko, MSU's interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.



The summit provided an opportunity for institutions to share best practices, challenge ineffective policies and rethink how universities respond to sexual harassment.

"I gained the opportunity to increase my knowledge in ways that complicate my perceptions of what I thought I knew," said Meaghan Kozar, project director of MSU's Inclusive Campus Initiative. "We cannot simply say we are creating a culture of respect and care—we have to build the infrastructure to support it."

These measures not only reduce the risk of sexual harassment but also create an environment where students, faculty and staff feel empowered to speak out and take action.

As MSU continues implementing its RVSM Strategic Plan and participating in national conversations on prevention, the university remains committed to ensuring that every member of its community can learn and work in an environment free from harassment.



Ruth Porteous Hamilton
College of Agriculture and
Natural Resources, Honors
College, '69, M.S. '71, and her
son, Cameron, following a
2023 triathlon in Irving, Texas.

The Globetrotter

Ruth Porteous Hamilton, '69, M.S. '71, has biked, swum and run all over the world.

And she's not slowing down now. BY RYAN LOREN

Ruth Porteous Hamilton has finished every race she's entered. But a recent trip to Australia tested her resolve.

Even at 77 years old, little has slowed in Ruth's step. She has competed in everything from local 5Ks to international triathlons under the banner of Team USA. Ruth and

her husband, Thomas, who met at Michigan State University, now trace their retirement plans along the path of a fulfilling race schedule, seeking both leisure and business wherever they go.

At the World Triathlon Multisport World Championships in Queensland, Australia last August, Ruth was pushed to her limit.

Representing the United States in the Women's 75-79 age group, a hobbled Ruth struggled in the transition from running to biking during the Sprint Duathlon.

"That was a challenge," Ruth recalls. "Both my calves started cramping, and I spent the whole bike trying to stretch them out. If it had been any other race, I might have

“

Nobody considered me athletic. But I was stubborn. I could usually beat somebody in gym class if the run was long enough because I was just stubborn enough that I could keep going until everybody else dropped out.

been out, but we had traveled all that way—I was going to cross that finish line if it killed me.”

Though Ruth fell from her early second-place position to a fourth-place finish, she completed her goal. She then spent a week recovering before her next event, the Aquathon—another fourth. Laughing, she acknowledges the unfortunate results, saying “That’s not a fun place to finish, just off the podium.”

“These things happen sometimes,” she adds, “and you have to pick yourself up and move forward. Every race you learn something—even if you didn’t really want to learn it then.”

For Ruth, athletics are a lesson in fortitude.

Sports were rarely on Ruth’s mind growing up, she says. “Nobody considered me athletic. But I was stubborn. I could usually beat somebody in gym class if the run was long enough because I was just stubborn enough that I could keep going until everybody else dropped out.”

At MSU, she earned her B.S. and M.S. in food science, and then her Ph.D. from George Washington University. She competed in her first local organized race at 25 years old after moving to Virginia, where she spent most of her career working for the Food and Drug Administration.

In time, Ruth added biking and swimming into her weekly routine to stay fresh. With that diverse skillset, she found a natural competitive outlet in triathlons. She finished her first local triathlon at 60 years old and her first international competition at 65.

“I like the variety,” she says. “Really, anybody can do it. I’m a jack of all trades, master of none. I’m not a great swimmer, I’m not a great biker, I’m not a great runner, but I’m OK at all of them.”

Since 2013, Ruth has 10 wins and 15 podium finishes across 28 races, according to World Triathlon, the sport’s international governing body. Her most recent victory came this

past October at the World Triathlon Championship Finals in Spain. She won the Women’s 75-79 Aquabike Championships—a swim-run-swim triathlon.

MSU helped Ruth find her path. She came to East Lansing undecided about her future. She was one of the earliest students in the nascent Food Science and Human Nutrition Department. The program offered a focused education that appealed to her small-town upbringing.

“I liked the atmosphere,” she says. “It was like a small school inside of a big university. At the time, a lot of the workers in the food industry were men, but MSU gave me the confidence that I could do this, too.”

Ruth lived in the all-women’s Campbell Hall and then moved into married housing with Thomas, who earned his B.S. ('68), M.S. ('71) and Ph.D. ('72) at MSU. The couple returned to campus in May 2024 following a \$1 million gift from Ruth and her brothers Dave and Bill Porteous to the Campbell Hall renovation project.

“Our family has a lot of history along the Red Cedar,” she says. “It was such a big part of our lives that we never let it go.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALISON VAUGHN

Be Open and Flexible

Passionate Spartan Sam Klemet, '07, took a bold leap into a new career.

Now he's leading the evolution of the Detroit Auto Show.

BY RUSS WHITE, '82, '01

“It was a no-brainer,” says Sam Klemet of his decision to attend MSU. The Michigan native always wanted to be a journalist and a broadcaster, and the reputation of MSU’s communication programs attracted him to East Lansing.

“The skills you learn in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at MSU are transferable to any career,” he says.

After he graduated with a degree in broadcast journalism, Klemet’s passion took him down a career path that led him to become president and CEO of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB) in 2021.

While Klemet was focused on cultivating the next generation of broadcast professionals, Detroit Automobile Dealers Association (DADA) Executive Director Rod Alberts reached out to gauge Klemet’s interest in succeeding him as executive director of DADA. Representing nearly 300 domestic and import new car and truck dealerships in Southeast Michigan, DADA oversees the Detroit Auto Show.

“The Auto Show is important for seeing and selling cars, but it really is a celebration of who we are as a city and a community. That’s the piece I’m most excited about.”

“I had no intention of leaving the broadcasting industry that I love,” says Klemet. “My first reaction was, ‘No, I’m flattered, but I don’t see the fit. I understand the importance of the auto industry and the Auto Show to Michigan, but I don’t know anything about it.’”

Alberts, however, didn’t let up. He knew it was time for the show to take on a new direction.

“I was looking for a guy like me but who had a vision for the future for what we could do for the show, Detroit, the whole region,” says Alberts, co-executive director of the DADA through the 2025 show. “I looked at several people, but Sam was the guy. I could sense his passion for the show and the city.”

“The turning point for me is that I’m from Metro Detroit, and I see the resurgence in the city. It’s exciting,” adds Klemet. “If we can blend

Rod’s experience with my naivety, enthusiasm and vision, it can be the perfect storm.”

His immediate focus is to evolve the iconic Detroit Auto Show, which returned to its traditional January schedule in 2025 for the first time in five years.

“We want bring back the show that has meant so much to the world,” Klemet says. “People’s time is valuable. So, to see dozens of brands under one roof and do some comparison shopping and feel out what works best for you is great.” But Klemet knows it’s about more than nuts and bolts: “At the same time, let’s provide entertainment and fun along with the information.”

While he’s reimagining an important piece of the automotive industry’s past, Klemet is also plugged into what’s next.

“EVs are coming,” says Klemet.

“That’s the future, there’s no doubt about it. The question is, what’s the pace? There have to be incremental steps on the way to full electrification. But we’re working with our dealers to make sure people understand that there are options out there, like hybrids and internal combustion vehicles, too.”

Klemet encourages today’s students to be “open and flexible and be willing to adjust on a dime,” like he did in moving from the MAB to the DADA. “Listen, too, and don’t think you have all the answers.”

“The Auto Show is important for seeing and selling cars, but it really is a celebration of who we are as a city and a community,” he says. “That’s the piece I’m most excited about.”

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/klemet



Sam Klemet
College of Communication
Arts and Sciences, '07

GETTY IMAGES

Conductor of Change

Damien Crutcher, '90, is leading the mission to build "purpose-driven lives" by putting an instrument in the hands of every child in Detroit. BY RYAN LOREN

It takes more than just good intentions to make a difference. Damien Crutcher knows that meaningful change requires something more.

Born and raised in Detroit, Crutcher has witnessed transient organizations and nonprofits blitz into the city with big ideas but lacking the know-how to meet their goals, leaving nothing but a lamentable legacy of broken promises and wasted time and money.

"That tends to happen a lot," Crutcher said. "They're well meaning, but you've got to listen to the folks you're trying to work with. You need to listen to the community and the community's wants and desires."

So, when the Detroit Symphony Orchestra announced an audacious plan to put an instrument into the hands of every kid in the city, he took notice. An accomplished artist, conductor, educator and entrepreneur, Crutcher was well positioned to lead the program and threw his hat in the ring.

In 2020, he was hired by the DSO as managing director of Detroit Harmony—an initiative focused on enriching arts culture in the city by providing students with instruments and music education. The project is

a collaborative effort between the DSO and other nonprofits, schools, community organizations and city leaders.

"I knew the DSO did not really understand what that meant—an instrument for every kid," Crutcher said. "It's a great idea and a good notion, but it was important for me to show how much work it really takes and that you have to bring in the community to make it happen."

A determined Crutcher established a collective impact model to bring the bold vision to life, pulling together contacts and colleagues gathered over a decades-long career. A strong foundation for Detroit Harmony was set around the life experiences that had enlivened Crutcher's passion for both music and education.

For Crutcher, it all started in the fifth grade. General music teacher David Williams, a 1958 MSU alum, introduced Crutcher to band at Van Zant Elementary School in Detroit, where he first played the trumpet and later the French horn.

"He put the love of music—all kinds of music—into our hearts and minds," Crutcher said. "He inspired us to listen to music, to appreciate music."

Williams was the first in a long line of inspiring Spartan mentors. During his high school years, Crutcher

met MSU Professor of Horn Doug Campbell, who convinced him to come to Michigan State. Crutcher pursued a degree in music education under the tutelage of Director of Bands Kenneth Bloomquist while also studying conducting under Dr. Ronnie Wooten (MMUS '87, DMA '90).

After graduation, Crutcher sought to give back what so many others had given him. He taught at Oak Park Schools while continuing his professional development as a conductor. He was soon discovered by University of Michigan professor and Director of Bands H. Robert Reynolds, who recruited Crutcher to his graduate conducting program.

Then Crutcher made a surprising decision.

"When I graduated from Michigan, I had three interviews set up for me, but my heart was telling me to go back and teach," Crutcher said. "I didn't even take the interviews. I had the plane tickets and everything. H. Robert Reynolds was so mad with me because he wanted me to be a professor. But I wanted to go back to my community."

Crutcher returned to the public school system as the director of bands and orchestra at Southfield-Lathrup, inspiring renowned future Spartans artists like Kris Johnson ('05, MMUS '08) and Noah Jackson



Damien Crutcher
College of Music, '90

“It’s not just about the instrument, it’s about everything that goes along with it—building community, the classes and lessons that are needed, performance ensembles. We make sure everybody is in a program, and we track their progress for anything else they need.”

('10). He also distinguished himself as an acclaimed conductor. This year, Crutcher enters his 21st season leading the Farmington Concert Band, his ninth season with the Detroit Community Concert Band and his 10th year leading youth ensembles at the DSO.

In 2011, Crutcher founded Crescendo Detroit with his brother Fred Crutcher ('93). The nonprofit is dedicated to transforming the social and emotional education of Detroit youth through music, dance and academic enrichment.

Crescendo Detroit and MSU Community Music Schools are

key partners of Detroit Harmony, which has flourished under his leadership. The DSO has passed out 1,200 instruments to students over the past four years. But the mission doesn't stop there. After receiving an instrument, students are placed in one of 60-plus partner programs.

"It's not just about the instrument," Crutcher said. "It's about everything that goes along with it—building community, the classes and lessons that are needed, performance ensembles. We make sure everybody is in a program, and we track their progress for anything else they need."

Each year, more and more Detroit

students are granted access to arts education from an organization built to go the distance.

"We need purpose-driven lives," Crutcher said. "For me, there was always a person every step of the way that showed me the right way. I feel it's my responsibility to give that back. I owe the kids in the community that much."

Family and Food

A lifetime of family meals together eventually led Eli Sussman, '07, back to his first love of cooking. BY RUSS WHITE, '82, '01

Eli Sussman grew up in the Detroit suburb of Huntington Woods. After he graduated from Berkley High School, MSU's James Madison College felt like a natural next step.

"One of the great things about James Madison is that the classes are small, and the conversation is lively," says Sussman. "I thrived in that atmosphere."

Perhaps that's because lively conversation has always been part of his life. Family was important in the Sussman house, and eating dinner together was a central component in the lives of his large circle.

Sussman says it was a long journey from an interest in politics to an interest in food. He always had cooking jobs to make money and worked at Lou and Harry's in East Lansing as a line cook. "I loved it," he says. "It was so fun because there was great comradery. It was a hard job, but it spoke to me. The fire was lit at Lou and Harry's."

After graduation and a study abroad experience at a music management and public relations firm in London, Sussman put his burgeoning interest in cooking aside and moved to Los Angeles to work for five years at an advertising agency that represented over 90 record labels.

"I was enjoying cooking on the weekends more than I was enjoying the weekdays at my desk," he says. "At the time, the music business was transitioning away from CDs to digital downloads, and my brother, who was a chef in New York City, said to me, 'just come here and try it. You can always return to the music industry if you decide you don't like cooking.'"

"I started back at the beginning and became a prep cook. I knew instantaneously that I had made the right decision and that I would never return to the music industry."

Sussman's latest project is a neighborhood bistro in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn called Gertrude's that features Jewish and French influences. Sussman's seven-layer chocolate cake, inspired by the 7-layer cake he grew up eating as a child, took on "a life of its own." It was selected as one of The New York Times Top 8 Dishes of 2023 by food critic Pete Wells. "It's a nice way to tie my Michigan roots to a New York restaurant."

In addition to going viral with his chocolate cake, Sussman now hosts the popular "Talkin in the WalkIn," a video series in which Sussman interviews chefs inside of their own restaurant's walk-in fridge.

"The optimal place in the restaurant where people go to hide

or get away is the walk-in," he says. "This is where the meat and potatoes of your thinking happens. The setting tends to lead to compelling conversations."

Sussman encourages today's students to "be open to the idea that maybe the first thing you've chosen doesn't have to be the be-all, end-all. You have many opportunities to reinvent yourself and start over. Focus on what excites you now. And if you don't know what that is yet, that's OK."

Soon, Sussman will have a presence in Michigan in the form of Italian-American cuisine. Alo's, a joint venture with his brother, is slated for a 2025 opening in Ann Arbor.

"Even though I haven't lived in Michigan since I was 18, I am a major advocate for Michigan; it's a huge part of my identity," he says. "People sleep on how wonderful Michigan is as a produce state—we have incredible farms. My brother and I are really excited about using our restaurant to showcase that Michigan produce is the best in America."

MORE ON **WEB** | Learn more: go.msu.edu/sussman



COURTESY ELI SUSSMAN

Eli Sussman
James Madison College, '07

“I started back at the beginning and became a prep cook. I knew instantaneously that I had made the right decision and that I would never return to the music industry.”

MSU launches ambitious campaign

*The Uncommon Will, Far Better
World campaign will activate talent,
catalyze synergies, build futures*

BY DAN OLSEN, '14, '24

Michigan State University President Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D., unveiled the university's largest, most ambitious \$4 billion multi-year comprehensive fundraising campaign to accelerate discoveries that address society's greatest challenges and prepare Spartans to advance impact for the common good using their uncommon will. The details were shared at a kick-off event on campus Sunday, March 9.





Campaign Co-Chairs
Barb and Ben Maibach



Campaign Co-Chairs
Greg and Dawn Williams



The campaign *Uncommon Will, Far Better World* will equip Spartans with the resources, experiences and knowledge to address the world's greatest challenges, solidify MSU as a talent activator for the state of Michigan and beyond and create a thriving society. It's the university's fourth campaign.



"In a rapidly shifting global landscape, higher education must adapt to meet society's growing challenges," said Guskiewicz. "This campaign is a consequential opportunity to ensure we equip every person to learn, grow and thrive while solidifying MSU as a global beacon of collaboration, partnership and opportunity that accelerates positive change boundlessly throughout the world."



The theme of the campaign – *Uncommon Will, Far Better World* – is particularly fitting as society continues to look for a relentless commitment to making a difference in people's lives. Spartans are passionate and create impacts far greater and more meaningful than if they'd been attempted by anyone else, said Vice President for University Advancement Kim Tobin.

"This campaign will propel Michigan State University to greater heights," Tobin said. "More, it will enable Spartans to do what they do best: leveraging their uncommon will to achieve impact for the common good – ultimately creating a far better world for us all."

To date, more than 120,000 generous Spartans and friends have contributed more than \$1 billion of the campaign's \$4 billion goal during the planning phase. The campaign kicked off in 2022, propelling student achievement, cross-disciplinary research and discoveries, and supporting the future of MSU. The campaign is expected to conclude in 2032.

This includes generous giving from leaders like Dawn and Greg Williams and Barb and Ben Maibach. The couples were named the inaugural co-chairs of the campaign, a recognition of their commitment to Michigan State and generosity, which has advanced impact and strengthened the uncommon will of Spartans.

"We're excited and energized by the momentum that is growing at Michigan State University," the Williamses said. "President Guskiewicz's visionary leadership combined with the uncommon will of Spartans provides a great foundation for the far better world we will achieve together through this campaign."

"From the very beginning when we arrived on campus as freshmen, MSU has continued to be an integral part of our lives and our Spartan Story," the Maibachs added. "The experiences and education we received here were transformative, and it's our mission to ensure that legacy of impact continues well beyond this campaign. We invite every Spartan and friend of the

university to join us as we build a bold new future for this great university."

The campaign elevates three key ambitions to foster a lasting impact on society and cultivate a far better world.

TALENT ACTIVATED

Core to the campaign — exactly half of the campaign's goal — is a commitment to revolutionize the student experience to ensure students can learn, grow and thrive. Through its ambition Talent Activated, the university is seeking private support for scholarships and programs to transform the student experience and solidify MSU as the premier talent activator for Michigan and beyond.

"At a time when talent is the most critical resource for solving the grand challenges of our world, MSU is investing in people — opening doors, breaking down barriers and empowering every learner to thrive," said MSU Interim Provost Thomas Jeitschko. "Our commitment is more than words; it is action. MSU is one of only four public research universities in the nation with both a higher than 60% admittance rate and an over 80% graduation rate — proof that access and excellence can and must go hand in hand."

Underpinning this priority is the university's newly established and premier Joseph and Sarah Williams Scholarship, which awards 30 qualifying undergraduate students with merit-based scholarships to fully fund tuition, food and housing, and an education abroad or other experiential opportunity for up to eight semesters.

SYNERGIES IMAGINED

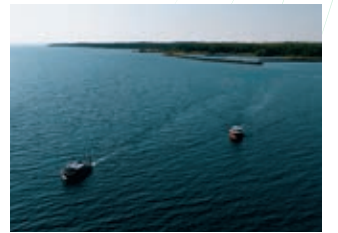
Additionally, the campaign will advance critical discoveries, leveraging the university's vast partnerships and unique interdisciplinary collaboration through the ambition Synergies Imagined. An essential component of the campaign is leveraging the institution's existing synergies through endowed faculty funding and private support for key research initiatives.

"The world's most pressing challenges will not be solved in silos," Guskiewicz added. "They demand bold ideas, boundary-breaking collaboration and the kind of visionary problem-solving that defines Michigan State University."

FUTURES BUILT

Rounding out the multi-billion-dollar campaign is a focus on creating places and spaces that address the needs of students today while preparing them for the opportunities not yet imagined. The ambition Futures Built will catalyze this effort through strategic support for capital projects and new programs.

"The future of our state and the world begins here — on a campus designed for discovery, innovation and impact," said MSU Board of Trustees Chair Kelly Tebay. "We must ensure that MSU remains at the forefront of education and research, preparing Spartans to seize the opportunities of tomorrow — whatever they may be. Building futures doesn't just take vision; it takes all of us working together."



“The world’s most pressing challenges will not be solved in silos. They demand bold ideas, boundary-breaking collaboration and the kind of visionary problem-solving that defines Michigan State University.”

Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D.
President



The Life and Times (and Dancing) of Jan Alleman

On the court, in the classroom and around the world, Jan Alleman has a knack for bringing out the best in all of us.

BY DANIEL P. SMITH

Amid the crowded Breslin Center concourse on a Spartans game day, through a blur of bodies, enthusiastic chatter and the persistent smell of popcorn, an MSU undergraduate spots a familiar face.

“It’s her,” the co-ed blares.

The young student approaches the woman proudly emblazoned in Spartan green. She has short blond hair above rosy cheeks and black-rimmed glasses, punctuated by red lipstick across her famously infectious smile.

“You’re the dancing lady, the one who’s always on the big screen,” says the student. “Can we take a photo?”

“Of course,” she responds. But first, the woman peppers the undergrad with questions about where she’s from, her studies at MSU and her passions and goals, eager to learn more about her new friend. When she discovers that student is an education major, her questions turn more specific—about classes and experiences, and even the authors of a textbook she’s using.

“Brophy and Alleman,” the student says.

The woman leans in with a wide grin and a twinkle in her eyes.

“I’m Alleman,” she whispers.

There, in an instant, resides the compelling duality of Jan Alleman.

To the Breslin Center faithful, Alleman is a celebrity—the cute lil’ lady so consumed by her love of the Spartans that she’s become a fixture on the stadium’s big screens with her in-game dancing and cheering. But Alleman is far more than a game day novelty act. She’s a revered teacher, a distinguished scholar and a philanthropic soul who has penned her own glorious story at MSU.



FINDING AN UNEXPECTED HOME

Born on an Iowa farm, Alleman recalls her parents lugging her to a local church for a presentation by a New York University professor. On the way home, Alleman, all of five years old at the time, promised her parents that she, too, would travel the world speaking someday.

“I started saving for college when I was in elementary school,” Alleman said.

After earning her bachelor’s degree in teacher education and a master’s in curriculum from Drake University, Alleman received her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1968 and conducted postdoctoral work in urban studies at the University of Washington.

When she launched plans for a career in academia and stopped in East Lansing for a job interview, she only did so to break up her journey from Iowa to Massachusetts.

“I had no interest in working at a cow college,” she said.

But a funny thing happened as Alleman conversed with MSU faculty, spoke with students and toured the campus. She found MSU’s ambitious spirit invigorating and its enterprising culture empowering. When she spoke her beliefs, people respected her candor and conviction.

“Michigan State seemed like a place I could be me and create my own story,” Alleman said.

After accepting a position in the Department of Teacher Education, she directed a pointed question to then-department chair Dr. Vernon Hicks: “Are you ready for me?”

“No,” Hicks replied, “but we’ll get ready.”

Over the next 45 years, Alleman became a faculty dynamo at the College of Education, winning awards for teaching, research and scholarship from MSU as well as organizations like the National Council of Social Studies.



“It was all about growing people and showing them they matter, that they have greatness within them. With passion and goals, there’s room to flourish.”

Jan Alleman

A CELEBRATED CAREER

A prominent scholar in the area of elementary social studies education, Alleman authored and co-authored 13 books and more than 100 articles, book chapters and reports, much of it alongside her cherished MSU-based collaborator, the late Jere Brophy. The duo’s 2006 book “Children’s Thinking About Cultural Universals” offered rich insights on how young students understand basic social studies concepts like food, clothing, shelter and family structures across diverse cultures and ignited novel instruction in classrooms around the U.S. and the world.

Educating future teachers herself at MSU, Alleman encouraged students to develop their voices and a sense of efficacy. She pushed them to present their work publicly and held parent-teacher conferences for her university students, tasking them to describe their activities and development to their own parents. She packed student work with thoughtful, detailed feedback and leveraged relevancy to drive learning. In tutoring Spartan hardwood standouts like Magic Johnson and Jay Vincent, for instance, she used scouting reports supplied by an assistant coach to build rapport before diving into lessons.

“It was all about growing people and showing them they matter, that they have greatness within them,” Alleman said. “With passion and goals, there’s room to flourish.”

Ted Berryhill, ’99, first encountered Alleman in a social studies education course in 1998. While Berryhill was content being a wallflower in Alleman’s classroom, the high-octane professor pushed Berryhill to think critically about what he was doing and, even more, who he wanted to become.

“Her superpower is getting people to engage,” Berryhill said. “I’m not sure I knew what I could accomplish as a professional, but Jan seemed to always know what I was capable of.”

Alleman also taught on behalf of MSU in more than a dozen countries around the globe, from Brazil to Bulgaria, Italy to Indonesia. She helped teachers in international locales enliven social studies instruction and consulted school leaders on strategies to heighten student performance. Alleman’s overseas experiences fostered empathy, humility and perspective, which she brought back to East Lansing.

“When you go elsewhere, you encounter some people who have nothing and yet have everything,” she said. “It changed my life and pushed me to learn more.”

Growing up, Alleman’s niece, Amy Jamison, marveled at her Aunt Jan’s ability to have it all. Alleman thrived as a teacher, scholar and researcher at a Big Ten university. She was an independent woman doing what she loved.

“She was a real role model to me and an absolute force of nature,” said Jamison, an education and research specialist at MSU who serves as co-director for the Alliance for African Partnership.

ALLEMAN’S POST-MSU ACT

In 2012, Alleman retired from MSU’s faculty ranks—though she adamantly rejects the word retirement. “It’s retirement,” said Alleman, professor emerita at MSU.

In fact, Alleman has reinvented herself over the last 13 years as an instructional coach and consultant for local school districts, finding a new outlet for her unrelenting energy.



Over the past several years, she’s worked exclusively with Mason Public Schools, a K-12 school district serving more than 3,000 students across six schools in Mason, Michigan. Alleman collaborates with teachers on curriculum development, devising fresh ways to motivate students and fuel learning.

The job reconnected Alleman with dozens of former students, including Berryhill, the former wallflower now in his seventh year as principal of Mason Middle School. Berryhill relies on Alleman’s intellect and passion for education to propel the success of his teachers, his students and himself. He savors his intense conversations with Alleman. He embraces

her frank text messages filled with exclamation points and all-caps words.

“Jan’s real passion is helping others reach their potential and knowing there’s a little more within all of us,” Berryhill said.

It’s why Alleman, more than a dozen years after leaving MSU, remains connected to so many former students. They contact her for guidance on everything from class projects to job openings to research opportunities. They relish the encouragement she delivers at just the right time with just the right force. They treasure her insight. They cherish—and crave—her honesty.

“She’s everything to me. My hero. My mentor. My inspiration,” said Rob Ley,

“Her superpower is getting people to engage. I’m not sure I knew what I could accomplish as a professional, but Jan seemed to always know what I was capable of.”

Ted Berryhill, ’99



“
The benefit is connecting with people and the interactions. What you want yourself is what you give away. I want joy and sincerity, so that’s what I try to give others.”

Jan Alleman

’03, M.S. ’05, a Chicago-based teacher and co-author with Alleman, Brophy and others on “Homework Done Right: Powerful Learning in Real-Life Situations.”

A LOYAL SPARTAN

A devoted academic, Alleman considers herself equally dedicated to the arts and athletics—a coveted “Triple A supporter,” as she calls (academics, arts, athletics). It’s a reality shining in her faithful support of MSU since the 1970s alongside her late husband, George Trumbull, ’52. Trumbull was a dyed-in-the-wool Spartan, and Alleman’s perfect counterpart. Together, the pair traveled the world, visiting many countries, and found their way to a host of MSU events, offering support and even producing the MSU Rebounders Club newsletter. (For personal matters, she goes by Alleman Trumbull, but professionally, it’s always been Alleman.)

Over the years, Alleman’s gifts—from modest donations to the Wharton Center for Performing Arts to larger pledges earmarked for the Spartan Fund supporting student-athletes—have made her a member of Michigan State’s Abbot Society, MSU Athletics’ Athlos Society and Wharton Center’s Garnet Circle.

“Jan’s enthusiasm and encouragement have been ever-present for many years,” said Eric Olmscheid, executive

CHASE STANTON



director of Wharton Center. “A devoted advocate for the arts and arts education, she goes beyond being a subscriber and donor—she’s a guiding light on our Advisory Council. It has been a joy to get to know Jan since I arrived at MSU. She is a familiar face at Wharton Center, and her energy is felt by all.”

Alleman’s elementary school music teacher ignited an early interest in the arts, while volunteer work at Drake with a professor who specialized in creative dramatics for children highlighted the arts’ ability to cultivate empathy. Growing up in sports-crazed Iowa, meanwhile, Alleman recognized the teamwork, discipline and accountability inherent in athletics.

“There are valuable life skills embedded in both,” she said of arts and athletics.

Of course, Alleman’s love of Spartan Athletics shines publicly at men’s basketball games, and coach Tom Izzo calls it a treat to see the crowd’s reaction to Alleman on the big screen.

“I love the way she fires up our crowd, and I smile every time I see her,” Izzo said of Alleman, who has followed the Spartans to NCAA Tournament games and Final Fours and occasionally paused her

CHASE STANTON

education classes for group watch parties.

Alleman swears she doesn’t know how her dancing became a game-day tradition in the 14,759-seat arena, but it’s made her a Breslin Center icon. Outside the stadium, on the concourse, people stop her for chats, handshakes and photos, though Alleman rejects the quick, passing interaction. Like in the classroom, she craves deeper engagement.

“The benefit is connecting with people and the interactions,” she said of her Breslin Center fame. “What you want yourself is what you give away. I want joy and sincerity, so that’s what I try to give others.”

Alleman professes a deep, abiding love for MSU—its people, its purpose, its uncommon spirit. The university unlocked lifelong friendships, intellectual freedom and a supportive community that empowered Alleman to be her true, authentic self.

“Honestly, I would have paid them to let me work here,” she said. “At Michigan State, I was able to run with my dreams and create my own story.”



Jan and George in Tanzania, 2000



A Symphony OF Green & White

Devotion to excellence and the community drives the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. These Spartans are instrumental in helping the DSO flourish and distinguish itself from its peers.

BY RYAN LOREN



“

We’re making our instruments all the time, which is challenging, but it also gives us freedom. It’s very time-consuming and a big source of stress, but when you get that one reed you love and make the music you want with it, it’s very rewarding.

Sarah Lewis, '09

The late John Mack, longtime principal at the Cleveland Orchestra and one of the foremost oboists of his day, hung a framed piece of embroidery in his classroom at the Cleveland Institute of Music. A quote from his father delicately stitched into the pattern: “Do not take ‘no’ for an answer from inanimate objects.” When his students grew frustrated handcrafting their own reeds, Mack often repeated that phrase. The oboe, he reminded them, demands more from its musician. The structure of the instrument’s double reed is similar in complexity to human vocal cords, and its labored construction is fundamental to the art. If Mack personally found the process tortuous (like many do), it was a feeling he rarely expressed.

Others have been more candid. Oboist Josh Kornbluth decried reed-making a “masochistic habit” likened to the Greek myth of Sisyphus, a tyrant punished by the gods to push a large boulder up a mountain, only to have it roll down the other side, repeating for eternity.

Somewhere on that philosophical spectrum is Sarah Lewis, assistant principal oboist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) and a 2009 Michigan State University graduate.

“It’s easy to get frustrated sometimes,” she said, “but it’s about personal control. We’re making our instruments all the time, which is challenging, but it also gives us freedom. It’s very time-consuming and a big source of stress, but when you get that one reed you love and make the music you want with it, it’s very rewarding.”

A room in Lewis’ home is dedicated to the arduous task. Using ominous-sounding machines like a guillotine, gouger and splitter, a single tube of cane is guided through a process of cutting, folding, tying and scraping. Different methods yield different results, with small changes creating broad variations in vibrancy and tone.

The hours-long process is a highly personal chore. With a focus on quality over quantity, Lewis might produce just one high-quality reed and a pile of discarded duds in a week. But even good reeds break down quickly, meaning the process is truly never-ending.

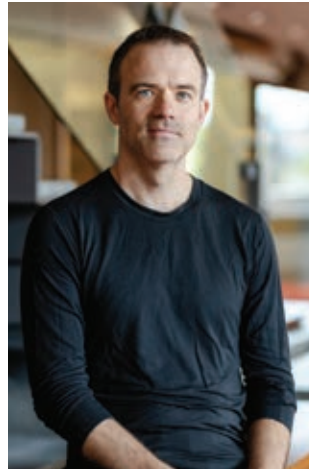
Lewis embraces it in an almost spiritual way. “Every day you either win or you learn,” she said. You’ve either created a good reed or a lesson, or, as she calls it, the growth mindset. Personal pedagogy in pursuit of the

greater good. “If you can become a better reed maker, you’re about to be a better player and contribute in a more meaningful way in the orchestra.”

That mindset—one of determination, collaborative energy and a devotion to excellence—is the doctrine of a systemic revolution that has swept through the DSO in recent years. Through that change, the orchestra has flourished and distinguished itself from its peers.

Among it all are Spartans, like Lewis, who are natural fits in the transformative culture. Spartans who are woven through the organization at every level—both on stage and behind the scenes—and with an impact on the direction of the orchestra and its integral place in the city of Detroit.

CHASE STANTON



Eric Nowlin
Principal Viola • MSU Assistant Professor of Viola



Sarah Lewis
Assistant Principal Oboe • College of Music, '09



Kevin Brown
Principal Bass • MSU Assistant Professor of Double Bass



Kathryn Ginsburg
General Manager of Orchestra Operations • College of Music, '08



Jill Elder
Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer • College of Arts & Letters, '96



Kenneth Thompkins
Principal Trombone • MSU Associate Professor of Trombone



Mike Chen
Viola • MSU Assistant Professor of Viola

“
Right now, the DSO is doing some of the best community work that it’s ever done. Everybody is centered on the people and Detroit.”

Damien Crutcher, '90

THE TRANSITION

In October 2010, the DSO was embroiled in the most contentious labor strike of its 137-year history. Like many orchestras nationwide, the DSO struggled through the recession to keep the lights on and the music flowing. After six months, the dispute reached a resolution, a new contract was signed and the organization forged ahead into a new era.

The DSO rebranded itself as “the most accessible orchestra on the planet” and began successfully bucking the industry malaise through outreach and innovation. Embarking on a journey of revitalization both economically and culturally, the DSO found itself in lockstep with the city it calls home.

That’s not a surprise, said Jill Elder, DSO vice president and chief revenue officer and a '96 Spartan graduate. The orchestra and the city have a symbiotic relationship going back decades—for better or worse.

“The DSO has been present through so much and made the decision to stay in the

city when others were vacating,” she said. “We feel we’ve been a catalyst for some of the revitalization.”

Elder has a passion for Detroit. She started her career at the American Cancer Society, responsible for fundraising and event planning, but as those responsibilities expanded, Elder felt too often pulled away from the city and her family. The DSO brought her back.

“There was so much going on in Detroit that was exciting, and I was feeling less and less a part of it,” she said. “When I was introduced to the DSO, I was excited to have a big change away from public health and into music and being part of the city again.”

Hired in 2017, Elder was part of the new wave in the years following the strike. In her role, she has been crucial in managing multimillion-dollar endowments and promoting the DSO’s Detroit Strategy. The strategy is a commitment to the growth and well-being of the city through public programs like Detroit Harmony, which has united partners—like MSU’s Community

Music Schools—to enhance music education across the city.

Damien Crutcher, '90, is Detroit Harmony’s managing director. Like Elder, his impact is created off-stage. That extends to others within the DSO, including Detroit Strategy Specialist Erin Dowler (DMA '24), Public Relations Manager Hannah Engwall Elbially ('15) and Digital Advertising Manager Kristin Pagels-Quinlan ('18).

“Right now, the DSO is doing some of the best community work that it’s ever done,” Crutcher said. “Everybody is centered on the people and Detroit. But there’s always work to do. Every musician on stage, everybody at the DSO needs to believe that Detroiters are worth it. We are named the Detroit Symphony for a reason.”

That message is echoed by Elder, who believes that success is not measured in fundraising dollars or ticket sales, but in the bonds the DSO builds within the community. That takes everybody working together, both behind the scenes and on stage.

“If we’re all performing at a high level of excellence, supporting each other and helping the DSO be successful, then at the end of the day, we’re creating an inspiring and memorable experience for our patrons,” she said.

THE CRESCENDO

When Eric Nowlin was appointed principal viola at the DSO in 2016, he was gifted the rare opportunity to acquire a new instrument—one befitting his position in an orchestra looking to cement its remodeled reputation.

At Orchestra Hall, the concert venue in Midtown Detroit that became the DSO’s home in 1919, Nowlin was presented with a repertoire of violas crafted by 18th-century artisan Giovanni Battista Guaragnini. One after another, Nowlin tested the beauty and vigor of each instrument to find the one that spoke to him.

“It was probably one of the highlights of my life, trying all those great instruments,” Nowlin said.

Nowlin is an assistant professor of viola at MSU, a position he accepted in 2018, enticed by the unique opportunity and what Spartans represent to the world. He is one of four MSU professors with dual roles at the DSO, along with Kevin Brown, principal bass; Mike Chen, viola; and Kenneth Thompkins, principal trombone.

“I think almost all musicians teach in some capacity,” Nowlin said. “I always saw myself as an educator, and it’s nice to be able to do that in a university setting.”

“MSU draws a very diverse group of people. Not only from within the state and from within the country, but also internationally. I have students from all different



backgrounds, from all different countries, speaking all different languages. That brings a lot of interest to the studio and a lot of different backgrounds, culturally and musically.”

It is surprisingly rare for universities to employ professional orchestra musicians on staff, Nowlin said, but it’s a place he feels at home. There is a natural connection between the MSU and the DSO—efficient and expressive institutions that foster creativity, value diversity and push the boundaries of what is possible. Both places provide a sense of building something better.

Last June, Nowlin, Lewis and other select orchestra members performed with rapper Eminem at the grand reopening of Detroit’s historic Michigan Central Station. The pairing may have seemed odd not too long ago, but it is one of the many ways the DSO is bucking trends—an orchestra that is conventional but pioneering, refined but approachable. A wide net is cast to embrace a modern audience; to meet them where they are.

“Now that there’s this rebirth in Detroit, there’s been more variety the orchestra offers,” Lewis said. “We’re not just doing classical pieces. We’re doing new works,

works by female composers and minority composers. We do music that will interest someone who has never had an interest in orchestra music. The orchestra is really good about being multifaceted and having something for everyone.”

THE BRIDGE

Kathryn Ginsburg, ’08, entered a tenuous situation at the DSO just five months after the end of the strike in 2011 when she accepted an entry-level administrative position as an operations and pops coordinator.

When the strike ended, many musicians chose not to return while publicly lamenting the regrettable chasm between the orchestra and management. Ginsburg worked to close that gap as she rose through the organization.

“There was a huge shift to be more collaborative and transparent,” she said. “There’s no reason the relationship should be tense. We’re all working toward the same goals, we want to make great music, we want to be sustainable, we want everything to go well. Sadly, that’s not always the case for major orchestras.”

Nobody holds more responsibility for the relationship between the DSO’s two halves than Ginsburg, who was promoted to general manager in 2022. In charge of the orchestra’s operations and logistics, she manages personnel, stage crew and webcast productions; negotiates musician contracts and disputes; and coordinates schedules and tours.

Ginsburg is a talented musician in her own right, graduating MSU Honors College with a degree in music performance. She also holds a master’s from the University of New Mexico.

“I can think like a musician even if I’m

not out there actually playing,” she said. “I want to have a relationship with every person on that stage. I want to get to know them as a player and also who they are and what they bring to the ensemble.”

Her efforts, along with those of music director Jader Bignamini, have not gone unnoticed.

“There’s a very good relationship between the musicians and management, which I can tell you absolutely does not exist in every orchestra. Often, it’s quite the opposite,” Nowlin says. “Even the musicians that have been here for decades, they don’t want to leave.”

That positive effect has spread to the audience as well.

“At a very basic level, we feel that music is for everybody, and we want to be part of that fabric,” said Ginsburg. “Detroit is more of a destination than it was 13 years ago, and people are including us in their plans when they travel here. I think it’s all connected. I’ve known for years that Detroit is an amazing city and that this is a fantastic orchestra, and now other people are figuring that out too.”

THE FINALE

As a student at MSU, Lewis always felt nervous taking the stage for concerts. In truth, the nerves still get to her. “Maybe that’s part of it,” she said. “Maybe that means you care.”

Last spring, she returned to campus with the DSO for a performance at the Wharton Center. It was her first time playing there since her school days, and coming home provoked a wave of emotions: anxiety, of course, but also a sense of pride and hope.

“Even though I graduated 15 years ago or so, it made me snap right back to that

time in my life,” she said. “It reminded me of how far I’ve come, in a sense, but that there’s so much more to learn still. It was fun to see the same place where I used to play, and the audience was great. I really hope we play there again, maybe every season.”

That’s a realistic possibility, Ginsburg said. When the Wharton Center was first built in the ’80s, those concerts happened more regularly but faded over the decades. There is a desire on both sides to reignite the relationship.

In the meantime, other ties are developing. In addition to the university’s work with Detroit Harmony, Spartan students in the College of Music have access to unmatched educational experiences through DSO professors on staff, regular guest lecturers and internship opportunities across the organization.

“The main thing is that we’re out there doing it,” Nowlin said. “The daily experience of performing is something that directly informs the teaching. Our students get an experience of how to approach performance, of seeing their professor doing the things they’re talking about. And that’s an experience that they might not find somewhere else.”

Every year, the bond between MSU and the DSO grows. And that, in turn, is feeding the pipeline back to the DSO.

“When I think about MSU, I think about having pride in our state, pride in our institution,” Elder said. “I think of Spartans as being hardworking and charismatic. Those are a lot of the same characteristics that make the DSO a really great place. It’s a natural connection between the two institutions.”



“
At a very basic level, we feel that music is for everybody, and we want to be part of that fabric.”

Kathryn Ginsburg, ’08

JASON KEEN

JASON KEEN | CHASE STANTON

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How early do you get to the airport?

Two hours early for people watching.

Be honest — what's your suitcase packing style?

Roll everything and make it fit like Tetris.

Shove things in a bag and hope for the best.

I stroll in right before takeoff like it's a bus station.



It's been a long day. What time are you hitting the hay?

10 p.m. — I need my eight hours.

Flowy florals and sandals.

Hiking boots and a durable jacket.

You've got free time. What's your first instinct?

2 a.m. or whenever things close.

What's your go-to travel outfit?



What are your thoughts on seafood?

Not a fan.

Love it!

Go where the locals go

Your ideal travel buddy...

Explore a vintage shop.

What's the first photo you're posting from your trip?

Cool architecture or hidden gems.

The fancy cookies, of course.

What's your in-flight snack of choice?

Appreciates luxury and relaxation.

A candid photo dump or selfies

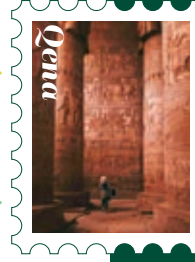
Do it for the plot

What's your travel motto?

If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

Trail mix — fuel for adventure!

Can keep up with my action-packed schedule



Adventure Seeker

There's nothing like the great outdoors. Your ideal trip includes equal parts hands-on experiences and breathtaking landscapes. Whether it's an African safari or a hike across the Rockies, you're a nature lover who's ready to explore.

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For you, traveling offers a glimpse into the past. From ancient relics to art museums, you love to dive into local history and uncover fascinating stories. Guided tours are your bread and butter, and you believe there's always more to uncover.

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- Paris featuring the African American Experience
- Discover Egypt and the Nile Valley

Coastal Cruiser

All aboard! It's time to set sail. Whether you're on the Mediterranean coast or the Panama Canal, you're all about taking in dreamy seaside views and appreciating the finer things in life.

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- Croatia & the Dalmatian Coast
- Palms to Andean Peaks — Miami to Santiago de Chile

Gift for Campbell Hall renovation honors family legacy

Porteous and Hamilton families support upgrades that will create a living and learning hub for students in the Honors College. BY DEVON BARRETT, '11



“I was at Michigan State when the Honors College was first beginning. At that point, Campbell Hall was already such a special place.”

Ruth Porteous Hamilton, '69, M.S. '71

Spartan alumni siblings Dave Porteous, Bill Porteous and Ruth Porteous Hamilton, together with their spouses and children, are bringing their family’s MSU story full circle with their recent \$1 million gift, which supports a major renovation project that will transform Campbell Hall, a residence hall located in MSU’s North Neighborhood, into a living and learning hub for students in the Honors College.

The Porteous siblings always knew they wanted to find a way to honor their parents William and Mable, who attended MSU — then Michigan State College — from 1937 to 1942. And they could not have found a more fitting tribute, as Campbell Hall is the place where William and Mable first met and fell in love.

Dave Porteous, who served on the MSU Board of Trustees in 1998 and served as board chair from 2003 to 2006, said, “Michigan State provided the opportunity for our parents, for ourselves and then for my children to be able to learn, to grow, to mature and to really become not just Spartans, but members of society.”

“The Porteous family’s deep emotional connection to Michigan State spans generations, and they’ve shown it over the years through their individual service and support for the university,” says MSU President Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D. “We are grateful for this latest gift, which brings a wonderful family story full circle with continuing impacts on future generations of Honors College students and Campbell Hall residents.”

The Campbell Hall renovation project, which officially



began with a ceremonial groundbreaking in May 2024, is a \$37.1 million project — \$3.1 million of which is to be funded philanthropically. Including the Porteous and Hamilton families’ gift, the Honors College has already raised \$2.7 million toward this goal.

Approximately 4,500 students belong to the Honors College, and those who live on campus can choose to live in one of the eight residence halls that have designated Honors floors. Campbell Hall will be the first full residence hall dedicated solely to housing Honors College students.

In addition to structural updates and enhanced accessibility, renovations also include the addition of classroom space, study lounges and breakout rooms, a music practice room, and office space for Honors College staff, optimizing student advising and programmatic opportunities.

In honor of the Porteous and Hamilton families’ gift, a large, newly renovated and flexible gathering space will be named the Porteous Grand Hall — where students can relax, study together and form lifelong friendships and connections.

“I was at Michigan State when the Honors College was first beginning,” Ruth Porteous Hamilton said. “At that point, Campbell Hall was already such a special place.”

For the family, the renovations are deeply meaningful because the Grand Hall will occupy the space that formerly held the Campbell Hall cafeteria — the exact spot where William and Mable Porteous, both student

“The Porteous family’s deep emotional connection to Michigan State spans generations, and they’ve shown it over the years through their individual service and support for the university. We are grateful for this latest gift, which brings a wonderful family story full circle with continuing impacts on future generations of Honors College students and Campbell Hall residents.”

Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D.
President, Michigan State University

cafeteria workers, met on the job more than 80 years ago.

Bill Porteous added, “It is a rare opportunity to name the place where your parents met that will now be a place where the next generation will have a chance to meet and gather.”

DERRICK L. TURNER



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GENEROUS BEGINNINGS

On May 6, 1988, Michigan State officially launched the university's first major capital campaign, "MSU 2000: Access to Opportunity." Nearly 34,000 donors chipped in over the next five years to raise a total of \$217,854,609, create more than 240 new scholarships and fellowships, and increase MSU's total endowment level by 132%. Above, the cover of the Spring 1988 issue of the MSU Alumni Magazine, taken at the campaign kickoff ceremonies at Wharton Center, features, from left to right, National Campaign Chair Robert Rowan ('47), MSU's 17th President John DiBiaggio and Malcolm Dade, chairperson of the MSU Board of Trustees.

KIM KAUFMANN



Tomorrow Starts Today

With the launch of the university's largest, most ambitious comprehensive campaign, "Uncommon Will. Far Better World.," a new era is on the horizon for Spartans.

The news is out, and it's exciting: MSU has officially launched a \$4 billion multi-year campaign—our most ambitious to date. Its title, "Uncommon Will. Far Better World.," is a mantra fitting of Spartans everywhere and of all ages. Through our unique experience and expertise, we work collectively to build a better tomorrow. Your passion and commitment to MSU comes through loud and clear. Every gift of every size carries meaning and impact, and we look forward to a bright future in East Lansing and around the world.

What better way to kick off this new campaign than with Give Green Day? A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the donors and clubs who participated in this year's event, held on March 11. Your generosity has a direct effect on important resources for current and future Spartans.

We're inching our way into spring, and this time of year brings some of my favorite campus events. First, we welcome back our alumni leaders for the annual Alumni Volunteer Leader Summit. It's always inspiring for our alum community board members to reconnect with each other and reacquaint themselves with campus. These Spartans go to great lengths to bring alums together, and we appreciate their hard work on behalf of the university. Finally, the Izzo Run/Walk/Roll is back for its sixth consecutive year. Lace up and join in on April 27—there's even a virtual option!

Thanks again for your support, Spartans. We'll see you this spring.

Go Green!

Nick McLaren, '99

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF ALUMNI

Class Notes

News from Spartans Around the World



1950s

HENRY O. TIMNICK, '55, MBA '58 (Both in **Eli Broad College of Business**), recently published the book, "Do it With Love, My Mother's Wisdom." In it, Timnick shares his mother's uncommon wisdom and reflects on the ways her unique blend of hard work, humor and love shaped his life and so many others. In 2015, Timnick endowed the Timnick Chair in the Humanities within the College of Arts & Letters in honor of his mother.

1960s

ALAN OFFEN, '65 (**College of Arts & Letters**), recently published his memoir titled, "You Can't Make This Up: The Memoir of a Matrimonial Attorney." Available on Amazon Press, the book is the real-life story about practicing matrimonial law in a mid-sized city in Western New York. Offen is a past member of the MSU National Alumni Association Board of Directors and a founding member of the College of Arts & Letters Alumni Association Board.

EVAN MELTZER, '68 (**College of Natural Science**), published his memoir, "My Interesting Life: The Adventures of an Itinerant Corn Cutter," available on Amazon. Meltzer is a retired podiatrist who tells the story of his life as a government employed doctor.

LARRY THOMPSON, M.A. '69 (**College of Social Science**), released his memoir "Quiet Counsel: Looking Back on a Life of Service to the Law," published by Disruption Books. Thompson is the former Deputy

U.S. Attorney General under President George W. Bush.

1970s

JIMMY RAYE, '71 (**College of Education**), was recently named to the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame 2025 class. Raye was the South's first Black quarterback to win a national title while playing for the Spartans' 1965 and 1966 unbeaten Big Ten title teams. He played two seasons in the NFL before embarking on a trailblazing 37-year coaching career that saw him become just

MSU

the second Black coordinator in the NFL.

DONALD VIECELLI, '71 (College of Communication Arts and Sciences), was recently awarded the Alfredo Sirkis Memorial Green Ring award by former U.S. Vice President and founder and chairman of The Climate Reality Project, Al Gore, for

demonstrating exceptional commitment to climate activism and education.

DAVID A. WILLIAMS, '71 (College of Natural Science), recently was awarded the 2024 Distinguished Member Award by the Illinois State Dental Society.

MIKE MORROW, '72 (College of Social Science), received the Distinguished Service Award from the Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society during the International Elastomer Conference in Pittsburgh, Penn. for his service to the industry. Mike is also a 2017 Recipient of an MSU Alumni Grand Award for Service.

At the time, fewer than 600 awards had been given out since the end of World War II.

DALE PETROSKEY, '78 (College of Communication Arts and Sciences), was honored at the annual Dallas Business Hall of Fame in February. Petroskey is the President and CEO of the Dallas Regional Chamber, which plays a vital role in strengthening the region's economy. Under his leadership, the Chamber was named National Chamber of the Year in 2022.

DAVID JOYCE, '78, M.S. '80 (Both in College of Engineering), was inducted into the GE Aerospace Propulsion Hall of Fame. He joins four other inductees in this year's class, which honors those who have made outstanding contributions to GE Aerospace and the greater aviation industry. Joyce joined GE in 1980 as an engineer and became president and CEO in 2008.

TOBY WOLSON, '78 (College of Natural Science), M.S. '86 (College of Social Science), is a contributing author and editor of the recently released "Handbook of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis," published by CRC Press. The book is an up-to-date discussion of bloodstain pattern analysis by 35 leading experts.

1980s

THOMAS FOX, '80 (College of Social Science), published an update to his seminal work, "The Compliance Handbook: A Guide to Operationalizing Your Compliance Program." It was the fifth update to his original book published by LexisNexis. This book is an invaluable resource in the field of anti-corruption compliance.

KATHLEEN ROLLINGER, D.O. '86 (College of Osteopathic Medicine), was selected as the recipient of the 2024 Osteopathic Family Physician of the Year by the American College of Osteopathic Physicians, a national organization representing over 26,000 osteopathic physicians.

BOB MOESTA, '87 (College of Engineering), recently released his book, "JOB MOVES: 9 Steps For Making Progress In Your Career." Co-authored with Ethan Bernstein and Michael Horn, the book shares the job-switching process they developed, tested and refined while researching, coaching and mentoring over a thousand professionals one-on-one and through Bernstein's popular Harvard Business School course.

1990s

AIMEE MERRIMAN NOLAN, '91 (College of Arts & Letters, James Madison College), was recently elected to the Alzheimer's Association National Board of Directors.

ROBERT NOSANCHUK, '91 (College of Arts & Letters), was named Inaugural Senior Rabbi and appointed Will & Jan Sukenik Chair in Rabbinitics of Congregation Mishkan Or in Cleveland, Ohio. Congregation Mishkan Or was formed in July 2024 as a merger of two historic Reform Jewish synagogues, Anshe Chesed and Tifereth Israel, each in existence for 18 decades.

AMBER ARELLANO, '92 (College of Communication Arts and Sciences), was named a 2024 Education honoree by the BFDI International Training Institute in recognition of her tireless pursuit of education



equity. EdTrust-Midwest, which Arellano has led for 13-plus years, works for the high academic achievement of all Michigan students in pre-kindergarten through college.

GEANEEN M. ARENDS, '94 (College of Arts & Letters), recently earned a pair of notable awards. She was named to Crain's Detroit Business' 2024 Notable Black Business Leaders, and was honored on Michigan Lawyers Weekly's 2024 'Michigan Go To Lawyers' Power List. Arends is a vice president and attorney for Butzel in Detroit and also serves on the firm's Board of Directors.

JULIE SHOWERS, '98 (College of Social Science), co-authored a children's book titled "Toby Finds a Home." Published by

Blanchet House in Portland, Oregon, where Showers is the communications director, "Toby" is written to help children better understand the complex issue of homelessness.

DANNAH HENRIKSEN, '99 (Eli Broad College of Business), M.A. '03, Ph.D. '11 (College of Education), recently completed the book "Explaining Creativity" (third edition, Oxford University Press). Co-authored with Dr. Keith Sawyer from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the book takes an interdisciplinary approach with chapters on the psychology, sociology, history and anthropology of creativity.

2000s

KARAH STREET DAVENPORT, '03 (College of Communication Arts and Sciences), was named an equity partner in Stratacomm, a full-service integrated communications agency. It marks the first time in a decade that Stratacomm has added to their partner group. Davenport previously served as a senior vice president.

JOHN ENGLE, '05 (College of Social Science, College of Engineering, Honors College), M.S. '07 (College of Engineering), was elected as the 2024 Section President for ITE Michigan. ITE Michigan is a community of transportation professionals, serving transportation engineers and community partners in the State of Michigan.

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MEGHAN COLLINS, '06 (College of Communication Arts and Sciences), '08 (College of Arts & Letters), has been selected by the Michigan Art Education Association as the 2025 Museum Educator of the Year. Collins is a Museum Educator: K-12 and Family Programs at the MSU Broad Art Museum.

LAURAN SIMMONS-WARK, '07 (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources), executive director at Humane Ohio, received a 2024 20 Under 40 Leadership Recognition Award. The award honors individuals in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan under the age of 40 who have distinguished themselves in their career and/or community.

COURTNEY SULLIVAN, '08 (College of Nursing), was named a fellow by the American Academy of Nursing. This honor is one of the highest a nursing educator can receive. Sullivan is an associate professor and researcher at the MSU College of Nursing.

LESLIE ANDERSON, '09 (College of Arts & Letters), was recognized for her novel "The Unmothers," published recently by Quirk Books. Anderson's debut novel was chosen by the New York Times for its Best Horror Fiction Books of 2024 and was named one of Paste magazine's Most Anticipated Horror Books of Summer 2024.

2010s

SHANIKA OWENS, '10 (College of Social Science), was named to Michigan Lawyers Weekly's 2024 Influential Women of Law list. The award honors women attorneys and judges for their excellent work on behalf of the justice system and for their clients, commitment to their communities and service to the profession. Owens is an attorney for Butzel in Detroit.

COREAN REYNOLDS, '13 (College of Social Science), was appointed to the Board of Directors at the Boston Children's Chorus. This nonprofit organization leverages the power of music to connect Boston's diverse communities, cultivate empathy and inspire social inquiry.

JOSEPH SWEENEY, '13 (College of Arts & Letters), joined Fox Rothschild in New York as counsel in the Litigation Department, representing clients in commercial, corporate and white-collar criminal matters. Prior to joining Fox, Sweeney was an associate at Greenberg Traurig, LLP.

KARINA WOJTAS-KOSZALKA, '16 (Lyman Briggs College), completed medical school at KCU-Joplin and has entered residency at University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi in Wichita, Kansas.

MARISSA BEATTY, '17 (College of Engineering), founder and CEO of Turnover Labs, announced \$1.4 million in pre-seed funding to expand the company's engineering team, grow business development efforts and accelerate R&D. Turnover Labs aims to decarbonize the chemical manufacturing industry and change the way the world produces petrochemical.

ALTIN SENCALAR, MMUS '19 (College of Music), was appointed to Visiting Professor of Jazz Trombone at San Francisco Conservatory of Music as of August 2024.

2020s

ABIGAIL (KUPLICKI) RELICH, '20 (Residential College in Arts and Humanities, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Honors College), completed medical school at Wayne State University School of Medicine and has entered residency at University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi in Wichita, Kansas.

PRADNYA GHORPADE, '23 (College of Engineering), was recently appointed CEO of DABBA EATS. Ghorpade co-founded the company in 2023 as a food delivery service that offers home-cooked meals prepared by local chefs.



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Get a closer look at the Multicultural Center



FUTURES BUILT:

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After decades of advocacy, Michigan State officially opened the Multicultural Center Feb. 7, 2025. Standing on the banks of the Red Cedar at the northeast corner of Farm and Shaw Lanes, the MCC is a vibrant hub for connection and belonging—a welcoming space for students of all backgrounds to gather, learn and grow together. The living room, pictured here, is a bright, lofty area for both casual gatherings and events. Elsewhere, the MCC houses a communal kitchen, meeting and multi-purpose rooms, outdoor communal areas and a Student Support Space that helps connect Spartans with campus resources, tutors and mentors.



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