

Spartan

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Fall 2024

The
ABCs of
MSU

The
Central
Station
Spartans

Together IN GREEN

Guest editor Sparty helps us compose a snapshot of the history, traditions, places and faces that make us who we are—Spartans.



I
AM

A

JASON MILLER
PROFESSOR,
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

SPARTAN

OF

CHANGE.

We are creating the next generation of critical thinkers and team players in supply chain management at MSU. My colleagues and I are grounded in the real world – engaging with industry leaders and policymakers. Our undergraduate and graduate programs are top ranked nationally, preparing our students to develop creative solutions for some of the greatest global challenges.



SPARTANS WILL.
MSU.EDU/PARTOF

Spartan

Fall 2024

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A compendium of the places, spaces and faces that make up our beloved university.



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Veterans Day at MSU

Together, Spartans support the needs of veterans at MSU through programs like the Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC). This resource helped MSU achieve gold status as a Veteran-Friendly School from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. With your generosity, the SVRC keeps going strong.

“Try to get something done that is a benefit to society. Giving is my duty to America and MSU.”

Ceo Bauer, B.S. '49
World War II veteran of the 95th
Infantry Division of the U.S. Army

Celebrate

Veterans Day by supporting Spartan Veterans
VISIT go.msu.edu/veterans

FROM THE PRESIDENT

INAUGURAL SPARTAN BUS TOUR: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY TIES AND HIGHLIGHTING OUR IMPACT



Hello, Spartans!

An exciting new academic year is underway following a busy summer of planning and preparation. I've enjoyed greeting new Spartan students and families during move-in, Fall Welcome activities and athletic events.

Much of the time since my arrival last March has been spent touring the campus to listen to and learn from leaders, faculty, staff and students across our colleges and administrative units. Travels farther afield have taken Amy and me to communities around this beautiful state of Michigan and beyond to meet alums and stakeholders. A particular thrill was spending time in New York with former MSU President Clifton R. Wharton Jr. and first lady Dolores Wharton.

I'm looking forward in October to what I hope will be the start of a new tradition for us, the inaugural Spartan Bus Tour. I'll be leading a motorcoach filled with some 60 faculty members and campus leaders from across the university

on a multiday loop through central, northern and western Michigan. We plan to make 15 stops to engage with local communities, network with stakeholders, showcase MSU's impact, gain insight into the state's strengths and challenges and identify opportunities for future collaboration.

Understanding and engaging with these places will enrich our perspectives and strengthen the university's impact across the state. Additionally, I've found such tours deepen connections among participants, potentially leading to new educational, research or outreach collaborations across the university's academic disciplines.

Everywhere I've visited, I've been struck by the attachment of our extended Spartan community to Michigan State University. Our bonds are strong, and I hope to tap into that sense of connection going forward as we work together as one team to support the success of our students and the advancement of the university.

Much of what I've learned on my visits informs the vision for the university I've been forming since even before my arrival. I am excited to share that vision—and encourage our global Spartan family to engage with it—at my presidential investiture Sept. 29. You can visit the investiture navigational tab on my website—president.msu.edu—to learn more, including how to access the ceremony's livestream or view the recording afterward. I hope you can join us and will feel a special connection back to our proudly public, global research university.

Understanding and addressing the complex and stubborn challenges confronting our state, nation and world is a daunting mission, but we are built to do just that. As a land-grant university for the 21st century and in the spirit of “Spartans Will,” we can and will make a difference.

Go Green!

Kevin M. Guskiewicz

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

PRESIDENT
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY

DERRICK L. TURNER



FIND YOUR PEOPLE

with MSU Alumni Clubs & Affinity Groups

Connect with a global network more than **520,000 strong** by finding an alumni club or affinity group. You'll build meaningful relationships, expand your professional network and give back to your community and future Spartans.

- Alumni clubs are Spartan communities that exist in most major metropolitan areas, where you can create lasting relationships and make a meaningful local impact.
- Affinity groups connect Spartans around the globe who share similar interests, aspirations, identities or experiences as a way to come together through a shared voice.

- There are over 100 regional clubs and 15 affinity groups around the globe. If a local option is not available near you, there are several ways to engage digitally.

- Events hosted in 2023 by alumni clubs and affinity groups included networking opportunities, game watches, service events, fundraisers, galas, game nights and more.

VIEW CLUB EVENTS



FIND YOUR CLUB



HEY SPARTAN NATION,

Guess who's taking the reins of the magazine this time? Yep, it's me! How awesome is that? (I accepted the gig before they could second-guess it.)

I know what you're thinking: "what can't this guy do?" But I've got a way with words and a heart full of Spartan pride. When it comes to MSU, this collaboration was a match made on the banks of the Red Cedar.

This issue is a full-blown celebration of everything Green and White. From the people and places to the unforgettable memories—we've got it all! Fall is hands down the best season around here. We've got football, tailgating and a campus full of students fired up to crush it in the classroom. I've visited a lot of places, but let's be real—no one can match the vibe of East Lansing. And if anyone dares to disagree, just let me know. (I've got your back.)

So here it is, my first magazine takeover. Hope you enjoy it. But has the buffest, best-looking mascot ever let you down? Don't think so!

Go Green!



Sparty
GUEST EDITOR, SPARTAN MAGAZINE

A SHINING EXAMPLE

Heather Nabozny is an inspiration and a role model for women and men. As an MSU Alum, I am so proud of the opportunities made available for people in non-traditional roles. I especially love when women take on roles historically associated with men and vice versa.

Follow your passion! Go Green!

David Kapolka, '72
ALTO, MI

FROM THE EDITOR

Spartan

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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.

Find something
new to love
about MSU!



New and archived stories, videos and audio
that'll jump off the screen and into your heart.

go.msu.edu/stories

Beneath *the* Pines

News & Views from Campus



Honoring Heroes

MSU hosts Memorial Grove of the Great War
rededication ceremony. *(See more, pg. 8)*

First Sergeant Andrew Schwallier
of the 126th Army Band playing
a rendition of Taps.

DERRICK L. TURNER



Brigadier General Jeffrey Terrill, '91, of the Michigan National Guard delivers remarks.

MSU LEADERS GATHER TO REDEDICATE 105-YEAR-OLD WWI MEMORIAL

In the shadow of a towering grove of oak trees just west of Williams Hall, leaders from across MSU and the state of Michigan gathered in May to rededicate the Memorial Grove of the Great War.

Originally dedicated on June 19, 1919, the memorial was built in honor of the 33 students and alums of the university (then known as Michigan Agricultural College) who died while fighting in World War I. The memorial was marked by a brass plaque engraved with each soldier's name adorned to a field stone beside a grove of 33 oak trees.

More than a century later, university funding and community donations will help revitalize the site. When complete, the updates will include the addition of a dedicated patio and flagpole area, a courtyard space and a brick path leading up to the memorial. Signage detailing the history of the memorial and the fallen soldiers as well as two benches flanking the field stone to provide an area for reflection.

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

“ *The struggles and battles endured by so many Americans of generations past have stitched valor, leadership and wisdom into the fabric of American society, fostering a safer and more inclusive world for all. Let the Michigan Agricultural College's Grove of the Great War Memorial stand as a renewed symbol of remembrance, reflection and renewal for future generations.*

BrgGen. Jeffrey Terrill, '91
Michigan National Guard

DERRICK L. TURNER

Value of MSU degree reflected in rating ★★★★★

In its 2024 rating of best colleges, Money magazine gave MSU 4.5 out of 5 stars. The scores are based on three main criteria—quality, affordability and student outcomes.

MSU educates more Michigan students than any other institution in the state, and more than half choose to stay in the state after graduation. The graduation rate for first-time, full-time undergraduates is 82%. MSU has a goal of increasing that rate to 86% by 2030.

The university has a placement rate of 93%. That rate represents bachelor's degree recipients who are employed or continue their education after graduation.

WKAR NAMED TOP STATION FOR TV AND RADIO



For the 12th time in 13 years, WKAR has been named Michigan Public Television Station of the Year by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. This is the second time WKAR has been named Michigan Public Radio Station of the Year.

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



Powwow of love

A lively festival held annually on campus, the Powwow of Love is a testament to the diversity of the North American Indigenous community. It welcomes members from various Tribes, including those from MSU, East Lansing and the Lansing area. The celebration plays a significant role in the North American Indigenous community on and off campus and provides an avenue to showcase culture and honored traditions.

The 38th annual powwow was an opportunity for different Tribes and attendees to dance, sing and celebrate their Indigenous culture. It also provided a platform to connect with the rich traditions and stories within the Native American Indigenous Student Organization community at MSU. The 2024 event attracted more than 200 attendees and hosted several vendors selling a variety of cultural items, crafts, jewelry and clothing, which added to the vibrancy of the powwow.



DANE ROBISON

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

MSU TO CREATE CENTER FOR CYBERSECURITY TRAINING

MSU and the Michigan State Police are partnering to create a full-service training hub to address the increasing threat of cybercrimes.

The Cybercrimes Investigations and Training Center, housed within MSU's School of Criminal Justice, will provide information and resources to local police departments across the state, including free trainings for criminal justice professionals of all levels.

MSU COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

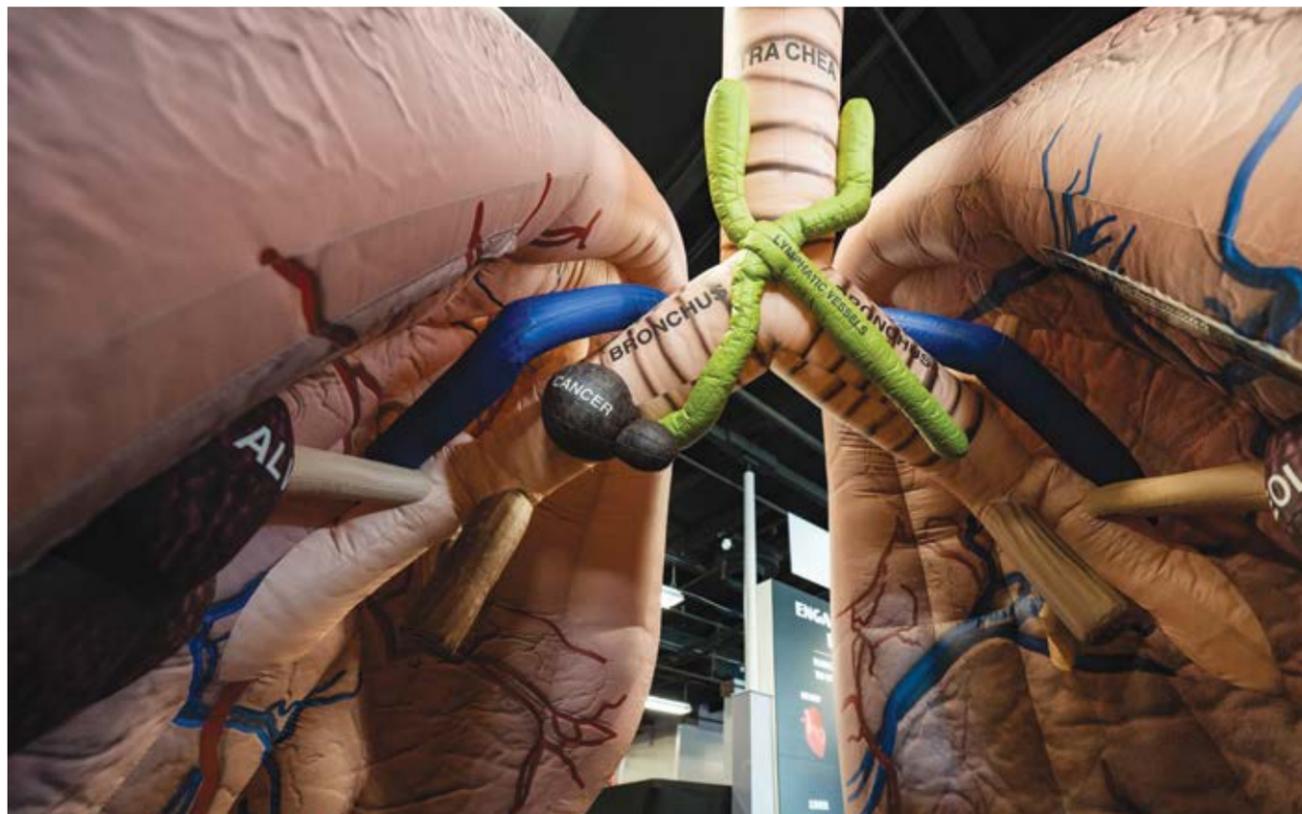


MSUCOM PA MEDICINE GRADUATES FIRST CLASS

MSU celebrated the graduation of 32 students in the inaugural enrolled class of the Physician Assistant program in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The 27-month curriculum is a 108-credit Master of Science degree in PA Medicine. Of the 32 graduates, 22 had signed contracts for positions or an offer under consideration before the August commencement. Of those who accepted PA positions, 76% are staying in the state of Michigan and 71% chose to work in a health professional shortage area or medically underserved community.

“Our first graduating PAs are so proud to add to the long list of national achievements by the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine,” said John McGinnity, M.S., PA-C, professor and founding director of the PA Medicine Program. “The trailblazing PA students worked collaboratively with our DO colleagues from their first semester in school. Now they will lead medical teams to improve access to care and the health outcomes for patients every day.”

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/first-class



What are you made of?

MSU Health, Impression 5 partner in 'Organ Adventure' exhibit



Sponsored by MSU Health Care, "Organ Adventure: Exploring the Human Body" provided an interactive experience at Impression 5 Science Center in Lansing, designed to educate visitors about human anatomy and health.

"This larger-than-life journey through the human body provides valuable understanding of our vital organs," said Seth Ciabotti, chief executive officer of MSU Health Care. "We are excited to be a forerunner in creative initiatives that promote and support health education in the community."

The exhibit included an enormous inflatable liver, heart, brain and lungs. There also was an enormous eye to study up close and a variety of activities to explain organ function and explore healthy habits.

NICK SCHRADER

MARCO SCHIMIZZI

Michigan's Top Teacher

Two-time MSU alum Kelley Cusmano, an English language arts teacher at Rochester High School, was selected as the 2024-25 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Cusmano ('04, M.A. '09) is the third Spartan in a row to receive the award and the ninth in the last 30 years. Over 700 educators from around the state were nominated for this year's award according to the Michigan Department of Education.



30

Consecutive years the MSU College of Education has ranked #1 for elementary and secondary teacher ed.

MSU HEALTH CARE, UM HEALTH UNITE

The Neuro Care Network, a new joint operating agreement between MSU Health Care and University of Michigan Health-Sparrow, will offer more convenient local neurological services for an improved patient experience.

The partnership will work to identify future community needs and collaboratively recruit specialists so that mid-Michigan residents have access to inpatient and outpatient neurology services.

"As our population ages and the rates of neurological diseases increase, the demand for neurology specialists will continue to outpace the supply," said John Goudreau, neurologist and interim chair of the MSU Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology. "Working collaboratively strengthens our position to recruit top neurological talent and care for our patients."

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/neuro-care



Honeybees able to detect lung cancer



INSECTICIDES DRIVING BUTTERFLY DECLINE

While habitat loss, climate change and pesticides have all been implicated as potential causes for the declining global insect populations, MSU researchers focused on butterfly abundance and species diversity across the Midwest have identified insecticides as the single largest contributing factor.

According to ecologist Nick Haddad from the MSU W.K. Kellogg Biological Station and the Department of Integrative Biology, butterflies play an essential role in pollination and serve as markers of environmental health. "As the best-known insect group, butterflies are key indicators of broader insect decline," he said. "The implications of our findings for conservation will extend to the entire insect world."



"Un-bee-lievable!"

"Insects have an amazing sense of smell the same way dogs do," said Debajit Saha, an assistant professor in the College of Engineering and MSU's Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering.

Saha and his team developed tools to measure changes in a honeybee's brain signals when exposed to different compound mixtures synthesized to match the breath of someone with lung cancer and another to match healthy human breath.

"What's amazing is the honeybees' ability to not only detect cancer cells, but also distinguish between cell lines of various



types of lung cancer," said Autumn McLane-Svoboda, a graduate student on the team. "The future implications for this are huge as our sensor could allow for patients to receive specific cancer diagnoses quickly which is imperative for correct treatment routes."

SAHA LAB



A close-up of a poplar leaf in a Michigan State University greenhouse. Poplars are an ideal candidate for biofuel production thanks to their growth rates and dense biomass, and if engineered, can produce other useful products.



MSU's Björn Hamberger is an expert in specialized metabolites known as terpenes. These compounds have long been used by humanity for their medicinal, cosmetic and flavoring properties.

TURNING TREES INTO 'BIOFACTORIES'

Appearing in the *Plant Biotechnology Journal*, a paper by a team of MSU biochemists explores how poplar trees can be engineered to produce a highly valuable chemical that's commonly obtained from shark livers.

Engineering poplars

to produce this chemical would greatly boost their economic viability as an already-promising source of biofuels, as well as help cut back destructive shark harvesting.

"This project highlights how we can use industrial crops in new ways," said

Jake Bibik ('14, Ph.D. '22), first author on the paper. "Using engineered, non-food crops like poplar may provide a more sustainable alternative for generating chemicals typically derived from fossil fuels, or even new specialty chemicals altogether."

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/plant-fuel



AI transforms drug discovery

"With AI, you could make drug discovery faster, more efficient and cheaper," said Guowei Wei, an MSU Research Foundation Professor in the Department of Mathematics.

Wei created the AI-powered program TopoFormer, which translates three-dimensional information about molecules into data that can help AI-based drug-interaction models predict how effective a drug might be.

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/topo-former

MATTHEW WISNIEWSKI/GLBRC

Meet the 2024 Spartan Hall of Famers

Six individuals and a trailblazing pair of teams were inducted to the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame in September. Congratulations to this year's class of exemplary Spartan athletes.

Two boundary-breaking football teams became the first complete teams to be inducted into the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Led by head coach Duffy Daugherty, the Spartans won both the 1965 and 1966 National and Big Ten Conference Championships.

But it was about more than winning for these squads. Daugherty was one of the first college football coaches to

compile a roster consisting of a racially integrated team, including many Black players from the South. They sparked national change in not just college football, but college athletics in general.

"To be recognized for the deeds that were accomplished with a fully integrated team in the middle '60s, I'm very, very proud to have been a part of that, and very proud for all my teammates," said quarterback Jimmy Raye.



1965 Football Team



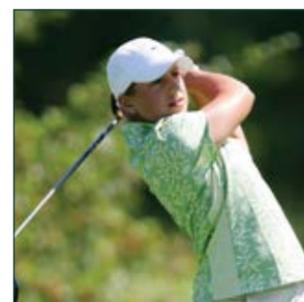
1966 Football Team



Jessica (Beech) Bograkos
Softball • 2001-04



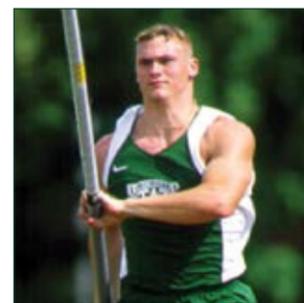
Anson Carter
Hockey • 1992-96



Laura (Kueny) Smith
Women's Golf • 2006-10



Darqueze Dennard
Football • 2010-13



Paul Terek
Men's Track & Field • 1998-2002

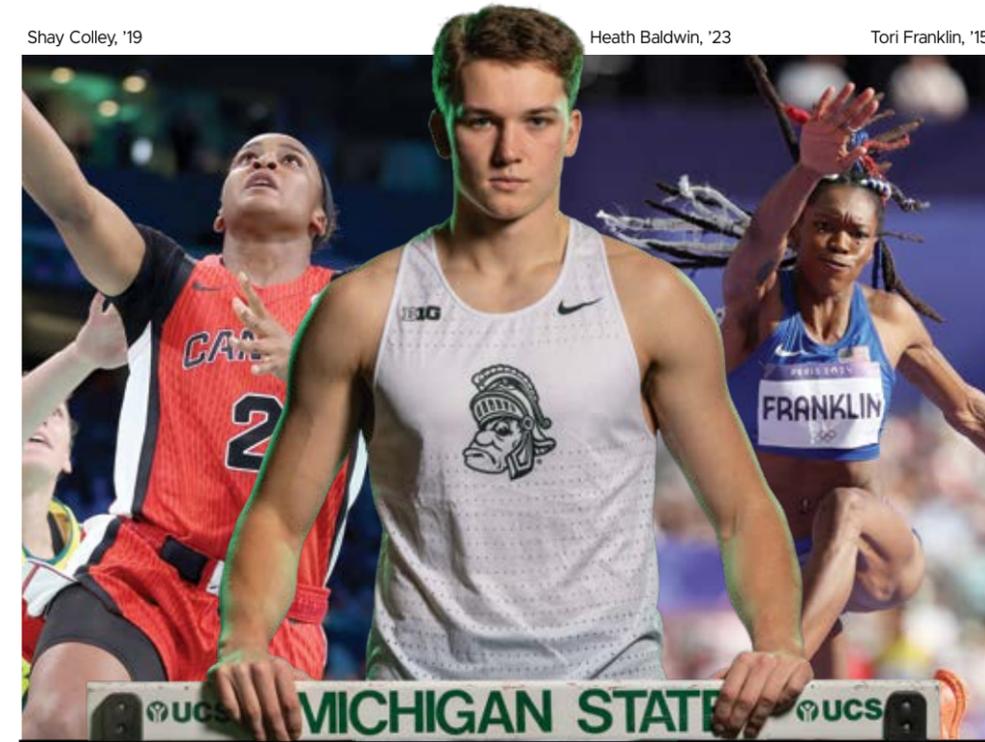


Beth (Rohl) Saylor
Women's Track & Field • 2008-13

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/24-fame

MSU ATHLETICS

MSU ATHLETICS



Shay Colley, '19

Heath Baldwin, '23

Tori Franklin, '15

French connection

Congratulations go out to three Spartans who traveled to Paris to compete in the 2024 Olympics. Three-time Big Ten Champion Tori Franklin, '15, made her second Olympic Team and represented the USA in the women's triple jump. Also appearing in the Games for a second time was Shay Colley, '19, who suited up with the Canadian Women's Basketball team. This was the first Olympic appearance for Team USA decathlon athlete Heath Baldwin, '23.



VIRTUAL VICTORY

MSU Varsity Esports ends inaugural season with notable national recognition

In their first winter with the Big Esports Conference, the Spartans maintained the highest win percentage among Big Ten institutions and secured first place wins in several travel tournaments. The team also took home accolades from the Collegiate Esports Commissioners Cup EsportsU awards:

- **Director of the Year**
Christopher Bilski, *MSU Director of Esports*
- **Rising Star**
Grayson Harding, *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Coach*
- **Program Impact of the Year** MSU Esports Program

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/esports-wins



MSU PROFESSOR ELECTED TO PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

“I hope this distinguished honor encourages others to pursue their own goals and accomplishments because, through a disciplined work ethic and dedication to your craft, success can be achieved. I will continue to stay true to my life’s mission: mentoring 1,000 mentors who will in turn mentor 1,000 mentors.”

Rodney Whitaker
Distinguished Professor of Jazz Bass, Director of Jazz Studies

Rodney Whitaker, University Distinguished Professor of Jazz Bass and director of Jazz Studies in the College of Music, is among the class of new members elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He joins the ranks of artists, scholars, scientists and leaders of one of the oldest learned societies in the United States, including Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Martin Luther King Jr., Wynton Marsalis, Madeleine Albright, Ken Burns and Salman Rushdie.

“Piano Monster” musicians unite

In a globe-trotting musical adventure featuring four grand pianos on one stage, “Piano Monster: Stories from Around the World” brought together MSU pianists including Young Hyun Cho, Deborah Moriarty, Derek Polischuk, Zhihua Tang, Tamar Mikeladze and Eric Zuber. The repertoire and atmosphere combined classical selections, sweeping fairytales, rich folklore and culture to create an immersive experience.



MSU COLLEGE OF MUSIC



Samia Halaby, M.A. '60, College of Arts & Letters

Spartan artist on display

“Eye Witness” chronicles over six decades of Samia Halaby’s career

“Samia Halaby: Eye Witness,” a multi-decade retrospective of one of the most important abstract artists of our time, was organized and planned for over two years by the MSU Broad Art Museum.

Featuring more than 60 works, “Eye Witness” chronicles the artist’s journey starting in the 1950s. The comprehensive survey leads audiences through Halaby’s monumental artistic career with paintings, digital work, sculptures and drawings.

Halaby earned her master’s degree from MSU in 1960. It was at Michigan State that she began painting in earnest with oil on canvas and pursued her ambition to be an abstract painter more seriously.

“To present nearly seven decades of painting by an important and prolific artist is no easy feat, and it requires years of research, thought and planning,” said curator Rachel Winter. “This exhibition presents Halaby’s work through the lens of place in order to understand how Halaby’s visual language changed as she moved between the Midwest, New York, Europe and the Arab world.”

“Samia Halaby: Eye Witness” is on view until Dec. 15, 2024.



SAMIA HALABY

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

Museum make-over begins

The MSU Museum is undergoing an 18-month renovation project to implement state-of-the-art climate control systems made possible, in part, by a multimillion-dollar gift from the Forest Akers Trust.

“We look forward to taking this exciting and necessary step toward ensuring our long-term impact on student and faculty success, community engagement and excellence within our field,” said Devon Akmon, MSU Museum director. “This represents a significant chapter in our museum’s journey, setting the stage for future growth and transformation, redefining what it means to be a 21st-century interdisciplinary museum.”



A group embarks on a nature walk with Sparty.

A natural connection

Sue and John Gruel Nature Trail makes the Sky Walk at Hidden Lake Gardens more accessible

The Sue and John Gruel Nature Trail is the newest addition to Hidden Lake Gardens, a botanical garden and arboretum owned and operated by MSU, situated about 65 miles southeast of East Lansing in Tipton, Michigan.

This new multi-access trail, one-third of a mile in length, will enable visitors of varying abilities to traverse through the woodland en route to the Reach for the Sky Canopy Walk, which opened in 2023 thanks to the support of donors. The Sky Walk is wheelchair accessible, and the new trail provides visitors utilizing wheelchairs, strollers or assistive devices for walking, the opportunity for an engaging nature experience.

John Gruel was a passionate enthusiast for nature and an amazing ambassador of Hidden Lake Gardens. The trail was made possible by the generosity of friends of John and Sue.

MORE ON WEB | Learn more: go.msu.edu/nature-connect



“Some fresh air is always a good thing!”

MSU reflects on 15 years of gender-based violence prevention

April’s student-led effort, It’s On Us Week, fosters a culture of support, empowerment and awareness.

Addressing a room of students, faculty, staff and community supporters gathered to commemorate 15 years of prevention work on campus and the five-year anniversary of MSU’s Prevention, Outreach and Education Department, Kelly Schweda reflected on its role in the university’s storied history.

“When I arrived at MSU in 2008, prevention work was often relegated to the sidelines, overshadowed by the critical and urgent demands of sexual assault response,” said Schweda, the department’s executive director. “Recognizing the need for a proactive approach, we initiated our journey with a single program aimed at providing prevention training.”

This program was the Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence prevention program, or SARV, which is now one of several training programs offered by POE.

“Over time, through dedication and perseverance, we have evolved into a formidable prevention-focused department offering a diverse array of programming tailored to virtually every segment of our university community,” Schweda said.

The office currently employs 16 full-time staff members and over 80 undergraduate peer educators who help facilitate in-person workshops and programs for all undergraduate students. Many of these peer educators go on to careers in prevention work across the country.

POE’s trajectory underscores its transformation from a nascent initiative to a cornerstone of MSU’s comprehensive approach to addressing gender-based violence. Through innovative programs, workshops and outreach efforts, POE has cultivated a culture of awareness, empowerment and empathy that resonates with students and employees across the university.

“This anniversary commemoration is a powerful moment to pause and reflect on how far we’ve come, while

also acknowledging that there is much work to be done into the future,” said Lydia Weiss, assistant director of the Climate and Response Unit within POE. “I feel so grateful for all of the university and community partners, employees, administrators and students who have partnered with us.”

The testament to this department’s profound impact extends far beyond anecdotal accounts, resonating vividly in the tangible achievements of POE within a remarkably brief span. The findings of POE’s latest annual report show over 63,000 Spartans actively engaged in POE’s mandatory training initiatives, with an additional 13,500 seeking out supplementary training, exceeding the bounds of obligation.

“At the core of our mission is the belief in the power of education and empowerment to effect tangible change,” Schweda emphasized. “We strive to challenge harmful attitudes, dismantle societal norms and foster a campus culture where every individual feels valued, respected and safe.”



Opportunities and Exposure

A shared love for MSU brings together Mike Valenti, '02, and Rico Beard, '92, M.A. '98, the Spartan duo dominating Detroit sports radio. BY RUSS WHITE, '82, '01



Mike Valenti
College of Communication Arts
and Sciences, '02

Rico Beard
College of Communication Arts
and Sciences, '92, M.A. '98

Growing up in New York, Mike Valenti always and only wanted to do sports radio. As the first in his family to go to college, Valenti was attracted to MSU's highly regarded School of Journalism—and he always liked Spartans sports as a kid.

“Once you see Michigan State,

other schools are going to have a hard time competing,” says Valenti. “MSU had options, whether it was Impact Radio or the State News, and it felt like a community.”

For Rico Beard, he fell in love with MSU while visiting his brother in East Lansing, also noting the university's community ethos despite its size.

“It exposed me to so many opportunities,” says Beard.

Together, Valenti and Beard host the highly rated “The Valenti Show with Rico” on 97.1 The Ticket, one of Detroit's top radio stations. Valenti says the mission of the show is simple: to entertain.

“People get lost in the shuffle of what we do,” says Valenti. “It's

infotainment. It's about entertaining that person who may only tune in for 12 minutes a week. What are you going to do for them? We're going to take every segment and we're going to push. I'm not Walter Cronkite. We have opinions.”

When it comes to their alma mater, those opinions come through loud and clear. While Mike and Rico love MSU, they aren't afraid to speak their minds when they feel it's warranted.

“You cannot be afraid to be critical. With a lot of fan bases, they only want to hear that they're pretty,” says Beard. “You don't want to be that guy who's always telling you it's all sunshine and roses when the world's burning down around you. It's OK to say ‘Guys, you can be better. You should be better. Here's how you can be better.’”

“We all want the same thing: We want to win,” says Valenti. “But it's not my job to tell you it's all right when it isn't. I have a right to be

passionate about it. I went to school there, and I love MSU. My kid sister went there. It means a lot to me and my family. If people don't like the things I say, too bad.”

Valenti and Beard are equally critical of college athletics in general. They feel there has been a connection breakdown between teams and fans in recent years.

“We're losing out on the ability to know who's on your team,” says Valenti. “Nobody knows more about Michigan State football than Rico. And when he tells me he's going to need a media guide before we watch that first game together, that's a problem.”

“You got to watch players grow. They were yours. Now they're rental players,” says Beard. “It's like changing the oil in a rental car. You don't; you just turn it in.”

When it comes to their own industry, the duo say broadcast radio as a medium is shrinking as more and more people get audio content

“You have to differentiate yourself. You need to have something to say that's interesting and stand by your convictions—and you better not play it safe.”

Mike Valenti

from their phones.

“The model used to be we provide the content, and they will come to us,” Valenti says. “That's archaic. We provide the content, and now we place it in as many places as possible for you to hear it—package it up neatly so they can just reach out and grab it.”

The duo's advice for today's young people entering this tumultuous industry is to be open and willing to do new things and attack new challenges. “You have to differentiate yourself,” says Valenti. “You need to have something to say that's interesting and stand by your convictions—and you better not play it safe.”

“Don't just be part of the hot take society,” adds Beard. “Stand on your own feet, and don't try to succeed by bringing others down.”

MORE ON WEB | Hear more from Mike and Rico
go.msu.edu/spartan-duo

A Difference Maker

As a member of the boundary-breaking Little Rock Nine, Ernest Green, '62, M.A. '64, discovered change was possible. At MSU, he gained the confidence and know-how to rally collective action and elevate impact. BY DANIEL P. SMITH

Ernest Green knows all about making a difference. Truth be told, challenging convention with an uncommon mix of poise and purpose, unlocking opportunity and showing a better, more unified path forward has been his life's work.

In 1957, Green made history as a member of the Little Rock Nine. On the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision labeling school segregation unconstitutional, Green and eight of his boundary-breaking Black peers integrated all-white Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas.

Escorted by U.S. troops, the Little Rock Nine walked into Central High—a \$1.5-million cathedral to public education with a diverse course list and modern laboratories—on Sept. 4, 1957, bypassing members of the Arkansas National Guard and a jeering crowd to score a major victory for the nation's swelling civil rights movement.

"When my opportunity came up, I wanted to be counted among those who stood up and worked to change the temperature," Green said. "I didn't think we needed all this turbulence when all we were

“ Michigan State was a great launching pad to reach out to others and convince them that their voices mattered and that we could carry out ideas together.

seeking was an education, so we could become citizens capable of contributing to society.”

The lone senior among the Little Rock Nine, Green became the first Black graduate of Central High in 1958. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. attended his commencement ceremony.

Months later, Green ventured to East Lansing to attend Michigan State, powered by an anonymous scholarship he would decades later discover was funded by then-MSU president John Hannah.

The lone student from Arkansas in his freshmen class and one of only 10 students from Arkansas on the entire MSU campus, Green found the 20,000-student university expansive and intimidating. He wondered how he would make friends, navigate the academic rigors of higher education and endure being 800 miles away from home.

"I wanted to benefit from the great

opportunity to attend Michigan State, but I didn't know how I could ever make a difference in a place so big," he said.

In time, Green found his way into civil rights activities on campus, rallying others to tackle causes such as segregated housing in East Lansing. He served as president of the MSU chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and helped spearhead a cultural exchange program that brought the likes of jazz vocalist Sarah Vaughan and activist Malcolm X to campus for sold-out programs.

Green, who earned an undergraduate degree in social science and a graduate degree in sociology from MSU, left East Lansing believing in his ability to generate support for important issues and in the power of collective action to drive progress.

"Michigan State was a great



Ernest Green
College of Social Science, '62, M.A. '64

launching pad to reach out to others and convince them that their voices mattered and that we could carry out ideas together," Green said.

Throughout his professional life, Green continued promoting equality, championing ambition and cultivating collaborative engagement. He fought for equal employment laws with the A. Philip Randolph Education Fund, served a four-year stint as the Assistant Secretary of Labor under President Jimmy Carter and helped major cities such as Chicago, New York

and Atlanta plot their futures as a managing director at Lehman Brothers.

"I believe we can live out the values and virtues of both the Declaration of Independence and 'The Star-Spangled Banner,'" said Green, who received the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Bill Clinton in 1999.

Green, meanwhile, remained connected to his alma mater and has consistently acknowledged MSU's role in broadening his mind and

spurring his personal development. He has been a commencement speaker (1994) and a homecoming grand marshal (2018). At MSU's College of Social Science, the Ernest G. and Phyllis C. Green MSU Black Alumni Scholarship benefits talented students representing society's diversity.

"Education is the real jewel of life experiences," the 82-year-old Green said. "I believe my story proves as much."

GETTY IMAGES



Alison Vaughn
College of Agriculture and
Natural Resources, '99

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALISON VAUGHN

Trying on Opportunity

Through her nonprofit, Jackets for Jobs, Alison Vaughn, '99, is helping build up the Detroit workforce, one outfit at a time. BY ERIC BUTTERMAN

Alison Vaughn has a gift for making connections with people. But it was a lost connection that led to her forging deep bonds with those in need.

"I had a sister where we had the same father but different mothers," she says.

After their father's funeral, they went their separate ways. Years later, with the help of her aunt, Vaughn found her sister and the pair renewed their bond—but the relationship was sadly short-lived. "When we first got back in touch, my sister told me she had cancer," Vaughn says. "She was gone six months later."

The experience left a lasting impression. Vaughn was grateful she hadn't been too late, but it left her questioning what might have been.

"We went down very different paths," says Vaughn. "I was able to go to college, she didn't have that chance. I found out she had been on welfare. Our lives were so different and I was taken by that. I wanted to help other women improve their situation, so I started an organization which ultimately ended up helping both women and men."

Vaughn became founder and CEO of Jackets for Jobs in 2000, a nonprofit affiliated with the City of

Detroit Workforce Development, which has helped close to 40,000 jobseekers obtain professional clothing and job training.

"Before we ever speak during a job interview, we are judged on appearance," she says. "If we can have good enough clothes, that judgment can be stopped, and it can greatly change our self-esteem."

At Jackets for Jobs, those they help are clients, and a client's time and needs are respected. "We have four image consultants, two in each of our offices," Vaughn says. "The consultants help based on the client's particular job interview, whether they need a suit, or a nice pair of slacks and a shirt, or a skirt and a top."

The team helps with almost all things wardrobe, such as teaching clients to tie a necktie and offering tips on how to match a blouse with a dress. "Many have never worn a dress before," Vaughn says. "Learning these things can really build confidence."

For Vaughn, who had previously worked for United Airlines as a representative for flight attendants, she's still flying. "It's an incredibly gratifying feeling to help people's lives in this way," she says. "You see the effect a good job can have."

Vaughn is also a proud MSU alum, calling her school years critical to

“

I wanted to help other women improve their situation, so I started an organization which ultimately ended up helping both women and men.

her success. "I had a choice of a few schools, but I felt Michigan State would challenge me and provide me with a foundation," she says. "I'm thrilled to be a Spartan. I was asked to be the keynote speaker for Model United Nations at Michigan State—I felt I had come full circle doing that."

Vaughn, in fact, has had quite a few thrills as part of Jackets for Jobs, including appearances on "The View" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

But the media appearance that made the biggest impact, she says, may have been "The Today Show."

"Al Roker came out to us in Detroit, and they gave us so much TV time," she says. "We've had so many wonderful things happen by people contacting us. It feels good to have someone help."

Funny to hear that coming from Vaughn, because thousands of clients say the same about her.

Dishing Out Assists in Life and Hoops

Sam Vincent, a name engrained in East Lansing lore, is coming home as MSU's Homecoming Grand Marshal. With a smile stretching from Florida to the land of Green and White, Vincent reminds us of education's role in character development. BY ROD BERGER, PSYD, '98

A point guard on the court and in life, Sam Vincent, Michigan's first "Mr. Basketball" (1981), now draws up plays as head coach at Beacon College in Leesburg, Florida. Beacon is an apt name for a school steeped in equitable education for all as an institution of higher learning dedicated to neurodiverse students.

For Vincent, his path to Beacon reads like a season of Jack Hanna's famed "Into the Wild" television show, including stops across four continents, coaching in the FIBA World Championships and the Olympics, and leading both men's and women's teams from Nigeria to Bahrain. He also served as the expansion Charlotte Bobcats' first head coach, led teams in the NBA Development League and suited up for Orlando Magic as the club's inaugural point guard.

In short, Vincent exemplifies a life dedicated to the people and the sport he loves. And even though his stat sheet is filled with accolades and endless passport stamps, he has

always kept Spartan Nation close to his heart.

"The Michigan State family has been a cornerstone in my coaching career, providing a strong bond and resilience among our community," says Vincent.

From 1981 to 1985, Vincent put his stamp on Spartan basketball as the team's point guard. He earned Sporting News All-America honors in '85 before being drafted by the Boston Celtics, where he won an NBA Championship ring.

The player, coach, executive and global ambassador underscores the meaning of team development for a school and a program in its infancy. He is keenly aware of the challenges of building a program from the ground up. "Coaching at Beacon has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career," he says. "It's about more than just winning games—it's about uplifting and mentoring students who often feel overlooked."

Vincent's endearing quality may be seeing potential in all student-



Sam Vincent
College of Arts & Letters

athletes, most likely the result of a life dedicated to finding the open teammate and delivering a pinpoint pass when and where they need it to be successful.

"Whether you're on the court or in the classroom, understanding and celebrating our differences makes us stronger. Sports have a unique power to bridge those gaps," says Vincent.

Sam Vincent embodies Spartan strength and unbridled courage to explore new lands, learn on the job and open doors for the often marginalized.

"Basketball has a way of transcending cultural and racial lines. It's a universal language that

brings people together and teaches us to view one another as humans first," he says. "There's a special pride in supporting the underdogs. Helping kids build confidence through sports is something I hold close to my heart."

So, if you happen upon Vincent during Homecoming, remember to look up and get ready—he might flash you a smile only Spartan legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson could compete with.

Michigan's first "Mr. Basketball" is coming home adorned in the spirit and colors Spartan Nation holds dear.

“Whether you're on the court or in the classroom, understanding and celebrating our differences makes us stronger. Sports have a unique power to bridge those gaps.”

ALLIE SIARTO

MORE ON
WEB | Hear more from Sam
go.msu.edu/vincent



The
ABCs
of

The places, spaces
and faces that
make up our
beloved university.

With a sprawling campus, a passion for advancing the common good and a proud and faithful fanbase, MSU holds a special place in the hearts of many. And while no two people have the same experience during their time on campus, there's an undeniable camaraderie that connects Spartans of all ages. The following pages highlight just a few of the things that bind us as a community and make our university great. Some old, some new, some you've maybe never heard of. Michigan State's history is deep and rich, and this collection is a snapshot of what makes us who we are—Spartans.

A

Alums

First and foremost, we kick off our alphabet with you. Spartans are the foundation of MSU, and your impact resonates all around the globe. Driven by a blend of service, excellence and innovation, MSU alums lead the way in tackling the great challenges of our time. But we also know when to kick back and have a little fun, wearing it proudly inside and out. It's why all around the world, a shout of "Go Green!" will be answered with a spirited "Go White!"

To Spartans everywhere, we celebrate your dedication and all-around love for the university—a place we all call home.

B

Beaumont Tower

In August 1918, the collapse of College Hall—one of the first buildings on campus, which over the years served as a library, classroom space and even a museum—left the Campus Circle area devoid of buildings and vulnerable to new development. Michigan State College alums stepped in, launching "Save the Circle," a campaign to preserve the area as a sacred space.

Named for 1882 grad John W. Beaumont, whose generous donation made construction possible, the tower was built on the site of College Hall in 1928 and stands as one of the university's most recognizable icons.

Legend has it, a kiss at midnight or in the tower's shadow means you'll marry your sweetheart.

CHASE STANTON | DERRICK L. TURNER

C

Carillon

Beaumont Tower's 49-bell carillon, a fixture on campus, sings out melodies and chimes in the hours of the day. On Wednesdays during the school year, carillonists perform noon concerts featuring various musical selections and styles. In the summertime, the Muelder Summer Carillon Series has welcomed global talent to campus since 1997. Last year's lineup featured carillonists from Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Ottawa, Chicago and Tucson, Arizona.



Jonathan Lehrer, MSU Carillonist



"To all my favorite fans, this one's for you!"

BEAUMONT TOWER FACTS

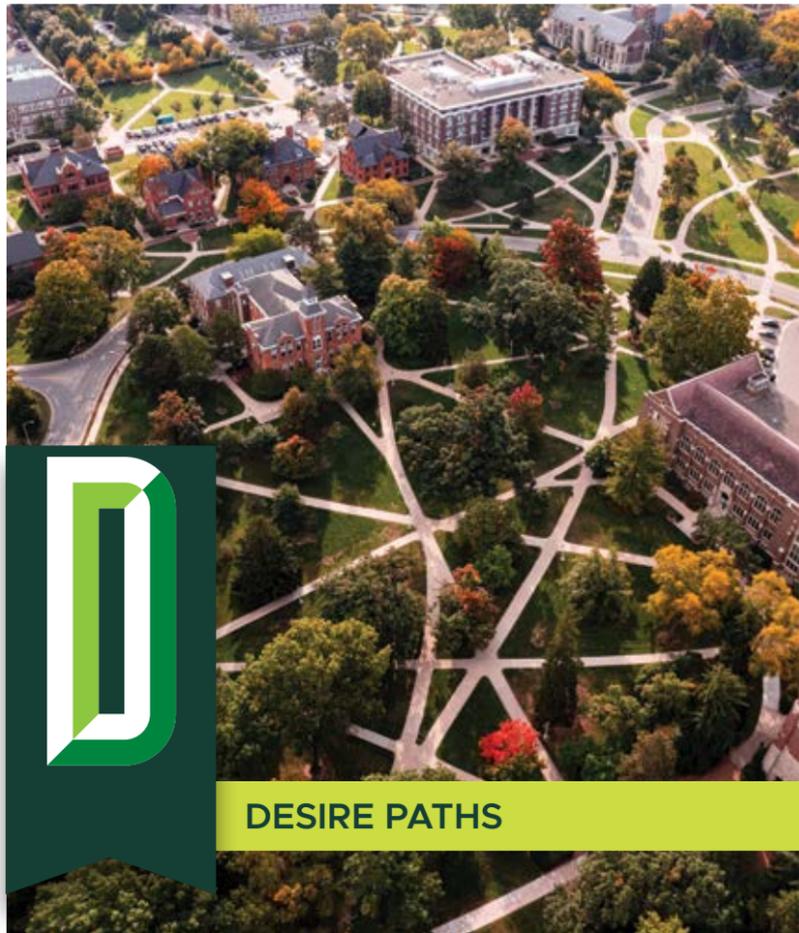
COMPLETED: **1928**

HEIGHT: **104 Feet**

NUMBER OF BELLS: **49**

WEIGHT OF SMALLEST BELL: **15 pounds**

WEIGHT OF LARGEST BELL: **2.5 tons**



D

DESIRE PATHS

Placed end to end, the sidewalks on Michigan State's campus could stretch from Spartan Stadium to the beaches of Lake Michigan. The history of these sometimes-complicated walkways reaches back to the university's founding in 1855.

"The early landscape architects didn't know exactly where students would be going and didn't have the money to do paved trails, so you had dirt patterns that eventually became sidewalks," said campus planner Steve Troost. "Today, we do a good job anticipating those desire lines."

Desire Lines. Deviant Trails. Divergent Paths. The idea goes by many different names, but these informal tracks can be found all around the world and play a significant role in the unique exterior landscape at MSU.

The social phenomenon is most apparent in north campus around West Circle Drive, where an intricate web of sidewalks weaves a seemingly chaotic and often bewildering pattern. The latticework is a result of decades of pedestrians proclaiming their preferences—not with their voices but with their feet.

These days, architects better understand the science, and Troost estimates that fewer than 5% of the sidewalks in the more modern south campus result from unexpected trails compared to 75% in north campus.

"The key thing is to make sure you're developing a safe campus," Troost said. "Safety comes first, and we want to make sure sidewalks are being put where they need to be."

E

Extension

MSU's mission reaches far beyond the borders of its campus. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has served as a cornerstone of that mission, helping improve lives by bringing the vast resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities and businesses.

Whether it's helping grow Michigan's agriculture economy, advocating for the responsible use of sustainable resources, empowering the mental and physical well-being of families, connecting individuals to critical health care programs or preparing tomorrow's leaders, MSU Extension is dedicated to building a strong and prosperous community in all of Michigan's 83 counties.



F

Farm Lane Bridge

Shepherding students, faculty, guests and livestock across the Red Cedar River for generations, the Farm Lane Bridge of today carries 12,000 vehicles and 7,000 pedestrians during a typical class day. In 2024, the bridge was demolished and rebuilt with the addition of a dedicated pedestrian bridge.



G

Gruff Sparty

Unveiled in the mid-50s, Gruff Sparty has made a welcome resurgence in recent years.



ARANI KESSLER | SARAH GRASSEL



Homecoming

Each fall, Spartans everywhere come together to celebrate MSU Homecoming. From the Rock to the Red Cedar and all along Grand River, the week is a celebration of all things Green and White.

The MSU community is also encouraged to "Glow Green." By replacing a porch light with a green bulb, Spartans near and far can show their true colors during this festive week.

"Gear up for Homecoming 2024, Oct. 14-19!"



Infrastructure Planning and Facilities, or IPF

A shoutout and a thank-you to the dedicated professionals at MSU's Infrastructure Planning and Facilities, or IPF. From landscaping to custodial services, construction to campus planning, utilities to transportation, tailgate prep to recycling and so much more—IPF is the beating heart of campus life. The experienced team of 1,000 maintains over 550 buildings and 1,822 acres of outdoor spaces. To keep the university running 24/7/365, IPF is committed to supporting the infrastructure needs of the university and providing expert analysis for university objectives.



ARAN KESSLER | MSU IPF | GETTY



Jenison Field House

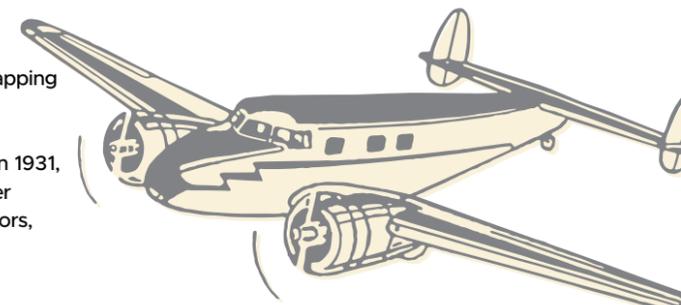
Opened in 1940, Jenison Field House is home to multiple Spartan athletic programs, including women's gymnastics, volleyball, wrestling, and men's and women's track and field. The multipurpose arena also houses locker rooms for baseball, rowing, soccer and softball, plus several athletic department offices. Jenison served as the home of Spartan Basketball until 1989, when the team moved to its current location at Breslin Center.

On March 15, 1963, Jenison was the site of the "Game of Change." Considered a watershed moment during the Civil Right Movement, the basketball game was played during the second round of the 1963 NCAA Tournament between the racially integrated Loyola Ramblers and the all-white Mississippi State Bulldogs. Despite an unwritten law that Mississippi teams could not play against Black players, the Bulldogs broke convention and escaped the injunction of state officials to compete. Loyola won the game 61-51 and went on to capture the NCAA title.



Kimball, James H. (B.S., 1912)

Meteorologist who pioneered oceanic weather mapping and helped usher in transatlantic aviation. Kimball worked alongside early transatlantic fliers as chief meteorologist of the New York Weather Bureau. In 1931, he was congratulated by President Herbert Hoover at an honorary dinner given by distinguished aviators, including Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh.



L

Longshots

Tom Izzo and the Spartans have had no shortage of magical NCAA Tournament runs—and not just as a top-seeded team. Since 1985, the No. 5 seed has reached the Final Four just nine times. MSU is responsible for two of those runs (2005 and 2010). Throw in a 2015 Final Four appearance as a No. 7 seed and it's clear, the Spartans know their way around March Madness.



MSU ATHLETICS | CHASE STANTON

N



Natural Turf

Home to one of the nation's top turfgrass programs, MSU takes great pride in its playing surfaces. The Spartans have played on natural grass since 2002. Before that, Spartan Stadium was home to a natural surface from 1923 until 1968. "In my opinion, the main benefit of a grass field is the forgiveness of the surface," says Athletic Turf Manager Andy Flynn, '03. "Its ability to absorb impact sets it apart."

GRASS FACTS:

SQUARE FOOTAGE OF SPARTAN STADIUM FIELD: 70,000

TURF MAKEUP:
80% Kentucky bluegrass
20% perennial ryegrass

HEIGHT OF CUT: 7/8"

IN-GROUND SPRINKLER HEADS: 32

SOIL MOISTURE AND TEMPERATURE SENSORS: 8

GALLONS OF PAINT REQUIRED FOR A GAMEDAY PAINT JOB: 60 to 70

BIG TEN STADIUMS WITH NATURAL GRASS: 4

M



Museums

Campus is home to two world-class museums:

MSU MUSEUM

- Established 1857
- Collections: Natural Science, Archaeology, Cultural
- Fact: Became Michigan's first Smithsonian Affiliate in 2001.

THE ELI AND EDYTHE BROAD ART MUSEUM

- Established 2012
- Collection: Over 10,000 works and counting
- Fact: The museum's expansive collection covers 5,000 years of art history.



"Wanted to cut this letter, but they said no. These M's are cool though."



P

Pentecost Plaza

at Old College Field

Nestled between Jenison Field House and the Red Cedar River, Pentecost Plaza at Old College Field is the gateway to MSU's oldest athletic facility still in continuous use. Home today to Spartan baseball, softball and soccer, the land has hosted MSU Baseball—the school's first varsity sport—since 1900. The field was also used by the football team from 1902 until 1923 when College Field, now the site of Spartan Stadium, opened.

O

Office of Education Abroad

An international institution devoted to cultivating globally engaged citizens, MSU has been a leader in education abroad for more than 25 years and is ranked No. 1 among public universities (No. 8 overall) by U.S. News & World Report. Through more than 300 programs in over 60 countries and all seven continents, thousands of Spartans interact with different cultures to gain meaningful skills that position them for academic and professional success. The office also welcomes international students through the American Semester Program and facilitates exchanges between MSU and partner institutions.



MSU OFFICE OF EDUCATION ABROAD | ARAN KESSLER

Q

Quantum Computing, Science and Engineering, aka MSU-Q

The Center for Quantum Computing, Science, and Engineering (MSU-Q) is one of the world's largest quantum training programs. For over two decades, Spartan researchers have been at the forefront of innovation, offering a rich breadth of quantum algorithm, theory and experiment expertise.

"In the future, the use of quantum computers will be everywhere, regardless of field," said Angela Wilson, director of MSU-Q. "Quantum computers are predicted to take the place of computers as we know them."



The Rock

A place of love, and fellowship, The Rock stands as a social billboard for Michigan State students. In May 1873, The Rock was dug up by Spartan students on summer recess and hauled by a team of oxen to its original site near what is now Beaumont Tower.

Originally a romantic spot for couples and the site of many proposals, it wasn't until the 1960s that it transformed into a place for student expression and gatherings. In 1985, The Rock was relocated to its current location on Auditorium Field.

There is no set schedule to paint The Rock; students just need to be the first there at nightfall and camp out overnight to ensure their message won't be painted over.



Me! (Sparty)



MSU's first mascot—a papier-mâché Spartan head made by three Theta Xi fraternity brothers—debuted at a Jenison Field House pep rally in October 1955. It was 6 feet tall and weighed more than 60 pounds.

By the 1956 Rose Bowl Game (MSU 17, UCLA 14), the original head had been replaced by a fiberglass version that was 30 pounds lighter.

In 1985, MSU Alumni Association Executive Director Chuck Webb



commissioned artwork of a muscular Sparty in full body armor, laying the groundwork for the mascot we know today.

Early in 1989, a group came together to design and revamp the MSU mascot. Sparty would reflect MSU's strength and character as an "approachable, fierce yet kind, man for all seasons." The new Sparty made his first Spartan Stadium appearance on Sept. 16, 1989.



Trees

Campus is adorned with over 20,000 trees, some hundreds of years old and more planted each year. For this remarkably diverse assemblage of trees from across the globe—among the world's finest scientific and teaching collection—we can thank the long line of foresters, pathologists, entomologists, arborists and landscape designers who MSU has employed as stewards of the Campus Arboretum.

Dig into the campus tree map:
go.msu.edu/tree-map

At nearly 400 years old, the Resilient Oak, pictured here, is a true survivor. The oldest tree on campus was topped in the mid-1800s, has had much of its root system cut to install sidewalks, and survived a particularly violent storm in the summer of 2016. The Resilient Oak still stands today on the land between the MSU Museum and Linton Hall.

MSU ATHLETICS | ARAN KESSLER



The Union

When the MSU Union opened its doors on June 12, 1925, Spartan students and alums saw a decades-long labor of love come to life. Spurred by a \$15 contribution from each student in the Class of 1915, it wasn't until 1923 that construction began. Funding was scarce, but Spartans Will prevailed as students, faculty and community members gathered to dig the building's foundation. Dubbed "Excavation Week," the one-of-a-kind event was a huge success that gained national attention and led to the creation of a campus icon.

Read the full story: go.msu.edu/msu-union



WKAR and WDBM

In early 1922, a group of 10 engineering students at Michigan Agricultural College dusted off radio equipment in storage since the end of World War I. Eschewing a philomathic pursuit, the students broadcasted a lewd prank intended for residents of Wells Hall. Instead, the salacious transmission reached a 15-mile radius, setting off both protests and curiosity.

More experimental broadcasts, including a speech by MAC President David Friday, put the fledgling station on a fast track to legitimacy. Federally licensed on Aug. 18, 1922, WKAR has dutifully served as a source for award-winning original programming, local news and the best from PBS and NPR for the mid-Michigan and Spartan communities.

Offering both AM and FM radio transmission along with public-broadcast television from its headquarters in the Communication Arts and Sciences Building, WKAR's mission is to connect

people to powerful ideas, inspire personal growth, exploration of the world and positive change.

Michigan State is also home to WDBM, known as Impact 89FM, a student-run college radio station. WDBM began broadcasting in 1989 and is one of the few student-run stations to broadcast 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Since 2001, WDBM has been named "College Radio Station of the Year" 15 times.



Veterinary Medicine



ARAN KESSLER | WKAR | MSU VET MED

MSU boasts the only college of veterinary medicine in Michigan and includes both a teaching hospital and a diagnostic laboratory.

But educating veterinary students isn't the only mission. The College of Veterinary Medicine also trains veterinary technicians (also called veterinary nurses), residents, interns and graduate students who go on to work in veterinary practice, higher education, industry, government/regulatory affairs and research—all of which impacts animal and human health. Each year, MSU's veterinary scientists contribute to important research advancement and discovery that promotes and protects the health and welfare of animals and people alike.

The Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) educates the next generation of veterinarians, veterinary specialists and nurses. It also provides the latest specialty care and clinical research for all animals, from cats and dogs to horses, livestock and wildlife. More than 30,000 cases come to the VMC each year.

The Veterinary Diagnostic Center (VDL) provides diagnostic testing and is a first line of defense in safeguarding Michigan's domestic animals and wildlife from deadly diseases—foreign and domestic. The VDL alerts public health officials to the presence of zoonotic diseases (transmissible from animals to humans) and partners with state and federal agencies to monitor and prepare to respond to threats that may impact animal or human health. The VDL is the only testing facility for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Michigan.





Xylograph

Xylograph, noun: a carving or engraving in wood. This intricately carved Michigan State College emblem dates to 1945 and can be found at the east entrance of Linton Hall. Doors and woodwork across campus are maintained by MSU IPF cabinet makers, who preserve, restore and, when needed, create new pieces.



Zeke the Wonder Dog

The fan-favorite frisbee-catching canine has been a staple at Spartan Stadium since the '70s.



"The goodest boy!"



Yakeley, Elida

You likely know her name from the North Neighborhood residence hall. But did you know Elida Yakeley was Michigan State's first registrar? Starting out as President Jonathan L. Snyder's secretary in 1903, she oversaw student registration and records and is credited with devising one of the first automated student enrollment and registration systems.

In 1908, Snyder appointed her the inaugural registrar, making Yakeley one of the first female college administrators in the country. She held the position for 30 years. Yakeley Hall—currently the only all-female residence hall on campus—opened in 1948.



There's no way we can fit all the great things about MSU into these pages.

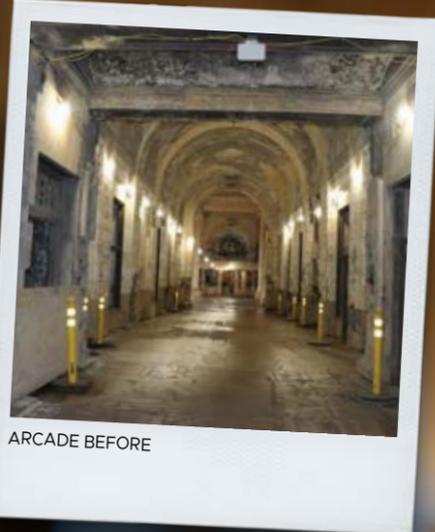
Email SpartanMagazine@msu.edu and tell us what you'd add to the ABCs of MSU!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS | NICK SCHRADER

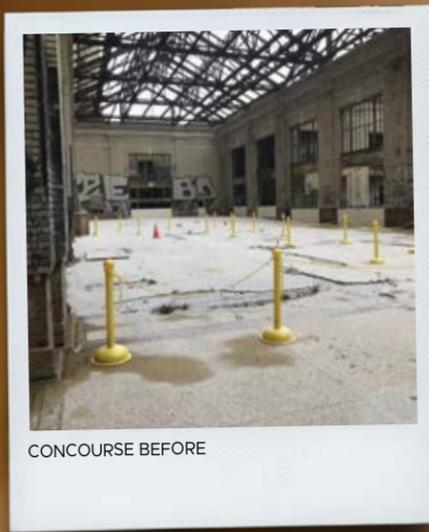
THE CENTRAL STATION Spartans

The long-awaited restoration of Michigan Central Station is complete. Meet the Spartan cohort helping revitalize the city of Detroit and its most iconic historic monument.

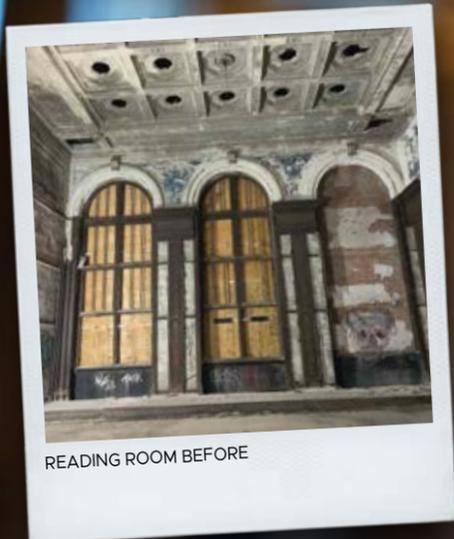
BY RYAN LOREN



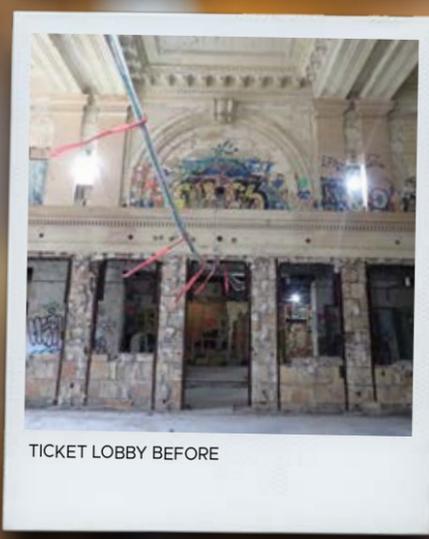
ARCADE BEFORE



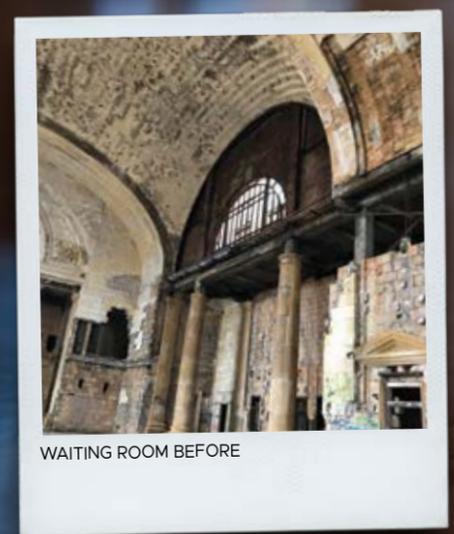
CONCOURSE BEFORE



READING ROOM BEFORE



TICKET LOBBY BEFORE

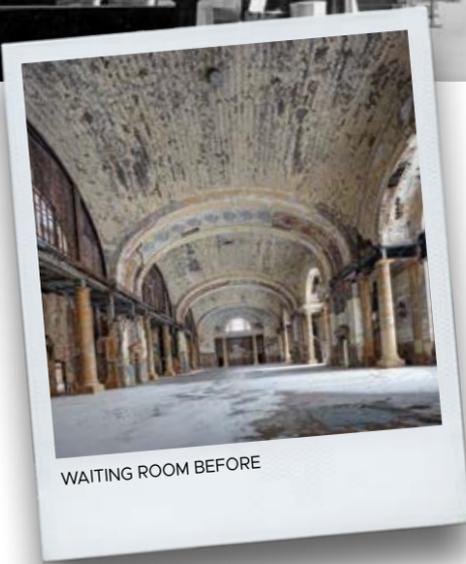


WAITING ROOM BEFORE



RESTAURANT BEFORE





Celia Giesey approached the careworn and crumbling colonnade that stood guard at the entrance to Michigan Central Station. At 83 years old, Celia's step had slowed, but she was urged forward by what waited ahead.

Excitement and trepidation clashed as she stared up at the historic Detroit monument.

For a moment, Celia was carried away by nostalgia. Her mind as sharp as ever, she drifted to her memories of the Beaux-Arts style landmark—the awe-inspiring waiting room cavernously capped with its vaulted terra-cotta domes, the ticket office teeming with travelers, the sun glowing through the concourse, and a maze of rooms for dining, shopping and socializing.

Through the doors, the present day pulled Celia back to the moment. Now in October 2019, the landscape felt both familiar and strange. The scenes from her memories had been dramatically altered by the harsh passing of time.

The train station—abandoned a generation earlier as Detroit struggled through economic decline and a withering demand for rail travel—was a shell of its



“
Detroit was the place to be. The city was so vibrant. Jobs were easy to come by. There was a rich culture in Detroit that really made everyone feel welcome.”

AUSTIN GIESEY

former glory. When the building closed permanently in 1988, anything too large or worthless to haul away was scavenged and the heavy hammer of Michigan winters battered whatever was left.

The destruction was pervasive, but it was impossible to overlook the building's innate grandeur. Celia smiled as her eyes roamed the room, taking in the gallery of crude graffiti, the slopping piles of dust and rubble, and the initial stages of a restoration crew ready to tackle the challenge.

Celia's family followed quietly as she explored. Special access to the site had been arranged by her grandson, Austin Giesey, but Celia eagerly pushed ahead like a kid in a candy store and the family let her guide their tour.

Giesey, a 2014 Michigan State University graduate, is a project manager for The Christman Company's Historic Preservation Group. Ford Motor Company tapped the Christman/Brinker Joint Venture to restore the splendor of the 647,000-square-foot building following its purchase of the property in 2018. When Giesey was assigned to the project in 2018, he knew how important it would be to bring his grandmother to this spot. He was raised on her stories of growing up in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood during the city's golden age in the '40s and '50s.

Celia saw the station at its best and now at its worst. As their tour ended, an emotional Celia turned to her grandson.

“I can't believe it's gotten to this point,” she said. “How are they going to restore it?”

The answer was complicated but struck at the very heart of a city endeavoring for its own story of rebirth. And for the dedicated Spartans alums at the core of the Christman/Brinker team, it became the ultimate test of aptitude and perseverance.

A PERSONAL STORY

Celia first arrived at the station in 1942 with her mother, grandmother and four sisters. They took the train north from West Virginia accompanied by the body of Celia's father, who had been killed in a coal mining accident.

The family settled in a house at 25th and Howard—just south of the station and old Tiger Stadium.

CHASE STANTON | THE CHRISTMAN COMPANY

“Detroit was the place to be,” Giesey said. “The city was so vibrant. Jobs were easy to come by. There was a rich culture in Detroit that really made everyone feel welcome.”

The train station was the defining feature of south Detroit and life revolved around its campus. In the winter, Celia would trek through the snow with her church choir to sing Christmas carols in the waiting room. Other times, she would visit friends working in the shops or just watch the arrivals and departures, especially the tearful farewells to soldiers deploying for war.

Celia married and moved away in the '60s, eventually raising her own family in Flint. She passed away in March 2024 before seeing the restoration's finishing touches but proud of the part her grandson played.

Thirty years of neglect had stripped the station to its bones with rusted beams, cracked columns, decayed ornament and dark cavities in the walls and ceilings revealing the depth of the detriment.

Giesey oversaw the depot's ground floor and mezzanine. He managed contracts with over 90 trade partners, and, at the project's peak, played a role in the supervision of more than 550 laborers. The important work being done—a combined total of 1.7 million hours—helped Giesey feel connected with his family's history.

And he wasn't alone.

Douglas Norton served as project executive at Michigan Central for Christman/Brinker until his retirement in 2022.

Norton, a 1975 MSU grad,

was born in Detroit and remembers taking a train out of the station when he was 10 years old.

“The station was bustling back then,” Norton said. “A lot of activity. A lot of people. A lot of trains. It was very exciting for a young boy to be around.”

Being part of the Christman/Brinker team meant restoring a small part of his childhood. But, like Celia, his

reunion with the long-neglected station was emotional.

“I was alarmed,” he said. “It was alarming that anyone could've let it get to that condition.”

STARTING THE JOURNEY

When Bill Ford Jr. acquired Michigan Central, the task seemed almost insurmountable—and that was before the Christman/Brinker team discovered the harrowing complexities the six-year journey had in store.

“I got there the first day without a thought in my mind what I'd be walking into,” Giesey said. “I was very motivated when you see this giant building with a ton of potential in front of you, and then you walk inside. Immediately the wind deflated from my sails. Where do you even start? There's so many concerns and unknowns.”

Giesey described the station as a blank canvas, but really it was somehow even less than that.

Thirty years of neglect had stripped the station to its bones with rusted beams, cracked columns, decayed ornament and dark cavities in the walls and ceilings revealing the depth of the detriment. A torrent of leaks and storms flooded the basement with 2.5 million gallons of rainwater. Several pumps and one year later, the team explored the previously submerged space only to discover an unknown sub-basement—a crawl space unaccounted for in the original floor plans.

The cramped, water-logged chamber further uncovered the extent of the damage. Unrelenting moisture had deteriorated sections of the support structure requiring critical repairs before the restoration could continue. Their efforts were delayed by a massive storm in the summer of 2021 that overwhelmed the drainage system and re-flooded the basement levels.

Once the leaks were finally plugged, the area was secured to prevent future water damage and then backfilled with 22,000 yards of concrete.

With nearly 50 years in engineering and construction management, Norton thought he had seen it all. But nothing compared to the problems faced at Michigan Central.

“This was certainly in the worst condition from neglect over the years,” he said. “But we had a very good team.

From left: Mike Davis, '20; Todd Wilson, '93; Dominic Adams, '09; Douglas Norton, '75; Austin Giesey, '14; and Gilchrist Ireland, '18.



They understood the task at hand. They had a product that they had to deliver, and they were willing to rise and go above and beyond to do that.”

The Christman/Brinker group was divided into four teams, each with a project manager, superintendent and engineer. A small number of additional people operated in support roles. In addition to Giesey and Norton, Spartans were woven into each layer with nearly half being MSU graduates.

Mike Davis ('20, Construction Management) was engineer for the ground floor and mezzanine, Gilchrist Ireland ('18, Civil Engineering) was engineer for the envelope and exterior, Dominic Adams ('09, Urban and Regional Planning) was engineer for the 18-story tower and Todd Wilson ('93, Philosophy) was superintendent for the MEP and basement team. Additional Spartan support came from Project Estimator Nikki Welch ('10, Urban and Regional Planning), Director of Preconstruction Dwight Hooks ('93, Construction Management), and intern Sam Linebaugh ('22, Urban and Regional Planning).

“All of us were able to achieve an excellent education at MSU,” Norton said. “A lot of the skills, attributes and attitudes that Christman looks for in their employees show in Spartan alumni.”

THE SPARTAN WAY

As a student, Giesey was employed by MSU's office of Infrastructure Planning and Facilities as an assistant project representative. Among his assignments was the restoration of Chittenden Hall in 2014.

Constructed in 1901, Chittenden was the university's dairy operations center, later turned into the home for the Forestry department and then office space for the Graduate School before being shuttered in the '90s. The building is listed on the state register of historical sites and was Giesey's introduction to historic preservation. It gave him an appreciation for the niche labor that has dominated his recent career.

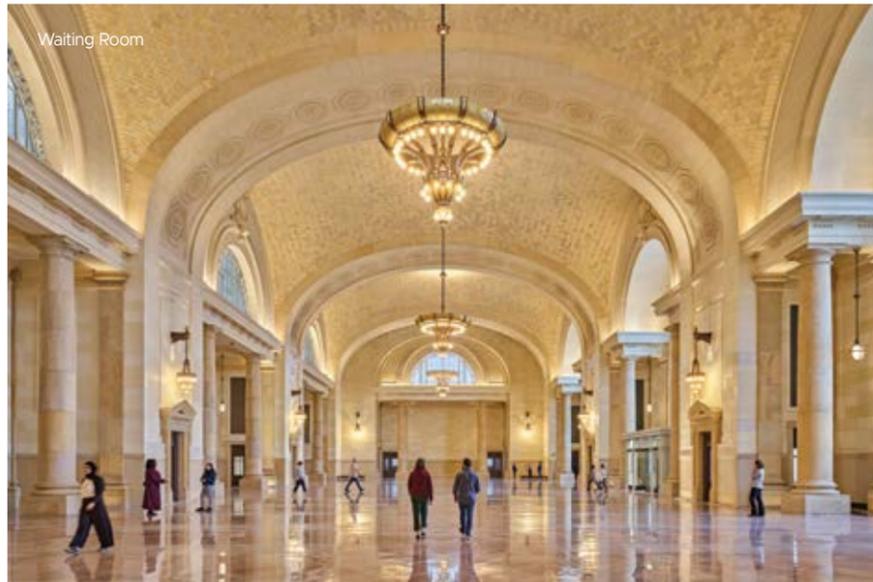
“There's an excitement using an existing resource for a new purpose,” Giesey said. “There's a history. People have made memories there. They've had their own experiences decades before, and you're able to maintain that feeling. That's really what led me to choose Michigan State over other schools—that they invested in those resources.”

The university has embraced using students on similar projects over the years, but not all of them are part of the construction management program. Engineers, architects and even communications majors have cut their teeth with real-world experience in the field.

“It's a good way to get them exposure as they're going to school,” said MSU Project Manager Andy Linebaugh, who worked closely with Giesey at Chittenden. “If you ask any of them, they would say to a person that it was advantageous to competing for jobs once they graduated.”

Linebaugh remembers Chittenden as one of his favorite projects over the past 17 years as a university employee and praised Giesey's contributions. Like the train station, the challenges required a keen ability to problem-solve. How do you preserve historical integrity, while shaping the existing structure to meet modern-day infrastructure needs and regulations?

Chittenden, for example, required creative use of the



limited existing space to incorporate an HVAC system anachronistic to the period it was built. Air intakes for the system were hidden behind dormers that were part of the original construction but had been removed sometime before 1912.

A common thread connecting many of MSU's preservation projects is Christman. The company and university have a close partnership dating back to 1908. Todd Wilson, an MSU employee for 27 years before joining the Christman team at Michigan Central, estimates that up to 90% of the buildings on campus were either constructed or renovated by Christman. It's no surprise that so many of the company's employees come out of East Lansing.

"Throughout my career, the number one thing that was most important was problem-solving," Norton said. "All the different projects, all the different companies, all the different challenges were all focused on solving problems. My problem-solving skills were enhanced and developed right there at MSU. At Michigan Central Station, there were many problems and challenges that had to be solved and solutions that had to be found. That skill, that attribute is important in all the things we do in this industry."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The complex problems at Michigan Central have been well-documented leading up to the grand reopening. The persistent leaks and flooding in the basement were

just the start. Reconstructing many of the lost features required sometimes extraordinary measures and occasionally a stroke of luck.

The building's limestone blocks were originally from an Indiana quarry that closed the same year as the station. The team's expertise and meticulous research eventually led to the original source: an unused stockpile of perfectly matched blocks long forgotten in the forest. Millions of dollars were spent to reopen the quarry and ship 8,000 cubic feet of new limestone, or approximately 300 blocks, up to Michigan.

Archival photos were critical to help match missing elements, but exact facsimiles were difficult to reproduce without the original artifacts. In one case, a serendipitous phone call helped return one of the original ornate transoms that topped the elevator doors. Without that tip, those pieces would have been difficult or impossible to reproduce.

"We made it a point—and the Christman culture itself makes it a point—to chase down every lead," Giesey said. "We wanted to make sure to investigate those things as thoroughly as possible to restore the fabric that was here."

Matching the original construction methods was another time-intensive process. The Guastavino vaulted ceilings in the waiting room required 29,000 individual terra-cotta tiles, each about the size of a half sheet of paper covering a 21,000-square-foot surface area. The layered, detailed work took a year to complete.

However, the building isn't a perfect replica in every way. By design, many bricks and tiles were left with

chips and dents, untouched sections of graffiti are on full display and curated examples of ruin remain in place. It's all about telling the story of the station's renaissance—from its groundbreaking, to its glory days, to its fall, and now its majestic revival.

Michigan Central Station is only the beginning for Detroit.

"There's still a lot of work to be done," said Joe Luther ('08, Construction Management), Christman senior vice president and general manager for SE Michigan. "There's been incredible progress in the last 10 years, but there's still such a long way to go, and there's still a lot of passion in developers to get us there. I think the next 10 years are going to be as exciting as the past 10, and we're going to continue to see it push out from the downtown area into other pockets of the city, and we're excited to be along for the ride."

A week before the grand reopening of Michigan Central as a mobility and innovation hub, Giesey returned wearing his white hard hat and bright safety vest—appearing out of place in a building that had become his second home. Preparations were well underway for the city's 10-day celebration to commemorate the event. A temporary concert stage for Detroit musical icons now stood on the spot where his grandmother made her emotional approach back in 2019.

Her words still rang in his head, her pressing question finally answered.

I can't believe it's gotten to this point. How are they going to restore it?

"She would've been happy that the next

generation gets to experience the building how she did," Giesey said. "That people were going to walk in there and see what Detroit once was and what it can be again. We're able to see the momentum that Detroit is building, that it's recognized as a great city again. It's nostalgic for anyone to know that where they grew up is still significant."

“All the different projects, all the different companies, all the different challenges were all focused on solving problems. My problem-solving skills were enhanced and developed right there at MSU.”

DOUG NORTON



View the online gallery of the restoration



JASON KEEN

JASON KEEN | CHASE STANTON



BE A SPARTAN OF GIVING TUESDAY



On the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, Spartans come together for the global day of giving to channel the power of their collective generosity.

Last fall, Spartans supported 469 unique programs and funds at the university on GivingTuesday—empowering changemakers at MSU and beyond.

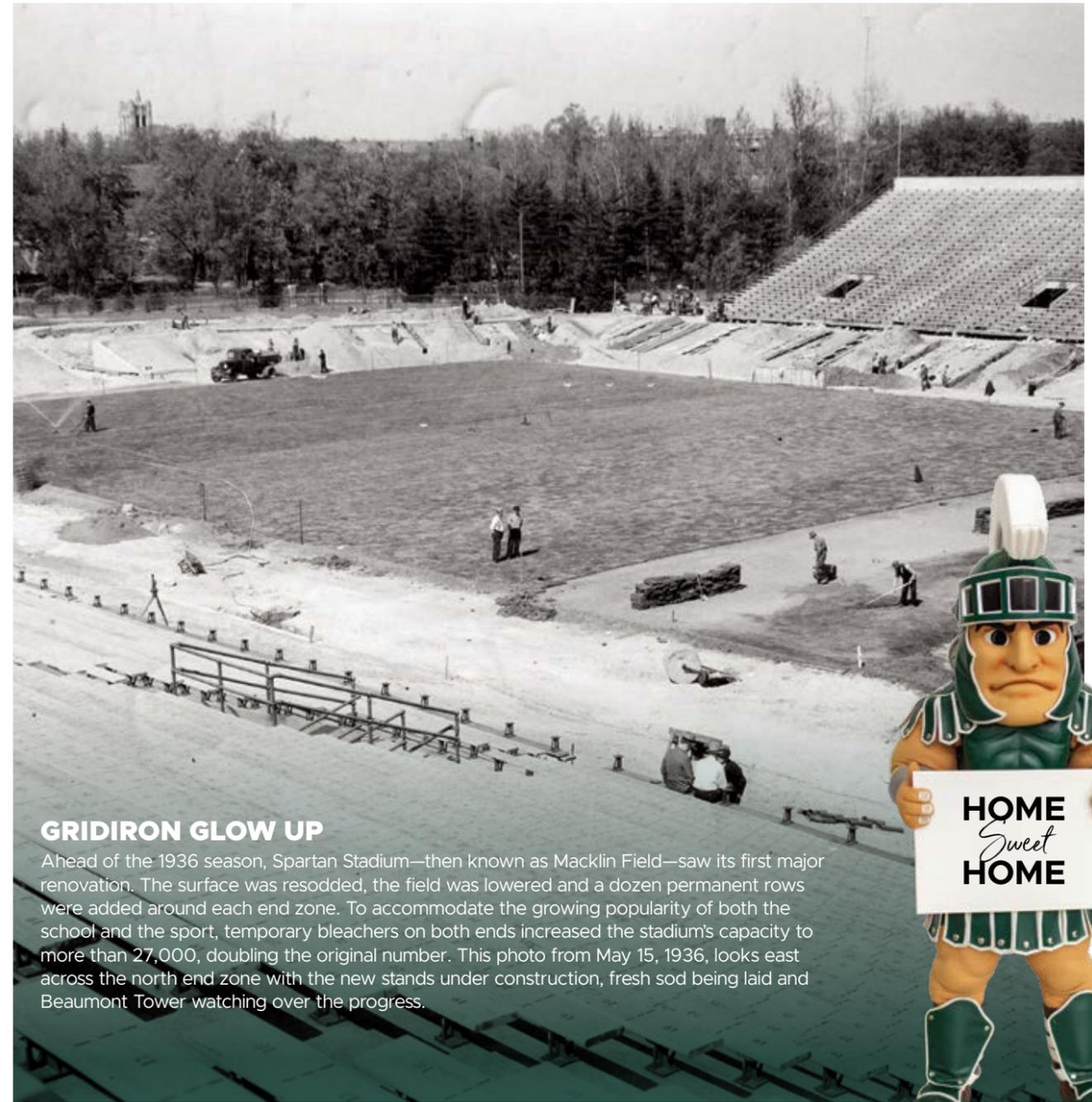
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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

GRIDIRON GLOW UP

Ahead of the 1936 season, Spartan Stadium—then known as Macklin Field—saw its first major renovation. The surface was resodded, the field was lowered and a dozen permanent rows were added around each end zone. To accommodate the growing popularity of both the school and the sport, temporary bleachers on both ends increased the stadium's capacity to more than 27,000, doubling the original number. This photo from May 15, 1936, looks east across the north end zone with the new stands under construction, fresh sod being laid and Beaumont Tower watching over the progress.

HOME
Sweet
HOME



New Faces and Old Friends

It's fall in East Lansing—and it's a great season to be a Spartan.

We're off to a busy fall already. A fresh first-year class—of over 11,000 strong—is now calling MSU home and a new era of Spartan football has officially kicked off. It's been inspiring to see so many alums and friends return to campus to celebrate this exciting time of year. And there's plenty more to come.

Homecoming is just around the corner. This year, we welcome globally engaged leader, basketball coach and former Spartan point guard, Sam Vincent, back to campus as our Grand Marshal. It's been great to catch up with Sam and we look forward to a lively Homecoming. We hope to see you on campus Oct. 14-19 for a week of Spartan celebrations. And, if you can't make it, you can still show your spirit. Just put a green bulb in your porchlight, Glow Green and feel the Spartan camaraderie no matter where you call home.

One of the most exciting things about fall is having students back on campus. As our university continues to grow, a big thank you goes out to

you—our alums who continually advocate for MSU to enhance and grow our recruitment efforts. 82% of students who come to campus go on to graduate. That number makes me proud, and it reflects the character of the people you help bring to MSU.

A collective welcome goes out to Carla Clark, '88, our new Alumni Advisory Board president. Clark, who formerly served as vice president of the board, is the academic outreach coordinator at Mott Community College and a proud graduate of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences. We also welcome two new members to the alumni board this fall, Tyrell Warren-Burnett, '07, of Corvallis, Oregon and Emily Reetz, '02, '04, of Madison Heights, Michigan.

Finally, a shoutout to everyone who joined us for the Kedzie Reunion in September. Thank you for coming back to celebrate your 50-year reunion, we hope your time on campus brought back fond memories and inspired many new ones.

Thanks again for your continued support. Go Green!

Nick McLaren, '99

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF ALUMNI

MSU

Class Notes

News from Spartans Around the World



1950s

LTCOL. DONALD VAN EYNDE, '59 (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources), has been included in the prestigious Marquis Who's Who. Leveraging more than five decades of excellence, Dr. Van Eynde earned distinction in the U.S. Army as a military leader and at Trinity University where he served as a professor of management until his retirement in 2016, whereupon he was granted emeritus status.

DERRICK L. TURNER

1960s

ELIZABETH UNGER, '61 (College of Engineering, Honors College) M.S. '63 (College of Natural Science), was elected to the Hall of Fame of the Carl Ice College at Kansas State University. Two people were elected in 2024. She served Kansas State University as an administrator and professor for 44 years.

1970s

TERRY DRISCOLL '70, M.S. '75 (College of Engineering), was awarded the Grand Prize for Industrial Waste Design from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists for an innovative remediation project in Oregon. Driscoll is practicing environmental engineering from Atlanta and the Dominican Republic. Besides remediating hazardous waste sites in the U.S., he also works in developing

countries advancing water and health solutions. He is currently working in Tajikistan, Zambia and Ecuador.

NELL KUHNMUENCH, '71 (Eli Broad College of Business, Honors College), was awarded the special Dele Davies Award by The Davies Project, a mid-Michigan nonprofit that provides reliable transportation for seriously ill children and pregnant women to essential healthcare. Kuhnmuench was honored in April for her amazing

contribution to the organization. She completed 132 drives totaling 3,039 miles and 166 hours.

JOSEF BRODER, M.S. '73, PH.D. '77 (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources), associate dean of academic affairs for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia, recently retired after 47 years of student advocacy.

LARONNA (WILLIAMS) HARRIS, '74 (College of Social Science), M.A. '76 (College of Education), recently retired as a U.S. Administrative Law Judge with the Social Security Administration. Prior to her

judicial appointment, Judge Harris served as an attorney advisor, senior attorney and attorney adjudicator with the agency. She previously served as assistant general counsel to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, assistant attorney general for the state of Oklahoma and legal consultant to the Michigan Senate.

JIM PRUITT, MLIR '74 (College of Social Science), has been elected president of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, a position once held by two Michigan State professors: the late Charles Killingsworth and the late Einar Hardin.

GARY HERNBROTH, '79 (Eli Broad College of Business), released his new motivational business management book "Twist the Familiar: Your Playbook for Success, One Story at a Time," published by Advanced Publishing LLC. Hernbroth is an award-winning professional speaker, business coach, and a leading voice in the hospitality industry.

ROBIN SCHLEH, '79 (College of Arts & Letters), published the historical biography "Faxon Dean: An Uncommon Life." Set in 18th century New England and based on the life of a true individual, it tells a

story of poverty, hardship and redemption through hard work and love during a time of turmoil and revolution in the Colonies.

1980s

NORA ZEAGLER, '81 (College of Arts & Letters), recently received her Licensed Professional Counselor designation in San Antonio, Tex.

JOELENE SMITH, '86 (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources), external manufacturing quality manager within the Dow Chemical PSF&L Quality organization, retired from the company in June 2024

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Association. ICA Fellows are honored for their distinguished scholarly contributions to the field of communications.

LEE PETRO, '92 (James Madison College), joined Dickinson Wright as a member in its Washington D.C. office to co-lead the firm's telecommunications law practice. Lee also recently joined the Board of Directors of the James Madison College Alumni Association.

BOB HOFFMAN, '93 (College of Social Science), was a guest speaker and awards presenter in April at the Volunteer Appreciation Events for The Davies Project. Hoffman is a co-host for The Morning Blend on Fox 47 News, the public relations manager for The Wharton Center, the founder of ePIFanyNow and a board member for several organizations.

CHRISTINE (FRANTZ) HAMMOND, PH.D. '94 (College of Education), has assumed responsibilities as the interim president for the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Ill. Dr. Hammond will serve in this registry interim role until June 30, 2025, when she and her husband, Thomas Hammond (Professor Emeritus, MSU), will return to their home in Petoskey, Mich.

2000s

JASON DRAKE, '00 (Eli Broad College of Business), officially stepped into his role of managing partner at Plante Moran in Detroit, one of the nation's largest audit, tax, consulting and wealth management firms. Drake is the eighth managing partner throughout the firm's 100 years of service.

after more than 28 years of dedicated service.

SCOTT SNELL, MBA '86, PH.D. '89 (Eli Broad College of Business), a professor at the University of Virginia's Darden Graduate School of Business Administration, released the book "The CEO Playbook for Strategic Transformation: Four Factors That Will Make or Break Your Organization." Published by Stanford Business Books, it aims to help CEOs and other key leaders reduce the risks and see through the overwhelming complexity of a major change in organizational strategy.

CARLA SPATARO, MMUS '86 (College of Arts & Letters), released her debut novel published by Sagging Meniscus

Press. The novel, "More Strange Than True," is a fantasy tale that collides the magical world of Midsummer's Night Dream with the day-to-day life of contemporary Philadelphia. Spataro is director of the MFA in writing and M.A. in publishing programs at Rosemont College.

JEFFREY SCHMIDT, '88 (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources), PH.D. '96 (Eli Broad College of Business), released his debut book from University of Oklahoma Press titled "Here Today: Oklahoma's Ghost Towns, Vanishing Towns, and Towns Persisting against the Odds." A four-year research and travel project, the pages take readers through the unique and forgotten places that tell Oklahoma's story. Dr. Schmidt is an associate

professor of marketing and innovation at the University of Oklahoma.

1990s

M.L. ELRICK, '90 (College of Communication Arts and Sciences), Detroit Free Press "On Guard" columnist, received a 2023 Sigma Delta Chi Award for journalism for his investigative reporting of corruption.

MARIA LAPINSKI, '92, PH.D. '00 (College of Communication Arts and Sciences), a communications professor and director of the MSU Health and Risk Communication Center, has been named a fellow of the International Communications

DERRICK L. TURNER

KELLIE HOWARD, '01 (College of Social Science), was unanimously appointed CEO of the Southfield, Mich.-based law firm Collins Einhorn Farrell, making Howard the first minority and the youngest person to become CEO of a prominent non-minority-owned Michigan law firm.

EUN-YOUNG MUN, PH.D. '02 (College of Social Science), of The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth's School of Public Health, was recently awarded a rare academic distinction as Regents Professor. She is the second SPH professor to receive this honor in the school's 25-year history.

ELIZABETH (CHATFIELD) CONROY, '04 (College of Arts & Letters), M.A. '07 (College of Education), was recently named

Michigan School Counselor of the Year by the Michigan School Counselors Association. Conroy is the school counselor at Mason High School.

ANDREA BINGHAM, '05 (College of Communication Arts and Sciences), published a new research methods book for graduate students and other novice researchers. "A Practical Guide to Theoretical Frameworks for Social Science Research" is out now via Routledge. Dr. Bingham is an associate professor at California State University Channel Islands.

BROOKE (PEDERSEN) CUMMINGS, '05 (College of Education), recently opened a clinic, Resilient Physical Therapy, in East Lansing, Mich.

PATRICK STANARD, MBA '07 (Eli Broad College of Business), was professionally recognized in Kyndryl's 2024 class of Fellows and Distinguished Engineers in recognition of his contributions to helping solve industry-wide challenges and enabling customer innovation and success. Stanard is vice president and mainframe architect at Kyndryl U.S.

JAMES LOOBY, '08 (College of Social Science, Honors College), has joined the law firm of Vedder Price in Chicago as a shareholder. Looby will join the firm's Labor and Employment practice area with a focus on collective wage and other employment-related litigation matters. He will also counsel clients on complying with related laws.

2010s

SHANIKA OWENS, '10 (College of Social Science), received the Detroit Bar Association's Pro Bono Service Award, which recognizes above and beyond pro bono legal service to the community. Recipients are recognized by members of the Third Circuit Court Judges and staff. Owens is an attorney for Butzel in Detroit.

CHRISTINA DOHERTY, J.D. '12 (College of Law), was installed as the President of the American Academy of Attorney-Certified Public Accountants. Doherty is only the fifth woman and one of the youngest members to assume this prestigious role.

2020s

SAMANTHA LICWINKO, '21 (College of Natural Science), started the DO program at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Fall 2024 to continue her pursuit of becoming a physician.

JIAYING WEI, DMA '22 (College of Music), a student of Prof. Deborah Moriarty, recently joined the faculty at Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University United International College, serving as assistant professor in the Music Department in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, China.

KAYA CHAKRABORTY, '24 (Lyman Briggs College), was crowned Miss Universe Japan 2024 and will represent Japan at the 73rd edition of Miss Universe in November. Chakraborty beat out 35 other candidates during the finals and hopes to become just the third Japanese woman to win Miss Universe.

ALEXANDER MAAS, '24 (College of Communication Arts and Sciences), will be pursuing a master's degree in international journalism at Swansea University in Swansea, Wales, UK starting in Fall 2024. Maas previously studied at Swansea as an undergraduate through the MSU study abroad program.



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Tyrell Warren-Burnett, '07
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KURT STEPNITZ





And We're Back!

Marin Custack and Meredith Knight embrace as they celebrate the start of their first year. The return to campus is a special time for all Spartans. Students, parents and alums alike find that this season of hope and nostalgia tugs a little harder at the heartstrings.

"See ya soon, Spartans!"



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