RED CEDAR LOG

EST 1855

SPARTAN**ROOTS**

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Evan Parinosi

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Wells Hall unwent a complete renovation during 2012. The new design features more office and classroom space, as well as a Starbucks.

Daily, students walk past the 7-foot bronze statue of John A. Hannah. Hannah is most notably known for being the longest serving MSU president in school history.

Students leave the Communication Arts and Sciences building on a blistery fall day. The CAS building is located on the corner of Red Cedar Road and Wilson Road.



Natalie Kolb



Nathan Urban



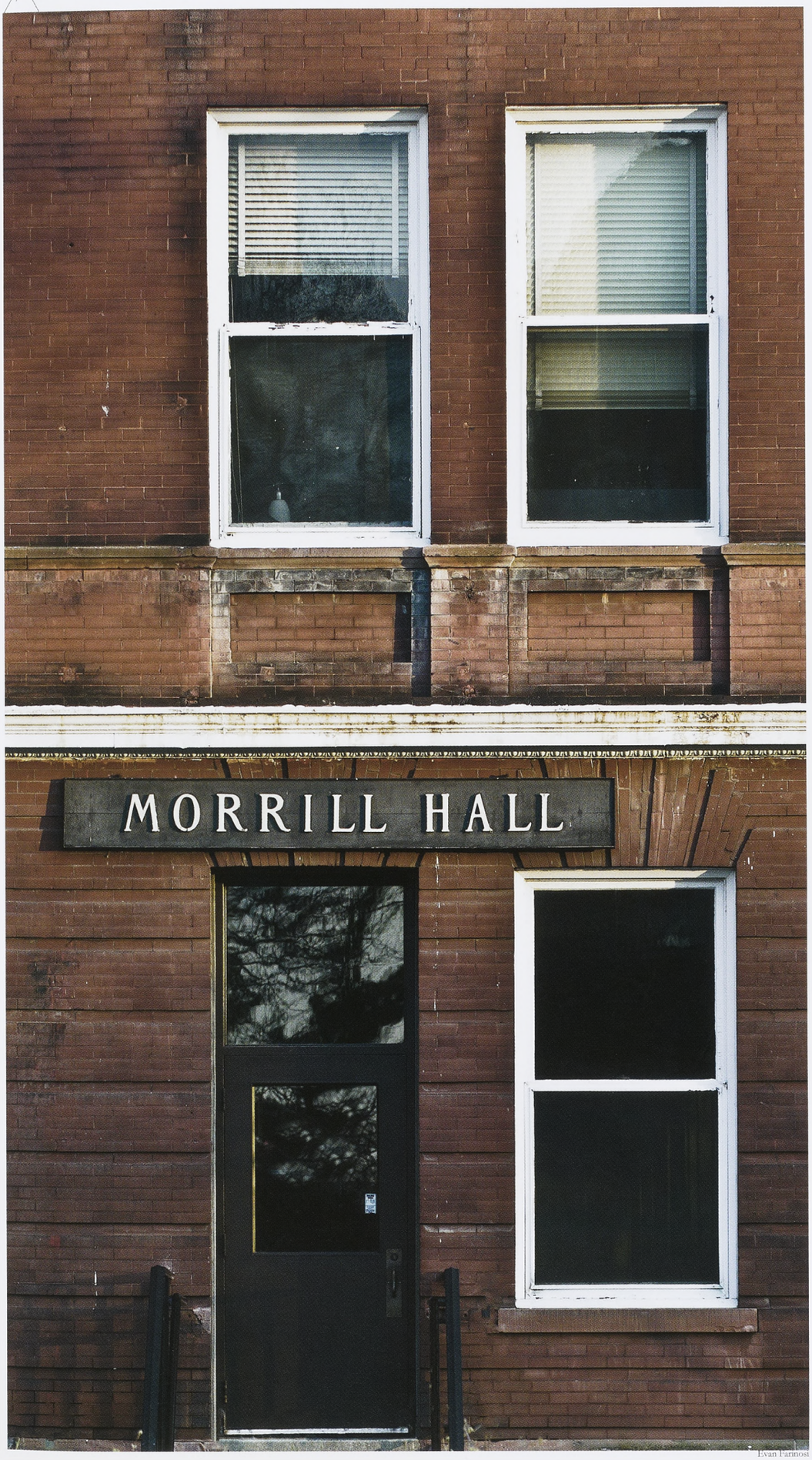
Evan Parinosi



Lauren Gaboury

Berkey Hall, located on E. Circle Drive, is home to english and history departments. The building's neighbor is the new Broad Art Museum.

The 112-year-old Morrill Hall is scheduled to be demolished in 2013. Morrill Hall was one of the oldest buildings on campus.



Evan Farinost

Michigan State University was founded in 1855. Originally, the university was named Michigan Agricultural College



Chase O'Black



Natalie Kolb

A squirrel eats an apple in a tree near West Circle. Squirrels are an everyday sight for MSU goers.

Linton Hall stands in the late summer light in MSU's West Circle. Linton Hall is home to graduate school services.



Spring time brings magnolias at the Sparty statue. Demonstration Field, located behind the statue, is home to Spartan Marching Band practices.



Evan Farinosi

Graffiti lines the steps leading to the underside of Farm Lane Bridge. The Red Cedar River runs beneath the bridge.



Evan Farinosi



Natalie Kolb

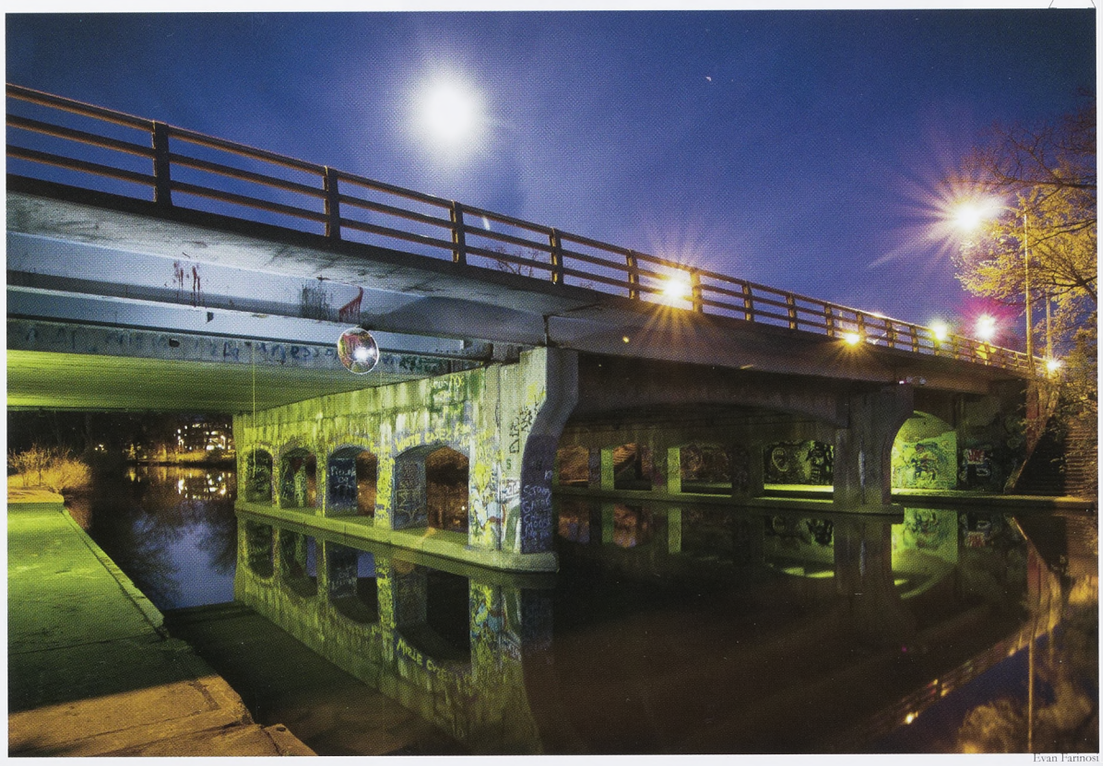


Evan Farinosi

Junior Sara Stanzler reads a book in front of the Communication Arts and Sciences building. Stanzler said she loves fall afternoons on MSU's campus.

Students chant "who cares!" while using newspaper to ignore the Michigan Wolverine's introduction during the final meeting between Michigan and Michigan State basketball.

Graffiti glows beneath the bridge on Farm Lane. Frequently, the Red Cedar River floods, preventing access to the underside of the bridge.



Evan Parmost



Chase O'Black



Marching band uniforms hang clean in a storage room in Demonstration Hall. The Spartan Marching Band performs twice during each home football game.



Chase O'Black

Clouds reflect off the Fairchild Auditorium windows. The Auditorium hosts plays, concerts, and guest presenters.



Chase O'Black

Spartan Stadium sits vacant on a cold winter night. Spartan Stadium can hold more than 75,000 people.



Evan Farinosi



Evan Farinosi

A line of West Circle bikes are swallowed by a strong winter snow storm. Unlike 2010, winter weather was mild.

6011



Evan Parinost

CAMPUS LIFE

MSU's campus life is as electric and gratifying as the students who comprise it. With countless organizations, roaring protests, age-old traditions and Spartan pride that cannot be replicated, the MSU stomping grounds are a force with which to be reckoned.

The unique blend of cultures and interests combining to paint the green grasses of Spartan territory cannot be found anywhere else. From Quidditch tournaments and zombie battles to chocolate parties and puppy playgrounds, the diverse activities and endeavors MSU students create only compliment their unmatched passion. Outside the classroom, students exhibit their zeal and creativity through extracurricular commotion, adding a distinct flare to the higher education experience.

MSU students define campus life. There cannot be one without the other. Campus life is the activities, games, concerts, art projects, protests and clubs gluing the tens of thousands of students, each from innumerable backgrounds, together.

Campus life is the roots lying underneath campus, stretching from Hubbard Hall to Brody Complex, uniting customs and culture with leisure and amusement. It is the pulse keeping Sparty's heart pumping green and white. It is what will remain ingrained in students' minds after years at MSU are left to memory.



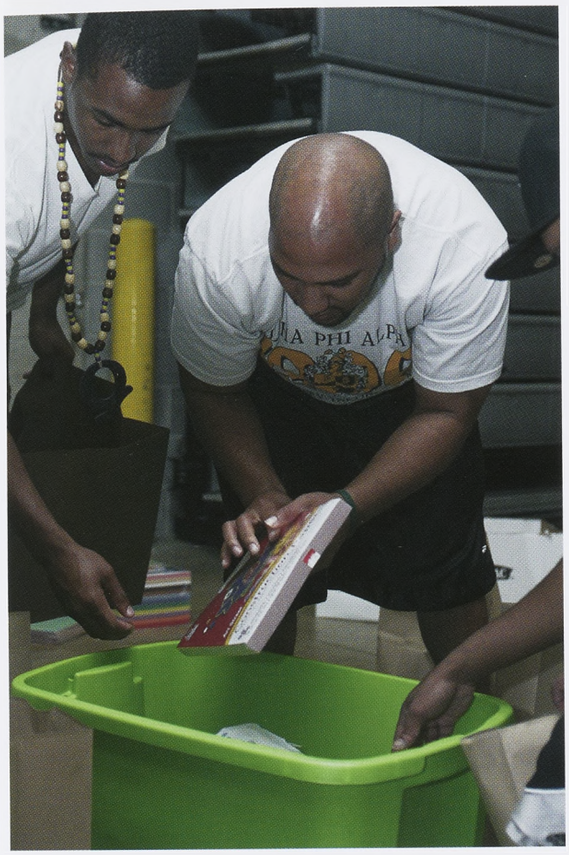
MSU employee Laraine Walton, Everett High School volunteer Deaundra Walton, junior Megan Meerschaert and senior Arielle Johnson load school supplies onto a school bus. Donation boxes were placed all over campus and filled with everything from hand-sanitizer and colored pencils to soup.

Sophomore Teela Kibble helps push bagged school supplies up to the bus at the Breslin Center on Sept. 2. In 2010, the event gathered over 200 grocery bags filled with supplies and over 200 pounds of food.





The Michigan State community comes together to donate school supplies for the Fill the Bus event put on through the Department of Student Life. This was the third year for the event with donations going to select campus programs and greater Lansing non-profit partners.



Senior Jonathan Rosewood and junior Rodney Dennis separate school supplies into paper bags destined for underprivileged school systems during the Fill the Bus event. Bus loads full of various school supplies went to MSU's Mid-Michigan Partners.

Spartan community members sort through and organize donated school supplies into grocery bags for the annual Fill the Bus event. The event happens every fall during the first week of school with the hope of instilling the concept "Spartans Give... for the Public Good."



SPARTANS GIVE

Fill the Bus initiative donates 200 bags of school supplies to community

It's 10 a.m. and the sun is shining as a bright yellow school bus pulls out of the Breslin Center parking lot. The seats are filled—not with students, but with school supplies.

"It started as a freshmen-only initiative a few years ago, but there was an overwhelming response from other students and faculty, as well as community members," said Karen McKnight Casey, Director of the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement (CSLCE).

Now, the entire university participates in the annual Fill the Bus charity event put on by the center during Welcome Week. The school supplies packed into the bus at the Breslin Center that morning were being donated to schools and other locations in the East Lansing and Lansing area.

The initiative is run by Michelle Nickerson, an MSU alumna recently hired by the CSLCE to help oversee the logistics and serve as an adviser to programs such as Into the Streets and Alternative Spring Break.

"It's a dream job for me," Nickerson said. "Since graduating from MSU I had hoped to return to the university to help give back to students, and this position allows me to do so."

From Aug. 28 to Sept. 1, scattered bins and barrels across campus beckoned students, faculty and staff to donate school supplies, non-perishable food, and sundries. On Friday, Sept. 2 student volunteers sorted the donations and then stuffed them into four yellow school buses in the Breslin Center parking lot. The buses drove the newly sorted supplies to places such as the East Lansing Food Bank and Donley Elementary School.

It is well-ordered chaos in the tunnel beneath the Breslin Center parking lot where the sorting and loading of the buses takes place. Sophomore Teela Kibble guides a cart up the incline to where the buses are parked, joking that she hopes she can ride the cart back down to the rest of the supplies.

"I've done lots of volunteer work since high school, so I was more than happy to help when I got an email asking for student helpers," Kibble said. "I definitely want to do this again. I love helping kids especially."

Junior Emily Walsh, another student volunteer, stands down in the bottom of the tunnel grouping together pre-sorted paper bags to be taken on the next cart and making sure all of the volunteers sign in to get credit for their hours. She became involved with the program as part of her internship with the Big Ten Network.

"My internship deals with a lot of volunteer service-learning initiatives so helping with Fill the Bus just made sense," Walsh said.

Sophomore Carl Anderson and a few of his brothers from Iota Phi Theta participated in the event as well, loading and unloading carts and also standing at the top of the tunnel to help direct incoming buses and volunteers.

"I had never helped with Fill the Bus before," he said. "It's a great program—a great way to help kids and give back to the community."

In fact, the motto of the CSLCE is

"Spartans give...
Of themselves…
To others...
In community…
For the public good."

Amidst the cacophony of rustling paper bags and squeaky carts there are also words of encouragement and even some a cappella renditions of pop songs. Students race the carts up the tunnel, barely missing each other in the quest for volunteering glory, while down in the bottom a group of Iota Phi Theta brothers participate in the "planking" phenomenon to rounds of applause.

In spite of sweltering temperatures and some labor-intensive work, these are the sounds of Spartans giving: peals of laughter, excited chatter and a very resounding cheer of "Go Green! Go White!"



Freshman Tori Bauman plays a life-size version of Operation at Moonlight Madness. She hoped to win a prize for competing with other students in the game.

FREE GEAR FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Department of Student Life hosts Moonlight Madness event at local Meijer stores

A normal Monday night at the Meijer in Okemos, Mich. usually consists of families completing their weekly grocery run. But, on Aug. 29, Meijer turned into madness.

Moonlight Madness, sponsored by the MSU Department of Student Life, brought students from all grades to enjoy free giveaways, food and activities at both the Meijer on Lake Lansing Road and the store in Okemos. As a part of fall Welcome Week 2011, Moonlight Madness is offered as a way for new students to experience off-campus shopping opportunities and get a feel for public transportation. Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA) provided free shuttles from MSU to the Meijer stores until 1 a.m.

"We went with a big group of people and the bus was already stuffed," freshman Emily Kolean said. "People were squished together, but it was worth it."

The event allowed new students, like Kolean, to recognize the accessibility provided by the CATA system. The free rides encouraged students to be more comfortable riding public transportation in the future if they need supplies outside of campus.

"I live in the dorms, so I just got on the number 1 bus, which goes down Grand River and headed down to Meijer," freshman Bryan Menchaca said. "It's convenient and I feel pretty comfortable with it."

One of the most enticing parts of Moonlight Madness for students is the freebies. As soon as students walked in the store, free samples of hair ties, Axe body spray and coupons for almost anything they could ever need were offered. Jell-O trays, posters, drawstring bags and pictures from the photo booth were among the favorites of the free gifts provided to students throughout the store.

Another draw college students can never turn down is free food. The smell of salty hot dogs wafted all the way outside the store to the back of the parking lot. Students filled up on the free samples of food, like hot dogs and chips, which were provided outside the front of the store.

This year, Moonlight Madness had new games and activities filling the aisles. A dance floor, complete with a live DJ, had students breaking it down in the home section. A supersized game of Operation took place in front of the sports aisles, and a photo booth loomed beside the women's clothing section. One of the big hits of the night was a 3-D motion simulator that held up to 12 people and took them on a wild ride. The line for the ride wrapped around the aisles into the personal care section of the store, but the wait was only about 20 minutes and, apparently, well worth it.

"It made me feel like I was in 1995 again," said law student Michael Chalhoub after getting off the five-minute-long ride. Chalhoub has attended Moonlight Madness for the past three years.

While Meijer may not always be this fun and exciting with games and free food, it will always have the school supplies and groceries MSU students need to survive the school year.

"It was nice to see this place lively," Menchaca said. "But I will definitely be coming back when it isn't so busy next time."





The MSU cheerleaders attend Moonlight Madness to pump up the crowd. The makeshift dance floor was filled with shoppers song after song.





Senior Ashley L. Redmond shares the green sand bottle with fellow senior Amanda Williams. The sand was used to create art in plastic tubes.

Freshman Jacob Sclater bags his groceries using the self-checkout lane. Unlike previous years, check-out lines were small.

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Students munch on hot dogs and other snacks courtesy of the Department of Student Life. During Sparticipation, bands played live music during the evening to entertain participants.

The Student Greenhouse Project displays their model for a proposed biodome to be built on Michigan State's campus. The biodome would be used for natural vegetation, as well as studying, student gatherings and perfomances.





Freshman Alex Mize practices her swift two-kick combination amongst an active group Taekwondo Club members. Various clubs were scattered across Munn Field from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. offering memberships to all Spartans.



JOIN THE CLUB

Students gather at Munn Field for one last summer event

Even from a distance, one can tell how popular Sparticipation is. Music is playing, students are chatting and the aroma of hot dogs and hamburgers fills the air.

On Aug. 30, Munn Field was over run with four huge tents filled with tables and posters for club leaders to advocate their club to students. Each tent felt packed like a sardine can.

The members of the Fencing Club battled one another in uniform; the Live Action Interactive Roleplaying Explorers made students feel like they were back in the Middle Ages; and the Latinos on the Move Club danced in the field to their own music. There were also fraternities and sororities advocating to new students, trying to convince them that they were the best. Sports clubs, like the Ski Club, displayed their equipment, telling everyone that their club was the "cool place to be." There were even protest groups such as one group trying to get signatures to recall Governor Rick Snyder.

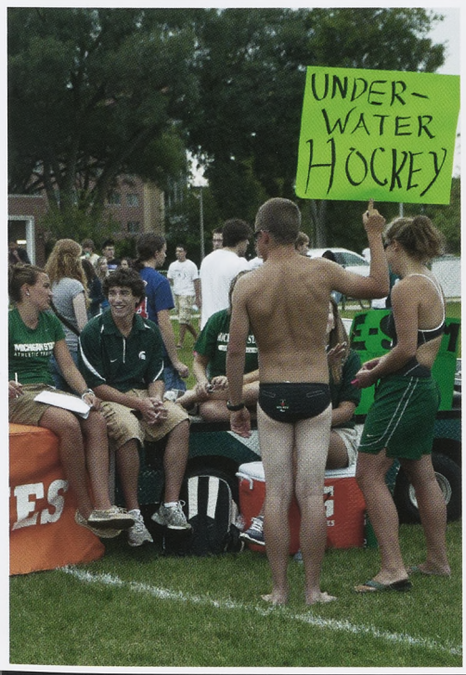
Taekwondo member and senior Vernon Cox said Sparticipation is a great event for his club to recruit new members and show off how much fun Taekwondo can be. Members in white uniforms practiced their kicks and punches, intriguing many students. However, they weren't the only club showing off their skills. Just around the corner from the Taekwondo Club, the Break Dance Club spun and broke it down on their mat laid out on the field. Sophomore Austin Dresner of the Break Dance Club said they have already gotten over a hundred signatures of students interested in joining.

Then, just outside the next tent, a group of students held signs displaying the message of the MSU Pagan group. Eva Sabolcik, a member and sophomore, said they have had double the inquires of students than last year and it really helps them out because they are a support group who loves having more members.

"The group is more of a support group for any MSU students who share their beliefs and Sparticipation helps them spread their message," she said.

However, the event was not just for clubs to spread their word; it was also a time for students to meet up with friends. MSU freshman Brandon Schmitt said he came to Sparticipation to meet up with his old friends, but he ended up meeting a plethora of new people.

"I had no idea what this event was going to be like, but I'm really glad I came out." Schmitt said.





Members of the under-water hockey club don their sport attire in promotion of the club. Along with a suit, under-water hockey players require goggles, flippers, a snorkel, as well as a miniature hockey stick.

Senior Prashanth Rajarajan and freshman Miranda Chavez dance to live music at Sparticipation. Rajarajan and Chavez are members of the State Swing Society, which has offered members swing dancing lessons since 1998.

Freshman Steven Maine sits on his bottom bunk as his two other roommates' feet dangle in his face. One of the biggest problems with the transitional housing is that it leaves little space for activities besides sleeping and talking.

Freshmen Carrie Stalk, Kiley Turner, and Renée Baenen's door is decorated with all three of their names. Despite having an extra roommate Stalk, Turner, and Baenen said it did not change their opinion of the university.









Freshmen Nick Baldus and Paul Franchina hang over the top bunk trying to convince freshman Steven Maine to get out of bed. Baldus said he is excited for someone to move out so his Akers dorm is not filled with an extra person.



STUCK IN TRANSITION

Record number of freshmen creates cramped quarters

The Armstrong dorm room of freshmen Carrie Stalk, Kiley Turner, and Renee Baenen appears normal at first glance: there are clothes in the closet, clothes on the floor, slept-in sheets cascading from their bunks, and desks covered in books, hair products and water bottles.

But it's not the room's physical appearance that distinguishes it from a typical student's – it's the number of people who call it home. A record 7,800 freshmen arrived on campus in the fall, forcing students like Stalk, Turner and Baenen to cram into rooms normally reserved for two.

This three person living arrangement is the case for many freshmen that moved in this year; they're stuck in what Campus Living Services has dubbed "Transitional Housing."

According to the organization's website, Transitional Housing is a temporary arrangement in which some dorm rooms are set up to house an additional student. The website explains that this situation occurs randomly in all residence halls, but each room meets safety code and is equipped with additional furniture .

It does not tell students how long they'll be living with their extra roommate.

This indefinite living arrangement multiplied by three seems overwhelming, but Stalk, Turner and Baenen don't seem to mind the uncertainty.

"We could live like this for the year," Baenen said. "It isn't ideal, but it is possible."

When asked what Campus Living Services has done to help accommodate them in light of their cramped quarters, the young women spoke over each other to list off some of the room's extra accompaniments, such as T-shirts, a loft-able bed, their large room, three desks and the Brody café.

If a transitional housing arrangement is unavoidable, Brody complex is the place to be, they agreed. Stalk cringed as she cited transitional housing situations in Yakeley Hall's smaller rooms.

Living in Brody does have its woes, though. The three agreed that while the café has the best food, it's difficult to just grab a bowl of cereal or a quick lunch between classes. Nearly every other door on the third floor of Armstrong has three nametags, which means more people in the café.

Despite the involuntary increase in floor mates, however, Baenen and Stalk said everyone seems to be coexisting well. As they chat, almost every door on the floor is open, and students walk in and out of each other's rooms to borrow things or gossip about classes.

Yet when pressed with the question that inevitably arises in their situation, the young women are hesitant to answer. It's the elephant in the room: who will move out if given the opportunity?

Stalk and Turner said they wouldn't mind sticking it out together all year, but Baenen feels a little differently.

"I love them, and I love living with them," she said. "We have a lot of fun and a lot in common, but I think more room would be nice. I'd like to stay on this floor or in Armstrong if I could, but I am willing to be the one to leave.

"It would be nice to not sit on the floor when people come over. Having a futon would be cool," she added.

A little hurt, Kiley teased Renee: "You'd really trade us for a futon?"

Freshmen Carrie Stalk, Kiley Turner, and Renee Baenen try to get adjusted to their transitional room in Armstrong Hall. Stalk, Turner and Baenen said they were all excited and curious about having three roommates.



To accommodate MSU's large campus, Capital Area Transportion Authority (CATA) is the main source of public transportation with more than 18 routes available on or near campus. A central CATA station is located in front of the Chemistry building.



Students wait at a crosswalk for traffic to clear. Bike lanes are available on public streets and near sidewalks.

Sophomore Jamayl Martin rides a CATA bus to class in support of the Clean Commute Challenge. This was MSU's fifth year participating in the challenge.



KEEPING IT CLEAN

MSU's third annual Clean Commute Challenge offers prizes in return for green commutes

Learning how to ride a bike challenges most young children. It's exciting and terrifying all at once, but children keep on riding nonetheless.

So why stop riding now as a college student, especially when there are environmental and personal benefits?

Sept. 19-23 marked the third year for the Capital Area Transportation Authority's Clean Commute Challenge—an event that rewards students who log on to CATA's website and record clean commutes with the possibility of prizes and the satisfaction of a greener campus.

The Clean Commute Challenge originally was invented by CATA. Call the Clean Commute Options direct phone line, and you might catch the voicemail of a very busy lady—Cathleen Edgerly. As the Clean Commute Options coordinator, Edgerly is like a Pandora's box of green travel knowledge.

"The Challenge was started because of some air quality issues the area had in 2006, but CATA has been promoting green travel for some time now," Edgerly said. "This year we've added Western Michigan University to the challenge's mix, and they seem excited. They're looking forward to creating a buzz."

The Clean Commute Challenge is growing year after year because of press, the rise in social media (the Clean Commute Challenge has its own Facebook page and Twitter handle), radio features, posters and word of mouth. The amount of logged commutes even doubled in 2010 from years past. The rise in 2011 logs is projected to exceed last year's because of prize incentives: Biggby Coffee coupons are available after every single commute logged, and individual prizes like bus passes, gas cards, complimentary bike repairs and gift certificates are up for grabs.

Along with WMU, this year, the Spartans competed against Lansing Community College, Cooley Law, Grand Valley State University, and Wayne State University. With many students able to help win the challenge, one would think MSU takes the title, hands-down, but last year MSU took second to Central Michigan University.

So this year, Lauren Olson, the product coordinator in the Office of Campus Sustainability, wants every student to know about the challenge. Promotion has been revamped to offer education before the challenge even starts and encourage students to log their commutes after it begins.

"A primary focus this year is to get more students involved," Olson said. "Students don't really think about their commutes, [riding bikes, riding the bus and walking are] just easy ways to get to class. We've added more 'Lunch and Learn' seminars at the International Center to teach students how they can get, or already are, involved."

This could be difficult, though. According to the MSU Police's annual report, there were 7,543 registered bikes on campus in 2010. While that may seem like a small amount when weaving in and out of what seems like hundreds of thousands of other bikers during a commute to class, there were more than twice as many student parking permits registered than bikes in 2010.

Lynette Forman, the office supervisor for MSU Police's Parking Operations, is doing her part to encourage the Clean Commute Challenge: carpooling permits are available for faculty and staff parking.

"And anyone can buy a bus pass," Edgerly said. "Anyone."





A student uses his moped for travel, a common method on campus. The challenge was a part of CATA's annual Clean Commute Week which began Sept. 19.

Students ride their bikes down the Riverwalk Trail in support of the challenge. MSU was one of five schools that competed.

LOST & FOUND

Journalism professor Karl Gude talks about his personal experiences since Sept. 11

"Never forget": one of the more common mottos for the United States amid the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11. But this dictum means a little more to journalism professor Karl Gude, who met with a full house in the Lincoln Room at the Kellogg Center on Sept. 14 to discuss his experience while working as director of information graphics for Newsweek Magazine during the attacks.

"Everyone has a story," Gude began his presentation. And it's true—most everyone old enough at the time can remember what they were doing when the nation lost one of its most famous landmarks. But what many people don't understand, especially if they were young when the towers fell, is America's emotional connection to the building, unspoken of up until that day.

"Most New Yorkers had an intimate relationship with the World Trade Center. We took every tourist there; we took dates to impress them," Gude said.

This relationship was severed for some by the loss of the actual buildings, others for the people lost that day, and for many more, the "jumpers," forced to decide how they would leave this world.

The PowerPoint that accompanied Gude's story showed personal pictures he had taken from the observation deck of one of the towers.

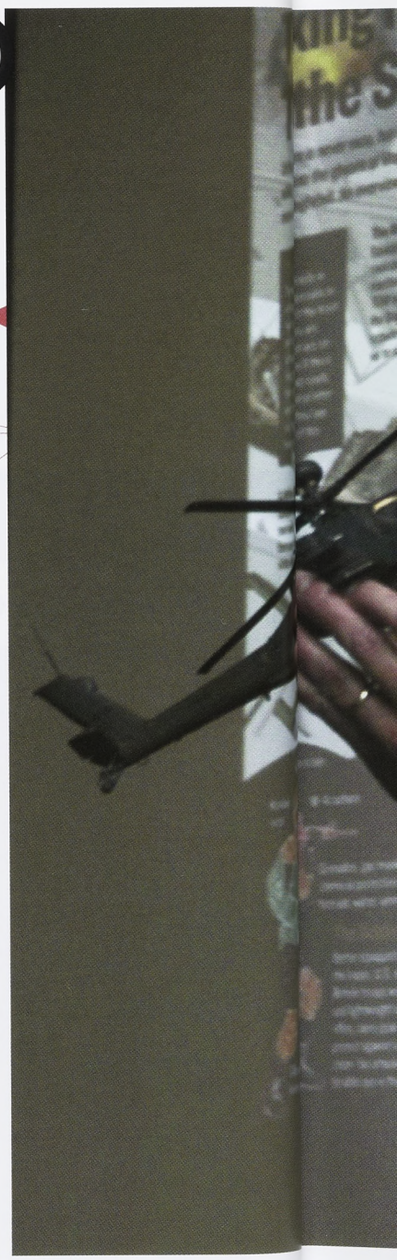
"You can see how high it was, which puts it into context...people who had to make that decision that day between choosing how to die," he said. "They couldn't go into the flames—or they could—or they could jump, and that's just a place a human being should never have to be…in, but these people were."

Freshmen Elizabeth Fowler and Taylor Rixie identified greatly with Gude's presentation.

"9/11 is just something that's close to all of us," Fowler said. "I knew that I wouldn't be home during the time with my family, so I thought that this would be a good way to remember without being home."

Both journalism majors, Fowler and Rixie felt they learned a lot about what it would be like as a journalist working on breaking news.

"(We) got to see how it worked from the inside and his (Gude's) opinions on all of that really hard stuff to watch," Rixie said. "It was really interesting."





Students and faculty gather at the Kellogg Center to hear Gude speak about his experience during September 11, 2001 and his role in coverage for Newsweek. Gude teaches a variety of journalism courses, including a course on information graphics.

MSU journalism professor Karl Gude talks to the public about major news stories he covered as the information graphics director for Newsweek. Gude also worked at the New York Daily News, The National Sports Daily and The Associated Press, among others.





Juniors Nick Kowalski and Patrick Williams honor the victims of Sept. 11 by reading their names at The Rock. Kowalski and Williams read names for three hours.

content: noelle sciarini
photo: allison jarrell
design: betsy eber

STILL REMEMBERING

Tenth anniversary event honors Sept. 11 victims



As a gentle breeze wafted over a glass-like Red Cedar River, two strong voices echoed across campus on an overcast Sunday morning: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America…"

The voices belonged to Patrick Williams and Nick Kowalski, two juniors who are part of the recently formed student initiative Campus Conservatives. For the next three hours, their voices rung out from the Sept. 11 flag memorial at The Rock, carrying the names of the 2,977 victims of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, hijacked flight United 93 and the Pentagon. While MSU has organized numerous Sept. 11 memorial services in the past, this was the first year that all of the names were read.

"We wanted to do something different for the 10th anniversary, and we had heard that they were reading names at other universities as well as at Ground Zero," Kowalski said. "I think it's necessary for the MSU community to recognize and remember the people who perished that day. If we don't remember them it'll just be another day in history. This way we can actually put names to a horrific news event."

Though the two were only in fifth grade at the time of the attack, the infamous day left Williams and Kowalski with vivid memories.

"I was sitting on the carpet in my class when there was a PA announcement asking each class to send a student to the office. I was chosen from my class and when I got to the office I was given an announcement that our teacher then read, which essentially said that there had been an attack on the Twin Towers," Williams said. "They sent us home early and by the time I walked into the house my parents were glued to the television, like everyone else, I'm sure."

Kowalski's memory was much the same.

"It was fall and I was at the elementary school. They had a couple of TVs in the hallways that usually played announcements or were just turned off. That day, they broadcasted the news all morning. My friends and I had no idea what was going on," he said.

The sun began to peak out of the clouds as Kowalski and Williams read the names, students and other passers-by stopping for a moment to listen, pausing their day to remember the fallen.

"As long as people took the time to reflect on it," Williams said, "that's the most important thing."



Commemorative flags adorn the lawn near The Rock in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. Nearly 3,000 victims' names were read aloud.



Mitten Maven 'Heart of Cold' leads a group of teammates around the rink. Each player has a creative, play-on-words name that they use as their derby identity.

'Ethel Weapon' scores points for the Mitten Mavens by passing opposing skaters during the race. Races are referred to as 'jams' in roller derby, and each jam can last up to two minutes.





Mitten Maven 'TNTish' celebrates the victory with her teammates after the derby. The final score was 263 to 64.



RAINBOW BOUT

Roller Derby team raises funds for The LBGT Resource Center

The cheer of spectators from inside Demonstration Hall fills the chilly evening air on Sept. 17. The scene within is like something out of an inspirational sports movie: the second floor stands, packed with fans of all ages, loom over a flat, oval track surrounded by thick plastic walls.

It looks like a hockey rink, but there aren't any hockey players. Instead, the crowd watches as a blur of roller skates, elbow pads, brightly colored tutus and heavily-decaled helmets dash by. It's the first bout of the season for the Mitten Mavens, Lansing's roller derby team.

The team, founded only about a year and a half ago, has a bout approximately once a month, said president Melissa Cogswell, a.k.a Terror 2 Bits. That night, they were competing against and successfully defeated Macomb County's Eastside Derby Girls with a final score of 236 to 64.

While the Maven's aren't currently a student organization, a number of the players are students at MSU pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies, such as Ph.D student Micalee Sullivan, a.k.a "ToTheMoon Alice." Her derby name is a reference to Ralph Kramden's famous comment in the 1950s sitcom "The Honeymooners," in which he tells his wife, Alice, he's going to send her "straight to the moon."

"I think it (the bout) was a good learning experience for both teams," Sullivan said. "This was the first bout for our opponents, and it made me realize how much our team had learned from just a year of playing.

"Roller derby is a fairly confusing sport at first, there's people coming at you from different directions, that kind of thing," she added.

The bout generated more than just a learning opportunity and entertainment for the numerous spectators; it also supported a good cause: MSU's Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender (LBGT) Resource Center.

"They were looking for opportunities to have conversations with the community about sexuality and gender issues, which are two topics that are very important to our organization," said Deanna Hurlbert, assistant director of the LBGT Resource Center.

The Mitten Mavens act as a non-profit and donate a portion of their ticket sales to a different organization each bout. Other beneficiaries include Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Gift of Life, and the Lansing Area AIDS Network. The Mitten Mavens have worked with the LBGT Resource Center in the past through other events such as the PRIDE parade and fundraisers at Spiral, a dance bar in Lansing, but some of the players wanted to do more.

"Choosing the LBGT Resource Center this time came about for a couple of reasons, the biggest being that we have a large makeup of LBGT people both on our team and the roller derby community itself," Cogswell said.

Senior Kelsey Beachum, a.k.a "Van Kelsing," added:

"Derby has a lot of roots in the LBGT community, and we had noticed as a group that we hadn't really taken the time to help our chapter. Since we're still a start-up, it's a good group to get involved with."

Both Beachum and Sullivan have been playing roller derby for about a year. Sullivan likes the sport so much she even has an extra question she considers before applying for jobs: where is the nearest roller derby team? But before she does find a job, she, Beachum and the rest of the Mitten Mavens will continue to hone their roller derby skills and engage with the MSU community.

"We appreciate being able to use Demonstration Hall for practices and bouts and we're actually in the process of applying to form a student organization," Sullivan said. "We'd like to be able to see new faces, both on the team and in the stands."

If the wild cheers from the second floor stands generated by the players zipping around sharp turns whilst body-checking each other is any indication, the Mitten Mavens can look forward to a long and successful relationship with MSU.



The Eastside Derby Girls gather at the side of the rink for a break between the bouts. A bout consists of two 30-minute periods, and the team with the most points at the end is the winner.



CONNECTING CULTURES

Many students at MSU change their major throughout the course of college, but not many change it in response to an earthquake.

"I started off as a political science and economics major just to give back to my country," junior Terry Pharaon said. "The political side of Haiti is really corrupt, and I wanted to bring a change. After the earthquake, I switched to electrical engineering. I have big dreams for it too."

Pharaon, a native of Haiti, hopes to return after ten years experience working in the United States and invest in new renewable power generation systems, such as wind and solar. His passion for helping his country stems from his experience living in Haiti. According to The World Bank, an international financial institution that provides loans to developing countries, about 80 percent of Haiti's population lives in poverty.

"I had the chance not to experience it, but I have seen it and it's really, really bad," Pharaon said.

On Jan. 12, 2010, Haiti experienced a magnitude 7-earthquake that devastated its already hurting economy and unstable government. Pharaon said there still are rocks in the streets and dust covering buildings. The mindset of the people has changed since the natural disaster, he said.

"They really try hard to maintain themselves and to keep faith that things will get better," he said.

Pharaon not only believes Haiti will rebound from the earthquake, he wants to help in the process. His refreshing attitude and 3.8 GPA will help him achieve his goals, but staying positive wasn't always easy for him.

When Pharaon arrived at MSU, he experienced culture shock. His favorite music from Haiti is Kompa, a native style which uses traditional drums and bass guitars. Coming to Michigan, Pharaon experienced music very different from Kompa, not to mention the food and a whole new lifestyle, which made it difficult and sometimes intimidating.

"One thing I experienced coming here was exclusion," Pharaon said. "I had to try harder and harder to break out of my bubble and try to make connections and meet people. It was really difficult."

But his positive attitude and a little assistance from the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions helped Pharaon succeed and connect with other students. He is now the president of the Caribbean Student Association and a member of both the Black Caucus and the African Student Union.

"The Caribbean Student Association tries to break stereotypes that are placed on the Caribbean, such as, 'You're from Jamaica, so you have to smoke weed,'" Pharaon said. "We hear that all the time."

CSA also responded after the 2010 Haitian earthquake. The group threw a festival involving Caribbean music, a Haitian dance group and speeches by professors to raise funds for medical supplies and rebuilding efforts in the suffering country.

Pharaon isn't only trying to solve problems with the Haitian population though. On campus, he works toward diversity and inclusion with many student groups.

"Diversity is needed in a lot of fields, even throughout your life," he said. "It's needed so you're not stuck in your own perspective of other people, so you can have other peoples' experience, get to know them and their culture and break stereotypes."

To do this, CSA and other black student organizations on campus come together to try to understand one another.

"We're black, but we're really different," Pharaon said.

But he doesn't stop there. Pharaon was involved with a French speaking club on campus, worked for the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions, and is now a Peer Leader in Wilson Hall, working with other engineering students to inform and connect them with engineering opportunities and possible employers, and also to help with homework.

Although Pharaon is a dedicated and hard worker in everything he does, he applauds MSU on their ability to integrate international students with campus life.

"My favorite thing about MSU is that I feel like they really try to get people involved in the culture of MSU, to interact with each other, to build connections with people from different countries and backgrounds," he said. "It is somewhat hard, but I enjoy that."



Freshmen Stephanie Herberg bashfully answers one of the questions posed during The Dating Game. Herberg was one of three bachelorettes during round one of The Dating Game.



University Activities Board (UAB) volunteer and sophomore Elizabeth Woroniecki prepares one of three prize packs to be won by contestants of the Dating Game. Woroniecki created the "Sweetheart" theme prize pack for the event.

MINGLING AND MOCKTAILS

University Activities Board presents The Dating Game

Freshmen Stephanie Herberg and Luke Klawiter live on the same floor in Akers Hall, and they have the same major. But it wasn't until Friday, Sept. 23, that Klawiter officially asked Herberg out in front of an audience of students. The two were contestants of the University Activities Board's The Dating Game, MSU's version of the classic game show.

After being chosen at random, Klawiter was put into a sound-proof room while the MC chose three "bachelorettes," Herberg being one of them. After answering questions such as, "What kind of candy would you be and why?" (Herberg chose gummy worms because they're "squishy"), Herberg was selected by Klawiter to go on a date paid for by the UAB. Their prize? The "Cuddle Package," which included romantic comedy DVDs, popcorn, candy and an MSU Snuggie for the couple to share.

Both students enjoyed the event and look forward to their date together.

Other students were less interested in finding a significant other than they were in just meeting new people. Freshmen Danielle White and Colton Cherry were among those who arrived early to enjoy Royce Phillips Junior's jazz quartet from Lansing and sip on "mocktails:" non-alcoholic beverages such as Shirley Temples.

"My floor suggested it (The Dating Game) as a bonding event, so we decided to sign up to be contestants," White said. "We even signed up our R.A. against her will!"

Cherry signed up to be a contestant as well. "I figured why not, it can't hurt, right? To quote the Tootsie Pop commercial, 'The world may never know.'"

The event is an annual one for the UAB, but this year was a bit different thanks to junior and director of communications Shannon McGreal-Miller.

"This was actually my first event when I joined UAB a few years ago and I thought it would be funny if it was also my first event as a member of the e-board; lo and behold, it was!"

"In the past we've put on this event with a DJ, but I wanted to try a local band instead. When I found the Royce Phillips Jr. Quartet I knew that they had the vibe that I wanted," McGreal-Miller said.

That vibe was a decidedly relaxed one: smooth, mellow tones oozed from the saxophone, trailing over the ticks of drums and the plucking of a double bass. A velvety voice rounded out the quartet, floating through the main lobby of the Union. Colorful balloon arches and a makeshift mocktail bar added to the casual feel, allowing students to either sit and talk or make rounds around the room. The main attraction was, of course, The Dating Game stage where directors' chairs were set up with microphones against a loud, painted flower backdrop. While finding a date, like Herberg and Klawiter did, is a nice perk, the goal of the event was much simpler.

"I wanted it to be a place where people can have fun without feeling pressure to drink," McGreal-Miller said. "It's a good alternative event to the typical 'going out on Friday night.' Plus, who doesn't love winning prizes and raffles?"

THE DATING GAME

content: noelle sciarini
photo: natalie kolb
design: carly patterson



Junior Patricia Crenshaw was the second contestant chosen at random to interview three possible bachelors during The Dating Game. This was the third annual "Dating Game" event put on by the University Activities Board.

Freshman Anthony Burrell hears the news that he is the winner of the second round of The Dating Game. Burrell won a date with junior Patricia Crenshaw, as well as the "Game On" prize package.





After taking home the "Cuddle package," freshman Luke Klawiter is congratulated by sophomore Amanda Geldersma, one of three hosts for the event. The prize package included romatic-comedy DVDs, popcorn, candy and an MSU Snuggie for two.

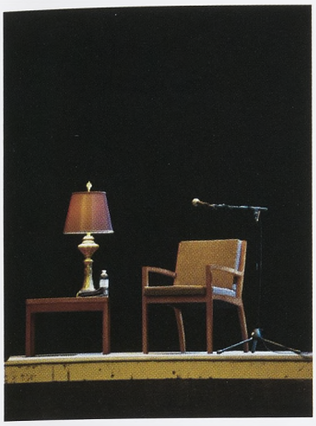
A



Michael Moore impersonates a passive liberal as he begins dialogue on current events before sitting down to discuss his latest publication. East Lansing was one of 38 stops during Moore's four-month book tour.



A captivated audience listens as Michael Moore notes the positive aspects of the recent "Occupy" protests around the country. Moore visited Traverse City, East Lansing, Rochester and Ann Arbor during the Michigan leg of his book tour.



A chair accompanied by a side table and microphone sit waiting along with the audience for the presence of Michael Moore. Moore braved a snow storm and a six-hour drive from Traverse City to East Lansing to present his latest book.

HERE COMES TROUBLE

Michael Moore visits MSU for new book tour

Tuesday Nov. 29 was a day of infamy at MSU, in part because of a freak snowstorm that poured somewhere between eight and 10 inches of fluffy white powder over campus. It was also the night that director and author Michael Moore made a stop at the Auditorium as part of his latest book tour.

Moore planned to read excerpts from his book, "Here Comes Trouble: Stories of My Life." However, the evening quickly shifted into improvisation when he showed up a few minutes late due to the weather. He more than made up for it by throwing a snowball at the audience as part of his welcome to the podium.

"I've never done that before!" Moore exclaimed amid cheers. "All the right-wing rags will say I assaulted someone."

That last line got some laughs and more cheers, thereby setting the tone for the evening: political jabs alternating with bits of humor.

"It took me five hours to get here [from Traverse City]; but I had to get here: because we are Spartans," said the Flint native, taking a moment to touch his Spartan baseball cap. A bout of, "Go green! Go white!" made its way through the audience.

From there, Moore spent the next couple hours drilling the audience with his politics and beliefs, peppering in his love for both the state of Michigan and Michigan State. His at-times rambling, but always engrossing speech covered everything from his views on health insurance and Republicans to his excitement about the Occupy movement. "In the roughly three months (the Occupy movement has) existed, they've gotten a 59 percent approval rating. Fifty-nine percent! That never happens this early. Martin Luther King Jr. didn't have it during the Civil Rights Movement; neither did Gloria Steinem…It's heartening to see people turning off the TV and finding themselves."

After a question and answer session with the audience, Moore finally did the promised reading from his book, choosing a story called "Boys State." It was an account of his time in a summer camp about government that ultimately resulted in him giving a speech to the entire camp and a number of legislative officials denouncing racial prejudice in his local Elks Club chapter. It was this speech that launched him into politics and taught him (and, in turn, the audience) that it just takes one person to start something.

Junior Katie Nowinski wasn't sure who Michael Moore was when she was first assigned to work as an usher that night, asking a friend beforehand if he was British. Once his identity was established, Nowinski said she found Moore's speech "long, but interesting," although she ultimately said she would probably not hear him speak again if she had the choice.

"I just think there are more views on the table (than just Moore's)," she said. "He mentioned at one point that Democrats are all about compromise, but he was also pretty adamant about his particular opinions."

Senior Eric Huffman was one of surprisingly few students in a mostly older-demographic audience. "He made some interesting points and it was cool that he showed a great deal of pride in Michigan," he said.

While not completely agreeing with everything Moore said that night, Huffman did recommend that MSU students "just watch some of his documentaries."

"I think more students should be aware of Michael Moore. He is one of the few active filmmakers who, even if you don't agree with him, you should still see what he has to say. He brings up some important issues that should be talked about, regardless of your stance on them."



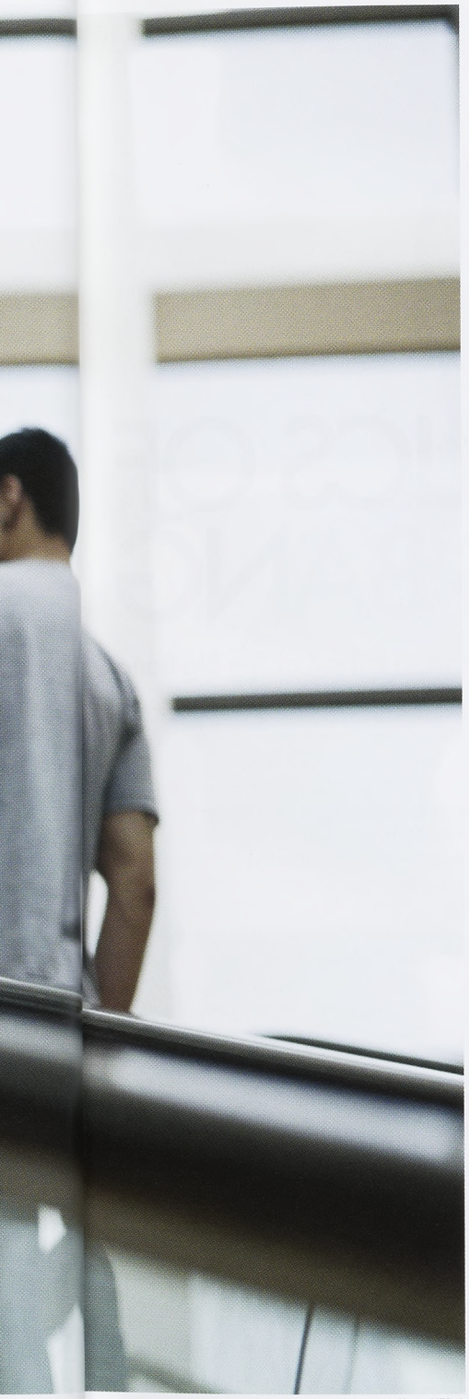
An excited audience applauds as Michael Moore is introduced to the stage. Moore's book, titled "Here Comes Trouble," chronicles his life in Michigan before becoming a filmmaker.

Prospective Spartan Frankie Garza poses for the crowd as junior Cong Guo readies himself to exit the stage. Red carpets and red-tie door posts handed out flowers at the entrances of all participating businesses from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. during Girls' Night Out.

Models ride the escalator back up as they finish the grand finale, giving the audience one more look at the outfits. Models for the fashion show were chosen from a pool of MSU students and local residents that volunteered their services for the event.



Chase O'Black



Chase O'Black

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

Girls' Night Out event showcases East Lansing businesses

Imagine a large, airy hotel lobby with fountains, escalators and a glass elevator. A DJ provides a subtle techno beat, and scores of models donning fashionable outfits ride the escalator down to a rapt, mainly female audience nibbling on hors d'oeuvres.

The models aren't wearing clothing from famous fashion houses—they're wearing Spartan apparel from The Student Bookstore, party dresses from Jeanologie and sparkling jewelry from Silver and Beyond. And they're not in a fancy hotel in a big city either—they're at the Marriott Hotel on M.A.C. Avenue. This is just the beginning of the first-ever Girls' Night Out in East Lansing on Oct. 8.

The event encouraged women of all ages to shop and dine in East Lansing—with the 36 participating businesses offering red carpet walkways, sales and special activities.

As the models made their final walk down the runway, an announcer informed the audience that they were free to shop and explore the city, either on foot or on a special shuttle bus. While the audience made a mass exit for the door, MSU alumnae Kaitlin Plucinski and Michelle Gross dressed to the nines in little black—or in Gross' case gray—dresses, mingled with friends and guests. Gross helped coordinate the event with the City of East Lansing and Downtown Management Board.

"Royal Oak has been putting on an event like this for a few years now and we figured it was about time East Lansing did, too," Gross said. "We've been planning the event for the last eight months and we had a ton of support not just from businesses but also from student involvement."

That involvement came in the form of models courtesy of a modeling call put out by MSU's fashion magazine VIM, shuttle bus entertainment courtesy of MSU theater students, and "door posts" courtesy of local fraternities who dressed in suits and not only held open store doors but also passed out colorful carnations and compliments.

One "door post," junior and Alpha Gamma Rho brother John Denne, was stationed at the main entrance of Douglas J Salon on Grand River Avenue, a bouquet of carnations in hand.

"Our president asked if we wanted to help out so I emailed the coordinator and got set up," Denne said.

When asked why he volunteered, Denne said, "It's all about the girls; we want them to know that guys care—that East Lansing cares."

Down the street, sophomore Sarah Semroc stumbled upon the event by accident while shopping at Kirabo, one of the participating stores, with her mom, aunt and cousin. Not previously knowing about the event didn't stop her from enjoying herself, though.

"I think it's cool. It's good to support local shops," Semroc said. "I think this is a good way to get people to explore East Lansing more, and to bring their families and friends along too."

This was a sentiment echoed earlier in the evening by Gross's roommate and fellow MSU alumna Kaitlin Plucinski.

"I wanted to see how East Lansing had changed (since I graduated), what the city had to offer," Plucinski said. "I definitely want to keep coming to events like this; it's a great way to showcase new and local talent."

Fashion, flowers and shopping, all in the name of promoting and showcasing East Lansing. What's not to love?



Chase O'Black



Chris McClain

A student showcases apparel from Moosejaw. Over 35 local businesses participated in Girls' Night Out.

RELICS OF THE BIG BANG

Professors and students create planetarium exhibit of The Big Bang

Gathered in the Abrams Planetarium lobby around a table of mixed nuts, fruit and vegetable plates and cookies, about ten men discuss Star Trek, their physics homework and the show they are about to see: Relics of The Big Bang. Though the show's premiere wasn't until Oct. 7, the planetarium provided a preview for MSU students and the Capital Area Astronomy Association (CAAA) on Oct. 5.

Dr. Reinhard Schwienhorst, the man behind all of The Big Bang buzz, came up with the idea for an animated show to describe The Big Bang almost a year before this preview. The concept emerged out of a high-energy physics group, even though he's been personally thinking about it for some time.

"Chip Brock (a physics professor at MSU) helped make the connection between the particle physics and astronomy," Schwienhorst said. "We wanted to use the planetarium."

But with planetarium rights come, well, a planetarium show, so Brock brought MSU journalism professor Karl Gude into the mix. Schwienhorst said Gude knew how to bring the show to life: "…he understood the creative process it would take to explain everything."

Junior animator Ben Diefenbach was also recruited about halfway through the project's completion—perfect evidence for Schwienhorst's claim that few people involved in the project were actually physicists.

"I came to MSU with all of my science credits from high school. I was done with science—I wanted to focus on my art," Diefenbach said.

"But that is the beauty of this show!" Schwienhorst exclaimed, a twinkle in his eyes. "We wanted this to be accessible to anyone, any major to understand. And we want people to know how MSU is becoming involved with the current research being done across the world."

As those two aspects—the physics and animations—began to come together in January, Schwienhorst found himself with a crude, 30-second clip. A short four months later, that snippet had evolved into a five minute animation and was airing at the end of every planetarium show.

"People really liked it, so John French (the planetarium's production coordinator) decided we would have this show now," Schwienhorst said.

But not without effort. Diefenbach shared the trials and tribulations of being an animator with only a slight interest in science, yet still having to jump hurdles to produce a fabulous—and accurate—display of events:

"Really, you are at the whim of the writers. You work on a clip, but someone could tell you that it's not properly showing what is happening on the physics end. You're constantly asking yourself, 'Does this explain things correctly?'"

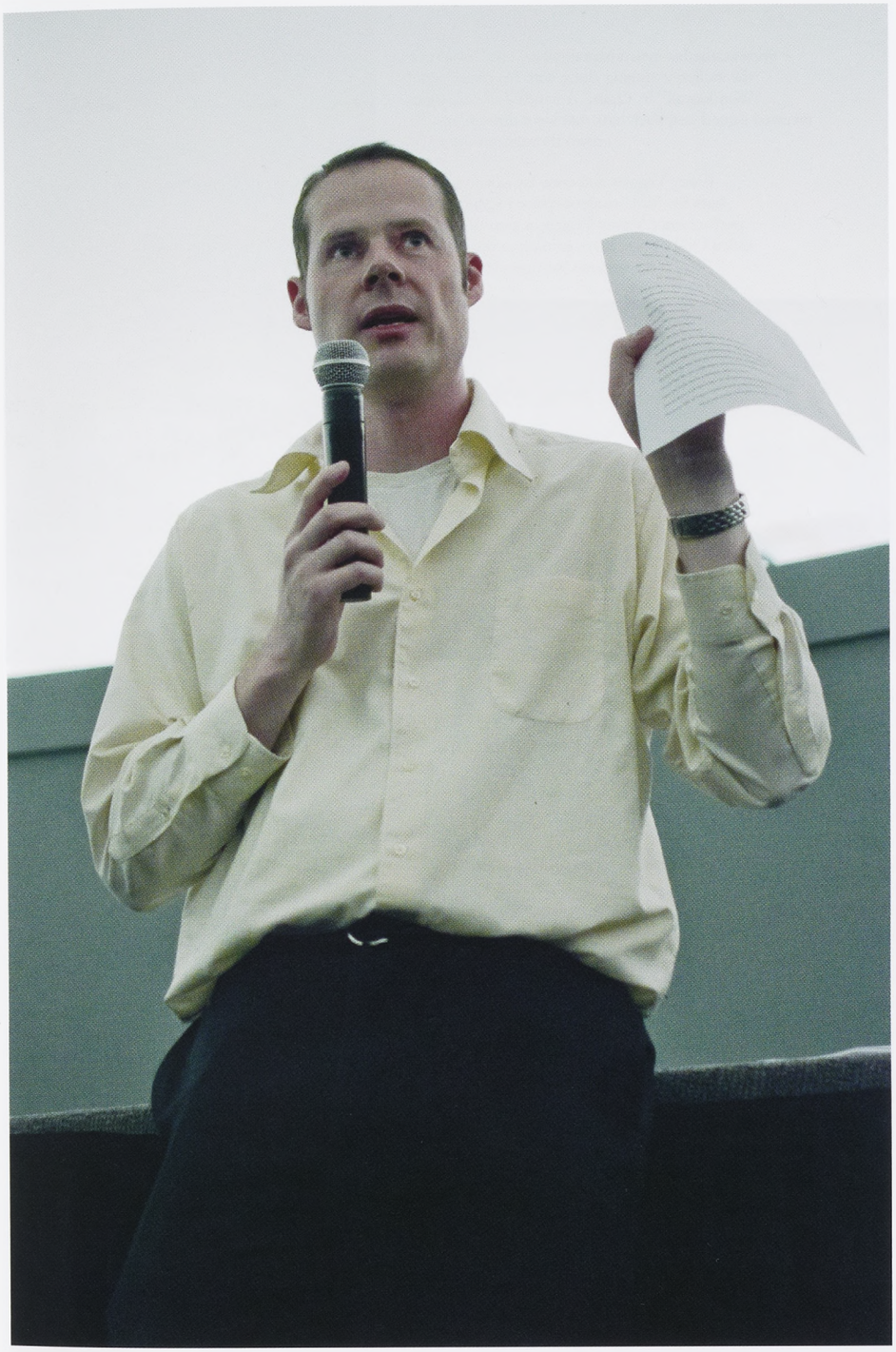
In the opinion of the audience, the hard work paid off. After the show's premiere, students and spectators from the CAAA sat for almost 45 minutes discussing amongst themselves, some returning to the lobby to snatch up relics of the last cookies.



The creators of "Relics of The Big Bang" discuss the night over some food and drinks. Very few of the individuals that worked on the show had any physics background.



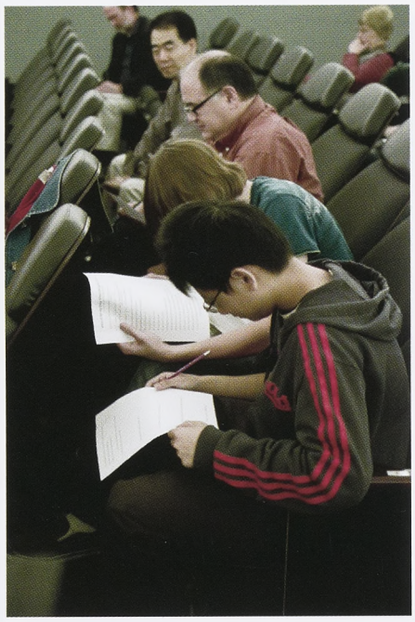
Members of the MSU community and the CAAA wait for the main event to begin. "Relics of the Big Bang" was created to help connect the greater public to the wonders of physics and astronomy.



D

Dr. Reinhard Schwienhorst explains the comment form made for the preview show. The staff was eager for comments from the MSU community.

Spectators look over the comment form before the show. Information gathered from these forms would be used to make the show even more enjoyable for audience members.







A giant globe sits in the center of the lobby as people file in to Abrams Planetarium. Students and members of the Capital Area Astronomy Association were given a sneak peak of "Relics of The Big Bang" on Oct. 5.

Dr. Schwienhorst discusses the show with junior Ben Diefenbach. "Relics of The Big Bang" was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.



Showcasing his instrumental talent, Mac Miller gets the audience singing along with his rendition of "Wonderwall" by Oasis. A handful of lucky fans received signed snapback hats that were thrown into the crowd throughout the night.

Casey Veggies and crew lay down a couple bars for MSU students prior to Mac Miller's performance. Casey Veggies is part of a group called Odd Future that's gaining popularity with the nation's younger demographic.





Sitting on the steps of the Auditorium, a group of students huddles together, waiting. Luckily, they gather closely because of the amount of people, rather than the lack of heat.

It was a beautiful evening on Oct. 7, perfect for music and Mac Miller. A plethora of snapback hats matched the colored fallen leaves scattered across the lawn, where conversations of excitement intertwined with the fall breeze.

"I'm ready to get rowdy," freshman Eric Dippoliti exclaimed as people rushed through the opening doors.

Malcolm McCormick, known by his stage name Mac Miller, is a rapper from Pittsburgh. Though he recently signed to Rostrum Records, he began his career as an independent artist. Miller, 19, gained his fan base through social networking on Twitter and Facebook, allowing fans to become the major factor in his rise to success.

In the Auditorium, the mood matched the temperature of the atmosphere; hot. Freshman Sam Chesnick emphasized her discomfort, stating that the concert "needed to be outside." Soon the lights dimmed, the crowd cheered, and it was time. Mac Miller opened with the song, "Best Day Ever," with the lyrics, "life couldn't get better, this 'gon be the best day ever," filtering into the mass of students, clapping in sync to the snare drums and throwing their hands up with the bass, "cheesin' from cheek to cheek."

Miller continued to show his artistic capabilities by free-styling, involving the audience and handing the microphone to an audience member to announce the next song he would sing.

"Every single person is important to this show," Mac Miller screamed into the microphone, igniting a sense of significance from the front row to the balcony. Sparking participation even further, he played a variety of songs on guitar such as "Sweet Home Alabama," and "Say It Ain't So," outside his genre. Incorporating the guitar into one of his own songs, "Another Night," Miller rapped and strummed, creating an electrifying performance.

"I just like to make music. It's what I love," he told the audience after thanking them for allowing him to speak and not yell over him.

Every show, Mac Miller dedicates the concert to the individual who pushed him to pursue his rap career: his grandfather. His grandfather passed away before he was able to see him perform, thus Mac Miller performs the song "Poppy" so that he may live on in the notes and lyrics. Freshman Zachary Salaysay found this particularly potent, for the song "Poppy" became a vehicle to handle similar experiences with his grandfather.

"I think that Mac Miller is a real artist because every show he takes the time to step back from his stardom to appreciate how he got there," Salaysay said.

The Auditorium transformed into Chesnick's wish of an outdoor concert, as the darkness lit up with fireflies in the form of lighters and cell phones.

Kyle Witgen, a visiting freshman from Olivet College, described the concert as "epic," and Salaysay labeled it "real." However the audience classified it, it was a performance that united spectators through the medium of music.

Miller summed it up through his lyrics to "Senior Skip Day:" "enjoy the best things in your life, because you ain't gonna get to live it twice." Thanks to Mac Miller and his rendition, the audience did just that.

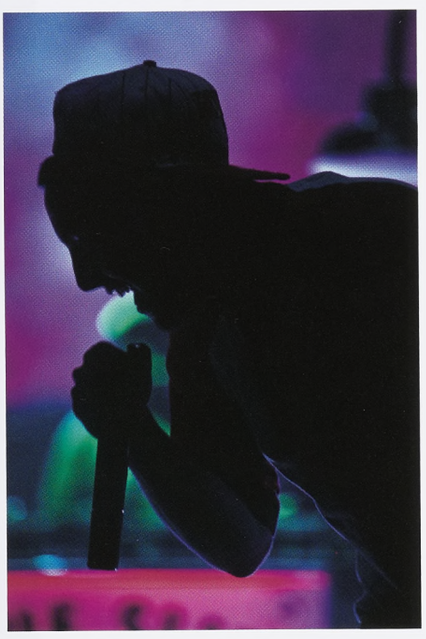


Enjoying the concert, fans in the auditorium stood vibing to Mac Miller's performace. Gaining exponential popularity as of late, Mac Miller was named one of XXL Magazine's 11 Freshman artists to break out in 2011.



As thousands of fans scream with excitement, Mac Miller makes a slight wardrobe change to begin the night. Hours after tickets went on sale, few seats were available for this, eventually leading to a sold-out show.

Laying down some lines from his lastest mixtape "Best Day Ever," Mac Miller takes a rest on his park bench. He named the "Blue Slide Park Tour" after a local park where he and his friends grew up in Pittsburgh.





BEST DAY EVER

Mac Miller performs at the Auditorium

Mac Miller performs "Donald Trump," one of his most popular singles. Miller was touring promote his upcoming album, "Blue Slide Park."



Mackenzie Mohr, a sophomore at MSU, reads the secrets hanging from a clothesline at the Gilchrist Pub. Mohr heard about the PostSecret event through her hall government.



West Circle students showcase their secrets anonymously in the Gilchrist Pub on Oct. 6, courtesy of PRIDE. The note cards were placed into students' mailboxes and collected anonymously in the residence halls for display.



Junior Rebecca Sobanski reads all of the secrets surrounding her at the PostSecret event held in the Gilchrist Pub. PRIDE, People Respecting Individuality, Diversity, and Equality hosted the event.

A SAFE PLACE FOR SECRETS

PRIDE event allows student to publicly, anonymously reveal secrets in Gilchrist Hall

Normally when one thinks of a secret, he or she wants it hidden from others, otherwise it wouldn't be a secret. Yet in Gilchrist Hall there are dozens of them scrawled on index cards and hanging from a clothesline, as if they were laundry drying outside.

On Oct. 6, People Respecting Individuality, Diversity, and Equality (PRIDE) held their PostSecret event at Gilchrist Hall to showcase their group and give the students of West Circle a chance to expose their secrets anonymously.

The event was inspired by Frank Warren's PostSecret: a community art project in which people anonymously mail secrets on homemade postcards to be posted to a website, used for books or displayed in museum exhibits. Since its inception in 2004, the project has received national attention and attracted more then 500,000 secrets.

Bailey Redinger, a senior and vice-president of PRIDE, said PRIDE is a safe space for LBGT students in West Circle. She said they put note cards in all the West Circle students' mailboxes and then collected them to showcase at the social event.

"This is an event for us to spread awareness, not just about PRIDE, but about the dangers in the secrets people are experiencing and hiding," Redinger said.

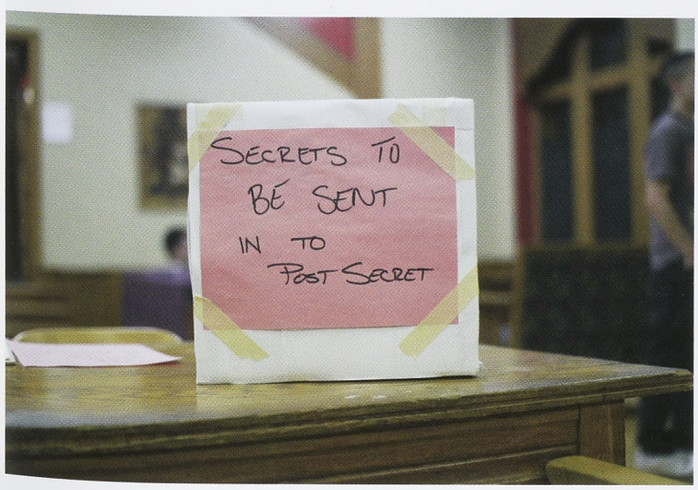
A solemn tone pervades the quiet study hall. Students walk slowly beneath the hanging secrets, occasionally pausing as their upward gaze is arrested by one that is particularly compelling. But in case a student wasn't able to write a secret the first time, there were colored paper, markers and glitter available. There were also private booths in which one could steal away and prevent others from seeing his or her secrets being written. These new secrets were put into one of two boxes: those in the first box would be displayed in Linton Hall, and those in the second would be submitted to the official PostSecret website.

Justin Drwencke, the president of PRIDE, said they chose to host the event because they thought it was interesting and a good way to get the idea of PostSecret out in the open.

"This event is a way to give out secrets in an anonymous way, which makes people feel more comfortable about sharing their secrets," Drwencke said.

It was a hit, as many students walked in and out to learn about the event. Sophomore Kate Watson isn't involved with PRIDE but came to the event to support a friend. She said she became excited after researching the event and was glad she came.

"Everyone has stuff they are always dealing with and they usually keep that stuff inside of them, and getting it out of their system, even on a note card, always helps," Watson said.



The Gilchrist secret unveiling featured booths for students choosing to submit their secret to PostSecret. The event was inspired by Frank Warren's website that showcases anonymous secrets submitted by readers.



A bird's eye view of the clock room. There were plenty of materials for novice clock makers to choose from.



Junior Kathleen Sarkady begins sketching the design of her intricate clock. Paints, fabric, and cardboard were just a few of the supplies on hand for the clock-making process.

TIME IN YOUR HANDS

College of Arts and Letters organizations team up for clock-making party

Room 307 Linton Hall proved a feast for the senses on Sept. 4. Laughter bounced off the chartreuse colored walls, and the aroma of warm Hungry Howie's pizza mingled with the decadent scent of freshly baked chocolate-chip cookies. The table at the center of the room was surrounded not by kindergarteners but college students, picking through layers of flashy fabrics, magazine clippings, and paint brushes.

Yet none of this was particularly unusual for a gathering with the Creativity Exploratory (CE) and College of Arts and Letters (CAL) Maker groups; what made this particular event unique was the theme: clock-making.

A raid of Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft, Michael's, and Creativity Exploratory Convener Dánielle DeVoss' closet supplied the clock-making party with plenty of crafts for the groups to use in their designs. Throughout the afternoon, students and staff shared humorous anecdotes, ranging from personalized theme songs to the ethics of shunning ginger seals.

Nearly as fascinating as the conversations were the clock designs. Bystanders in Linton Hall, undoubtedly attracted by the alluring scent of pizza, lingered in the doorway, vocalizing their thoughts on the elaborate designs of the clocks. Staff member Brian Adams, founder of CAL Maker, led the forefront of creativity with his Styrofoam dummy head clock.

"We're gonna make you pretty again…" Adams cooed darkly while sifting away at the helpless Styrofoam face with a 4-inch razor.

Other attempted clock designs included a rainbow, nuts and bolts, and one of the homemade cookies. After a few mishaps, the least functional designs were quickly weeded out.

"If I make a cookie clock, will it go bad in a few days?" staff member Scott Schopieray asked. However, his attempts fell short; the clock mechanism could not reach through the thick, delicious layers of doughy goodness. Sadly for him, that was just how the cookie crumbled.

Some students met with more success than the staff.

"I didn't know what I was doing," junior Kathleen Sarkady laughed, "but it turned out great!" She gestured proudly at her finished product, a fully functional clock with trellised borders.

The party was hosted by College of Arts and Letters organizations Creativity Exploratory and CAL Maker. These groups focus on providing a creative outlet for all MSU students, particularly through designing and creating digital and technical, do-it-yourself projects. So, why make clocks?

"One of the premises here is not to be too high tech with everything, and to make and touch stuff," DeVoss explained.

Hands-on projects are very rewarding for students and push their creativity. The goal of the clock-making party was to not limit students by using only digital media as the design medium, but to focus on more tangible, out-of-the-box materials, Adams said. The need for clocks in Creativity Exploratory's home room where they usually meet, was also a significant factor.

Junior Kathryn Nowinski expressed how glad she was to be a part of the event instead of being stuck in her dorm room. She explained the depravity of her situation:

"It got me out of my wool socks and corduroy stretchy pants!"

Students also expressed excitement for future events with the CAL groups.

"My clock wouldn't work, but it was still a good experience…I think there should be more about CE out there! There should be more events!" junior Shelby Dosser raved.

As the sound of ticking filled the room, the time for making clocks dwindled as students returned to their mundane lives. However, one man remained.

Adams dug his hand into the white, flaky head of the motionless dummy, his concern for timeliness outweighed by his desire to finish the morbid monstrosity of a clock. At last, the hands of the clock emerged. Adams laughed maniacally as they ticked eerily along the forehead of the severed head. He surveyed his masterpiece clock, and grasped time in his hands.



Professional Writing professor Dánielle DeVoss cuts a piece of fabric to be used in her clock design. DeVoss provided many of the supplies for this creative event.



For students in a hurry, bus tubs are located outside of the dishroom for dirty dishes to be placed. Bus tubs fill up quickly, so they constantly are monitored by caf workers.

DOWN IN THE DUMPS

An inside look at what your cafeteria trays go through after you're done with them

A first job for many, working in the cafeteria doesn't seem glamorous or desirable, but many cafeteria workers agree that the environment, friendships and flexible hours are well worth the hair net and gloves.

Moving a tray from the conveyor belt in the Landon Hall cafeteria dish room located in the basement, junior Daphne Neighbor sorts half empty cups, plates covered in picked over food, bowls with soup and milk remains and silverware to be scraped and washed. A veteran to the dish room, Neighbor's maroon polo shows her status to anyone visiting the cafeteria, or "caf." She works alongside freshman Anya Odabasic, who is working in the cafeteria as her third job since entering the work force.

"Compared to my previous jobs, this one really is just a job," said Odabasic, who worked as a cashier and tennis instructor before coming to MSU.

Although it may be "just a job," she and Neighbor agree that employee teamwork helps make washing dishes for hours during the dinner rush worth it.

Along with teamwork, freshman caf worker Jessica Laube says there are other reasons why the job is beneficial to not only friendships but schedules and wallets, too. Apart from building great friendships with coworkers (Laube texts many of hers outside of work to set up study sessions), she likes that she can work around her class schedule and use her extra cash for spending money because, "Being a poor college student is not fun."

When asked to describe the Landon Hall dish room, Laube whipped herself into a frenzy of adjectives: "It is hot, loud, dirty and slippery."

Neighbor mentioned that if she's scheduled for dish room duty she won't shower before work. Showing off her exposed arms, she pointed out pieces of food and smears of barbecue sauce from the night. Another downside is the heat. At peak dish washing times during lunch, dinner and if a sporting game is on TV, Neighbor said it can get so hot in the basement that they need to take breaks to get some fresh air. To drown out the noise from the washing machine, Laube and her coworkers blast music "…and we dance around. While doing our job, of course."

When provoked to leak the best and worst parts of the job, Laube said she'd advise someone who is thinking about working in the cafeteria that is it isn't as bad as people say.

"Oh, and whatever you do to your food, we will see it," she added.

What does she mean by this? Neighbor laughingly admitted that sometimes they find trays with messages written in the food.

"Once my friends wrote in their food a quote from the movie "The Other Guys" with Will Ferrell. It said, 'Thanks for the shaggin' wagon, Love Dirty Mike and the boys'. It took me a while to figure out what it said, but it was so funny once I did."



Colorful, clean dishes await use in the cafeteria. Dirty dishes are collected in bus tubs and conveyor belts.

Garbage fills up quickly in The Gallery. Workers in the caf make a starting wage of $7.40 an hour.







After trays of uneaten food and dirty dishes come down the conveyor belt, food makes its way to the sink to be disposed. Cafeteria workers have several opportunities for promotions.

Piles of uneaten food are washed away down the sink in The Gallery. Cafeteria workers said sometimes they find messages written with food on the abandoned trays.





BRIDGING THE GAP

For a Chinese international student who has been learning English since age 7, it's peculiar that Shirley Tong's grasp of the language has actually gotten worse after living in the United States for almost three years.

"Since I've come here, I don't know how to make American friends," the senior said. "My English is getting worse. I don't have time to talk to Americans. I speak Chinese with all my friends."

Tong feels there is a gap between her and Americans.

"I think, 'I'm Asian, will they like Asians'?" she said.

The petite Chinese student, wearing a fashionable blue sailor button-down, can't recount any bad experiences she has had with Americans in her day-to-day life. She said because she is unsure if they will want to talk to her or be friends with an Asian student, she is too shy to even approach them.

Her mother reminds her that she is a foreigner and that if she doesn't talk to people first, they won't talk to her.

Although Tong may be shy with Americans, she doesn't hesitate to befriend people with whom she has more similarities. Whether it was reaching out to students from other cities in China before leaving for MSU or jetting off on a solo trip to New York City for a Korean music festival and shacking up with other enthusiasts she met online, the girl isn't afraid of new situations.

In fact, her first time on a plane was coming to MSU. Now she's a natural, strategically plotting layovers in different U.S. cities so she can explore them in between flights. Tong likes to discover new places on her own. Wandering the country doesn't worry her; it's the thought of American rejection that does.

When Tong first arrived on MSU's campus, a Christian Bible group reached out to her and invited her to their weekly Bible studies and weekend trips. While she met new people and got to practice her English, there was one problem: she'd lost interest in learning about Christianity. Eventually, she stopped attending.

"After that, I really lost contact with Americans,"she said. "But, at the same time, I really didn't want to learn about the Bible anymore."

Not many groups reached out to her after freshman year, and Tong still feels like it's hard for her to make American friends.

" I think (Americans) are nice, it's just I don't know how to make friends with them," she said. "Every time I meet a new person, we talk and laugh together, but I don't think it's polite to ask for their phone number the first time. But if I don't have their phone number, we will never meet again."



Large amounts of alcohol, like these Smirnoff bottles, are often given as gifts from friends and family during birthdays and other holidays. Age limits for drinking range from none at all in countries like Jamaica to the highest being 21, shared only by the US and three other countries.

Junior Colby Brooks shotguns a Keystone Light during a tailgate previous to the U-M vs. MSU football game. Many students can be found drinking with their parents all over campus during tailgate Saturdays in the fall.





A keg sits in the kitchen the Sunday morning after U-M vs. MSU football game weekend. Although all kegs are acquired by students of age, their contents are not always distributed to legal recipients.

21 IS DONE

Students and faculty question the current minimum drinking age

Age-based alcohol laws are inconclusively effective, especially as they split an otherwise unified community: college students. These young adults have the legal right to fight for the United States, vote for representatives, buy guns and operate motor vehicles. Shouldn't they also have the opportunity to learn how to drink safely instead of doing it on the sly?

An annual report released in 2010 by the Michigan State University Police cited over 3,000 "alcohol violations" in the last five years on campus alone, and more than 4,000 DUIs (Driving Under the Influence) in the last nine years. And that's only the number of people getting caught; due to the necessity to hide from the law, it is likely that thousands of others were engaged in illegal activity.

"Everyone drinks regardless of the law," said sophomore Ana Alas, who lived in São Paulo, Brazil throughout her high school experience. "All they care about is not getting caught.

In Brazil, people our age are more responsible with the way they drink because they have been introduced to alcohol at a young age, while people here are constantly passing out and throwing up. Parents don't properly introduce kids to alcohol like at dinner or social events, so when students have the opportunity in college, they drink excessively," she continued.

In fact, under Michigan law it is illegal for minors to consume alcohol in a legal adult's household. So how can parents properly teach their children to drink responsibly?

The Amethyst Initiative, a group of chancellors and presidents of universities and colleges across the United States, aims to reopen this discussion and foster new ideas to prepare young adults for responsible alcohol consumption. Some suggestions include a drinking license, which 18-year-olds could acquire through a course on the safety issues of driving under the influence. Like a driver's license, the drinking license could be suspended in the event of reckless drinking.

This measure would encourage students to drink responsibly by emphasizing moral choice, rather than strict prohibition. Although Michigan State University is not a part of the initiative, Becky Allen, a representative for the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs for MSU Student Health Services "would love to see this occur." Allen requested "we make this an environment that is safe for everyone, and that has a focus on entertainment and sociability, instead of the law being impossibly harsh on students."

Anthony Lafrate, a freshman slapped with an MIP (Minor In Possession) over the University of Michigan versus MSU weekend criticized the current alcohol laws as well:

"All I was doing was sitting in my dorm room drinking beers with my friends who were visiting, when two cops walked past my dorm and saw a couple of beer cans."

How can an 18-year-old simply reconnecting with friends over a few beers be punished, while a 22-year-old who stumbles down the street and pukes in a bush be considered legal?

Responsible drinking can be encouraged if society emits praise for developed consumption among young adults, rather than locking the issue away. The question is, how do we disentangle such a subject from the realm of taboo topics to allow breathing room for progress?





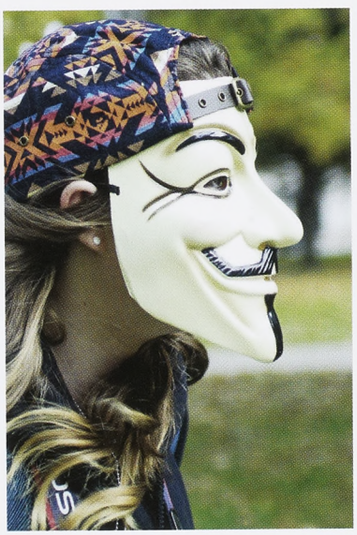
Two decorated pumpkins sit behind a parking structure near Farm Lane. Individuals attended tailgates on football Saturdays to collect the discarded aluminum cans and glass bottles.

MSU alumnus Keith Bury and his younger sister, junior Stephanie Bury, chug bottles of champagne while tailgating during the U-M vs. MSU football game. Many Spartans, both alumni and current students can be found in the parking lots near Shaw Road on Saturdays during football season.



Lt. Chris Kelenske and Lt. Darin Southworth observe the peace during a demonstration held Oct. 15. "As long as everybody stays safe and everybody's constitutional rights are protected and they follow the laws, it sounds good to me," Lt. Kelenske said.

A protestor wears a Guy Fawkes mask to represent Anonymous during the Occupy Lansing demonstration at the Capitol Building. The demonstration eventually led to a march down Michigan Avenue.



Protestors leave the Capitol behind and head down Michigan Avenue. The protestors were instructed to stick together and let no one fall behind.





The Michigan State Police were in charge of ensuring a peaceful protest during the Occupy Lansing demonstration. There were police cars set up at the end of every block to keep the protestors away from oncoming traffic.



Ken Faiver and his granddaughter, 10-year-old Savannah Gunn, hold their signs alongside other Occupy Lansing protestors on Oct. 15 at the Lansing Capitol. Faiver protested to ensure his granddaughter a bright and fulfilling future.

WE ARE THE 99 PERCENT

Global occupation reaches Lansing

On Sept. 17, about 1,000 people flooded Wall Street in what would become the first in a series of peaceful demonstrations touching more than 900 cities in 82 countries.

The leaderless movement, dubbed Occupy Wall Street, models itself on the Arab Spring, a wave of demonstrations marked by revolutions in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya with civil uprisings and protests occurring in at least 15 other countries in the Arab world. Thanks to social media, Occupy Wall Street rapidly spread to major U.S. cities such as Boston and Austin, and on Oct. 15, Occupy Lansing, an initiative organized by the Lansing Workers' Center (LWC), carried 300 citizens into the Capitol streets in what some hope will be the first step in a series of continuing protests and rallies.

"It wasn't voted on at a meeting or anything. It just seemed obvious," said LWC member Kevin Pietrick about the decision to organize the local occupation. Juggling a white poster that read "DEMOCRATIZE EVERYTHING" and numerous phone calls, Pietrick, who is also an MSU senior in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy, added that he sees the "main benefit" of the Lansing movement is its power as a "unifying force for people from different groups who are all on the same 'screw Wall Street' page."

About a week before Occupy Lansing, somewhere between six and 10 people set up tents and occupied Reutter Park, which later became known as "the camp." Located two blocks from the Capitol, the group merged with the LWC movement and by Oct. 15, the number of tents had swelled to 14, including one for first aid.

Signs designed using pieces of cardboard boxes and markers noted which jugs of water were for washing and which van was media. Others hung on a clothesline between two trees. One sign hammered home

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Protestors leave the Capitol behind and head down Michigan Avenue. The protestors were instructed to stick together and let no one fall behind.



Muskegon resident, 24-year-old Anna Kathryn Sluka, chants with the marchers as they marched down Michigan Avenue. Sluka was the first female arrest on Wall Street for refusing lawful order.

the general sentiment of the crowd, "I voted for Obama but the banks got elected instead." An open-air tent labeled "Donated in Honor of Motherhood" loosely contained piles of boxed and canned food. Police, who were present at the LWC planning meeting on Oct. 12, authorized portable toilets to be brought in and allowed people to stay overnight.

Laura Lannen, 53, studied fashion design at a now-defunct art school across the street from the Lansing Capitol 20 years ago. She drove in from Ann Arbor to protest on the Capitol steps, holding a white fabric flag that read, "Democracy, not Plutocracy. getmoneyout.com." Like many of the 99 percent—those who do not belong to the one percent of hyper-wealthy citizens symbolized by Wall Street—she worked her way up the middle class ladder until one day what she calls the "perfect storm" hit: Her husband, who works for the University of Michigan, got cancer; their $400,000 home was suddenly worth less than half its value; their equity evaporated; and Laura, who worked in real estate, was out of a career.

"The root of the problem is that public money is being used to fund campaigns," said Lannen, who explained that billionaires such as the Koch brothers—who are, perhaps appropriately, the major producers of toilet paper in the U.S.—pressure members of the House of Representatives to vote in their favor. If they don't, the brothers pump millions of dollars into a campaign for another candidate within the same party, who then unseats the dissenting representative.

"We need a constitutional amendment which will keep public money out," she added.

But the one percent has more than one way of controlling 40 percent of the nation's income.

"For me it's about over the last 30 years it's been death by a thousand little costs. It isn't that they're trying to keep up profits, it's that they're trying to become wealthier," Laura continued. "Corporations and financial institutions have raped this country in the past 30 years and it's just obscene."

She explained that an incremental rise in the cost of everything from insurance co-pay to gasoline, coupled with a decrease in pensions and "flat-lined" wages, has allowed a small coterie to suck money out of the American people.

"All the money of the middle class is still here. It's just floated up," she said. "It's not like we're trying to take [their money] away; they just need to give it back."

Ken Groom, an elderly gas turbine engineer who is responsible for supplying power to 2.5 million people in Westland, shed further insight into the consequences of tax cuts for the wealthy:

"Businesses tried to stay in the 90 percent income bracket so that they wouldn't be taxed by the government. It was a choice between spending the money or giving it to the government.

So they would reinvest money into their business: create more jobs for people, give them benefits. You take away the taxes and there's no incentive to hire more people because that money just goes to the bottom line."

In other words, into the pockets of the one percent.

While few protestors could afford to actually occupy the Capitol—family obligations, work and dinner with the wife being a few reasons—people drove in from Kalamazoo, Flint and Ashton to demonstrate. Some buses even brought in groups of people from other cities, and senior citizens circled the Capitol with petitions, one of which was to restore collective bargaining rights to Michigan teachers.

Perhaps one of the most shocking aspects of this movement is the demographic: while still largely white, the age, gender, sexuality and occupation of participants varied greatly.

"This is a diverse crowd," said undeclared Lansing Community College student Alexander Baker.Baker spent six years working in the National Guard, including one year in Iraq, but still works thirty hours a week as a security guard in his struggle to make ends meet and get an education. "But I still don't see the mainstream public involved. They're at home, watching the [MSU-UofM] football game, or doing family things, but whatever they're doing they aren't here. They aren't protesting. They aren't trying to get things changed."

Further dissent was generated by the fact that the first speaker of the 10 a.m. rally was Mayor Virg Bernero, with an emcee who, in Pietrick's words "basically said how great Virg is and how we're going to take politics back from the Republicans."

But while politics will never cease to interfere, there is an astounding unity to the movement.

On a national scale, occupations continue to grow and a website called "The99PercentDeclaration" aims to elect a Working Group that will present a list of demands at the National General Assembly in Philadelphia on July 4, 2012. And as the second General Assembly in Lansing began at 5 p.m., hundreds of people stood at the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, fresh-faced from their first day of the London Stock Exchange occupation.



Muskegon resident, 24-year-old Anna Kathryn Sluka, yells into the megaphone helping to organize the march down Michigan Avenue. Sluka was the first female arrest on Wall Street for refusing lawful order.



L

Lansing Occupier showed up on the Capitol lawn Oct. 15 to showcase his feelings about the government. The Occupy Movement began on Wall Street in New York city on Sept. 17.

Protestors leave the Capitol behind and head down Michigan Avenue. The protestors were instructed to stick together and let no one fall behind.



HAIL SPARTY!

"Rocket" play capitalizes special day for MSU

With four seconds and 44 yards to go in a 31-31 game against the University of Wisconsin, MSU needed a miracle.

As Kirk Cousins dropped back for a last chance pass, it seemed as if every fan at the game held their breath. As the ball soared in the air to the end zone, the stadium was quiet enough to hear a pin drop.

Somehow, out of a jostling clump of Badgers and Spartans, the ball found its way into Keith Nichol's hands at the goal line. The silent crowd erupted with roaring cheers and applause.

At first, however, the referees ruled that Nichol hadn't crossed into the end zone. Yet upon further review, the ruling was overturned. It was a touchdown and victory for MSU.

ESPN College Gameday picked MSU's homecoming game for its weekly broadcast, setting up shop in Munn Field for a live show. Coach Lee Corso, an anchor since the show's beginnings, picked Wisconsin for the win in pregame analysis, donning the Badger mascot's head despite a throng of booing Spartan fans behind him.

Senior Robert Goldman said he was ecstatic that ESPN chose to come to MSU for the game.

"It's a really cool part of my senior year," he said. "It really helps put our school on the map and makes you proud to be a Spartan."

Jake Feldman, an alumnus who grew up in Michigan but now works in Seattle, said he was happy to be able to come back to school for the weekend.

"This weekend is a great way to see my former classmates who I haven't spoken to or seen in a while," he said. "It's just a fun time, hanging out with each other like we always used to do."

And to top it off, it was a night game.

"As fans, we know night games are extra important so we have to bring extra energy and be extra loud," sophomore Ben Suchin said.

In fact, Michigan State football veterans said they hadn't heard the stadium so loud in 25 years.

The game wasn't all cheers, however. Wisconsin jumped out to an early 14-0 lead in the first quarter, and it wasn't until the second quarter that the Spartans began to take over.

After a long, neck and neck offensive battle in the second half, the Badgers tied the game up with a two-yard touchdown in the last minutes of the fourth quarter.

The crowd quickly became nervous, but began to cheer even louder, with more, "GO GREEN, GO WHITE!" chants filling the air.

With 1:26 left and the crowd still screaming, the excitement intensified. In a series of plays, the Spartans drove 44 yards to the Wisconsin 44-yard line, at which point fans could only hope for a miracle. They knew that a "Hail Mary" play was the only chance of avoiding overtime.

Thankfully, their hopes were answered by the play that head coach Mark Dantonio would eventually call "Rocket," and that quarterback Kirk Cousins would later explain the team practiced every Thursday, yet one couldn't help feeling a whole lot of luck had been on the Spartan's side as well.



During the ESPN Gameday broadcast on Munn Field, Lee Corso predicts a Wisconsin victory for the MSU Homecoming game. The Spartans won 38-31 over Wisconsin.



In opposition to Wisconsin, Spartan fans waved handmade signs badgering the opponent. Spartans won the game 38-31 after scoring a "hail mary" touchdown pass.



Students and Spartan fans gather on Munn Field to watch the ESPN Gameday broadcast live from campus. The event was sponsored by ESPN and The Home Depot.



MSU students show school spirit in traditional Spartan dress. ESPN broadcasted live from Munn Field the afternoon before the Homecoming game at 8 p.m.



Team captain Draymond Green signs posters for fans along with the rest of the Spartan basketball team. Green commanded the Spartans as the their strongest leader and captain on a team full of young players.

THE IZZONE EXPERIENCE

Izzone members meet the new and returning men's basketball players

A snake of students slithered out of the Breslin Center, basking in the warmth of excitement. The tail discussed the importance of the wait, while the head gazed into the empty Breslin Center, waiting for the doors to open.

Somewhere towards the belly of the MSU attired serpent, freshman Tyler Peterson intermixed with the crisp autumn breeze.

"You get to see how they play, but you never really get to see how they interact with people," he said.

Peterson's voice floated toward the Breslin Center, where the men's basketball team awaited the Izzone's arrival. Due to an unforeseen cancellation of the Izzone campout because of rainy weather, the group's leaders opted for a meet and greet inside the Breslin Center to fortify the bond between the Izzone and the MSU players.

The Izzone: an entity. A roaring unified mass that shakes the floorboards of the court, sending positive vibrations to the players. It is a synchronized relationship, like lungs providing the essential elements to the whole system. The Izzone exhales and cheers to exhaustion while the team breathes in the energy and exhales the fierce competition. They feed off one another, as shown by the placement of the students in the bottom bowl as part of the action.

On Oct. 25, the students sat in the familiar bottom bowl, listening to the words of Coach Tom Izzo.

"Most colleges don't have their students surrounding the court, but here at State we believe you can make the 10-point difference," Izzo asserted. "Although we are a young team."

"We are due to win another one. For the goal is not to win everything in November, but to be walking around in March. And based on past years, March is good to this team."

Freshman Adam Feuerstein agreed about the influence of the Izzone.

"The Izzone will help set records this year," he said.

Coach Izzo then invited the fans onto the court, where their eyes would be fixed for the season. The students conversed, took pictures and requested autographs from the players. With posters, hats and basketballs signed, the students took a tour through the locker room to further make an imprint on the Izzone character. The locker room, though silent at the time, resonated with an undertone of the forceful hurrahs from the games to come.

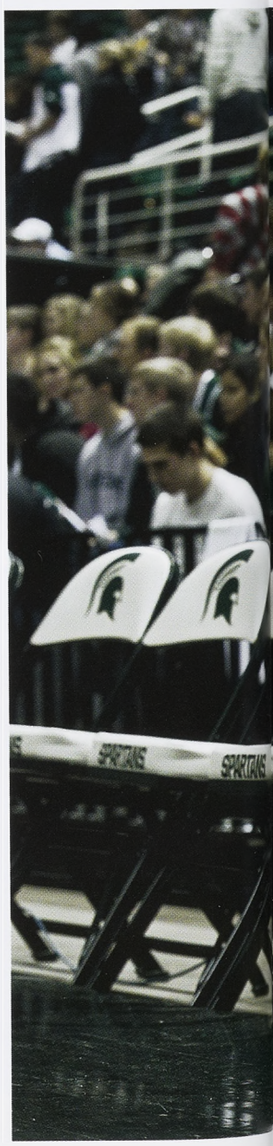
Russell Byrd, a redshirt freshman, echoed the words of Feuerstein:

"Big Ten Championship here we come!" he cheered. "We need the Izzone, and I'm expecting a lot from them this year."

Meanwhile, redshirt senior and center Anthony Ianni sat patiently behind the growing line of starting forward Draymond Green. After 30 reflective seconds, he spoke about his experience playing for MSU:

"It's a once in a life time thing. You have to enjoy it. No regrets. You have to put your nose to the grindstone, and I know better than anyone that the harder you work, the more you earn. And the more you have fun with it, the greater the experience."

As each player returned to the locker room to gather their belongings, the snake of students unwound out the doors of the Breslin Center, taking one final breath, exhaling their essential influence.



CLIZZONE MEET AND GREET

content: cooper franks
photo: chase o'black
design: brendan prost



During their tour of the locker room, Izzone members were given the opportunity to fill the shoes, or seat of their favorite Spartan basketball player. The Spartans have only two players returning this season who averaged more than twenty minutes per game last season.

Coach Izzo introduces the new additions to the Spartan squad and reintroduces the familiar favorites along with his staff. MSU added four freshmen and one senior transfer to their roster for the 2011-2012 season.





As students listen intently, Coach Tom Izzo speaks to them about the upcoming season and fields questions from inquisitive members. During his introduction, Coach Izzo revealed that the Spartans would be wearing specials uniforms for the upcoming Carrier Classic against North Carolina.



After the performance, water, rice, toast and other items covered the floor of the International Center. The interactive performance required audience participation.



During the viewing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" on Oct. 28, audience members interactively participated with the film's characters. Attendees sang, danced and screamed profanities at specific movie cues.



A performance of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" showed at the International Center on Oct. 28. For added chaos, audience members were encouraged to participate during the viewing by throwing rice, toast, toilet paper or spraying water guns.

MOVIE MADNESS

Students participate in interactive showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"

Imagine throwing rice, toast and toilet paper, or spraying water guns and shaking hand-clappers during a movie. While this may trespass on notions of social propriety, this is what hundreds of students did on Oct. 28 at the International Center.

In celebration of Halloween, students gathered for a screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," in which the audience interactively participates with the characters and events in the movie.

Michelle Cooper, the directing coordinator, said that while the event isn't usually what people expect, most people leave the show grinning.

"The Rocky Horror Picture Show," which is about two hours long, was originally released in 1975, but gained popularity as a midnight release film in 1977. Since then, the movie has become a cult favorite. It is also the longest-running theatrical release in history. Freshman Grace Scarsella had seen the movie before and said it is indescribable.

"As weird as the movie is, I love it. It is a bunch of crazy stuff all put together," Scarsella said.

The event was packed; hundreds of people showed up in costume. Witches, vampires, prisoners and maids flew, battled and flounced through the International Center. The cafeteria-turned-theatre was stuffed with bags full of props for people to use throughout the show. Inside the bags, there was also an audience participation guide so newcomers could better understand what to do. Cooper said in the first 19 minutes, about 200 people showed up for the film. Last year about 400 people packed the event, and they expected more this year.

Freshman Rebecca Roberts had only heard of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" from "Glee," but came to this event to check it out and have fun.

"I don't really know what to expect of the film, but if all these people showed up it must be good," Roberts said.

The audience doesn't just throw things or use props throughout the film; they talk, too. Whenever Brad and Janet's, two of the main characters, names were said, the audience yelled out "asshole" and "slut" respectively.

"The audience always seems to know which parts to yell out at and precisely when to participate," Cooper said.

If someone didn't know what to do, he or she would quickly catch on. For example, at the part of the movie where the characters do the time warp dance, everyone in the audience gets up and does the dance too. At the beginning of the song not many knew what they were doing, but by the end everyone was doing the time warp just like the characters.

Freshman Shannon Fegan, who had never seen the film before, said she loved it.

"I never expected I could have so much fun during a movie. It was unlike any other movie experience," Fegan said.





A newcomer handout was provided to students who had never attended the interactive performance of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." At the mention of specific characters' names, audience members screamed "slut" or "asshole."

Attendees were invited to wear costumes in celebration of Halloween at "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" performance. Maids, prisoners, witches and vampires were just a sample of the popular costumes.



Jeff Conroy-Kruetz and his daughter Lizzie trick-or-treat on M.A.C. Avenue in celebration of her first Halloween. Safe Halloween is an annual event hosted by fraternities and sororities where kids can play games and participate in different Halloween activities.

A GREEK TREAT

The MSU Greek community comes together for Safe Halloween



Alpha Omicron Pi sophomore Mary Cox carefully paints 4-year-old Isabel Hutcheson's face for Safe Halloween. This was Hutcheson's first year trick-or-treating at the Greek event.



Trinnitie Hudson, two and a half years old, takes a piece of candy from her dad after fishing for it. This was her second time trick-or-treating at MSU, but her first time dressed as Spongebob Squarepants.

You don't normally see a pirate, a dinosaur and a ninja walking together down M.A.C. Avenue in East Lansing. But on Oct. 29, the sight was nothing out of the norm.

Hundreds of East Lansing families and MSU's Greek fraternities and sororities participated in the annual Safe Halloween, an event that gives East Lansing children a chance to trick-or-treat safely.

"We want to provide a safe environment for trick-or-treating, and we want to have fun with families," said event coordinator, Pan-Hellenic Council chair and senior Kathleen Loftus.

Despite aspects of the event going wrong beforehand, like the DJ canceling last minute and the moon bounce company forgetting its generator, smiles and laughter were everywhere.

More than 500 people participated in the trick-or-treating and games, but one of the more popular attractions was a fishing game, organized by Zeta Tau Alpha. Children used a fishing rod to magnetically pick up a prize in a fake pond.

"It's all about the kids," said Loftus, who is also a member of Zeta Tau Alpha. "We wanted to be creative and let them have a variety of activities to have fun with."

Each Greek house had a booth lining the street, and almost all members of the houses participated by passing out candy or helping the kids with games. There was even a police car and fire truck at the end of the street, also passing out candy and allowing the kids a chance to admire the features of the vehicles up-close.

Loftus said this is the only philanthropic event all the Greeks do together. Her nine-person team of the Pan-Hellenic Council worked for more than two months to bring together the houses and donators.

The hard work paid off. Ghouls, goblins, parents and kids danced alongside one another to the "Monster Mash" and other songs in the middle of M.A.C., while other families waited in line for apples and cider donated by Uncle John's Cider Mill.

Senior Shannon Cramm, president of the Order of Omega, wrapped suckers in white tissue paper and drew faces on them, creating a "Boo sucker" resembling a ghost.

"It's my favorite event of the year," Cramm said. "The Greeks get to interact with kids and kids get to interact with the college kids. We don't normally get to do that."

It was a time for kids to see older students reaching out to the community and setting an example for them to aspire to.

A young girl, dressed up for the festivities as a doll with a poufy striped dress and hair in pigtails, approached Loftus in front of the Zeta Tau Alpha house.

"What is it?" asked the girl, pointing to the house. "Can I get candy there?"

"That's a sorority house," Loftus said. "It's kind of like a doll house."

"Can I go in there?" the girl asked.

"One day, honey," her mom replied.

The dressed-up doll looked over her shoulder once again at the house as she walked hand-in-hand with her mom away from the festivities.

SAFE HALLOWEEN

content: carolyn sundquist
photo: allison jarrell
design: betsy eber





Elena Hernandez grabs a lollipop at one of the many tables participating in the annual street carnival. This was her first year trick-or-treating at MSU's Safe Halloween.



Children wait in line to toss bean bags for the chance to win candy at Safe Halloween. The event is an annual street carnival hosted by MSU's Greek community that provides a safe alternative for children to trick-or-treat and play games on M.A.C. Avenue.

Members of the MSU Pompon team dance down Abbot Road in the midst of the Homecoming parade. The winner of the "Best Float" for the parade went to the School of Hospitality Business.



A decorated Spartan pick-up truck pulls "Zeke the Wonder Dog" in a chariot emblazoned with the dog's face. Zeke is the only non-human to receive an athletic letter from MSU.





The MSU Rodeo Club rides their horses down Grand River Avenue. The MSU Rodeo Club promotes an annual rodeo each year called the Spartan Stampede.

A float constructed completely of used laundry detergent bottles rolls its way down Abbot Road during the Homecoming parade. The parade began on Abbot at 6 p.m. and ended on campus at the Abrams Planetarium.



The School of Hospitality Business offers a delicious dinner special for Saturday's Homecoming football game against Big Ten rival Wisconsin. In 2012, The School of Hospitality Business will be celebrating its 85th anniversary.







A "Go Green" glitter sign dries to be hung on the side of the Sigma Delta Tau Homecoming float. During Homecoming weekend, the Spartans defeated the Wisconsin Badgers in the final moments of the game with a "Hail Mary" pass.



Junior Nicole Hanley paints a sign to be hung on the side of the Sigma Delta Tau homecoming float. The theme for homecoming was "Glow Green, Go White," which encouraged students to pick up free green light bulbs from the union for use outside their homes.





COOKING UP COMMUNITY

The School of Hospitality Business prepares for homecoming

On a rainy afternoon on Oct. 20, student organizations and Greeks gathered under the concrete umbrella of the Michigan State Stadium. Surrounded by scraps of fabric and tools, they diligently worked on their floats in preparation for Homecoming weekend.

According to the freshly-painted menu on the School of Hospitality Business' float, the "special is Badger"—a stuffed animal Wisconsin Badger to be exact. As it turned above the flames of Spartan green, a blend of sociability and productivity filled the humid autumn air.

A group of roughly 10 students surrounded the progressing float, created with this year's theme of "Glow Green, Glow White" in mind. Jake Dondzila, senior and president of the Student and Industry Resource Center, voiced the difficulty of incorporating the theme and added, "the idea is to continue the hospitality business aspect to the float."

Last year, for the "Spartan Space Odyssey"-themed homecoming, the school's "Jetson's Dinner Scene" won best float.

The float depicts a restaurant with two tables, occupied by Hospitality Business students dressed as waiters and serving grilled badger—a presentation sure to invigorate the taste buds of parade spectators. However, for Dondzila it was more than a presentation, but also a bonding experience for the school.

"The point is to bring everyone together as a social activity to just chill and build a float," Dondzila said, adding that, "most people don't realize that there are 800 students in the hospitality business program."

This recipe of community and creativity whipped up another float for the School of Hospitality Business, ready to be served.





A WORLD AWAY FROM HOME

"Most people are pretty interested in me," sophomore Audrey Mabiza says with a laugh. "I actually feel like I am at an advantage over the other domestic students because of my accent."

Not only does she have a killer cool accent from her hometown of Harare, Zimbabwe, but Mabiza's tightly braided hair and dark skin create a flawless background for a perfect smile; one that continually breaks into laughter about every three minutes.

Describing her home in Zimbabwe, Mabiza debunked common misconceptions many non-natives have about Africa, misconceptions worsened by some movies, like "Mean Girls," that paint a rural picture.

"I don't live in a hut," she laughed. "It's like some people think we don't have pools in our yards or schools with desks."

She didn't grow up with a pet lion in her backyard, and she owes her easy transition from Zimbabwe to East Lansing to her very modern upbringing and education.

"It's different here. I am constantly reminding myself that I'm not in Africa," she said, reflecting on her move two years ago. "And that home is a thousand miles away."

But the hardest part? Mabiza was disappointed with her roommate situation. An international student as well, the two girls had difficulty bonding with their language barriers.

"We were both so wrapped up in transitioning from home life to American life that we didn't have time to be friends," she said.

Lucky for Mabiza, the African Students Group did a great job of helping her make friends outside of her roommate.

"It was difficult because I would have to try to explain things to her in English, with my accent, and she would have to try and understand them. It was always really quiet in our room," she said.

You mean you didn't listen to music?

"Well, we did," she said, laughing again, "but I would have my headphones on, and she would have her headphones on. Anyone who walked past our room wouldn't have any idea that people lived there."

Ideally, Mabiza would have preferred to live with a domestic student. She thinks that the school should work harder to pair up international students with active domestic students to offer them the best potential opportunities and experiences.

But she really didn't mind the whole situation.

"It could have been much worse," she said.

When asked about her decision to come to MSU, Mabiza whipped herself into a nostalgic frenzy over applications, researching schools and a love for the campus.

"It's so funny being here," she said. "I walk past the (Beaumont) Tower, and I'm just like, 'Oh, I've only seen this in pictures and now, here it is'!"

She also credits much of her success to the friends she has made who have brought out the best in her. They help her shoot for higher goals, like applying to be an intercultural aid. She was offered the job and now lives in the dorms and helps other students from out of state transition as smoothly as she has.

While she does miss home sometimes (she only returns to Zimbabwe during summer break), she always is invited to go home with a friend for the holidays. A Catholic, Mabiza gets into the Christmas spirit like many others.

"But I don't like the snow," she said. "The first two weeks of snow is like the honeymoon stage. Everyone is like, 'Ahh! It's pretty! It's white!' Someone says, 'Let's make snow angels,' so we make snow angels. Then someone says, 'Let's have a snowball fight,' so we have a snowball fight."

Mabiza talks about snow for another minute. Between giggles and breaks for air she says,

"By the end of the two weeks everyone is annoyed, like, 'I'm just trying to get to class, and all this snow is in the way'. I don't like the snow."

NEW BEGINNINGS

MSU celebrates opening of Brody neighborhood and engagement centers





President Lou Anna K. Simon speaks to the press about the grand opening of the new Brody cafeteria and the Brody and South Neighborhoods Engagement Centers. The engagement centers were created to provide students with academic, health, intercultural and residential support.

Sophomore Brittany Campbell smiles as she directs foot traffic through the spacious entrance to Brody Neighborhood's cafeteria on Oct. 28. At the foot of the stairs leading up to the eating area are white tables covered with an enticing array of finger foods, showcasing all that Brody's food service has to offer.

Further down the hall past the stairway, the atmosphere is cheerful but attentive as reporters and photographers flock together in the area designated for press. A simple wooden podium and a short line of chairs mark the location of the first of today's festivities—a press conference with a selection of MSU staff members. The subject: the official opening of the Brody and South Neighborhood Engagement Centers.

The speakers included Assistant Vice President for the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services Vennie Gore and Assistant Vice President of Executive Management Kelley Bishop, among a handful of others. President Lou Anna K. Simon provided the final speech.

"I think it went really well; we had a good turnout, who are hopefully off looking at everything now," Gore said in reference to the clusters of people walking through the classrooms and other aspects of Brody's Neighborhood Engagement Center.

Bishop also thought the press conference was a "great kick-off."

"I was glad to see that most of the people here wanted to partner with us," Bishop said. "This project started at high speed, so it's nice that we were able to take a moment to step back and say 'this is a really cool thing.'"

Bishop is also the chief ambassador behind the neighborhood initiative, which began first as a trial program in Hubbard Hall last year. The idea behind establishing engagement centers for each neighborhood of campus is to provide services that cater specifically to the needs of students living there based on four criteria, or "pillars:" academic support, intercultural support, health and wellness and residential support.

"Essentially everyone that provides a service or product on campus fits into one or more of these pillars," Bishop said. "The engagement centers are set up as a way to give it some overall structure; it's similar to a really good concierge who asks questions like 'What do you like?' 'What are you looking for'?"

For this reason, Bishop also mentioned that the program is an evolving one that will most likely change based on student input. He added that since every engagement center is based specifically on the needs of their residents, no two are exactly alike. After the speeches, guests had the option of either taking a tour of Brody, taking a shuttle bus over to the South Neighborhood Engagement Center in Holden Hall, or staying to mingle with the speakers as they concluded their portion of the event with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. As the ceremony was being set up, Simon said,

"Now this part of today's agenda is unscripted. Are there any MSU students out there that would like to be a part of history?"

She then invited the students in the audience to join her and the rest of the speakers in a photo memorializing the day's events; one of the lucky students was Campbell, who called the experience "great!"

"I actually live in Brody, so it's been really cool to be a part of such an official opening," Campbell said.

BRODY ENGAGEMENT CENTER OPENING

content: noelle sciarini
photo: chris mcclain
design: brendan prost



President Lou Anna K. Simon poses with students before cutting the ribbon officially opening the new Brody cafeteria. Before the photograph, Simon asked, "Who wants to be apart of history?"



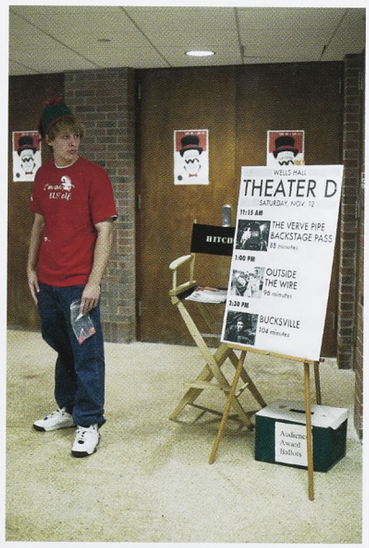
MSU administrators listen as speakers present honoring the grand opening of the Brody cafeteria and the engagement centers. The cafeteria grand opening took place Oct. 28.

East Lansing Film Festival attendees wait for the last film of ELFF, "Fall Away," to begin in Wells Hall. At many film showings, including "Fall Away," directors or producers showed up to address any questions from audience members.

In between movie showings, visitors patrol the hallway of Wells Hall learning about the movies available at ELFF. "Deadheads," a film shown in Wells, was described as the "Ferris Bueller" of zombie flicks.







Freshman Zach Hunter volunteers as an "ELFF elf" during the film festival. Wells Hall classrooms were temporarily transformed into four separate theaters, all labeled after famous directors, during the weekend of the East Lansing Film Festival.

In addition to a newly constructed Starbucks, moviegoers were offered fresh popcorn to snack on during their movie experience. Short films and documentaries were included along with standard feature films during the 2011 ELFF.



A LOCAL TOUCH

East Lansing Film Festival adds a local showcase featuring MSU students

It was a year of firsts for senior Justin Grosjean. His first time creating a film, his first time being featured in a film festival, and now, his first production company.

Grosjean and his identical twin brother, John Grosjean, started their own unofficial production company less than a year ago called Grosjean Brother Productions, or Gro Bro Pro for short.

On YouTube, their page has more than 2,000 views, 50 subscribers and the duo is now being paid by the site to have their short sketches uploaded. Each week, the Grosjean brothers release a new, one to five-minute long video, but they never come up short on ideas. Grosjean says the pair has more than 40 ideas currently written down, and they are constantly brainstorming new ones.

"After making this short film, I got addicted to filmmaking," Grosjean said.

It started when he changed his major to media arts and technology after taking three years of premed classes. While taking TC 340—a required course for his new major—last summer, Grosjean's professor encouraged him to enter his first film, "Fractured," into the East Lansing Film Festival (ELFF). He heeded the advice and found out he was admitted two months later. On Nov. 12, Grosjean saw the screening of his film and a Hollywood-style star on the floor of Wells Hall for the first time.

Created in 1997, the ELFF is the largest film festival in Michigan and runs annually for one week in the Hannah Community Center and Wells Hall. It screens independent and foreign feature, documentary, short and students films from around the world.

Grosjean's film "Fractured" is a five-minute documentary about "a post-apocalyptic look at how a 'Great War' can fracture the Earth and also the mind." It was featured in the Local Filmmakers Showcase, a new addition to the festival this year.

"We created the new Local Filmmakers Showcase because we had so many quality films from filmmakers from the Lansing area that we could not fit into the LMFC," said Erika Noud, director of the Lake Michigan Film Competition.

The Lake Michigan Film Competition (LMFC) was a part of the festival that awarded cash prizes to films made in states that border Lake Michigan. More than 120 films were submitted, but only 29 were chosen. However, the Local Filmmakers Showcase featured 13 films from the Lansing area, including six from MSU students and faculty.

Among those featured in the Local Filmmakers Showcase was Timothy Zeko, Executive Producer at WKAR-TV, who graduated from MSU in 1977 with a degree in telecommunications. His film, "The Verve Pipe on BackStage Pass," is a "90-minute concert performance by Michigan's alt-rock icons interspersed with behind-the-scenes features and interviews with band founders."

Zeko says his favorite part of the process was working collaboratively with WKAR staff and students.

"No one individual could create a program like this," Zeko said. "It literally took dozens of people to pull this off."

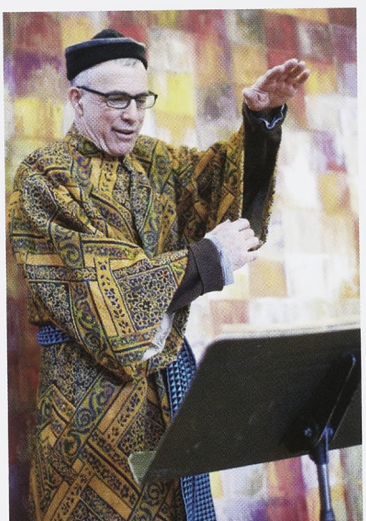
Although filmmaking is hard work, there are many rewards.

"(My favorite part of filmmaking is) actually seeing my ideas conceptualize and become something real," Grosjean said. "It's sitting at the computer, pressing play and seeing these bits and pieces become reality."



Lansing resident, Terri Adams, participates in the fifth annual Old Town Dickens Village event by dressing up as a Victorian villager named Anne Montgomery. All proceeds went towards the revitalization of Lansing's Old Town.

Natalie Kolb



Puppet Theatre Players founder Fred Engelgau puts on a singing show called "Christmas In My Pocket." "Christmas In My Pocket" was the name designated to the show, and it focused on the players instead of their puppets.

Natalie Kolb



Surrounded by her creations, Burnadette Leach knits a hat to sell during Old Town Dickens Village. Leach's frequenting craft shows has found that her favorite pieces of work bring a smile to her customer's face.

Natalie Kolb



Dec. 3 marks the annual celebration of Old Town Lansing's Dickens Village. Free family activities were provided around Old Town throughout the afternoon to celebrate the holiday season.

Nathan Urban



Natalie Kolb

WHAT THE DICKENS?

Old Town Lansing hosts Dickens-themed festival

Seniors Garrett Nelson and Zenit Chughtai were mystified. It was Dec. 3 when the two began their leisurely walk down quiet Turner Street in Lansing, but the scene quickly shifted when they reached downtown Old Town.

The alarming clash of hoof on pavement made the students double take as two massive Clydesdales pulled a carriage covered in evergreen wreaths wrapped in red ribbons. At the Grand River Avenue intersection, two ladies in Victorian gowns tittered about Michigan's gloomy weather as they dug their hands deeper into their muffs and covered their delicate feet with whoop skirts. As Chughtai and Nelson sat down in Sir Pizza, they were personally serenaded by Christmas carolers. The Ghost of Christmas Past even shuffled by, his face grey with regret and rusty chains clanging. What the Dickens was going on?

"It's really trippy what's happening," Chughtai said. "It's like a secret."

Although somewhat puzzled by their surroundings, the couple enjoyed the free hot cocoa, competitions and performances held by small businesses and organizations such as Tallulah's Folly, the Great American Fierce Beard Association (GAFBA) and The Puppet Players Theatre.

"Look at me," Nelson laughed, a mustache cut-out glued to a Popsicle stick under his nose. "I'm 23, walking around with a foam mustache."

Not wishing to leave his fellow students in the dark, senior Austin Ashley, an employee at the new gift shop, Tallulah's Folly, kindly explained that distributing false facial hair was not quite the point of the event. The wacky happenings were actually planned by the Old Town Commercial Association (OTCA) as a part of its fifth annual Old Town Dickens Village festival. The OTCA is involved with the Main Street Program, which is designed to bring revenue into communities with a unique flavor, like Old Town.

"The OTCA looks to promote the area and business," Ashley explained. For Lansing residents, this event was an invitation to explore the antiques, art and hand-made crafts in Tallulah's Folly.

Other small organizations and businesses also benefited from the exposure. GAFBA hosted a beard competition and arts and crafts (where Nelson received his fake mustache). The Puppet Players Theatre performed a Christmas rap for a crowd of adoring children and their parents. Hilltop Yoga held a craft sale where the instructors found a place to sell their handmade hats, Christmas decorations and other knickknacks.

But behind the business and publicity, there are the faces of individuals who care deeply about their community.

"What drew me to Old Town was the community relationships and the emphasis on being a neighbor," said junior Lisa Wright, who worked with the OTCA since October to coordinate the event. It was through her internship there that Wright has gotten to know Old Town.

"We love this community," Hilltop Yoga owner Hilaire Lockwood-O'Day said. She described the tight-knit bond and wonderful atmosphere of the community as countless other organizations, business owners and friends circled through her studio.

"That's the joy of Old Town; everybody visits everybody," she said.

GAFBA members Kyle Muston and Ian Walker agreed.

"First it's about appreciating the beard," Muston laughed, stroking his impressive beard that would make Santa jealous. But beards aside, Muston explained his appreciation for the local businesses, which have graciously hosted all the GAFBA meetings.

"I look at the beard aspect as an excuse to get together…We're all very adamant about local business," Walker asserted.

Wright explained that the event could not have been a success without those in the community who care so much about each other.

"It all goes back to the revitalization of Old Town," she said.



Natalie Kolb

MSU students take a horse-drawn carriage ride down Grand River Avenue on Dec. 3. The horse-drawn carriage rides were part of transforming Old Town Lansing's streets into a festive Victorian scene.



Natalie Kolb

Five-year-old Tori poses as Tiny Tim for the Old Town Dickens Village event on Dec. 3. Gingerbread house building, holiday card-making, a Victorian dress-up photoshoot and grapevine wreath making were just a few of the activities offered.



Nathan Urban



IN WITH THE NEW

Remodeled Case cafeteria opens

For many, the start of spring semester means another round of buying textbooks and scheduling classes. For residents of South Complex, it meant having easy access to sushi, sandwiches and other goodies. Newly renovated Case Hall's South Pointe cafeteria opened its doors Jan. 8 and students were buzzing about it. Freshman Mackenzie Phillips was one of them.

"I love it," said Phillips, a Case Hall resident. It's really convenient now—I can go get something to eat, and I don't have to worry about going to another building."

Phillips and her friends, being unable to use their own residence hall's dining facilities during the renovation, would often have to go to Wilson and Holden halls.

"It was a pain because I wouldn't always have time to get food before class, so I had to improvise sometimes," Phillips said.

The cafeteria construction was part of a renovation of the entire residence hall that also included the addition of a Sparty's cafe, a new media room in the basement and various changes in decor and design in both the main lobby and dorm rooms. Culinary Services communication manager Lindsey Bliss said the construction took seven months to complete.

"South Pointe (Case cafeteria) features a similar design to other locations such as Brody and The Gallery at Snyder-Phillips, but there are also some differences," Bliss said. "Sustainable materials such as reclaimed wood from Michigan were used throughout the construction."

The cafeteria's connection to Michigan isn't just in the construction materials—it also is in the food. In addition to the usual food venues of Ciao!, Bliss and S2 is a new venue—Great Lakes Plate, where all of the menus feature local (within 250 miles) and regionally sourced (within 500 miles) food items.

Freshman and Wonders Hall resident Katie Ford said she is thrilled to have access to another cafeteria.

"My friends and I used to eat in Wilson most of the time and sometimes Holden, but (South Pointe) is better because it's not only great food but it's also right across from my dorm room," Ford said.

The renovation of Case Hall is part of Culinary Services' 10-year Dining Master Plan, during which at least one residence hall in each campus neighborhood will be renovated and suited up with an updated cafeteria. Bliss said the next on the list is Shaw Hall, followed by West Circle once funding is approved.

"Our approach has been to balance the renovations as much as possible so that each campus neighborhood has its own destination dining location. We believe that on-campus dining encompasses the total experience of living and learning at MSU," Bliss said.

If Culinary Services is trying to encourage more students to live on-campus, it's certainly succeeding as far as Phillips and Ford are concerned—both students plan to stay in the dorms next year.

"It's just so convenient to stay on campus," Phillips said. "You don't have to worry about food—it's all right there."





Sophomores Sarah Thomason and Emmanuel Williams II have dinner in the new cafeteria. One main addition to the new South Pointe cafeteria is that its primary focus is serving local food from Michigan.

Reclaimed would from Michigan hangs from the ceiling creating innovative chandeliers. The Case Hall renovations totalled $13 million.

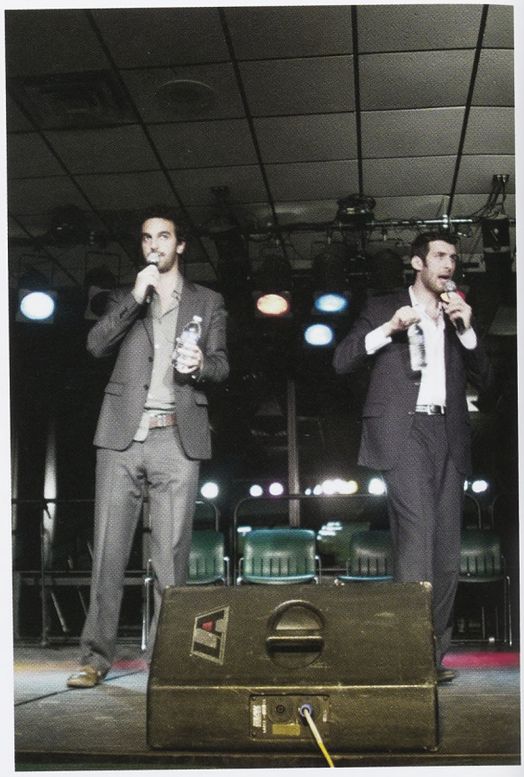






South Pointe's Bliss station serves up desserts like cheesecake and crepe. Crepes are available in flavors such as chocolate-banana, strawberry and Nutella.

Great Lakes Plate is a new addition to the established stations in cafeterias. All of the menu items feature local (within 250 miles) and regionally sourced (within 500 miles) food items.



The college "Dating Coaches" instruct the MSU community in the ways of college dating. Dave and Ethan have been featured on "The Colbert Report," "The Millionaire Matchmaker," The Onion, and many more.

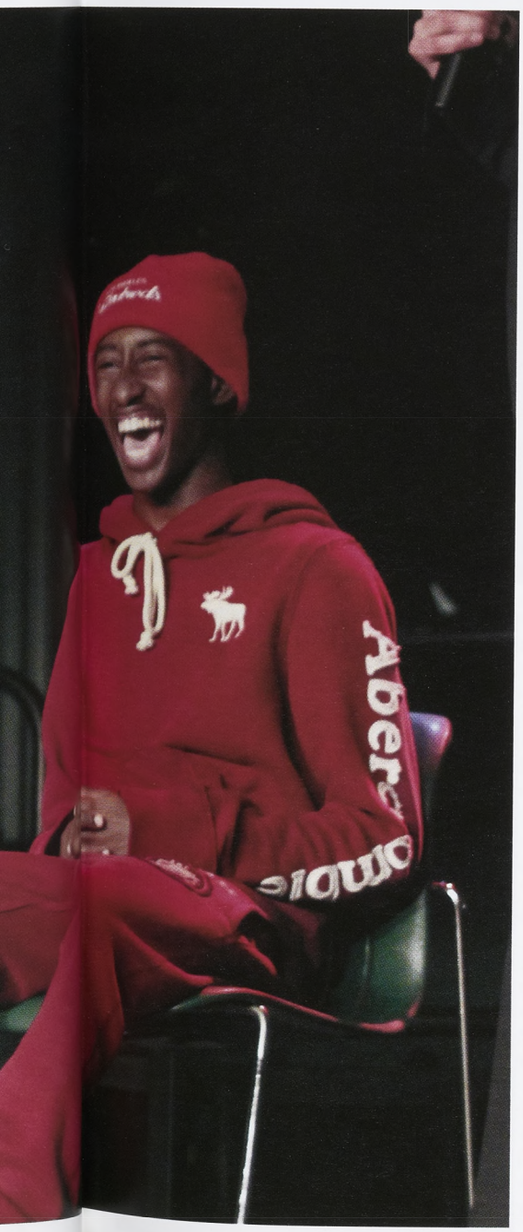
University of Michigan student Chris, journalism sophomore Greg Rokisky, and transfer student Rayshon Gore sit on stage as "bachelors" in Dave and Ethan's Dating Game. The show's attendance exceeded about 200 MSU students.





Comedians Dave Ahdoot and Ethan Fixell perform a skit about college dating. The comedians often channel the experiences of their many past blind dates for their performances.

STUDENT MANUAL: HOW TO GET A DATE



Comedic duo Dave & Ethan illustrate MSU's dating scene

On Jan. 21, hundreds of students poured into the International Center. Not even the noon lunch rush could rival the amount of anticipating students filing into the food court.

But what force could possibly be greater than the hunger of college students? Love. Or more precisely, how to get a date.

YouTube sensations and dating coaches, Dave Ahdoot and Ethan Fixell, visited MSU to help single students find a date. The duo began its love doctoring tours to different colleges in 2010, after several years of double-dating about 200 women all over the U.S.

"For the people standing in the back, I'm sorry…I owe you each one cuddle session," opened Ahdoot, gesturing toward the edge of the audience.

The crowd of primarily women laughed and whooped with approval at his flirtatious offer.

"I like the ratio here," Ahdoot said.

"We've done some research about MSU's dating scene," continued Fixell, reigning in Ahdoot's enamored audience. "We found out it's a mess."

After the first wave of laughter subsided, Ahdoot and Fixell began to show why there are so many without dates on campus by acting as two "typical" MSU single ladies.

The "girls" donned their imaginary Northface vests, Ugg boots and leggings because "you can wear these as pants here."

The audience was in hysterics as the duo acted out, with surprising accuracy, the common experiences of student life—getting lost in the Brody Square cafeteria, admiring the ideal manliness of the Sparty statue, getting parking tickets for having the wrong color car, freezing while waiting for CATA buses, and getting into Rick's American Cafe courtesy of bogus IDs.

After the "girls" downed a few drinks, the presentation of MSU's disastrous dating scene concluded with the actors pretending to vomit all over the front row.

Once the audience regained some semblance of composure, Ahdoot and Fixell dove in immediately to upset it with a few quirky tips. Fixell walked amid rows and showed how foreign accents make a great first impression when trying snag a date, Ahdoot making his own impression by showing exaggerated, flirtatious gestures, such as "gently" touching the hair.

"I'm the girl that got stroked," senior Samantha Larson said as she laughed. "It was the best feeling I've ever felt in my whole life…so ridiculous."

After dishing out tips about dancing and landing the perfect first kiss, the audience members related dating questions and stories to Ahdoot and Fixell, who once again stunned with their ridiculous, yet insightful, responses.

Sophomore Kathleen Riley had her horrific first date story reenacted by the men. While Ahdoot played Riley, Fixell improvised between her date, as well as her date's mother and grandmother.

"It was traumatic and hilarious at the same time," Riley said after seeing herself played by a man.

Next, Ahdoot and Fixell asked for a single lady to join them on stage, followed by three bachelors, whom she would ask questions prepared by Ahdoot and Fixell. At the sound of "single ladies," seniors Nate Brooks and Katiana Haratsis forced their friend Joanne DeMois' hand into the air.

"I live vicariously through her," Haratsis said with satisfaction as DeMois was chosen as the lucky bachelorette.

Although the stage was nerve-wracking for the quiet-mannered DeMois, she considered the experience well worth it—after all, she was able to meet smooth talking bachelor number one, Lansing Community College sophomore Rayshon Gore.

"I love all women—all shapes, all sizes," Gore said. "They're all beautiful to me.

However dysfunctional the MSU dating scene might be, Ahdoot and Fixell agreed that MSU singles have the potential.

"Just get out there. Be yourself and get out there," Fixell urged.

"Yeah, definitely," Ahdoot agreed, "Rejection doesn't suck as much as you think it does."

With that parting advice, the dating coaches set off to their next college to spread the love. But not before fulfilling Ahdoot's promise of cuddle sessions.



Senior Rebecca Buchholtz waits excitedly for an interview with a representative from ALDI Inc. The majority of students that attend the fair are seniors, however, some ambitious students try to get a head-start by attending the fair a few years in a row.

Mike Chase speaks with a representative from Target. They discuss the qualifications and traits needed to succeed in the workplace today.



THE BEGINNING OF THE FUTURE

Students engage in the 2012 Diversity Career Fair

Representatives from General Mills interviewed hundreds of hopefuls during the fair, looking for the most innovative and dedicated students.





On Jan. 19, the route 31 bus headed toward the Kellogg Center, future graduates huddled closely together, briefly escaping the frigid weather. In freshly pressed suits and business attire, the Spartans were on their way to what could be the beginning of another chapter of their lives—the 2012 Diversity Career Fair.

The fair is MSU's largest spring semester recruiting event and attracts students from all colleges along with a variety of recruiters offering full time, internship, and co-op opportunities.

Hundreds of students filtered into the Kellogg Center, examining the occupational displays ranging from AT&T to Whirlpool Corporation. The MSU students were the growing cells to the corporate body, the future.

Christine Baker, a representative from First Investors Corporation, said she loved the event at MSU.

"We are continuously growing and we need to add members. Plus, in all the colleges I've been to, Michigan State is the best. They are always prepared, friendly, and it goes a long way."

This character was shown through Sarah Sears, a communication senior, who hoped to find a recruiting job among the sea of employers.

"It's like asking someone out," said Sears with a smile. "I'm anxious, not nervous, because I know what I want to say. I mean, I wore red so I will pop out. How could they forget me?"

As her red blazer faded among the ocean of potential employees, freshman Phoebe Richardson surveyed the competitive atmosphere.

"There are a lot of hoops to jump through, and hopefully this fair will help me learn about all the options I have," she said. "You can learn so much from people who already have been through those experiences and through theirs, you can transform it into your own."

After each mini-interview, the room seemed to exhale in relief, as each student traveled from job exhibit to job exhibit.

"It's a little overwhelming," junior Ryan Volkman said while taking a break in a chair.

Jennifer Tuyls, representative for Portage Public Schools stood and spoke with passing students.

"The fair is tremendous, in many regards," Tuyls said. "On one hand, it allows us to bring in a diverse amount of potential staff members but it also limits our time to talk with each student who is interested."

"After all, we are shaping the future," said Rachel Roberts, Tuyls' fellow representative and second grade teacher.

Ayesha Yalamarthy, a physiology senior, stared intently at her portfolio, analyzing potential positions that she could fill.

"I've always dreamt of becoming a doctor as a kid so that I can make an immediate impact," Yalamarthy said. "I've handed out multiple résumés already and now I just have to wait. I have been confident, and if you are confident you project it," she added.

Whether it be a dream of becoming a recruiter, an investor, a teacher or a doctor, MSU students made a bold impression upon the employers, one as vibrant as a red blazer.



NOW, MORÉ THAN EVER

The MSU community fights educational inequality

With boots laced up and hats firmly on their heads, hundreds of MSU students took to the streets, helping an effort to bring awareness to the educational achievement gap between affluent and poverty-stricken children. Despite the bitter cold and snow, the students in the "Now More Than Ever: Educational Equity Rally" marched on, chanting and displaying their posters.

The event, co-hosted by the ASMSU and Teach For America, began as a rally at Beaumont Tower. The students cheered their way to Wells Hall, where there were speeches from advocates for education equality in the Midwest.

"College campuses are where change happens," said John Matthews, the Teach For America Recruitment Manager and one of the event's planners. "There's a lot of energy. It's great that we can harness that energy and make something productive out of it."

There also were K-12 students and teachers, nonprofit leaders from across the state and political leaders in the crowd.

"There was a big lack of awareness about education inequality," Matthews said. "Teach For America had to first define the issue, and now we are increasing that awareness."

Senior Zachary Taylor, an ASMSU student provost and event coordinator, was happy with the rally's turnout.

"I think it's great that we are helping break the stereotype of a 'typical college student,'" Taylor said. "It's obvious from the turnout that MSU students do care about important issues like educational inequality."

Once at Wells Hall, attendees listened to speeches from people on the front lines of fighting educational inequality.

Tiffany Williams, the managing director of leadership development for Teach For America Detroit, enlightened the crowd to some statistics about the progress in Detroit schools.

"Hearing about that turnaround in Detroit was powerful," senior Victor Draine said. "Educational inequality is a big deal. Things are changing, and there is proof in the numbers."

Senior Sophia Mosher said she was excited to see such an interest in fixing the education inequality gap.

"If you have an attitude that you can't do anything to help, nothing will ever get done," Mosher said. "It might seem like nothing's going to change, but things do change, and that happens by raising awareness."

After the speeches, more than 20 student groups and organizations had tables set up to explain their involvement in ending the education gap. Taylor said the presence of the student groups was one of the rally's biggest successes.

"Because of those groups, we can turn this rally from something that raises awareness to something that delivers action," he said.

The students at the rally could stop by the group tables to get information on how to join an organization and get involved with their plans to end educational inequality.

Despite the snow, Taylor said he believed the rally was a total success.

"Very few people in the world try to change it," he said. "But what is important to remember is that one person is totally capable of making a change. A great place to start is what we and Teach For America are doing here: changing the life of one child."





S

Students assemble for the educational equality rally on the Hannah Administration building bridge. Teach for America advocates for quality education for children from low income backgrounds.



ASMSU Provost Zachary Taylor speaks to students about the educational achievement of MSU. Taylor was accepted into Teach for America and placed in Detroit.



John Matthews, recruitment manager for Teach for America, speaks about the education gap in lower socio-economic communities. Teach for America was founded by Princeton University grad Wendy Kopp in 1989.

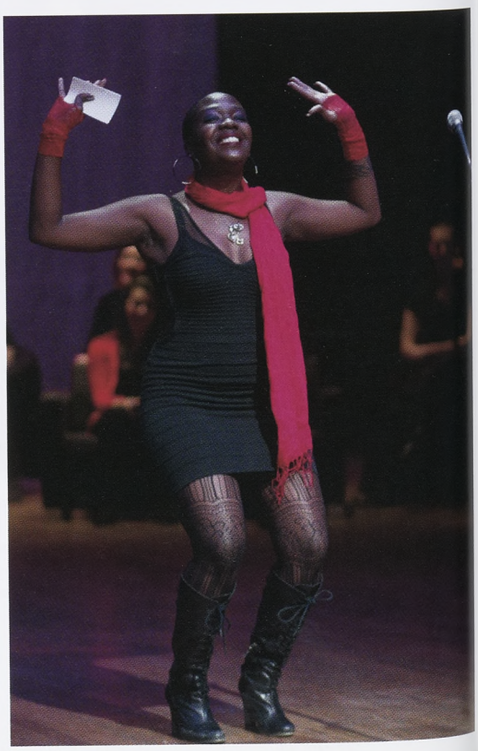


Recruitment manager Tesha Downey speaks about her experiences at the Academy for Urban School Leadership in Chicago. TFA operates in 43 cities and metro areas.

Central Michigan University student Hillary Cook performs "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy" during the Vagina Monologues. The piece involved a woman discussing the details of her career and her love of giving women pleasure.



The four female directors of the Vagina Monologues address the audience and close out the show while the cast surrounds the stage. All four directors performed in the play in previous years.



Doctoral student Violeta Donawa performs a piece entitled "Reclaiming Cunt." The monologue detailed a woman's attempt to reverse the negative connotation of the word.



THIS ONE'S FOR THE GIRLS

2012 Vagina Monologues raise awareness, girl power

A quiet theater, a bare stage save for four microphones, and a scattering of chairs, futons, bean bags chairs and couches. The audience is curious but silent as one-by-one, 20 young women wearing black with red accents emerge from the wings of the Wharton Center Pasant Theatre. Thus begins The Vagina Monologues, a collection of stories from women of all ages, sizes, colors and backgrounds about that infamous word.

"It sounds like an infection at best…"

"A completely ridiculous, unsexy word…"

"At Hogwarts, they call it the Chamber of Secrets..."

The Harry Potter reference received the most laughs in the opening act of Feb. 17's matinee performance of the show, written by women's activist Eve Ensler.

There were many more laughs throughout the performance, many of which came during a piece called "The Flood." Senior Becca Robinson wore a form-fitting black dress, heels and a bright red scarf around her head, babushka-style. She took her chair with her to the front of the stage, adjusted her mic, and when she spoke, it was not a college student. It was a woman in her late 60s, squirming at the thought of being asked about "down there."

"I haven't been down there since 1953 … no it had nothing to do with Eisenhower," Robinson said in an outraged tone amid more laughs.

Robinson's association with the Vagina Monologues began through her involvement with the Social Action Theater Troupe, where she met one of this year's co-directors. She recognized the show's relationship with raising awareness about domestic and sexual violence and knew she had to try out.

"Sexual violence is a silent crime … it's been my mission to fight against it," Robinson said. "So it just felt right that I try out, and then I got in, and the rest is history."

Junior Jazmen Moore was a bit of an anomaly in this year's cast in that she was one of only two women who had performed in the show in previous years.

"They don't generally bring the same people back because they want to give other women a chance to try out too, so originally they put me in one of the group monologues called 'Wear and Say'," Moore said. "When they added a few regional monologues in later in rehearsal, they asked me to do one called 'What if I Told You I Didn't Have a Vagina?' and, of course, I accepted."

Moore got involved with Vagina Monologues after seeing a documentary about Ensler and her work with V-Day, a global activist movement dedicated to stopping violence against women and girls. Her passion for the play was such that she was selected to be a co-director for next year's version.

"When they asked for candidates for next year's co-directors, I immediately volunteered," Moore said. "The Vagina Monologues has been such a strong part of my time here at MSU, so I wanted to continue that connection in my final year as well."

In contrast, senior Abby Wood's connection to Vagina Monologues was not quite so thoroughly planned.

"I actually auditioned for the show on a complete whim," Wood said. "It turned out to be the best spontaneous decision I ever made."

Wood performed both a group and solo monologue, one about transgender women entitled "They Beat the Girl Out of My Boy … Or So They Tried" and the other a tribute to women in devastated areas of the world called "For My Sisters in Portauprincebukavuneworleans."

She stressed the importance of seeing shows like The Vagina Monologues and participating in V-Day events. This year, 90 percent of the proceeds went to Listening Ear, a 24-hour hotline and crisis center in Lansing, and the remainder benefited V-Day efforts in Haiti.

"This show focuses completely on the experiences of women as they see it, feel it and tell it," Wood said. "Especially important is the show's underlying goal of bringing awareness and an end to violence against women. One in three women will be raped in their lifetime, (according to the One in Three Women campaign). That's not just terrifying; it's an epidemic."





A performer dons red high heels while reciting her monologue. The cast of the Vagina Monologues abide by a red and black dress code for the performance.

Sophomore Thu Tran performs a monologue entitled "Hair." The piece involved cultural stereotypes surrounding the unnatural grooming habits of women.







KENYA? YES YOU CAN.

Like many freshmen at MSU, Dominic Nangea and Julius Kuya have learned to love university life. Adjusting to the sometimes questionable cafeteria food, meeting new friends in their dorm complexes and mastering study techniques are just a few elements that they have conquered, but these cousins are not like most students. They wouldn't be at MSU if it weren't for financial support from their Maasai village in Enoosaen, Kenya.

Nangea, a 21-year-old agribusiness management major, and Kuya, a 20-year-old biomedical major, are here on scholarship granted by the university. Although they were extremely grateful to receive this opportunity, their room and board fees, totaling more than $10,000, were not included. Luckily, their village community banded together and contributed enough money to carry out their dreams of higher education.

"The good thing about our community is that family belongs to everybody," Nangea said. "If you are a good guy in the Maasai community and work hard, everybody will come together and make some contribution, and that is how we ended up here. Many, many people worked hard to get us here."

Maasai's economy revolves around cows, and it was the selling of these cows that gave Nangea and Kuya the opportunity to pursue a higher education.

"In Maasai, the cow is the closest friend," Nangea said. "It is the measure of wealth. It is because of cows that we are here. All the money contributed came from the cows."

The appreciation and thankfulness Nangea and Kuya convey is shown through a gleam in their eyes that is complemented by the brightness of their smiles. Each wear beaded bracelets of vivid reds, blues, oranges and greens, handmade by their mothers and sisters. Beading is a traditional trade learned by the women of Maasai at a very young age.

"(The bracelets are) very significant to me," Nangea said. "Whenever I'm writing, or just doing anything, I look down at them and it reminds me of home."

Peter Briggs, Director of the Office for International Students and Scholars, was first introduced to Nangea and Kuya through Morompi Ole Ronkei, the cousins' uncle and Briggs' friend. Due to Kenya's recent constitutional change to divide the country into state-like counties, Ole Ronkei approached Briggs with the idea of furthering the cousins' education. Briggs said Ole Ronkei's plan is to develop talented people for the long-term ability to govern the newfound states, and Nangea and Kuya were perfect candidates.

"It's not a personal journey as much as it is a great fit and an opportunistic moment," Briggs said. "With MSU's global reach and the African Studies Center, this was just a great, synergistic fit."

After only being at MSU for one semester, the cousins already have a steady grasp on what they would like to accomplish after graduation. Both plan to return to Kenya to give back to the community that paved their path to MSU.

As a biomedical student, Kuya wants to concentrate on public health in his community. He believes that with his education, he will advance wellness to an area that is in need of more medical personnel.

"I want to focus on contributing to the health department of my people," he said. "At times when somebody gets sick, you have to travel long distances. Diseases like malaria have been claiming the lives of people for years. I feel like I have an opportunity of bringing medicine and helping my people."

As an agribusiness management major, Nangea's focus is on the food security system of his country. After he finishes his first degree, he plans to study economics to gain the knowledge he needs to help combat food shortage that is so prevalent in Kenya, and ultimately all of Africa.

"I want to really understand what goes on between business and agriculture (in the U.S.), like how to store food and how to budget food for the whole country," he said. "If I am armed with economics and business agriculture, I can go back and make a contribution; make a difference."



Taylor Reschka impresses the audience during the 2012 Last Spartan Standing competition. Reschka walked away the winner of the night receiving an iPad 2 and a Connxtions Comedy club hoodie.



Audience members laugh during Last Spartan Standing, which featured 12 comedians and took place in the International Center. Last Spartan Standing is modeled after the NBC show "Last Comic Standing," giving competitors a five to eight minute set.



Senior William Chodos tells his jokes to audience members during the 2012 Last Spartan Standing. Chodos took third place after judging by three veteran comedians.



Junior Emily Syrja performs her set telling jokes to audience members about the woes of internet dating. Syrja was the only girl to perform out of 12 competitors.



Senior William Chodos comes forward as his name is called for third-place-winner during the Last Spartan Standing competition. Competitors were going head-to-head in hopes of winning an iPad 2, a Connxtions Comedy Club hoodie and an iPod touch.

WHY DID THE SPARTAN CROSS THE ROAD?

Student comics get a chance to show-off their talent at the Last Spartan Standing comedy competition

"If Carmen Sandiego and 'Where's Waldo?' had a baby, that kid would be the best at hide-and-seek, hands down," Taylor Reschka joked onstage at the International Center food court. This joke and others led Reschka to win the title of MSU's Last Spartan Standing.

The annual comedy competition, produced by the University Activities Board (UAB), gives comedic hopefuls a chance to prove their humor to three judges—and a relentless audience—in an attempt to be dubbed the Last Spartan Standing. Judges for this year's event included Frank Stevens, owner of Connxtions Comedy Club in Lansing, working comedian Fred Potter, and Jerome Crawford, a competitor in MSU's first Last Spartan Standing competition.

Hailing from Marquette, Mich., Reschka said he would practice his comedy routines for friends but dreamed of reaching a larger audience.

When he started school at MSU, he said he began to do stand-up at open mic nights around campus and comedy clubs in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Detroit. Reschka's passion for comedy comes from his love of making people laugh.

"I love making people happy. No one can look down at that and be mad at you because you made them smile," the media arts and technology junior said.

But before the comedians are able to display their talent on stage, they must audition. The audition process consisted of performing a videotaped, three-minute skit in front of a panel of UAB judges. According to UAB member and marketing junior Shannon McGreal-Miller, 30 people auditioned and only 12 were chosen to compete. Most of the comedians appeared reserved, at first, but were able to channel their inner comedic beast when it mattered most.

"Some of the people would come in and seem so shy," McGreal-Miller said. "Then they would let out this whole can of madness and everyone at the [judging] table would die laughing."

Prevalent themes among the jokes this year were online dating, reality TV shows such as "Toddlers in Tiaras" and campus cyclists. Although these themes were common, comedians successfully showed off their talent by making each joke relevant to their own set.

"Well, actually, I find the complexity of the match algorithm completely fascinating, especially its implications of sociological research in the digital age," contestant and English and women's studies senior Emily Syrja joked in regard to trying honesty in the world of online dating. "You don't hear from that guy again."

Last Spartan Standing attendee Sean Peecook, a film and creative writing senior, said jokes that relate to everyday life and comedians who appear comfortable onstage seemed to get the most laughs.

"It's important to be likable onstage and have a personality that you can relate to instead of just reciting joke after joke," he said.

Among the 12 contestants chosen, Syrja was the only female. She said although she was the only woman, the other contestants were very supportive.

"When I got backstage the emcee and other comedians were very encouraging and told me to keep doing comedy," she said. "That was great. I really want to keep doing it after having that experience."

Syrja said she hopes her performance will encourage more women to participate in comedy.

"I would like to do more performing in the area and to get a more visible female presence," Syrja said. "I think seeing other women [onstage] is very powerful, and I would like to see more of that."

After all the comedians performed, judges deliberated and eventually picked Reschka as the winner. He won a Connxtions Comedy Club sweatshirt and an iPad, as well as the title of being named the Last Spartan Standing for the next year.

Reschka said most of his material comes from his "crazy brain" and ability to "think out of the box." He said he also likes to watch his favorite comedians, such as Eddie Izzard and Robin Williams, perform so he can dissect their acts to improve his own.

Reschka credits MSU's wide range of opportunity as influencing his drive to pursue stand-up and his overall appreciation for the craft.

"If you have any urge to do something, do it; that is what I've learned the most at Michigan State," he said. "Increase your empathy and increase your drive for what you want because I wouldn't be [the Last Spartan Standing] if I hadn't."



Lauren Gaboury

Nathan Alan encouraged audience members to participate during his performance. His self-described "electroacoustic" sound fit the cozy venue perfectly.

A microphone stands ready for the performers at the first night of Middle of the Mitten. The first night took place at the Scene Metrospace in East Lansing.



Lauren Gaboury



MUSIC AND MITTENS AND MICHIGAN, OH MY!

Middle of the Mitten celebrates 4th anniversary

Through its windows on Charles Street, (SCENE) Metrospace looks like a bare room that probably smells strongly of tomato sauce and melted cheese due to a shared wall and door with Georgio's Gourmet Pizza. Walking through that shared door reveals a different story entirely.

The nondescript walls are made vibrant by pieces of artwork—some drawings, some sculptures—created by local artists. A back corner near the entrance hides a tiny desk upon which there is a laptop and various bits of technology responsible for lighting. The lighting is not for the art however; it's for the stage.

After a welcoming, applause echoed through the room from an audience of about 100 people seated in chairs or leaning against walls. The first act of this year's Middle of the Mitten music showcase stepped up to the stage with his guitar. His name was Vince Zydeck, and he proceeded to go through a set of mellow acoustic pieces, making time for some humor as well.

"I prefer Gatorade when I'm on stage, because it helps me perform," he said as he took a swig of the electrolyte-laden beverage. He ended his set on a self-deprecating note.

"I'm really excited for the rest of the night … which I'm assuming is what you guys are here for."

Zydeck, a senior at MSU, got involved with the show mainly through his roommate Dan Nufer, who was one of the directors of this year's festival. He couldn't have been happier to be a part of "such a cool event."

"I would love to do something like this again … anything in East Lansing would be great to play."

As Zydeck left the stage, Nufer and fellow director and founder Joel Heckaman maneuvered their way through the crowd to help the next musician set up. In an email, Heckaman described Middle of the Mitten "as a showcase for musicians from all over the state of Michigan."

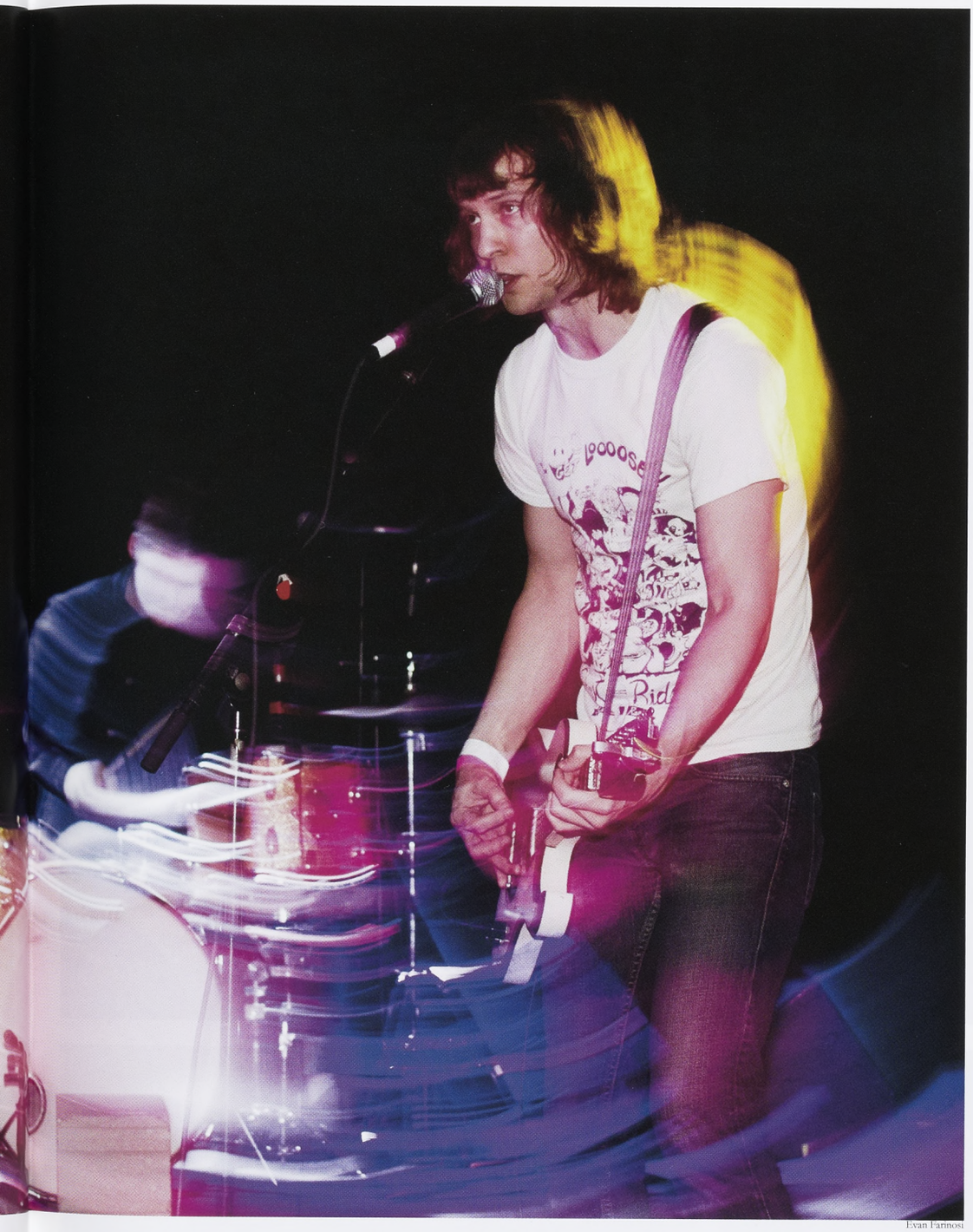
This year marked not only the fourth year of the event but also the first attempt at not one but two days of music during the weekend of Feb. 3 and 4. The first night at (SCENE) Metrospace had a folk vibe with acoustic acts like Zydeck, while the second night at The Loft in downtown Lansing had a harder rock edge to it with such bands as The Blue Effect and Simien the Whale.

Heckaman, a recent alum of MSU's Professional Writing program, essentially created Middle of the Mitten from scratch as a tribute to The Record Lounge, an East Lansing-based record store at which he worked part-time. He described that first festival as "one of those 'a-ha!' moments that really changed my life."

"I actually had the idea a year before the first show, when I was in a local band looking for out-of-town acts to trade shows with," Heckaman said. "I was amazed to find such quality music just pouring out of Saginaw, Mount Pleasant, Grand Rapids, Lansing—all across mid-Michigan—and I thought it would be great to get all of these bands on one stage."

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▶ continued on pg 114



Evan Farinosi

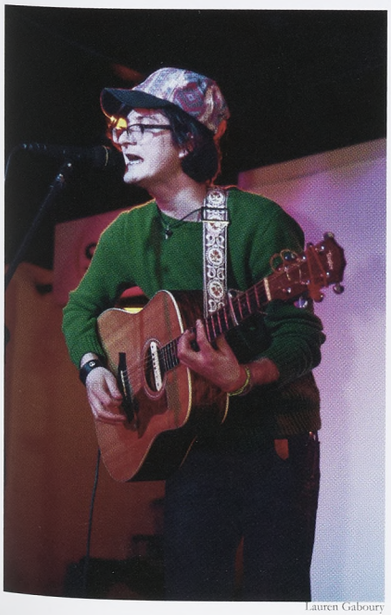
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Joey Dornbos and Brent French of the Bangups perform at The Loft in Lansing. The two-man blues act hails from the Grand Rapids area and is quickly gaining popularity in mid-Michigan.

Lead singer Drew Machak and saxophonist Will Jones of the Blue Effect get to work during their ultra groovy set. The venue came alive when the Blue Effect began playing.



Evan Farinosi



Lauren Gaboury

Musician Nathan K. gave a haunting performance using only a loop pedal and an acoustic guitar. His alternative sound covered yet another genre in this diverse show.



Mel Tarter and Jack Wells brought a sunny disposition to the stage with their light, acoustic sound. Their band, formerly known as "Sunny Side Up," has recently changed its name to "Those Willows."



Evan Parinost



Evan Parinost

Dummer Will Shattuck, guitarist Kory Kopchick and guitarist James Brown of Citizen Smile perform on the second night of Middle of the Mitten. Citizen Smile has been around since 2005, making them one of the longer lived bands in the festival.



Lauren Galbour

Two friends share a song after Middle of the Mitten concludes. The performances marked the fourth annual Middle of the Mitten concerts.

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"I can remember sitting in class with Joel (Heckaman) and talking about music," Nufer said. "It wasn't until the semester after that that he asked if I wanted to help with (Middle of the Mitten) as part of an independent study he'd made with one of our professors."

It was difficult to pinpoint Nufer and Heckamen during the evening as they made the rounds of the room. They handled everything from serving as honorary roadies to touching base with the director and curator of (SCENE) Metrospace Tim Lane, who spent the evening manning the sound and light board. Lane later said in an email that in spite of the chaos he couldn't have been happier to have participated in such an event.

"(Events like this) bring people out; they bring people downtown. And they go a long way toward convincing people of the fact that the Greater Lansing Area has great entertainment options," Lane said. "They boost the area's reputation, and that helps boost the area's economic development."

As Lane finished setting up the lights, junior Paige Bolen took her place at her keyboard and immediately launched into a soulful rendition of Lady Gaga's "Marry the Night." Bolen was a fairly unique performer in that she also was a member of the a cappella group Ladies' First. In fact, a good fraction of the



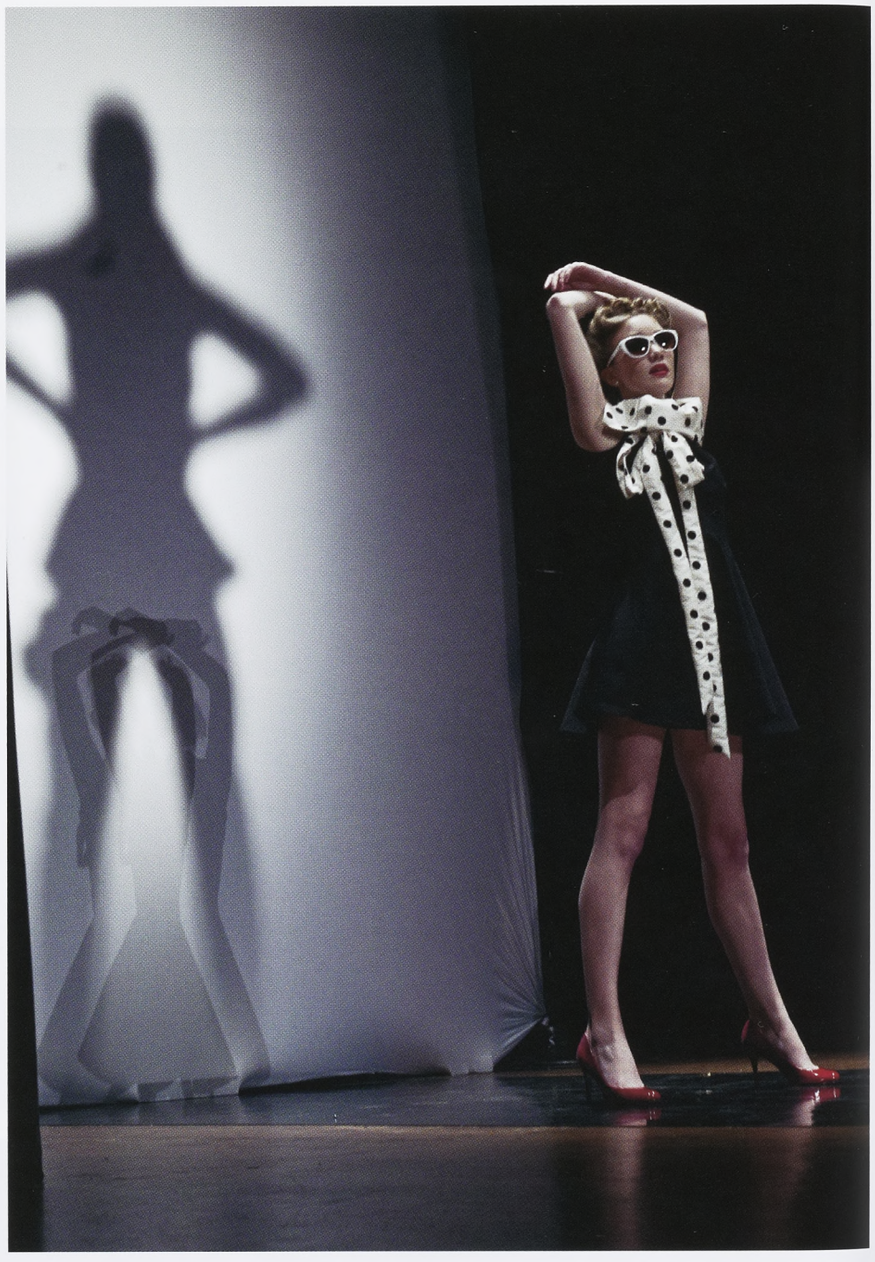
Evan Farinosi



Lauren Gaboury

Gray Bouchard, of the band Match by Match, gave an enthusiastic performance by keeping the crowd involved. The band hailed from Ann Arbor, representing the diversity of performers who participated in the show.

Guitarist Jon Mickelson of the Commodore Cosmos runs through a solo during the opening act at The Loft. Commodore Cosmos is a band with roots right here in Lansing.



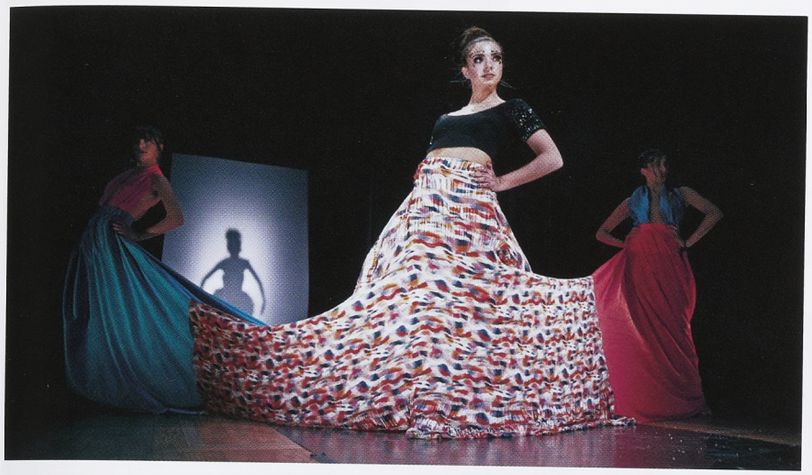
Junior Emily Taylor strikes her first pose during one of three outfit alterations all performed on the catwalk by designer and junior Lauren Dale. Dale won the award for most innovative dress design with her efficient use of the bow accessory.

A model keeps her look edgy as she begins her strut towards the audience in a dress called "Pop Can Machine" by junior Krity Shrestha. Shrestha's dress was composed of more than 200 pop cans and epoxy.





Senior designer Stephanie Gupta bows during an applause at the finale of the fashion show. More than 150 dress designs were submitted for the fashion show from Apparel and Textile Design students at MSU.



Three models pose at the end of the runway, all connected by thread to create one three-piece dress. Donald Bradford, a designer from Calvin Klein, guest judged student designers along with Michigan State faculty during the ATD Fashion Show.

DESIGNING IN TIME

Apparel and Textile Design students race the clock to put on a fashion show

Minutes before the start of the Apparel and Textile Design Annual Fashion Show, the backstage area is a chaotic scene. Designers rushed to make last minute changes to their pieces, directors frantically called out instructions and models got quick make up and hair fix-ups.

On Feb. 26 the stage lights of the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre fade away, and only pink overhead lighting illuminated the runway along with an orange spotlight. Techno music started blaring, and then the first model made her appearance.

The first five models showcased garments that were designed based on the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. Some designers based their pieces on the architecture of the building, and others incorporated design aspects.

The fashion show is an annual event for MSU's Apparel and Textile Design program and showcased more than 60 student designers and models.

Senior Amanda McFee said designing a garment based on the museum was a great opportunity to showcase her artistic talents.

"My individual design for the Broad piece was highly influenced by the architecture of MSU's campus," she said. "I wanted to bridge the gap between the neo-gothic style architecture that surrounds the Broad with the contemporary lines of the museum itself to create a hybrid piece that is representational of my experience being a student here."

McFee was one of four students who had the opportunity to design a Broad Museum-inspired piece for the fashion show. The four students also collaborated on a fifth design.

Senior Stephanie Gupta said she enjoyed working on the collaborative piece with the other designers.

"Working on the collaborative garment was a lot of fun," she said. "It was a very different feeling at first to have five people working on one garment, but it didn't take very long for us to become a team."

McFee agreed the experience was a beneficial one.

"It was not only a positive learning experience, but it was really exciting, too," McFee said. "It helped me to vocalize my opinions and pushed me to share creative input. I think it turned out to be a nice conclusion to all of our specific aesthetics and the project gave us the freedom to push the envelope a bit, which was fun."

The fashion show played out without even a minor hiccup, but that doesn't mean the designers didn't have to overcome challenges to get to that point.

"The most challenging part was the fragility of the piece," Gupta said, referring to her museum-inspired garment called "Stratified," which had many pieces suspended from its blue dress. "I had to be very careful about transporting the garment as well as putting it on and taking it off my model."

For McFee, the hardest part of designing for the fashion show was prioritizing her time.

"The biggest challenge was racing against the clock to finish everything," McFee said. "I wouldn't say I was the best at time management."

The show also was an opportunity for apparel and textile design students to get real-world fashion show experience.

Senior Katy Wright said designing a piece for the show was an excellent way for her to learn the ins and outs of the fashion industry.

"I had to decide every aspect of how my design would be presented, from my model's hair and make up to the way I wanted her to walk down the aisle," Wright said.

Wright, who hopes to work in the fashion industry, won the Judge's Choice award for her design that featured plastic Kroger bags knitted into a strapless dress.

Despite months of preparation, the day of the Apparel and Textile Design Fashion Show is a hectic one, and this year's designers worked past their obstacles to put on a show that won't soon be forgotten. Even if the scene was a little crazy, the students involved in the production know the show must go on.

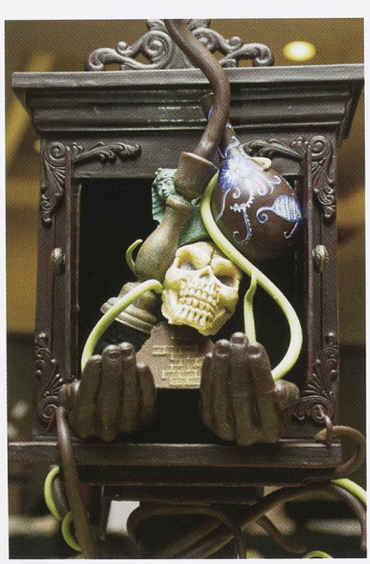


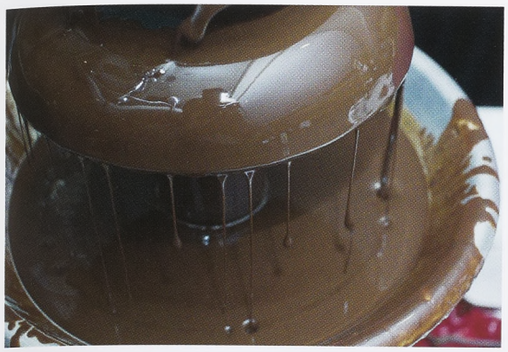
Two chocolate party attendees hold their plates filled with assorted sweets. The 23rd annual Chocolate Party benefit was hosted by the MSU Museum to help generate additional funding to support the museum's collections.



Hilary Garcia and Melissa Geimer, both students at The International Culinary School, take down their chocolate sculpture. All sculptures were linked to the theme "Cabinets of Curiosities," an exhibit that is in the MSU museum.

A chocolate structure waits to be judged at the 23rd annual Chocolate Party benefit hosted at the Kellogg Center. Four different culinary groups made sculptures modeled after the theme "Cabinets of Curiosities."





A chocolate fountain gets guests' attention as they enter the 23rd annual Chocolate Party benefit hosted by the MSU Museum. The chocolate fountain was just one of the numerous selections of chocolate items to choose from.



A SWEET CAUSE

MSU Museum hosts annual Chocolate Party benefit to support collections

Some like it dark. Others prefer semi-sweet or milk. Whatever the case, guests were treated to a veritable feast of the delectable dessert at the MSU Museum's 23rd annual Chocolate Party on Feb. 26.

Twelve Michigan-area chocolate vendors filled three ballrooms in the Kellogg Center, offering samples of everything from wedding cakes to crepes to candies. One vendor, Caruso Candies, offered such delicacies as potato chips, Gummi bears and bacon all covered in chocolate. The latter proved to be such a popular item that owner Shawna Fancher ran out of within an hour of the event's start.

"We wanted to shake things up a bit with our samples, so we thought 'what could be better than bacon?'" Fancher said.

Fancher has been a part of Caruso's for a number of years and has seen the company move from the Meridian Mall to its current location at the Lansing City Market. When the MSU Museum approached her about being a part of the Chocolate Party she jumped at the chance to spread the word about the business and find new customers.

Across the ballroom from Fancher was another candy shop simply titled "Awesome Chocolates." The owner, Henry Klok, stumbled onto chocolate-making after dabbling with the sweet stuff during his 29 years as a truck driver.

"I used to get those chocolate-dipped strawberry kits from the grocery store, and I'd bring them into work, and they were always a hit, so one day I thought it might be fun to see what else I could dip in chocolate," Klok said.

What started as a hobby eventually morphed into a full-time career as the owner of a candy store when he was laid off from his truck driving job. Despite his unusual background, Klok's business was invited to participate in the Chocolate Party for the last two years and was voted second place overall during this year's people's choice awards.

When guests weren't sampling from vendors, they were voting on silent auction items, participating in cooking demonstrations or viewing a sampling of artifacts from the museum's extensive archive. The main attraction by far was of a sweeter variety.

"Every year we include a chocolate sculpture competition that's open to pretty much anyone that wants to compete," event manager Mike Secord said. "It's always exciting to see what the competitors will do with the theme."

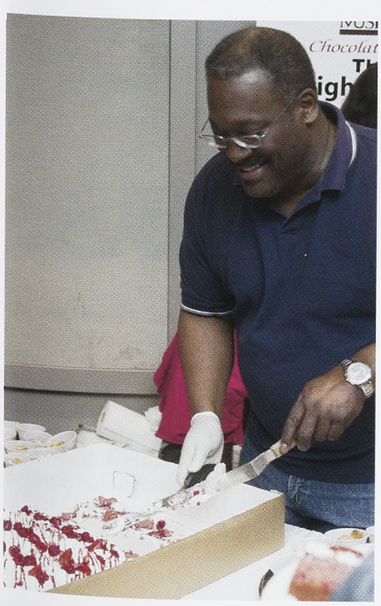
This year's theme was "Cabinet of Curiosities," which required competitors to create a piece inspired by the museum's newest exhibit of the same name. The exhibit features collections of items from around the world that might be found in someone's cabinet. A group of local chefs judged four different approaches to the theme before awarding one of them a trophy and cash prize. The winning piece was designed by a team of pastry chefs led by Greg Stroker from The Art Institute of Michigan in Novi. Their design featured an exquisitely crafted cabinet filled with such items as a globe, flowers and other bits and baubles fashioned from chocolate and sugar.

About 300 guests turned out to see the sculptures and to participate in one of the museum's biggest fundraisers of the year, which Secord said will raise anywhere more than $10,000.

"It's a unique thing—you don't really hear about a lot of chocolate parties," Secord said. "This was also the 23rd year of the event, so it's not only unique but also long-standing."

Junior Elleda Groeneveld was able to help out at this year's event after volunteering her time at the MSU Museum for the past semester. Although she spent most of her time behind-the-scenes, Groeneveld made sure to take in the sights and tastes.

"I was so happy to be a part of the Chocolate Party this year," Groeneveld said in an email. "It was a neat event and a great way to get the word out about the current exhibits. Being able to sample some chocolates didn't hurt either!"



Ken Wright of Wright Endings cuts his families strawberry cake for customers. Wright Endings came in first place for the "People's Choice" award.



Bake N' Cakes donated gourmet cupcakes for the MSU Museum's chocolate benefit. Bake N' Cakes was one of twelve participating chocolatiers.

LEFTOVER ENERGY

MSU strives to create a closed-cycle food waste program on campus



Red worms begin to decompose an eggplant by digesting it and turning it back into earth. The worms, along with other microorganisms, accelerate the compost process.

content: carolyn sundquist
photo: natalie kolb
design: carly patterson





A

A 20 by 70 foot hoop-house grows plants like cabbage, spinach and kale, among others, at the MSU Student Organic Farm. Like this hoop-house, all of the soil that will go to the hoop-house next to Bailey will come from food garbage composted into rich soil.

Laurie Thorp, coordinator of the RISE program, digs into composted soil. Food waste is taken from Yakeley and Landon Hall cafeterias twice a week and fed to millions of worms that will turn the waste into soil.



It's a Monday afternoon after biology class and senior Dominique Sanchez hurries out the door of the Biomedical and Physical Sciences building to beat the rush across the street at the Shaw Hall cafeteria.

After filling up on a colorful mixed green salad and a whole wheat tortilla sandwich, she neatly wipes her mouth, places the napkin on her tray and stands up to set her tray on the conveyer belt and continue with her day.

While Sanchez makes her way to the belt, however, she is stopped by a woman in an orange MSU cap holding stickers and measuring plates on a metal scale.

"Congratulations, you had zero food waste today," she chimes, placing a sticker on Sanchez's shoulder reading the same thing.

For Sanchez, it was an odd experience to be applauded for eating all the food on her plate, much like when parents encourage their child to finish dinner.

For Carla Iansiti, MSU Culinary Services sustainability officer, it is her dream to create a database for the university documenting the actual amount of food waste from students. She and the rest of her team accomplish this through food audits, which began in 2005.

In dining halls around campus, Iansiti and student volunteers conduct food audits by weighing students' plates after they are finished eating and record the number into a database.

"We don't have any benchmarking data, and it's kind of a new thing," Iansiti said. "And students care. They want to know what's going on."

A study conducted by Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering specialist Dana Kirk said 14,121 pounds of food were wasted in MSU cafeterias each day in 2006. On average, one person wastes 1.54 pounds of food and 1.51 pounds of food packaging per week. The data accounts for both pre-consumer waste, or before the cafeterias prepare the food, and post-consumer waste, which is the food left after people have finished eating.

For Iansiti, being able to use both types of waste provides more opportunity to expand her food auditing programs.

"Not only do I have a pre-consumer waste program going on that's going to the digester and the farm, we have a post-consumer (program) to bring awareness to students about food waste," Iansiti said.

And although not all the dining halls are transferring food waste for reuse, Brody Square cafeteria is leading the way.

When Brody Neighborhood's cafeteria renovations were completed two years ago, a food pulper was installed to separate the solid food waste from water. The pulper allows for food waste to be condensed, thus using less water to process the food, rather than putting it down a sink disposal.

"Wet chunks of rags and clothes would be the consistency," Kirk said. "It's dense, and it's heavy. It includes bananas and food waste, cookies—anything that is on a student's plate."

Previously, the food waste from the cafeteria was sent to a sanitary sewer in East Lansing and eventually ended up in a landfill. But now with the pulper, the waste is being sent south of campus.

Just beyond College Road at the MSU dairy farm, is an anaerobic digester.

The digester, which opened in September 2011, turns animal and food waste or pulp into biogas, a source of energy, and currently can generate 20-30 kilowatts of energy, enough to power 10-20 houses.

Now, the energy is being used to sustain the digester and a few surrounding buildings. Kirk and others will be auditing in the spring to see if the project should expand and take waste from other cafeterias.

▶ continued on pg 096



Laurie Thorp, coordinator of the RISE program, digs into some composted soil. More than 300,000 red worms are mixed in with the compost in various hoop-houses.



Pipes that belong to MSU's anaerobic digester take animal waste and food waste and convert it into energy. The digester can generate enough electricity to power itself and a few surrounding buildings.

MSU's anaerobic digester works non-stop to turn animal waste and food waste into energy. Currently researchers are trying to expand the digester and increase its energy output.



"If we expand the project and the digester, of course we would be looking at offsetting more costs for the university or generating revenue, or offsetting energy from coal or other sources," Kirk said.

Right now, they still are in the planning phase.

"We want to see what is next with organic waste management on campus," Kirk said. "We do a good job recycling all the different things we can, but waste is another important factor that needs to go into that recycling idea."

Another project that tackles food waste happens in a place where red worms and rows of salad greens are a common sight. Kept in a hoophouse at the end of a dirt road, more than 300,000 worms are mixed in with compost. The Student Organic Farm, home to the little invertebrates, is located a few miles from the digester.

The decayed organic matter is used as fertilizer to grow other plants and is generated by the red worms, which digest the food waste and turn it into usable soil. It is operated in a large hoop house, about 20-by-70 feet with plastic covering the metal frame. The soil, described by manager Brendan Sinclair as "steroid for plants," is packed with organic nutrients and microdiversity and is used in the soil for the next round of organic produce, creating a closed cycle.

"We are taking literally food garbage and turning it into rich, fantastic soil," said Laurie Thorp, director of MSU's Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment.

The food waste is taken from the Yakeley and Landon hall cafeterias and transported to the farm about twice per week. It is then fed to the worms burrowed beneath the piles of what some would look at and call dirt.

When the compost is ready, it is used to help grow more organic greens, which are then transported back to both Yakeley Hall and Brody Square cafeterias. Although the vermicomposting program solely focuses on these dining halls for now, the crew at the farm constantly is thinking of new ways to expand the program.

"MSU is like a small city. We're feeding 30,000 meals a day," Thorp said. "We want to figure out how to scale this up really big to turn this completely into a closed loop."

With a new research grant from the Office of Campus Sustainability, the Brody Neighborhood will welcome a new herb hoop house located outside of Bailey Hall on Harrison Road in summer 2012.

Sinclair, who will manage the hoop house, said its purpose is to provide herbs, such as rosemary, sage, oregano and thyme, to Brody Neighborhood and West Circle cafeterias and to the Kellogg Center restaurant The State Room. The hoop house, still yet to be named, will be 30-by-72 feet and managed by two-to-four students.

"They will be doing the planting, care, distribution and selling of the plants," Sinclair said. "Their income comes from the amount of food they sell."

Sinclair only sees benefits to the project and believes it will help redevelop a connection with food for students who can't make it out to the Student Organic Farm. He also said this project is unique for a university.

"We are one of the only universities doing this in the country," Sinclair said. "Culinary Services wants to do the most they can to be sustainable. I think this will open up opportunities for food sustainability."

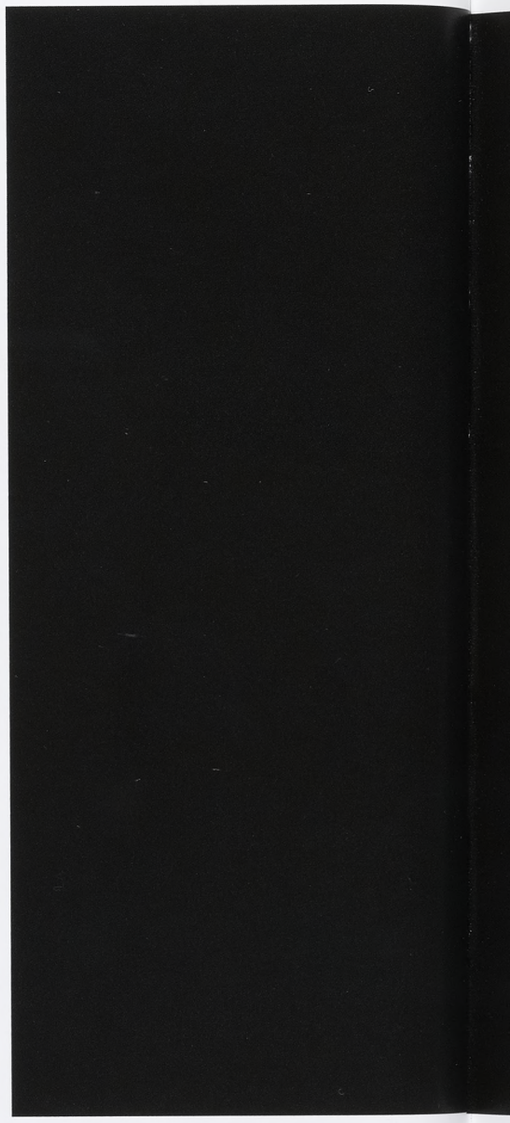






Green leafy spinach grows inside one of seven MSU hoop-houses located at the MSU Dairy Farm. Currently, only one of the seven hoop-houses sell food to MSU cafeterias the rest sell food to Community Supported Agriculture members.

MSU's anaerobic digester works to convert animal waste and food waste into energy. The digester currently can generate enough electricity to power itself and a few surrounding buildings.



Former MSU student Zachary Stein generated uproarious laughter from the audience with his simple sarcasm. The performers used many different types of comedy, including anecdotes, one-liners and physical comedy.



Senior Scott Long focused much of his comedy on his personal life, building a strong connection with the audience. The event raised money for student comics like Long to attend and participate in showcases around the country.

"So I'm on this diet. Yesterday I ate a chicken breast…and a small tree," theatre senior Scott Long joked onstage at Connxtions Comedy Club in Lansing.

On Feb. 15, dozens of theater and comedy lovers filled Connxtions to support student comics and benefit the theatre department's Society of Performers and Arts Management (SPAM) foundation, a student organization that provides career exposure for performing arts students.

"I've never seen anybody (from the department) do stand-up before," theatre junior and attendee Adam Sutherland said. "It was cool seeing a different side of (the performers) that you can't get in the classroom setting."

Theatre and telecommunication junior Brett Kline was chief organizer of the fundraiser. Kline has performed in several Michigan clubs, including Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak and Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia, since he was legally old enough to enter the venues. Approaching his fourth year of performing stand-up comedy, Kline said he was elated to organize a show benefiting his department.

"(Organizing the event) wasn't really work for me, it was something I wanted to be doing anyways, and it's more stage time for me and the other comics," he said.

As emcee, Kline treated the audience to musical comedy, causing him to stand out from the other comics. His songs related to subjects such as being in love with a blow-up doll and the torment of unsuccessful relationships. Although Kline began his career as a musical comedy performer, he would like to use his songs as "an asset more than a clutch." Kline generalized his comic taste as "weird anti-humor." His motivation is seeing comics perform successfully.

"I love seeing people have amazing sets and be like, 'why can't I do that?'" Kline said. "I'll laugh really hard, then I analyze it and figure out why I laughed."

He hopes his combined degrees in theatre and telecommunication will enable him to succeed in several aspects of show business and eventually lead him to Los Angeles. Kline has a regular spot at Connxtions and has performed at the venue more than 21 times in January.

Connxtions, the only comedy club in the area, has hosted nationally known comics, including Drew Carey and Rob Schneider. It also makes time for holding local fundraising performances, like the SPAM beneficiary, to give back to the community. In total, the SPAM fundraiser raised more than $200.

SPAM funds performing arts of all kinds and provides workshops in areas from musical theatre to improvisation and comedy. Long said the "foundation sends the (bachelor's of fine arts) seniors to showcases in Chicago, New York and all over Michigan to audition for booking agents and casting directors."

"It's a way to raise money so we don't have to spend money on plane tickets and booking a place to stay," he said.

Long is a member of Giraffe House, an independent sketch comedy group, and has participated in several MSU productions. He will play the UPS man in MSU's interpretation of "Legally Blonde: The Musical" in April.

Having performed in stand-up for a few years, Long aspires to make a career out of comedy, whether it is through stand-up or comedic acting.

"It's something I want to do for the rest of my life," he said. "I love performing for new people. (At MSU) there's always a chance to see something and to come out and support the arts."

content: holly johnson
photo: lauren gaboury
design: carly patterson





Senior Mike O'Keefe appeared to be right at home on the stand-up stage. O'Keefe said he plans on pursuing his stand-up career, and these events help him become more comfortable on the stage.

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

Student comics fundraise to promote MSU's Department of Theatre





THE COST OF AN OPPORTUNITY

She is hesitant to relay her feelings at first. A few telling phrases come out, but it is a cautious release.

"You try to explain, but it's difficult to tell them because some people don't even understand racism or colonization."

With that said, the curtain that had been covering this topic lifts. Released, she leans back in her chair then pushes forward into her next words, "That's why you think that I don't exist…it's because I barely do."

An ironic smile breaks out; it's bright against her North Face jacket that's a brown several shades lighter than her hair. Big earrings, red on silver, flank her face. There is a bag on her shoulder, leather boots on her feet. From this mix of apparel and accessories, she looks like a majority of the students walking along Grand River Avenue. But she isn't.

Rose Petoskey is a political theory senior studying in the James Madison College. Petoskey was born and raised on the reservation of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on the Leelanau Peninsula near Traverse City, Mich. Although her hometown isn't referred to as a municipality, everyday life in Peshawbestown is not starkly different from those that are. In the tribe of 4,000, her friends were her cousins, and Rose cites this as the largest dividing line.

The high school classroom—the end of education for most of Petoskey's peers on the reservation—is another point of distinction. Only Rose and two of her classmates came to MSU, and these three were the only ones to leave Peshawbestown and pursue a higher education.

"It's hard for a lot of native students to come out from the reservation, and come to a big school like this because a lot of people don't know what it means to be a native or an Indian person," Petoskey said. "I still get those interesting questions like 'I thought you didn't exist anymore, I thought all the Indians were dead.'"

In judging the ease of integration for Native American students, Petoskey said it depends on whom you talk to.

MSU is a land grant university, and the land for campus was secured from Native Americans in the Treaty of 1855. In exchange for territory, it was established that MSU would provide an education to all native children. Bound to honor that agreement, the Federal government has established the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver, or MITW, which allows members of the 12 federally recognized tribes in Michigan to attend MSU tuition-free. Some students are angry and resentful toward the Native Americans who take advantage of this program. To those people, Rose points out the small number of native students being granted the waiver.

"It's not like 1,000 students are going to school for free, it's the select few that actually get the opportunity to go," she said. Her tone turned wistful, "I can't imagine the day that there would be 1,000 native students."

North American Indigenous Student Organization co-chair and senior Sean Patrick has encountered adverse attitudes about the MITW in the past.

"Most people that I talk to that are non-native and aware that it exists have a negative view of it," Patrick said. "They see it related to racial preference, but they don't have any understanding of the treaty behind it. They feel that Native Americans come from a place of privilege, but that really couldn't be farther from the truth."

On the reservation today, natives stay in touch with their heritage through sweat lodges, powwows and a governmental system infused with cultural practices. Jingle Dress dancing is one tradition that Petoskey has been involved with since she was a young girl. This dance is one of healing. It is for the prayers of the community, for those who are sick or troubled. Maybe if a wish is sent out for integration and understanding, a path toward education can be cleared for Native Americans. Maybe. In hopes of that happening, Petoskey will have to continue dancing.





Volunteers assisting with the event help students sort recyclables before getting the chance to play with the puppy of their choice. The puppies were provided to students by the Capital Area Human Society.



Weeble, a Chihuahua, perks his ears up as other puppies cause a ruckus elsewhere while junior Stephanie Bury enjoys the same sight. Students brought a combination of cardboard, aluminum, and monetary donations for the opportunity to play with puppies.

RECYCLE MANIA: RENT-A-PUPPY
content: cooper franks
photo: chase o'black
design: betsy eber



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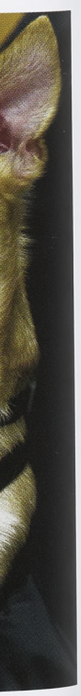
Junior Corey Brown holds back a pit bull puppy as it tries to explore the rest of the Shaw Hall terrace level. Puppies were played with for an average of 11 minutes before students were asked to part ways and make room for the next group of recyclers.

Coonhound Buster explores the floor while MSU students try to keep him settled. There were 10 dogs available to play with during the RecycleMania event.



THE POWER OF PUPPIES

Rent-A-Puppy produces success for RecycleMania



Dog is man's best friend; it doesn't matter if you are 5 or 50 years old. However, as we grow up and head off to college, we likely leave behind that canine companion. Luckily, the MSU Surplus Store and Recycling Center, MSU Live On and Be Spartan Green teamed up with the Residential and Hospitality Services to restore that missing component by contacting the Capital Area Humane Society and in turn borrowing a pack of playful puppies.

Beside providing a burst of cuteness to MSU students, how do puppies help the recycling cause?

As part of the RecycleMania tournament, an annual eight-week recycling competition between colleges and universities across the U.S., Rent-A-Puppy was created. Through the event, students who brought a full bag of recyclables could play with puppies from the Capital Area Humane Society in McDonel, Wonders or Shaw halls from Feb. 27-29.

Nicole Micolichek, Shaw Hall assistant hall director, was one of many who helped coordinate the event.

"Last year we brought puppies in as a stress reliever during finals week, so we continued with that idea," Micolichek said.

This year, the puppies served as an outlet for the stress we put on the environment. An outlet that contributed to the recycling of about 373,000 pounds after RecycleMania's third week.

Dawn McCune, a member of the Capital Area Humane Society, explained that the mission of the organization is to promote the humane treatment of companion animals through protection, placement, education and example. By pairing up with the RecycleMania event, McCune said students learned the importance of symbiosis between humans and the natural world.

"It was a fundraising event that allowed more than stress relief and cuddle time," McCune said. "All the students left with smiles on their faces."

Freshman Sofia Cavallin was among those smiling while she played with a pit bull terrier puppy named Lolita.

"It was relaxing in itself, but it allowed me to escape college for a moment and bring back many memories. I miss my dog Babe." said Cavallin after pausing for a moment.

Babe is a golden retriever that grew up with Cavallin since she was young.

"I love her because she has been through everything with me," Cavallin said of the dog.

After receiving a job offer in China through General Motors, her father and family moved to China, and as usual, Babe followed.

"I remember when Babe got stuck in a heat wave in Germany on the way to China. She was dirty, hadn't eaten for a couple of days and was scared. It broke my heart, but she was happy to see us," Cavallin said.

Three years later, the family moved to Brazil, and of course, so did Babe.

"The moves were difficult for me, and Babe was always the first one to greet me when I walked in the door after a long stressful day," Cavallin said.

Cavallin gave Lolita one last hug, explained to the next student in the line that stretched out the door that Lolita was 4 months old and handed off the loving puppy.

"I consider Babe my best friend," Cavallin said. "Dogs never interrupt you when you speak, but simply listen to you, always smiling and wagging their tail because they are genuinely happy to be with you."

Looking behind her as she walked out of the room filled with recyclables, puppies and memories of Babe, Cavallin noticed Lolita wagging her tail.



Frontier Ruckus plays a free show, talks about touring and being home

For many, it is difficult to think of Frontier Ruckus without thinking of Michigan or MSU. After all, singer/songwriter Matthew Milia loads his folksy songs with reference points deeply connected with the state he calls home. This may be one of the reasons students crammed the common area of Gilchrist Hall on March 1 to listen to the band perform.

Senior Erin O'Connor said she feels a connection with Frontier Ruckus, which got its start as a band at MSU and is mainly comprised of MSU alumni.

"I can make more connection with a song like that because I know exactly what they're talking about geographically," O'Connor said. "I feel like I'm rooting for them because they're from the same state."

The connection goes even deeper than that for some, like Frontier Ruckus member Zachary Nichols, who mans the trumpet, melodica—which is similar to a harmonica—and most notably, the musical saw.

"The very first time I played the saw was in Gilchrist (Hall)," he said. "I was bored. I was watching a saw player play online, and I got really interested in it. I started in the dorm and met my neighbor because they didn't know what the sound was."

Milia, who also lived in West Circle while at MSU, lets his Michigan roots shine in nearly every song he writes, with references to I-75, sprawling suburbs and dark autumn nights.

"I really think memory has a physicality to it. To still be in Michigan at the end of the day was very restful and meditative," Milia said after describing himself as "overly nostalgic."

On stage, Frontier Ruckus oozed comfort and confidence and even made its way to the middle of the audience for a special acoustic set. As the banjo plinked away, the musical saw sighed shrilly and Milia's acoustic guitar strummed as his quavering voice warbled about Michigan summers and outstretched strip malls. However, Milia wasn't alone in singing, as many of the audience members' voices wafted quietly to the high ceilings.

While Frontier Ruckus is taking a break from its two-year touring stint, the group has been hard at work recording its new album, "Eternity of Dimming."

"It's a little different sonically," Milia said. "It's a really sprawling record—20 songs. There are a lot of thematic tangents. It's very verbose. There are like 5,500 words. I think it could stand lyrically, like something people would want to read just off the page, and the text is really important to me."

Still, being at home in Michigan is bittersweet; with feelings of restfulness comes feelings of restlessness.

"We've been in town for a couple months, and I'm sort of getting the wanderlust again," Nichols said. "I can't wait to hit the road."

He added with a wry smile, "But when you're on the road you always want to be at home."



L

Lead singer and guitarist Matthew Milia croons to the crowd. The band decided to play the final three songs in the middle of the audience, making for an intimate finale.

Bassist John Hanson and drummer Ryan Etzcorn keep rhythm for the band. The entire show was recorded by 89 FM The Impact to be re-broadcasted at a later date.







Senior Adrian Sanchez plays rhythm guitar while Royce Phillips Jr. plays a saxophone solo. East Harvest opened for Frontier Ruckus.

Frontier Ruckus opens their show to a captivated audience. The Gilchrist Pub was filled to capacity for the performance.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME



Natalie Kolb

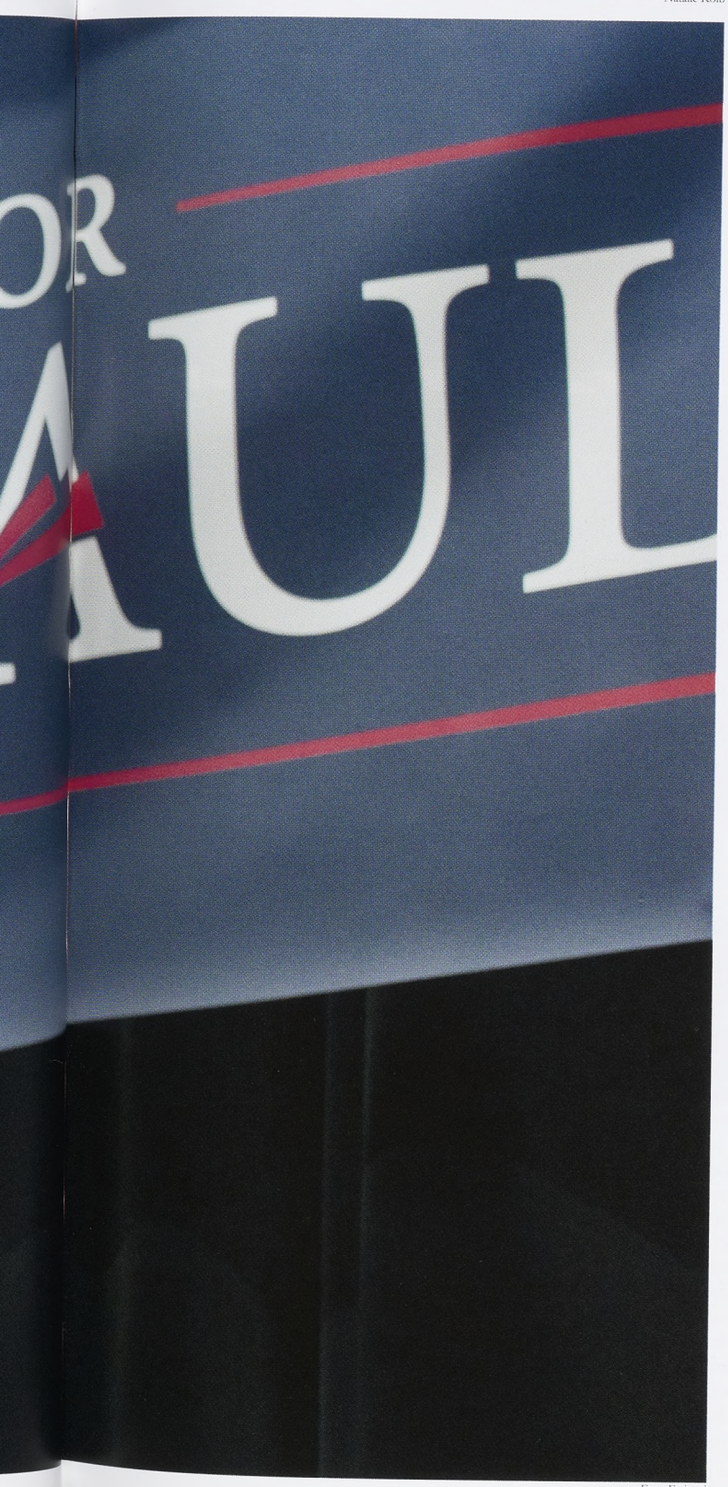
Carol Paul, wife of Ron Paul, waves to the crowd during her husband's speech at MSU. The couple celebrated their 55th anniversary this month.

Ron Paul says goodbye to his supporters after his speech made in the MSU Auditorium. Paul came to MSU to rally before the Michigan primaries.



Natalie Kolb

An enthusiastic Ron Paul fan shows his support during Paul's rally at MSU. Paul was introduced by junior and leader of the MSU Youth For Ron Paul, Ethan Davis.



Evan Farinosi

PAUL FOR PRESIDENT

Ron Paul rally at MSU draws an expressive crowd

The lobby of MSU's Auditorium was chaotic as students and community members jumped from line to line to try and get the best seat for the Youth for Ron Paul speech.

Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul made MSU a stop on his campaign tour on Feb. 27—one day before the Michigan republican primary, creating a campus event with historic success. More than 4,000 people attended the rally, decked out in campaign gear and holding signs with sayings like "End the Fed" and "Ron Paul Revolution."

Ron Paul supporter and junior Natalie Brumfield, and her sister and senior Elizabeth Brumfield, both said they were excited to attend the event.

"We are just really ecstatic to be here," Natalie Brumfield said, unsticking her blue "Ron Paul for President" sticker and putting it on her jacket. "I have been waiting a long time to be able to attend a Ron Paul event, and now there is finally one in mid-Michigan."

Natalie said she had been a Paul supporter since his last presidential run in 2008, but Elizabeth said she was a new supporter.

"I wasn't a huge fan of him in '08," she said. "But I think these four years have made a change in what I'm looking for in a politician, and Paul has got what I want."

The rally was a full house in the Auditorium. People packed in wall-to-wall to hear what the presidential candidate had to say, and the audience was not a quiet crowd.

Paul started the speech by explaining he was what he called the "only candidate for liberty," which was met with ear-splitting applause and cheers of "President Paul."

Not even five minutes later, the crowd was on its feet and cheering again when Paul mentioned ending the Federal Reserve. The audience's "end the Fed" cheers were enthusiastic and accompanied by matching signs.

"It's not working," Paul said of the Federal Reserve. "It's not what the people that founded it wanted it to be anymore."

Paul also spent time talking about foreign policy.

"What Washington (D.C.) doesn't get right now is that we need to get out of other countries and mind our own business," he said. "We have problems here at home we need to be dealing with first."

Paul's call for "defensive-only" wars was met with another standing ovation.

The presidential candidate more than once acknowledged the fact he was at a college campus by giving the young crowd a nod.

"This crowd's a little more informed than their parents," he said. "You're on the Internet, you don't have television news shoving views on you. That's why you're here, because you're informed."

Natalie Brumfield said she thought calling out the audience on its Internet knowledge and its ability to think beyond biased media portrayal was a good idea, since it united the audience in a shared belief.

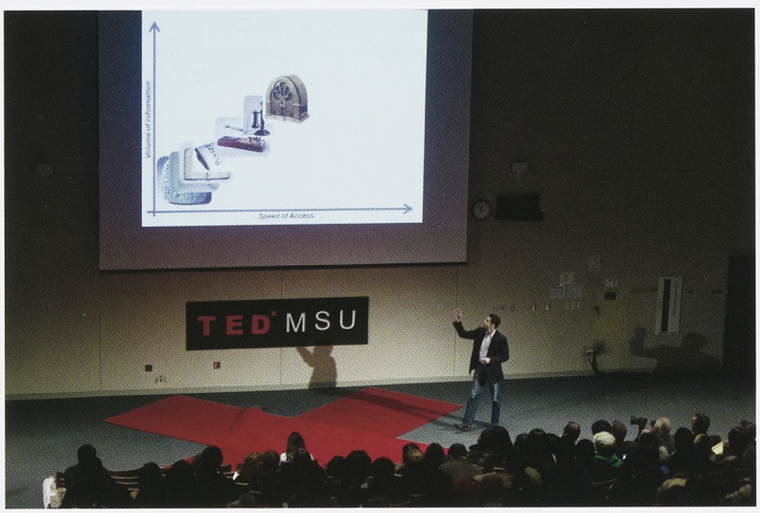
"It made me feel empowered, like this man could actually win and be a great president," Natalie said, noting that media does not normally give Paul much airtime.

Paul may not be the most popular Republican candidate in the race—he finished third in Michigan's primary—but it doesn't make his supporters any less passionate. The enthusiasm Paul was met with at his rally is something that can go down as one of the most energetic events in MSU history.

Junior Evan Stemmer captivates the audience with a glow stick performance. This TEDx event featured both presentation and performance-style guest appearances.



Ashiq Rahiman speaks to the Tedx MSU crowd about growing up and interacting with different cultures. Rahiman is a senior international student at MSU.



Jeff Jorge explains the history of access to information and the amazing speed of knowledge accumulation. Jorge is the Executive Partner and Founder of Global Development Partners: a global strategy, market growth and social responsibility consultancy group.



Drummers from the Korean Student Organization dazzle the crowd with a riveting performance. This was the first TEDx event ever held on MSU's campus.

TEDXMSU
content: cooper franks
photo: evan tarinosi
design: betsy eber



IDEAS WORTH SPREADING

International Student Association hosts first TEDxMSU conference

"Take a look at this map," instructed speaker Jamie Hsu as a projection of the world appeared before the audience. "What do you see? Do you see people moving? Ideas spreading? Information growing?" This and many other questions were raised in the first annual TEDxMSU event on Mar. 31, which explored the ideas of globalization and localization and was hosted by the MSU International Students Association and the MSU Office for International Students and Scholars.

"We felt that through combining TED with the global and local theme would serve as a bridge between the international and local students," said Mohd Aizat Abdulrahim, who helped organize the event.

But sometimes it is hard to bridge that gap.

"It is difficult to define global and local because the world is so dynamic and interconnected," said Hsu, also a professor of management at Lawrence Technological University.

TED, which stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design, is a nonprofit organization that began as a four-day conference in California, and has expanded to inviting the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes. TEDx is an independently organized TED event that brings the global aspects of TED to a local level.

"Usually this would take me an entire semester to cover," Hsu said in front of his projected presentation, Evolving Careers in a Changing World. "However, I have 18 minutes, and in these 18 minutes my goal is to entertain you, captivate you and educate you."

Hsu was an engineer and executive at General Motors for 32 years, and with his Taiwanese roots and decades of business travel he provided keen insight on globalization's impact within the career world.

"Ten years ago, the top 10 jobs did not exist," Hsu said. "Write your plans in sand, carve your goals in stone, and cast your values in gold, for careers cannot be defined as rigid."

In fact, by age 38, people typically have had 10-14 jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The goal for your career is to broaden your base, learn something new and instead of job seeking, propose your specific value within the company and spend your time doing, teaching and learning, according to Hsu.

"Think without any box, plan outside the box, and act within the box," Hsu said.

Dany Masado, a graduate student who received the license to host the event, spoke of the strict regulations in hosting the event.

"TED requires all independently run events to follow their rules and obtain a license. We had to follow all the directions given, maintain consistent contact, and notify them of our sponsors, but through working with the extraordinary group, they helped start a legacy at MSU, and it is a great one," she said. "TED wants to keep the message of innovation, and I feel that our speakers achieved that."

After only a month's notice the International Students Association achieved the goal of creating the connection between the global and local community and maintained the innovative philosophy of TED.

Captivated by the speakers, Taiki Fujimori, a sophomore Philosophy major, sat beside the silhouette of a Spartan logo on the wall.

"The message each speaker gave really hit home. I feel that being at the local event, rather than watching the TED talks online, really made it feel inspirational."

Dr. Geri Zeldes, spoke on behalf of the pervasive nature of human intimacies filtering into both global and local contexts.

"We make our world significant by the courage of our questions and by the depth of our answers."





Ace DeVille works the stage during the first half of the night's performances. The Official MSU Drag Show was sponsored by UAB, RHA, and RING.

DRAGGING AWAY THE NORMS

MSU's Official Drag Show abolishes gendered stereotypes

It's Friday the 13th. Inside the International Center's food court, columns are draped with eerie vines and spider webs, leading to a smoked out stage accompanied by a full-sized coffin. In a nearby dressing room, several drag queens and kings wait, applying the finishing touches to perfect their look, whether it is a bit more glitter to the cheek or an added stroke to a flawlessly penciled goatee. These performers are warming up to take part in one of the most fabulous events of the year on April 13, Fright Night: The Official MSU Drag Show.

Outside, a line stretches from the front door of the International Center and spans across the sidewalk to Farm Lane. A DJ plays the hottest hip hop tracks as hundreds of students wait, dancing in line, hoping to gain entry before the venue reaches capacity.

Senior Justin Drwencke was not surprised by the colossal amount of students waiting to enter the show. As part of MSU's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, he characterized the drag show as a "great event to showcase the LGBT community to the larger campus community."

"The MSU Drag Show is really popular across campus, so there are a lot more people who get introduced to the culture," he said.

Junior Cole Davis said he sees the drag show as a way to expose a wider audience of people to a part of gay culture.

"I know there are a lot of people in the university who are just coming out or just being opened up to that world, and it's great for them to get a chance to be exposed to it here on campus," Davis said.

The MSU Official Drag Show has become "a staple for Michigan State and something needed to do before you graduate," University Activities Board member and senior Melissa Klusek said. UAB, the Residence Hall Association (RHA), and Respecting Individuals on Neutral Grounds North Neighborhood Caucus sponsored the event,

Onstage, emcee Hershae Chocolatae entertained even the most mundane audience members. From her humor to countless wardrobe changes, Chocolatae kept the crowd howling with clever one-liners and voice fluctuations ranging from soft hellos to deep, hoarse shouts when the audience was not paying proper attention.

Lansing area drag queens, such as Delicious Jackson, Cheetah Jamison, Ace DeVille and Chanel Hunter, appeared draped in fabulous silk and glittered garments with luscious makeup and voluminous hair to match. Separately, the drag queens performed choreographed routines to diva jams, including Beyoncé, Rhianna and Whitney Houston, while drag kings such as Dice Santana lit up the stage with suave steps and slick moves.

For performer and Lansing resident Matthew Briekner, whose stage name is Ace DeVille, MSU's Official Drag Show is a canvas to expose drag culture to a younger audience that may not be exposed to the art any other way.

"I love the amount of new people that are here that have never been to a drag show and the way they are so receptive," Briekner said. "Their energy gives me energy, and I love it."

One of Briekner's goals when performing is to encourage individuals interested in drag to try it.

"I want to show that I'm this fabulous, and you can be this fabulous, too," he said. "We all start from nowhere."

The culture of drag is notorious for celebrating gender as a performance, instead of a doctrine of societal norms by which individuals must abide. Drwencke said this idea was accurately represented at the drag show through its ability to provide commentary on gender expression.

Briekner agreed.

"That's what drag is," he said. "Using gender as a tool and not a rule."



Drag Queen "Jayla Kruz" performs at the Official MSU Drag Show. The event showcased over 10 performers from the Lansing area.

Drag Queen "Cheetah Jamison" strikes a pose during an Official MSU Drag Show performance. Before the doors opened for the evening, the line stretched from the International Center to Farm Lane.





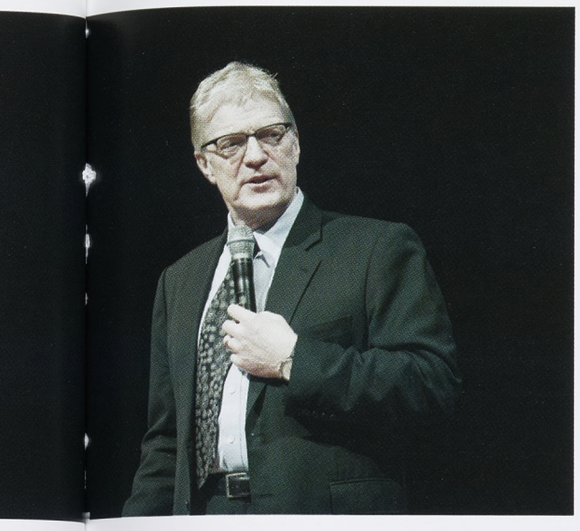
Drag Queen "Delicious Jackson" basks in the disco ball glow. Approximately 650 people attended this year's show.



Robinson banters with giggling audience members at the Pasant Theater in the Wharton Center. Robinson spoke about creativity in education.

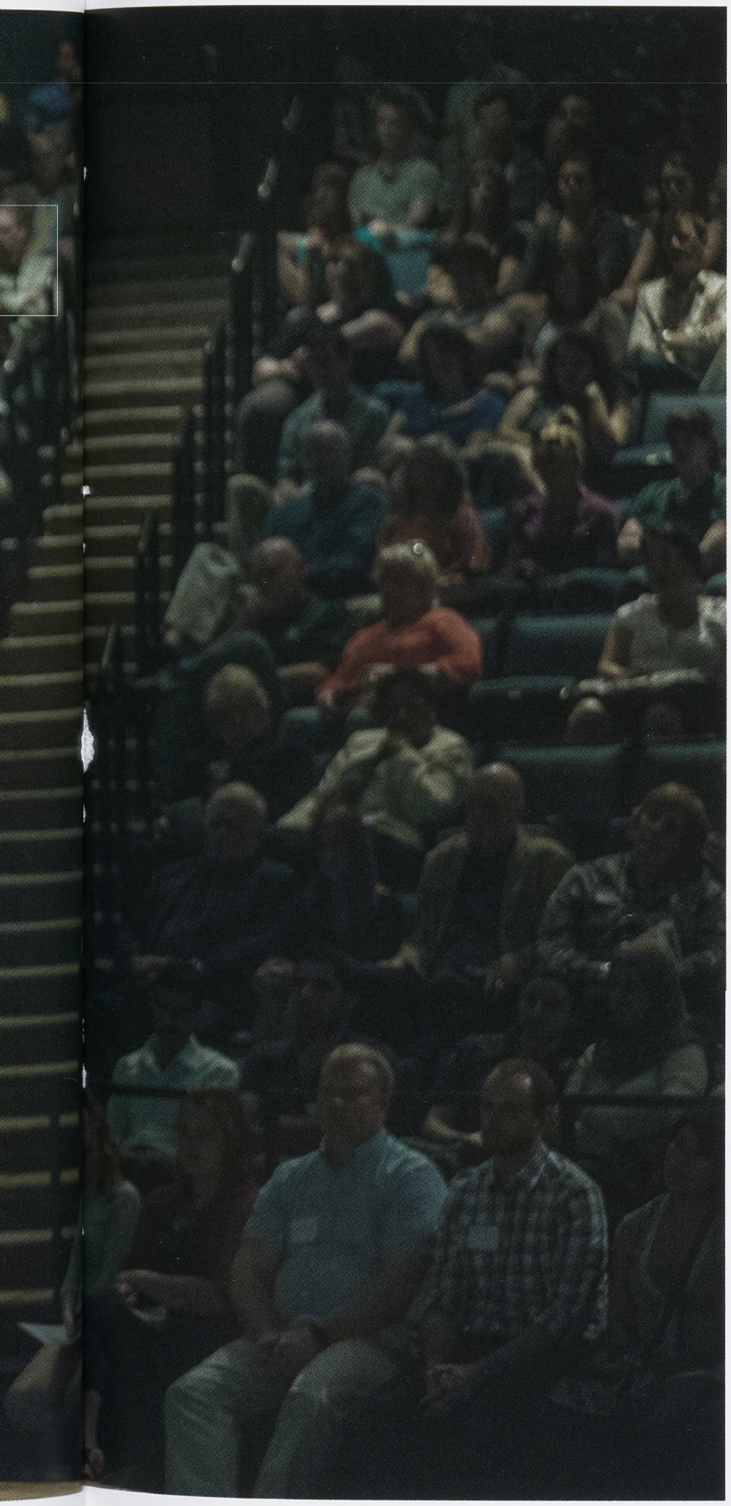
Sir Ken Robinson discusses the urgency of transforming education. Students and audience members were given the opportunity to personally ask questions during the lecture.

content: cooper franks
photo: submitted by mike jenkins
design: betsy eber



A CALL FOR CREATIVITY

Sir Ken Robinson visits MSU for a discussion on creativity



The U.S. once maintained one of the leading educational systems in the world. However, the U.S. has fallen to average, according to the Program for International Student Assessment report released every three years by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The report compares the knowledge and skills of 15-year-olds through a standardized assessment in 70 countries around the world, and the U.S. currently is ranked 14th out of 34 in reading skills, 17th for science and a below-average 25th for mathematics.

This educational epidemic has sparked debate within and between various communities, giving birth to programs such as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and other initiatives that support standard based educational reform, which measures intelligence through a series of standardized tests. There is a significant controversy between programs that support standardized testing and the negative effects standardization has on the educational system.

The question still remains, how can we reform our education?

Sir Ken Robinson, an influential voice advocating against the detrimental consequences of the industrialized model of education, is attempting to answer that very question.

"The fact is that given the challenges we face, education doesn't need to be reformed—it needs to be transformed," Robinson said at his lecture about his book, "Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative," on March 21 in the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre.

Inspired by the creative revolution, the College of Arts and Letters invited Robinson as its Spring 2012 Signature Lecturer and kick-off speaker for the recently formed Creativity Exploratory. In addition, the Creativity Exploratory, an innovative, practice-based addition to the College of Arts and Letters curriculum, also held a private book talk and student discussion with Robinson.

Kathryn Palczewski, a Creativity Exploratory fellow, helped organize the speech and discussion that allowed a mixture of people to engage with Robinson's work.

"The Creativity Exploratory is designed to give students the opportunity to work beyond the academic structure and to collaborate openly and engage creatively," Palczewski said. "[Robinson] embodies that idea."

Robinson's idea is spreading at a rapid rate, according to Bruce Vanden Bergh, a Department of Advertising professor at MSU, who discussed the influence of creativity with enthusiastic students.

"The goal is to provide a more holistic approach, to dabble in everything, for if we don't create, use all senses and all cognitive capabilities, we don't move forward, but backward," Vanden Bergh said.

Elena Dunckel, a Residential College in the Arts and Humanities and Chinese senior, patiently waited for the student discussion with Robinson, while constructing a pink origami rose.

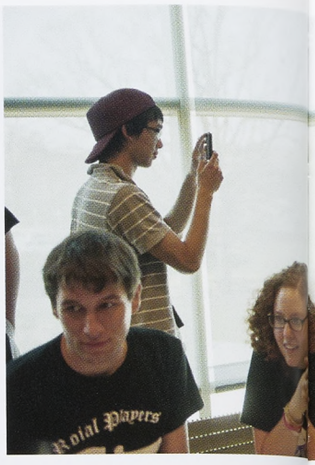
"I was one of the people who were good at standardized testing, and I wasn't proud of it. I've always been extremely passionate about Karate, but school didn't allow me to pursue that," Dunckel said. "Since then, I've been pursuing a creative path."

Dunckel hopes that path will take her overseas to open a coffee or tea shop in China where she can intertwine her passion for tea and helping people learn English.

"I feel that we need to connect the spaces between people and engage in more conversation," Dunckel said. "Nowadays, people are afraid to open up, and I want to help with that."

continued on pg 114





Robinson talks to a student about the student's passion for music. The two discussed criticisms made on the underrepresentation of music classes in public schools.

That interconnection between people is a major goal of The Alliance of Creative Students, which aims to engage, support and inspire a community of emerging and established talent in the Greater Lansing region. The Alliance plans to host an exhibit in April centered around the theme, "What Is Creativity?"

"Our task is to facilitate creativity in the area, and that is the atmosphere schools should advocate," said Ethan Tate, RCAH and professional writing junior and member of The Alliance.

Facilitating creativity in the classroom is a key point in Robinson's solution to the educational dilemma. Although most people think of creativity as an abstract idea, creativity is applicable, according to Robinson, who defines creativity as, "the process of having original ideas that have value."

Innovative ideas cannot only transform the system, but engage students in the classroom.

"One in three students who start the 9th grade will not finish the 12th grade," Robinson said as his voice carried to the crowd gathered in the Pasant Theatre.

This statistic adds to the current problems of the American education system, and as MSU students, professors, administrators and policymakers sat surrounding the stage, Robinson offered a solution.

"The way you get students to stay in education is to engage their imagination. When you do things that excite your energy you open yourself up to opportunities, which would otherwise have been hidden from you," he said. "And if you take those opportunities, you then create ripples all around you and you affect the world other people are living in, for being alive is a mutually creative process."

This aspect is extremely important because the people alive in this very moment constitute the largest generation of people in human history, according to the United Nations "2010 Revision of the World Population Prospects", in which the world population reached 7 billion on Oct. 31, 2011.

"We have to start with the premise that every school is different and unique and every child goes somewhere, and if all school moves in this direction: to personalize, customize, to be their own place, that's a movement and that's where revolution starts, from the bottom," Robinson said.

Secondary education freshman Nate Schiefer is part of that revolution.

"In listening to Robinson speak, I realized why I wanted to become a teacher," Schiefer said. "Teaching is not only my passion because I love teaching, but because it allows me to help others find their passion as well."

According to Robinson, learning is a voluntary process, and the way to foster the knowledge of students is to create an environment in which they can grow.

"Teaching is an art form," Robinson said. "It's not a delivery system."

The creative revolution allows students to become captivated by education, learn more efficiently and find their true passion, whether creating conversations between people like Dunckel, assisting students with discovering their passion like Schiefer, or bringing people together like Palczewski.

"The saying is true that we must think globally, but act locally," Robinson said. "If you make the change where you are the change will spread. …I don't believe we can predict the future, but if we invest properly and cultivate in the talents of our children, we will create a future that we may not be able to predict but a future we all want to live in."

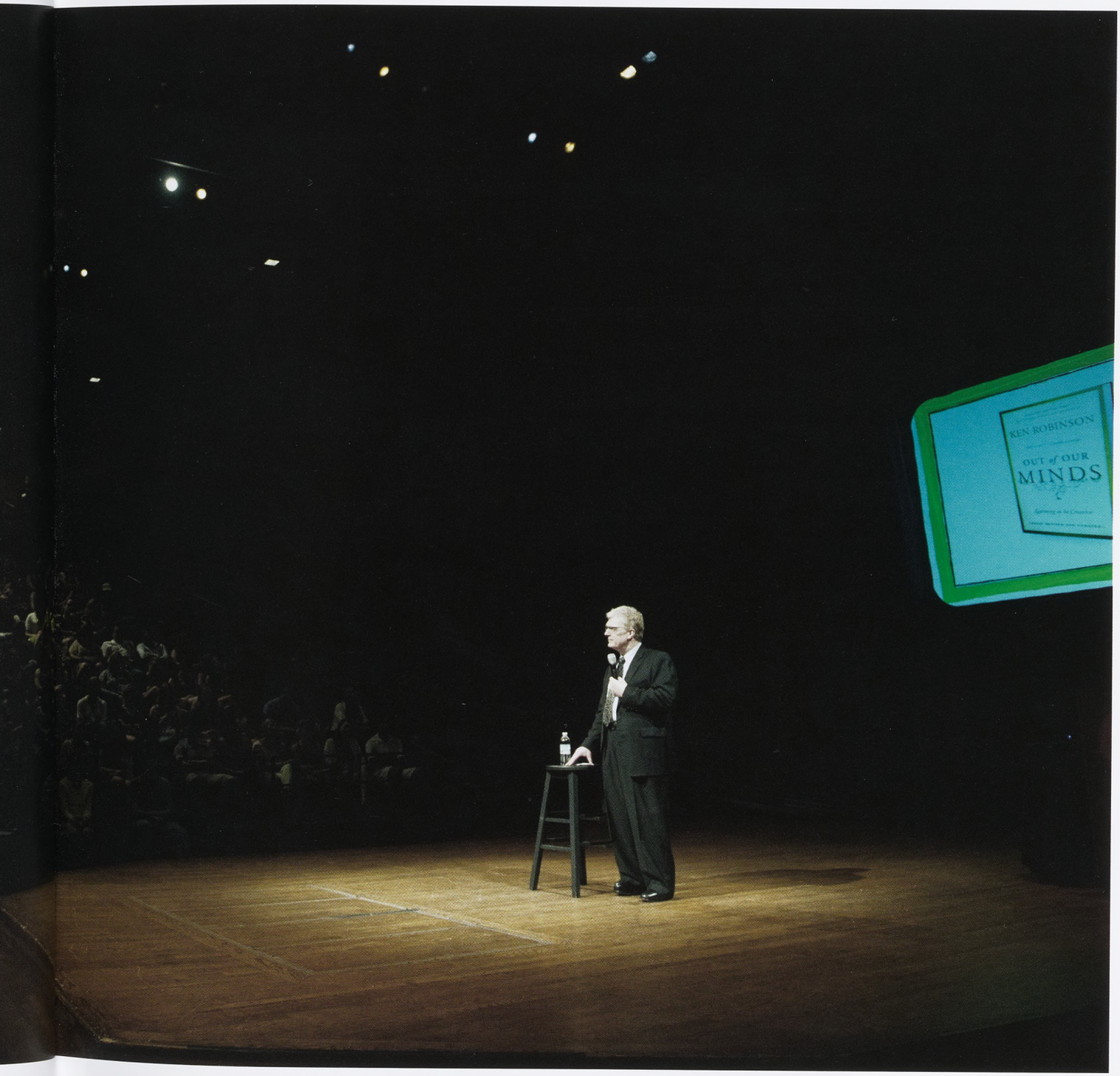


content: cooper franks
photo: submitted by mike jenkins
design: betsy eber



Students snap a photograph with Robinson at the student discussion. Creativity Exploratory said they were pleased with the turnout of enthusiastic students.

At the Pasant Theater, Sir Ken Robinson speaks about the need for creativity and reform of public education. The purpose of the lecture was to enhance the audience's perspective on the idea of creativity in learning.



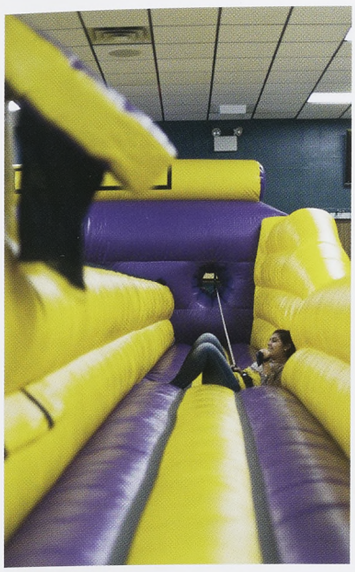


A volunteer pumps syrup on crushed ice for snow cones. Sparty's Spring Party featured a variety of other sponsors including Buffalo Wild Wings, MSU Federal Credit Union, and the Spartan Bookstore.

Participants at Sparty's Spring Party have their hands dipped in wax. When the wax dried, it was carefully removed leaving molds of the students' hands.



content: jessica pedersen
photo: chase o'black
design: betsy eber



Freshman Fatima Din struggles to shoot a ball in the basketball hoop at the end of the inflated attraction. This was the 11th year that UAB, RHA and SAF hosted Sparty's Spring Party.

PARTY WITH SPARTY

MSU students make memories at the annual Sparty's Spring Party

The threat of rain may have moved this year's Sparty's Spring Party indoors, but that didn't stop students from enjoying a day filled with games, prizes and friends.

Students packed into every corner of the International Center on April 14 as they made their way from inflatable obstacle courses to the rock climbing wall in the Crossroads Food Court, stopping at tables in the hallway to grab free merchandise along the way. A dozen organizations were on hand, giving away free products like Vitamin Water, draw string bags and popcorn, while a dance party featuring Detroit dubstep DJs and DJ Kap Slap kept the crowd moving.

A popular attraction this year was the wax hand station. Participants dipped their hands in hot wax to make a mold. After letting it dry, the mold comes off and can be kept as a souvenir.

Junior Jordan Morrow, who was waiting in the long wax hand line, said her friends come to Sparty's Spring Party ever year, and they convinced her to tag along this year.

"I decided to come this year because I want to make sure I do activities here at MSU before I graduate," Morrow said. "With senior year coming up, I realized I don't have much more time left."

Junior Genevieve Goldberg considers herself a regular at Sparty's Spring Party, which is sponsored annually by the Student Alumni Foundation.

"It's always one of my favorite events of the year," Goldberg said. "You get to do a lot of fun stuff, and get a lot of fun stuff."

Next to the wax hand station, students could enjoy a professional massage or get a red or blue snow cone. There also was a basketball hoop, where students could try to dunk their way into earning a free bottle of Buffalo Wild Wings sauce.

Senior Jim McEvilly said the best part of the event was its ability to let students make memories of their time at MSU.

"It's my last year, and I really just want to make sure I can spend some fun times with friends before I leave," McEvilly said, taking the green wax mold off of his hand and heading for the table where they were giving away bottled Fuze drinks.

Sparty's Spring Party attendees weren't limited to upperclassmen trying to make the most of their final days at MSU—there also were plenty of freshmen experiencing the excitement for the first time.

Freshman Imani Chambers said it was one of the most activity-packed events she had been to during her short time at MSU.

"There is stuff to do everywhere," Chambers said. "It's a great way to get out and do things you wouldn't normally get to do."

Some activities at Sparty's Spring Party definitely were unique. There are very few other opportunities to jump in an inflatable ball pit and have an air gun fight, which is exactly what Chambers had just finished doing.

"It was nice to get away from studying for a while," Chambers said. "With finals coming up, I appreciated the opportunity to do something fun and different."

Regardless of age or class standing, Sparty's Spring Party was a place where Spartans could relieve stress, try something new, dance the night away, and most importantly, make memories to last a lifetime.



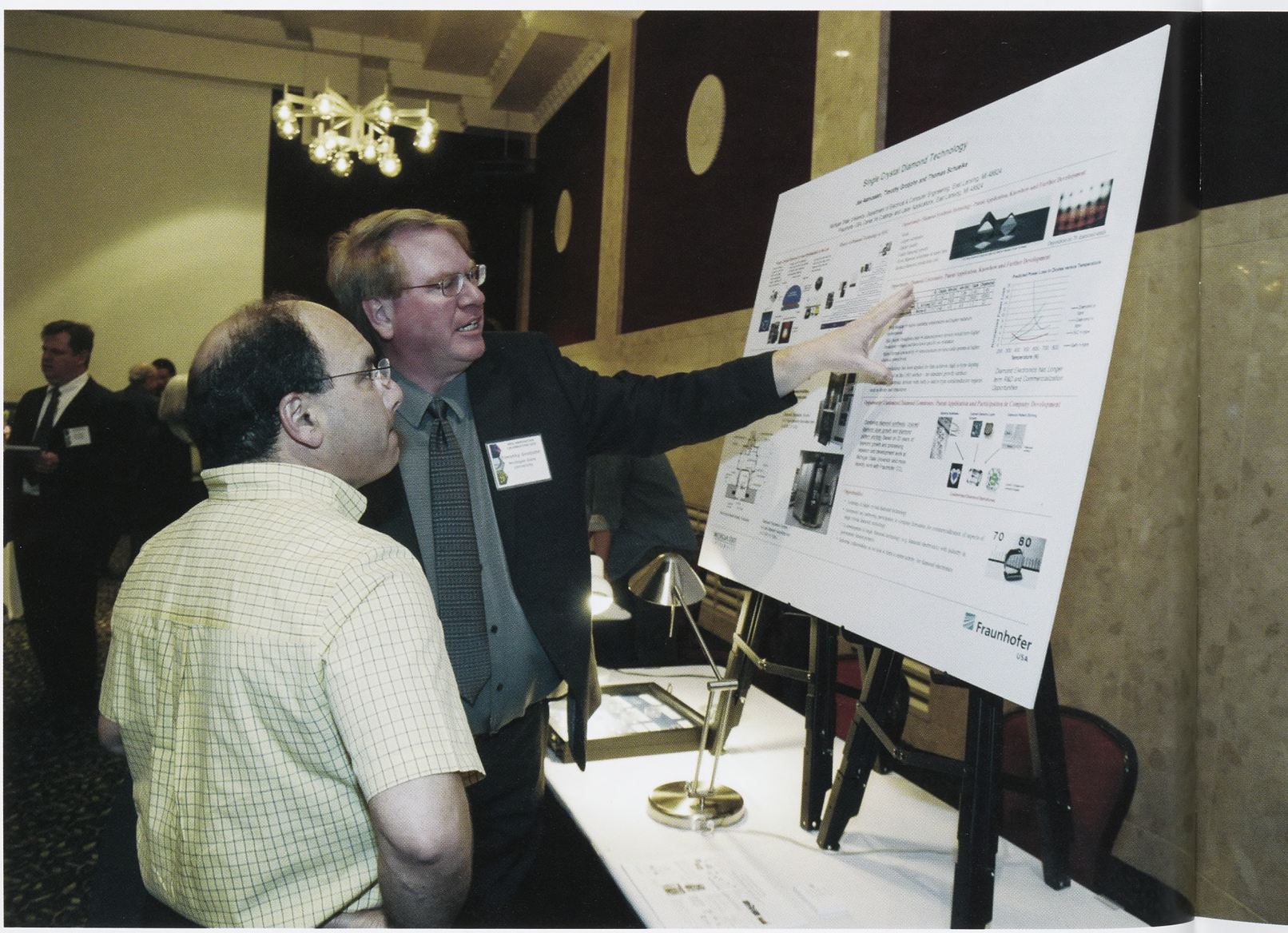
A skeleton decorated in Spartan gear cheers on students as they wait for a free spinal examination courtesy of Infinity Chiropractic. Along with the free activities at the International Center, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament was held at IM West.



Charley Hasemann awards Glenda Lappan with the MSU Technology Transfer Achievement Award. Lappan worked with Elizabeth Phillips on a Connected Mathematics Project, a complete curriculum for middle school mathematics teachers.

INNOVATORS UNITE

MSU Technologies hosts second annual Innovation Celebration





Roman Stotland spoke on behalf of Zon: New Chengo Chinese, a way of teaching Chinese through a multiplayer online game. The lead inventor of the project is Ken Dirkin.

President Lou Anna K. Simon shows excitement for the accomplishments of MSU. Over 100 guests attended the event in the MSU Union Apr. 11.



Creativity surged through the air in the second floor of the MSU Union as guests arrived for the second annual Innovation Celebration. Nowhere was this more evident than with Ph.D. student Jiangou Zhao, who helped man a booth devoted to a miniature steerable jumping robot. As his colleagues gave demonstrations with the technology, Zhao explained the science behind their invention.

"It can stand up, jump and then when it lands it can change direction and move in the direction you want," Zhao said. "We studied how frogs and insects move, and worked to make the robot mimic those movements."

Sandy Cameron, MSU Technology's marketing communications coordinator, held court at an introduction table outside of the main ballroom, helping guests find name tags and explaining what the event was all about. There were 11 booths, each of which represented a different technology developed at MSU, Cameron said.

MSU Technologies (MSUT), which is the licensing business unit of the university, put on the event. The booths featured this year ranged from an ultra-fast microscope to vaccines, but there were also some fun exhibits.

IT coordinator Roman Stotland fiddled with wires to make sure his group's invention, an educational video game called ZON, worked properly. MSU professors Ken Dirkin and Yong Zhao in a partnership between the College of Education and the Confucius Institute invented the game.

"It's a multi-player RPG game where you create a character, and then use that character to explore 'China,'" Stotland said. "While you're exploring, you can click different items to find out how to say them in Chinese."

Stotland added the software for ZON also came with a "great backend, which allows instructors to go in and edit what objects and materials the user can see."

"It's proving to be a very effective mode of education," Stotland said. "Our studies have indicated that students that used ZON were more willing to continue their language studies than students that didn't use the program. We're currently working on making it in other languages too."

Members of MSUT and various faculty members made a number of speeches throughout the event. Even MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon stopped by to say a few words.

"What's remarkable about the folks in this room isn't just that they've found solutions to huge problems," Simon said. "They've also found a way to tackle these problems that was both unconventional and creative."

Richard W. Chylla, the executive director of MSUT, stepped up to the podium next, quipping that they "can get a lot of technology right, but not this one," when the microphone feedback started acting up.

Chylla then conducted a short award ceremony, which included awards such as Innovation of the Year and Innovator of the Year. The final award of the evening went to Glenda Lappan and Elizabeth Phillips for their work on the Connected Mathematics Project (CMP), a program for aiding high school students with mathematics. Lappan took a few minutes to speak about what this work had meant to her.

"I would like to thank the university for this opportunity," Lappan said. "Before I started working on CMP, I was friends with Lou Anna K. [Simon], and then when she became president I thought to myself, I might have to do something outstanding."

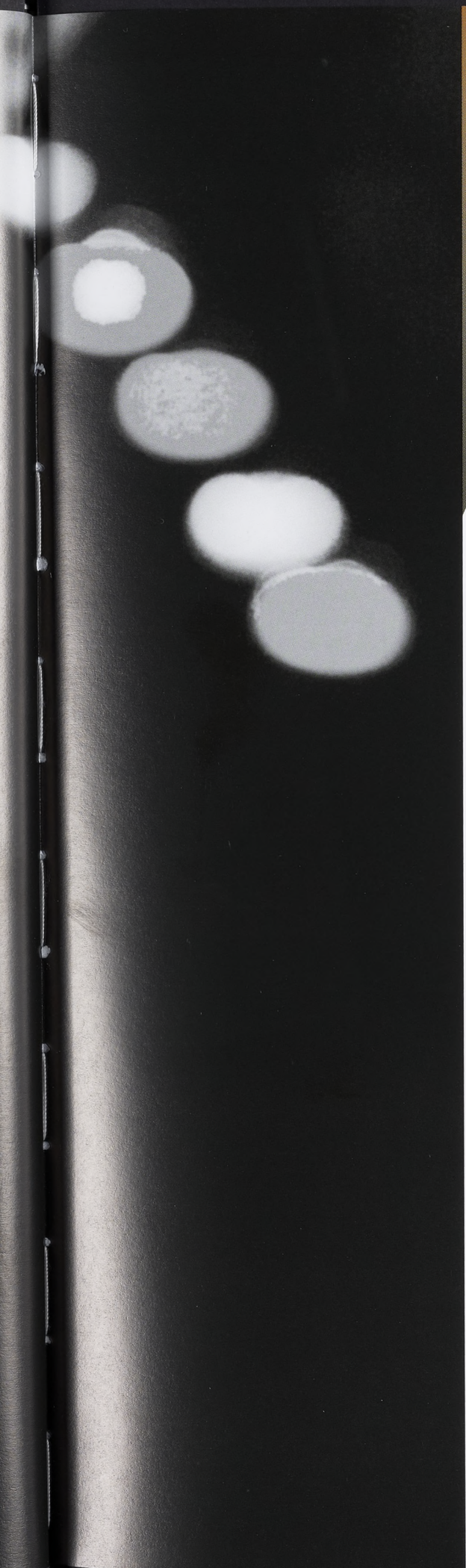
Lappan and Phillips' work was more than outstanding. Since they first created the program in 1993, there have been three editions of CMP, translated into several other languages and has brought the university at least $26 million in licensing revenues.

If nothing else, the event made it clear that the faculty and students of MSU are capable of great (and innovative) discoveries.

Timothy Grotjohn collaborates with fellow electrical and computer engineering innovator, Jes Asmussen (not pictured) to come up with a single crystal diamond synthesis.

T





Allison Jarrell

STUDENT ORGS

Allowing for discovery and development outside of the lecture halls, student organizations are a definitive element of MSU that bring awareness, engagement and excitement to campus.

By using their interests and aspirations as a guide, students can find a place in an organization and a niche within the MSU community. With more than 550 registered student organizations spanning a wide range of devotions—academics, business, environmental protection, international issues, ethnic and religious interests, and sports and leisure—there is a myriad of possibilities for involvement. From advocating for student rights with the International Students Association, to dancing with the Salsa Club, or competing in the sport of water polo, the organizations are as diverse as MSU students themselves.

Student organizations provide a channel through which students can embrace their heritage or experience another culture, indulge in their pastimes or realize a new passion. Organizational engagement, while a diversion from the monotony of studying, is an educational tool nonetheless. Students acquire skills that will strengthen their leadership and scholarship throughout their time at the university, and after they receive their diploma.

Focusing on commonalities and shared causes, student groups bridge gaps of year, age and ethnicity. Knowledge flows, ideas are created, opinions change, understanding grows.

Student organizations warm the climate of MSU, making a tighter network of roots for more than 40,000 Spartans.

Unified, students have more power to accomplish than they would on their own—whether their goal is solve a worldly injustice, or just to enjoy the college experience.



The MSU Club Water Polo team gears up between rounds during the Sparty Invitational. The Spartans placed third at the 2010 Men's National Collegiate Club Championship.



SPLASH, STROKE, SPLASH

MSU Club Water Polo takes on the Wolverines

Splash, splash, splash—these sounds signal to the passerby that the IM West outdoor pool is near. But this isn't a normal day at the swimming pool. No, today entering the pool area feels like walking into Spartan Stadium on game day.

The bleachers are so squished that fans are forced to stand or sit alongside the surrounding fence. Yet they aren't here for the basketball team or the football team. Instead, the packed crowd has come to cheer on the Club Water Polo team.

On Sept. 9, the men hosted their only tournament and only home game of the year, a highly anticipated battle against MSU's historical rival, the University of Michigan Wolverines. The team's Facebook event showed over 200 people attending and those fans didn't lie.

The JV team was already in the water finishing out their game as the varsity team warmed up on the other side of the pool. A group of muscle-rippling men stretched and jumped into the water, their Speedos bulging and their green and white swimcaps plastered to their heads. When the JV team finally finished their game, defeating U-M 8-4, the varsity team was ready to battle. The fans cheered "GO GREEN, GO WHITE!" as inspiring music played over the P.A. system. The referees blew their whistles and the game began.

Stroke, stroke, stroke. Each player swam as fast as he could, as if he were being chased by a giant shark, to try and get the yellow ball first. The ball was then passed around, back and forth and back and forth, each team playing their hearts out. Finally, a quick pass from an MSU player led to a rapid shot on the floating goal. Before anticipation could set in, the ball flew past the goalie for the first goal!

The fans went wild with excitement, cheering "GO GREEN, GO WHITE!" The Wolverines began to display signs of frustration: one player started fighting with a member of the MSU team and even dunked him under the water. Both players received penalties. As the first quarter began to conclude, the sky turned dark but the fans appeared unbothered: not one of them left their seat, and they all kept cheering relentlessly.

The second quarter began with more front strokes and backstrokes until finally an MSU player caught the ball with his left hand and fired it into the net, giving MSU a 2-0 lead. Then, before the fans even had time to breathe, MSU scored again, making it 3-0.

The crowd screamed, shouted, blew horns and fist-pumped. And just as the sky turned black, it began to pour.

As if on cue, Michigan scored, cutting the lead to 3-1. The crowd groaned with disappointment. Just as the second quarter was winding down, the MSU goalie took the big yellow ball to the face, but saved it from going in.

The rain came down ever harder as the third quarter began, beating down on the enraptured fans. MSU scored another two goals and took a big 5-1 lead. The team was beginning to dominate and the crowd loved it. As a result of the rain, the speakers were no longer working. Splashes of water and moans and groans from the fans filled the void left by the announcer's absence.

Each fan kept their eyes pinned on the water as the Wolverines rallied back with two goals to end the third quarter. The score was 5-3 with MSU leading.

At last, the final quarter began. Junior Hallie Eisenberg discussed among the fans how amazing it was that there were "so many fans still here and how much fun this game is to watch."

As if in response to her chatter, MSU scored on a difficult behind-the-back shot, but the ref said it wasn't allowed. The crowd booed. Senior Chase Plank, who had made the difficult shot, later said that he thought the goal was legal, but he wasn't upset about it.

"It was hard to be upset about anything, when we were winning a big game and the crowd was pumped up. I still can't believe how many people stayed with it raining so hard," Plank said.

As the quarter started to wind down, it began to absolutely downpour, which finally forced fans to run for shelter. Junior Justin Cykiert said he didn't care that he was getting soaked.

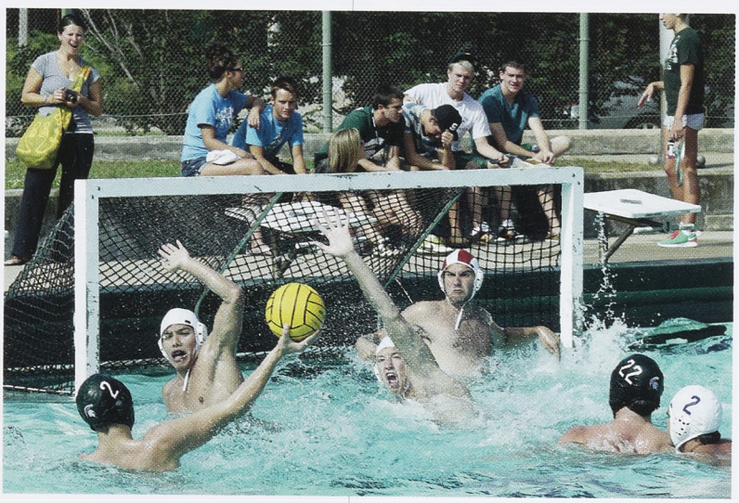
"I came out to the game to support my friend on the team and I'm having a great time," Cykiert said. "A little water never hurt anybody."

Despite some fans leaving, others still chanted "GO GREEN, GO WHITE!" as their team was seconds away from victory. To reward the faithful fans that remained, MSU scored one final goal to seal the victory, 6-3, sending them home happy, and also wet.



Senior Chase Plank, a driver for the MSU Club Water Polo team, lunges for the ball in the IM West outdoor pool during the Sparty Invitational. The Spartans won the final game Sunday morning against the Chicago Apostles.





Freshman Drew Stoffel and senior Mike Scarcelli charge for a goal against the Chicago Apostles during the Sparty Invitational. The invitational took place Sept. 9-11 at the IM West outdoor pool.

Goalie Robert Spiegel, a junior, propels himself out of the water to block a goal during the Sparty Invitational. The final game against the Chicago Apostles was greeted with perfect, sunny weather.



Fifth year senior Dan Chabala lurks in the background while Lewis Messner and MSU graduate Claire Forgacs perform. This dance featured a combination of rumba and tango, as well as an interpretation of the 1910 novel, "The Phantom of the Opera."

FOXTROT, TANGO, CHA CHA, OH MY!

Students strut their stuff at the Ballroom Dance Club open house

Junior Amanda Morris straightened her black and pink sequined dress, then took the makeshift stage in a large room of Demonstration Hall with her partner. Once the music started the two were no longer just a couple of MSU students, but instead a spirited ballroom dancing duo. They whirled, turned and spun around the room to pulsing Latin music, and for a bit of pizzazz Morris ended the dance by falling into a perfectly executed split.

As president of the Ballroom Dance Club, it was only natural for Morris to show what she could do at the club's fall open house on Sept. 13.

Morris had danced ballet, tap and jazz before coming to college, but she wanted to try something new. That's where ballroom dancing came into play. She immediately fell in love not only with the new moves but with her teammates as well.

"We're like a family; I can't imagine college without it," Morris said. It's a great way to meet new people and learn new things."

For the next 20 minutes, she and other members of the club participated in a showcase of the different dances they would teach and perform during the year. Everything from the cha cha to the waltz to the tango were featured. Though the club has been around for 20 years, it has only been competing for the past three, Morris said.

After the showcase the teammates lead all of the spectators in a giant cha-cha lesson.

MSU alumna Sasha Masters-Jones adjusted her fedora one more time before taking the stage with her partners. As "Grace Kelly" by Mika came blaring out of laptop speakers, she launched into her dance that featured not one but three female partners. The women even worked some costume changes into their routine—Masters-Jones traded her fedora for another girl's black vest amid cheers and whistles from the audience.

Masters-Jones said she first heard about the club as a freshman at Sparticipation.

"I had done ballet for a number of years before that but I didn't finally decide to join the club until I went to a dance lesson they gave during my fourth year," Masters-Jones said.

After that, she was hooked. Although she graduated from MSU last May, she is determined to keep dancing "as long as I can."

Two other members of the team, junior Jill Hakala and fifth-year senior Dan Chabala had similar things to say about their initiation into the world of ballroom dancing.

"I had zero dance experience but I was looking to fill up my schedule a bit," Hakala said.

"I was invited to a practice by my friend Sarah, and I realized this is a lot of fun. I eventually got to do some competing, which is really exciting because you get to watch people perform at different levels,"she added.

Chabala, the vice president of the club, had also never danced before joining. In fact, he was a rower, but after getting injured decided it wasn't for him and joined the club a year and a half ago. He hasn't looked back since.

"Just being able to dance—it's one of my new favorite passions," Chabala said.

"I definitely recommend this to other people—it's a great workout and you don't even realize you're working out. You also form great relationships not just with your partner but also your teammates and competitors," he added.

Overall, Chabala and the rest of the team were pleased with the large turnout at the open house and looked forward to another year full of new friends, some friendly competition and of course, lots of dancing.

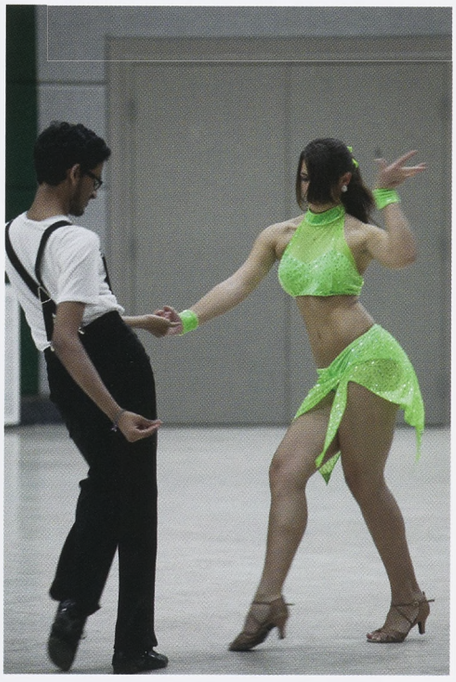


Junior Patrick McWilliams and sophomore Catherine Morgan perform the cha cha as the first dance for the Ballroom Dance Club showcase. The club visited a total of six universities throughout the year to participate in competitions.



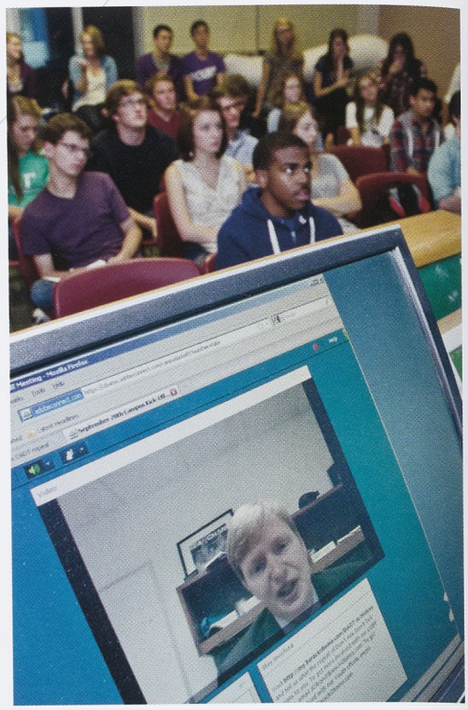
Members of the Ballroom Dance Club give the audience an overview of the performance. During the showcase, the club exhibited twelve different styles of dance.





Senior Angela Maniaci spices up her swing dance performance with senior Prashanth Rajarajan to the Black Eyed Peas' "My Humps." In addition to swing, Rajarajan performed the rumba and cha cha during the showcase.

Neuroscience major Kentaro Oki and junior Katharine Macpherson show excitement as they perform their rendition of swing. The goal of the Ballroom Dance club was to spread the love of dance throughout the Lansing community.



Students listen intently as President Obama's campaign manager Jim Messina talks about fighting for the civil rights of all Americans. This Q&A session via live web chat was seen by students at multiple universities.

MOVING FORWARD

MSU progressive students gather to celebrate the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Snuggled into a small room on the third floor of Case Hall, two of MSU's progressive groups united to celebrate President Obama's 2010 repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

The idea for the Sept. 20 party to commemorate the retraction of the long-held and contentious military tradition was proposed to Students for Choice president Marcia LeVigne by a representative from the President's grassroots campaign, Organizing for America, "…who kindly paid for the pizza," LeVigne said in her introduction to the meeting. Also in attendance were the MSU College Democrats, who rescheduled their weekly Tuesday meeting in favor of contributing to the discussion and celebration.

Though it's been one year since President Obama filled his campaign promise to repeal a practice he considered discriminatory, it was not until Sept. 20 that the law went into effect.

But it wasn't just students at MSU who came together to recognize the landmark day in history. Soldiers and citizens across the world joined in recognition of the day President Obama's repeal officially went into effect. MSU tuned in to Obama's campaign manager Jim Messina's video address and Q&A about the repeal.

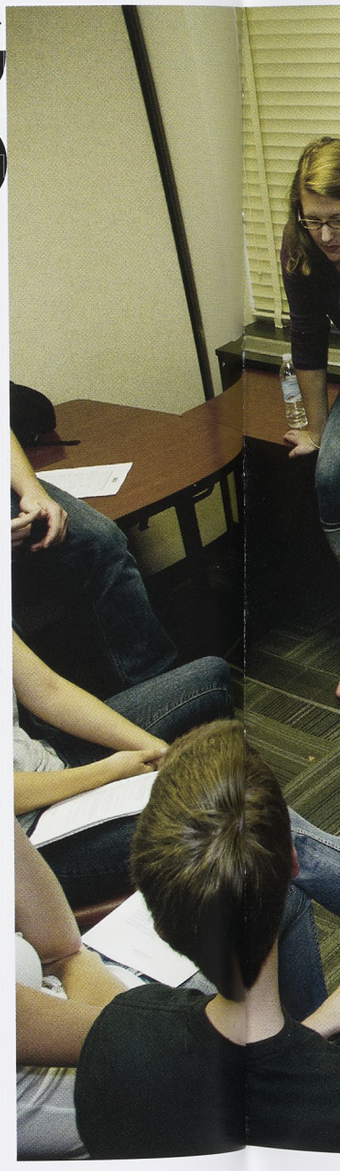
But some students' questions were left unanswered at the end of the night. Freshman Tevin Giles, a member of College Dems, wants to know if we'll see more civil rights issues addressed in Obama's possible re-election:

"Like many, I want to see gay marriage legalized. They've done it already in one state, and I think it can be done in the rest."

When asked why he attended the meeting, Giles said that if it weren't for Don't Ask, Don't Tell, he would probably be in the service right now, but the idea of hiding his true personality was enough to change his mind. His story is similar to those of many other attendees; nearly all of them mentioned the monumental victory for civil rights.

While this was the first collaborative event for the three groups, it will certainly not be the last. Both LeVigne and College Dems president Joe Duffy were pleased with the turnout and hope to bring the groups together for progressive discussion again.

"It's important for progressive students to work together (to) achieve common goals," Duffy said, "even if those goals might fall outside of one's traditional scope of activism."







SO STUDENTS FOR CHOICE

content: maggie lancaster
photo: evan farinosi
design: carly patterson



Freshman Jessica Kansman, sophomore Steven Rich, and seniors Joe Duffy and Danielle Turner watch a video of President Barack Obama repealing the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. The policy had been in effect for over 17 years.

A group of students discuss socially unjust bills currently being debated in Congress. Everyone who attended the event was happy to see the repeal of DADT take place, but many thought more needed to be done in the fight for equality in America.





Students listen as stories from the most recently published edition of the Red Cedar Review are read aloud. Starting this year, the Red Cedar Review is now publishing work exclusively from undergraduate students across the country.

The Red Cedar Review (RCR) was traditionally a journal of literature, publishing submissions from writers and poets across the country, including big names like Pablo Neruda. But over the past two years, the journal has expanded its reach and role as a creative outlet and publishing opportunity for more experienced writers.

Last year, and for the first time in its 48-year history, the journal began accepting art and photography. This year, it began accepting submissions from undergraduate students at MSU.

"We are making this shift in order to revitalize the journal and prevent it from reaching a point of stagnation, to try reaching out in a new and younger direction with the budding artists and writers in colleges across America," managing editor Amelia Larson said.

However, to moderate the bold break with tradition, the staff also decided to make the issue a retrospective one, a task that sent them searching through all the past issues of the journal to find those pieces which best represented the life of the publication.

It was a fresh transformation they felt called for a celebration. And what better than with a release party?

Light music beckoned passersby and a sense of welcome flooded the room. Colorful, glossy journals sat on display and the aromas of delicate sandwiches and desserts floated on the air. Copies of the journal dating back to 1963 were available for the casual thumb-through or the more invested literary explorer.

Faculty members gathered around a table to mingle, eat fruit and drink punch. First year English assistant professor Rae Paris and her husband Django Paris, an assistant professor in the Department of Teacher Education, said they came out to the event to learn more about the literary journal and to hear the readings.

"Being that we're from California and Arizona and are new on campus, we didn't know much about what students did, so we thought we'd check out this event to learn more about it," Paris said. "We're really glad we came, the books are really interesting."

Earlier in the evening, RCR hosted a panel discussion on the history of the journal, led by Teal Amthor-Shaffer, a previous managing editor of the journal who now works at the MSU Press, John Noreen, the assistant managing editor of the Retrospective issue and Marcia Aldrich, a professor of English at MSU and a long-time patron and former advisor of the Red Cedar Review. The three talked about their personal experiences with the journal and the future they anticipate for it both locally and nationally.

The rest of the evening was open for people to read their favorite entries from the newest issue. Larson read "Queen Esther" by Dennis Must, a short story originally published in the 25th volume in 2000.

"I chose this story because it has stood out to me…It has a twist in it, and I have always had an odd passion for old-fashioned ladies underwear," she said.



Overlapping each other on a poster board were cutouts from every single publication The Red Cedar Review has released. Heavy readers could buy the box set, including all volumes for $300 online.



Spread out on a long white table were every annual publications Red Cedar Review had published since 1963. Along with writing, the Red Cedar Review accepted art and photography.



Senior Jamie Hardy tends the information booth outside of the Red Cedar Review release party. The Red Cedar Review is currently in the works of creating their 47th issue, containing the new exclusively undergrad format.

Freshman James Paul and sophomores Kelsey Kaptur, Vikram Mandelia, and Justin Cook enjoy drinks and hor d'oeuvres in the final minutes before the readings. The cover of the 2011 Red Cedar Review features all of the covers from previous publishings throughout their existence.





RAVE REVIEW

Red Cedar Review releases new issue with art and photography

The 47th issue of the Red Cedar Review is currently in production utilizing a new format. The cover of the publication showcases all of the covers of previous issues.



Freshman June Sun prepares to release her ping pong ball during the Bubble Tea Pong tournament put on by the MSU Chinese Student Coalition. The CSC put on the event in order to bring the MSU community together.

Sophomore Jen Nguyen and junior Kevin Tran play a round of pong against an opposing team. Team JK came amped-up and ready to win wearing their homemade T-shirts to boost morale.



BUBBLE TEA BATTLE

The Chinese Student Coalition hosts Bubble Tea Pong tournament

Almost every college student has played some sort of beer pong, but very few have played bubble tea pong.

On Oct. 5, the Chinese Student Coalition (CSC) held a tournament in Holden Hall for this unique spinoff of the popular college party game. Instead of beer, participants drank bubble tea, a milk tea originally from Taiwan.

CSC is a cultural awareness group for anyone; not just Chinese students. Their group hosts one cultural event and one social event each year.

"We are much more than just Chinese people, we are just a big group of friends who support each other," junior Stephanie Ly, vice president of the organization, said.

Chatter from students could be heard as they stepped off the last stair on their way to the packed Vincent Chin room. Inside a plethora of people hovered around eight tables, each covered at both ends by six red cups and two ping-pong balls. The crowd practiced their shots, anxious for tournament time.

Unlike a normal game of beer pong, the bubble tea was not put directly in the game cups. Instead, it was held in a massive blue cooler. The tea was homemade by some of the CSC members. This, however, didn't stop the delicious aroma of the tea, boba pearls and gummies, from filling up the entire room.

The chatter grew as more and more students arrived, and the clanking sounds of balls hitting the rim of cups entered the atmosphere. Students screamed, "OHHH!" when a shot appeared to go in but then bounced out.

There were 24 teams competing in the bracket-style tournament in which the winner would receive a $25 cash prize. Junior Chris Bualteng, the events coordinator of CSC, said despite the cash prize, the event was really just for fun.

"It's a way for us to get people outside of our group to come to learn about who we are and to have a good time," he said.

While there were basic team names, some decided to get creative, like the Sugar Bottoms and Powerpuff Girls. Team JK stood out even more than the rest with their matching blue headbands and homemade matching white T-shirts: their team name was written in colorful markers on the front while numbers and nicknames were placed on the back. Junior Kevin Tran was "Sesame Seed" for the night.

"Although our team name is JK, like 'just kidding,' we are the winning team and don't kid around when it comes to winning," he said.

His partner, sophomore Jen Nguyen, agreed and offered another take on the team name:

"We are a team JK because Kevin and I are roommates and those are the first initials of our names."

Although the team had high aspirations, they lost in the first round. After reluctantly leaving the table, the two friends hugged and lamented over the last play, when the ball bounced out despite landing in the cup.

"I almost cried," Nguyen said with a despairing look.

Finally, just two teams remained, igniting an intense, ten-cup battle for the championship title. The eliminated partners gathered round to cheer them on, too full to drink another sip of tea.

In the end, the team of sophomores Jerry Vedua and Kory Klein took home the cash prize.





Seniors Chelsea Bada and Stella Chung re-rack the cups for the opposing team during the MSU CSC sponsored Bubble Tea Pong Tournament. The CSC put on the event to promote and unite the Chinese community at MSU.



Seniors Ian Morrison and Elizabeth Baker-Rozell dance the night away at Landon Hall. The dance was held in honor of the repeal of the "don't Ask, don't tell" bill.



Students gather at the Do Ask Do Tell Ball sponsored by the RING organization. This years theme was military and to make the event more fun students painted their faces to get more into the spirit.



Sophomore Elliot Zirulnik smiles as his face paint is complete. Zirulnik attended the LBGT's Do Ask Do Tell dance which honored the repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" bill.

DO ASK, DO TELL

RING Celebrates the Repeal of the Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy

On Sept. 20, the gay community took a gigantic sigh of relief; after years of protests, the repeal of the national policy barring "openly gay" citizens from joining the United States Armed Forces took effect. MSU also took the opportunity to celebrate at a ball in Williams Great Hall on Oct. 14.

At the ball, which was hosted by Respecting Individuals on Neutral Grounds (RING), members spoke about the purpose of their organization.

"I want students on campus to be aware of LGBT," said senior Pacita Rudder, president of RING.

RING is an organization designed to combat stereotypes of the Lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender (LBGT) community. Although other groups focus on propagating politics, RING seeks to create an atmosphere of awareness and support within the student body.

Sophomore Elliot Zirulnik has been with RING for a year and a half.

"I really enjoyed the atmosphere," he said. "When I came out, I was looking for a social group to connect with."

Elliot described RING's atmosphere as both fun and educational, but most importantly, as a "safe" space.

"I wanted to be in a group where I would be supported and wouldn't be judged for my sexuality," he said.

For students like Zirulnik, it is extremely important to be involved in a friendly atmosphere where all kinds of questions can be asked without judgment.

RING, which meets in Snyder-Philips Hall, has a different educational goal every week and strives to assure that members are well-informed.

"We go through all the letters," said vice president and sophomore Briandra Turner.

The letters symbolize the varying sexual orientations and identities, starting with A for asexual, B or bisexual, and so on. When students think of the LBGT community, they immediately assume it refers to just gays and lesbians, but according to RING, this community also includes lesser-represented sexual identities, such as transvestites and hermaphrodites.

More importantly, RING seeks to reach out to the entire student body with the belief that the restrictions and oppressions the LGBT community faces reflects issues that all Americans experience.

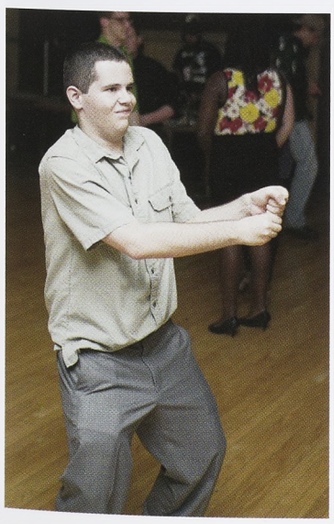
"Really," asserted Rudder, "LGBT issues affect everyone."

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy was a particular example, said 25-year-old Navy veteran Marc Wingo, who attended the ball.

"It's not about individual rights; in any call to arms in the fight for civil rights, everyone should be involved," Wingo said, adding that many Americans don't realize that the movement for gay rights started at the same time as the civil rights movement for African Americans.

Just like oppression on African Americans lifted in the past 60 years shaped civil rights, so too will the repeal.

"The repeal is a movement for civil rights as a whole—about civil rights for every American," Wingo said.



Sophomore Elliot Zirulnik, a RING member, performs a dance. Zirulnik attended RING's Do Ask Do Tell dance honoring the lifted bill known as "don't ask, don't tell."

MSU MOOS

Block & Bridle Club hosts Little International livestock Competition

Sera Star's short white and brown hairs glisten after her last bath in the South Barn of MSU's Livestock Pavilion. The broad mare swishes her tail back and forth in a small, 10-by-10 stall, attempting to dry off after five washes and hair brushings at the hands of her trainer, junior Lauren Leark. Along with this regular grooming, the pampered horse received even more royal treatment on Sept. 25 at Little International, hosted by the MSU Block & Bridle Club.

"I go crazy grooming," Leark said. "I put grease on her face and feet to make them shiny and Listerine in their nose and ears to make them perky and responsive. It's like a high for the horse."

As Sera Star's trainer, Leark put hours of time and effort into preparing the mare before her big debut at the annual showmanship competition, grooming only a small percentage of the total. Sera Star, along with dozens of MSU-owned horses, swine, sheep, and dairy and beef cows, were donated for the week to the MSU Block & Bridle Club. Before then, the animals had never been trained to show in an exhibition.

Every day of the week leading up to the Little International, 112 participating students took time out of their busy schedules to feed, care for and train their respective animal.

Though all the livestock are new to being shown and trained, senior Katie Cook was no stranger to exhibiting an inexperienced animal. She started showing when she was five years old and hasn't turned back.

The experience has paid off. Cook won this year's Round Robin, a competition for the best showmanship among the winners of each individual species. Showmanship is a trainer's ability to exhibit the animal to its best advantage, with additional points awarded for grooming and presentation.

"It was very exciting, but I was so nervous," Cook said. "My ewe was very stubborn and wasn't cooperative in the Round Robin competition."

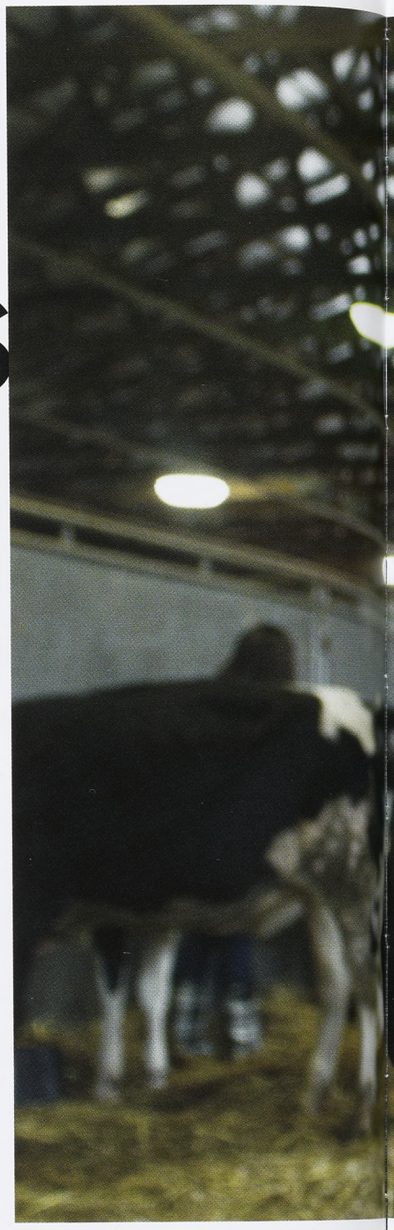
On top of that, her grunting pig took off running into the arena. Despite the rambunctious animals, however, Cook placed first in the sheep competition and went on to become the overall winner of the day.

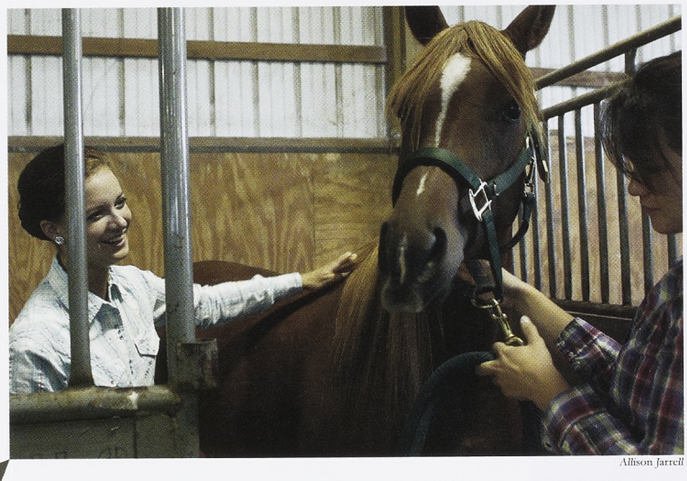
Much like a dog show, the judges choose winners by watching how each animal responds to its trainer's tactics while circling around the arena. The judging is based on the quality of a trainer's showmanship and how well they handle the animal.

"The point is to gather as livestock enthusiasts and bond through competitive livestock exhibition," junior and co-Chair of the Little International, Hannah Bollinger said.

The competition has been traditionally held at MSU every year since the 1950s. It was created as a way for land grant university students to learn about the animal industry and how to exhibit animals. All the participating animals are MSU-owned and live on MSU's property.

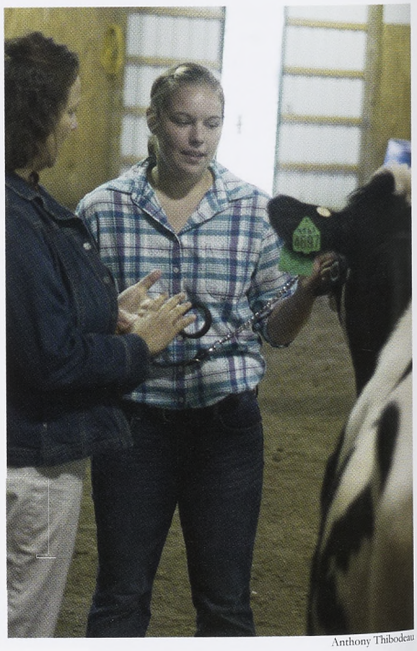
Sharp smells of manure and wet livestock hang heavy in the air as Leark finishes brushing an anxious Sera Star. While it isn't the most glamorous thing to do on a Sunday morning, she doesn't mind the odor, the dusty stables, even a little slobber from a friendly pig. For her it's not a job, it's a love of the animals.





Allison Farrell

Junior Megan McCally and senior Katherine Graham work on grooming and calming their horse in its stall. McCally has been showing animals for 12 years; the Block & Bridle Club was Graham's first time showing.



Anthony Thibodeau

Sophomore Alisha Myers discusses her cow with the judge of the cow portion of the show. The MSU Block & Bridle Club concluded the show with a hog roast.

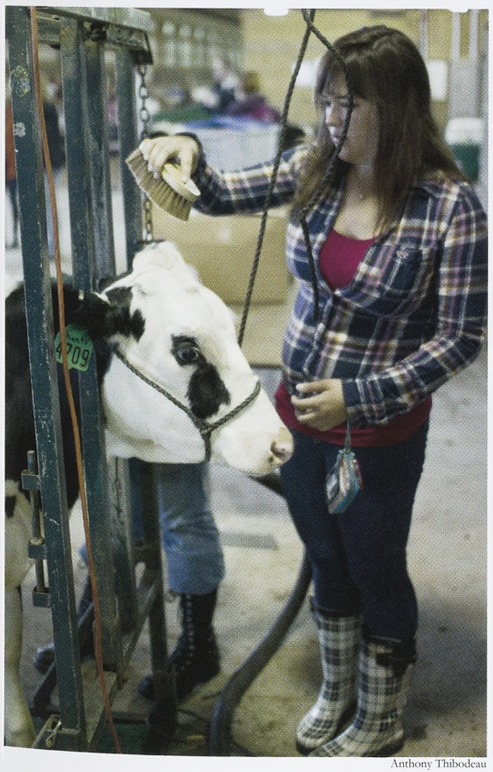
SO BLOCK AND BRIDLE CLUB

content: carolyn sundquist
photo: allison jarrell, anthony thibodeau
design: brendan prost



Allison Jarrell

Sophomore Lacey Scharphorn bonds with her cow after competing and winning her category. This was Scharphorn's second time showing livestock.



Anthony Thibodeau

Sophomore Lauren Lauwers leads her horse around the judge. The MSU Block & Bridle show had numerous animals to show including cows, horses, sheep and pigs.

Sophomore Tara Murray cleans her cow before showtime. Murray said she enjoys being with the animals and plans to major in physiology.



Anthony Thibodeau



Freshman Mike Niezgoda breaks up the sticks he collected as he clears up Lansing resident Linda Shankland's backyard. Shankland hired the boys to clear up her bocce ball court and rake leaves, if time permitted.



Freshman Theodore Mayer and senior Patrick Lyons clear out a weed-infested bocce ball court for their job as a Rent-A-Rower. The Rent-A-Rower program provided funds for the MSU Crew Club.





Freshman Theodore Mayer digs up weeds as a Rent-A-Rower participant for the MSU Crew Club. The rowers were hired for four hours and their pay went towards the club.

The MSU Rent-A-Rowers work side by side with their boss for the day, Linda Shankland, as she explains to the men which weeds to get rid of. Shankland heard about the Rent-a-Rower program through her son and has used the rowers four consecutive years.



GAIN AN EXPERIENCE

MSU Crew Club fundraises with Rent-A-Rower program

Four rowers stroke against dead brush in the hot sun. Rather than being like fish out of water, they work diligently, propelling themselves toward the completion of the task at hand. Whether it's a head race comprised of eight people gliding across the water in perfect synchronicity or a couple volunteer crew members raking leaves in an elderly woman's backyard, the MSU Crew Club defines the word crew.

As a club organization, the crew's needs—such as repairs, entry fees and salaries for coaches—are funded by the individual rowers. Through the crew's Rent-a-Rower program, members are "rented" to perform manual labor for anyone who is willing to pay $10 an hour for their services.

East Lansing resident Linda Shankland discovered Rent-a-Rower through her son, and it is her fourth consecutive year hiring members of the MSU Crew Club. The list of chores included the clearing of weeds and brush for a bocce ball court, along with other household odd jobs such as raking fallen leaves and cleaning up dead plants. Four crew members were employed for the project, including senior Patrick Lyons and three freshmen.

"The freshmen get it pretty easy," freshman Mike Niezgoda said in regard to working for the fundraisers, whereas, in some student groups, the newest members are forced to take on a heavier work load.

"You get to pick and choose your fundraising, so it's pretty flexible," Lyons said, further emphasizing the solidarity of the rowing club in their effort to raise funds for their passion of competing: a passion that exceeds the glassy waters of the Grand River and trickles into the backyard of residents like Shankland.

Their oars replaced by rakes, members tear away at unwanted undergrowth. With the team members used to rowing approximately 38 strokes per minute, the task at hand is just another opportunity for the crew to improve upon themselves and their community.

However, the atmosphere is not just an environment of work, but a personal interaction between the employer and the crew members. Shankland works by their side, pulling unwelcome weeds and offering members advice and tools from her own garage.

"They know it is for fundraising purposes, so they don't expect us to be pros," articulated Lyons, who has been on the team for three years.

For Shankland, it is not about the job itself, but rather the people doing the job and the purpose for doing it.

"I would rather give my money to a fundraiser than just give my money to somebody like John Smith," she said. Grinning, she added, "Plus, I like to see young people work."



Sierra Club organizer Tori Wong wore a surgical mask during the rally to show how burning coal can affect people's health. Pollution from coal plants can cause severe asthma attacks and long-term respiratory illness.



MSU students present a banner during the rally as a message to President Lou Anna K. Simon to retire the on-campus coal plant. The plant is the largest in the nation and burns over 200,000 tons of coal each year.

Senior Jim Mora stands in front of the Hannah Administration Building to raise awareness of the negative health effects of burning coal. Side effects include several illnesses compromising the respiratory system.





DIRTY DANCING FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Beyond Coal Campaign flash mob raises awareness about T.B. Simon Coal Plant

Senior Tayla Tavor is sick of being sick. Ever since she was two years old, she has been plagued with asthma. Not just the asthma in which she needs to occasionally use an inhaler, but the kind in which a three-month asthma attack is normal.

"You should never get to the point where that becomes normal," Tavor said.

At one point, Tavor was on six different inhalers and seven different medications. Two years ago, she decided to plan an attack of her own.

Tavor has been the president of MSU's Beyond Coal for two years. Her goal is to combat the many negative effects coal can have on health, like being one of the largest causes of asthma and the number one cause for school absences: about 15 million every year.

MSU's Beyond Coal Campaign is part of the Sierra Club's national campaign to protect human and environmental health by shutting down or replacing campus-based coal plants to end dependence on coal-generated electricity.

As part of this year's campaign, the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign led a series of 100 actions at 100 universities to demonstrate that campuses should use 100 percent renewable energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal power.

"It needs to start at universities," Tavor said. "We are the future and we need to start on our campuses to make a change."

One of the actions, on Oct. 19, involved more than 50 students involved in a flash mob to protest MSU's coal plant. The rain sprinkled down and the wind whipped across students' faces as they danced in front of the Hannah Administration Building in hopes of receiving a reaction from President Lou Anna K. Simon.

The group, comprised of students from both Beyond Coal and MSU Greenpeace, broke out into dance moves and wore white surgical masks reading 'We need 100 percent clean energy' to symbolize their mission of powering MSU with completely clean and renewable energy.

Tavor expressed herself after the dance with an oral slam poetry piece calling on President Simon to listen to students. She shared how she has been hurt by coal and the damage it is causing to students and the environment.

"President Simon, be Spartan green," Tavor slammed. "If you can't see it, you can't know it's hurting you. Coal stains your green lawns and white houses you were raised in. The most beautiful university; is this what it means to be the premier land grant university?"

The event also attracted figures from the community who support the MSU Beyond Coal Campaign. Douglas Jester, former Mayor of East Lansing and senior consultant for 5 Lakes Energy said, "This can be done. You are demonstrating you are part of this community. Your voices matter."

Concluding their rally with painted cardboard signs in hand, the flash mob participants released their frustrations by chanting, "Coal, coal, no solution, we are sick of your pollution, let's start a revolution!"

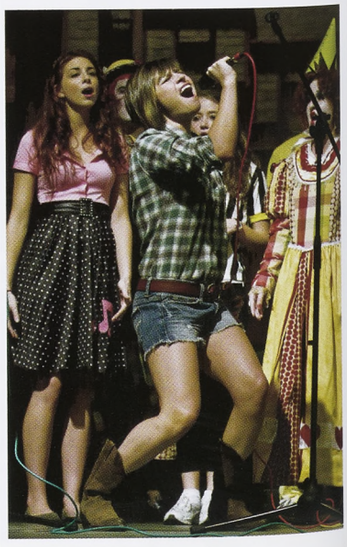
"We are angry, but not silent," Tavor said. "We are sick of being sick."



Sophomore Maddie Hopkins solos during Capital Green's set. Capital Green hosted Acapalooza this year.

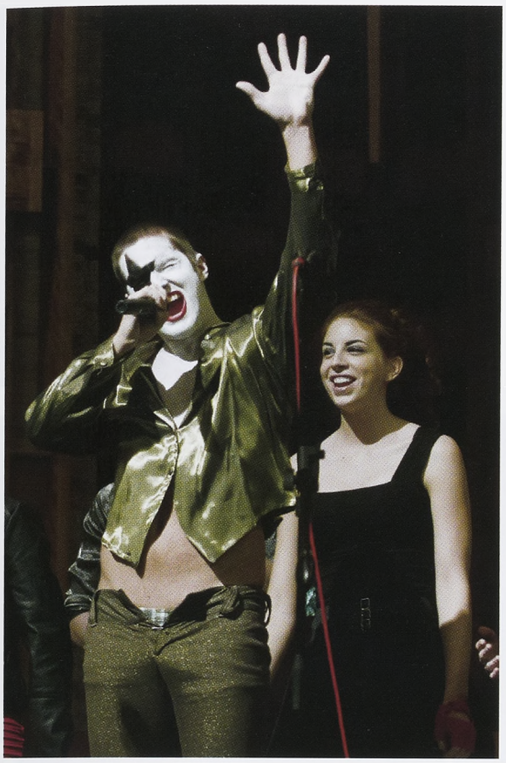
RCAHppella performs a Lady Gaga tune. RCAHppella established its roots in 2008 within the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities.





Capital Green junior Maddie Boden sings her heart out during the event finale. The audience showed their support for these a cappella groups with a standing ovation.

content: maggie lancaster
photo: evan farinosi
design: carly patterson



Senior Grant Walstrom and junior Katie Whitecar of Capital Green hitting the high notes during a performance of AC/DC's "Thunderstruck". Capital Green is in its 13th year at Michigan State.

The Spartan Dischords fire up the crowd for a night of amazing performances. The Spartan Dischords held their first solely a cappella performance back in 1981.



TRICK OR TWEET

A giraffe, Hello Kitty, and a lumberjack walk into a University Methodist Church; welcome to Acapalooza 2011

For freshman Jess Polus, singing has always been a creative outlet. As one of the newest member's of MSU's State of Fifths—a co-ed a cappella group—Polus was introduced to the group by a friend who suggested she try out.

"I've been singing since I can remember," she said. "My sister and I have always been singing."

Now, to be performing for a full house on Oct. 28 at the University United Methodist Church, Polus had trouble finding words to describe the feeling of being a Fifth.

"I love it so much," she said, looking at some of her surrounding members."The people in State of Fifths are the best."

Polus also enjoys the a cappella scene here at MSU. With so many other groups to collaborate with, who wouldn't? Singing alongside the Fifths were the Dischords, RCAHpella, the Accafellas, Ladies First and the show's host, Capital Green, who started the show with AC/DC's "Thunderstruck" dressed in costume. Trying to maintain a Halloween theme, Capital Green encouraged the audience and performers to dress up. Joking around for the Dischords, one member said their matching suits and ties were costumes; they were dressed as accountants, lawyers and businessmen.

Members of the audience also took part in the festivities. Beyoncé and her single ladies danced in their seats and sang along to RCAHpella's performance of Lady Gaga's "Paparazzi," and a lumberjack snuck into a pew between performances.

Polus, who performed a solo to Sara Bareilles' "Morningside," coordinated with the rest of the Fifths. While Bon Iver and Fleet Foxes are among her favorite artists, Polus enjoyed singing Bareilles' song. Between pursuing a degree in Arts and Humanities, her social life and singing, she hopes to stay a Fifth for the rest of her Spartan education.

"We practice two times a week for two hours, and I haven't noticed any downsides. I hope to stay a Fifth forever."



The Ladies First a cappella group croons to the audience. Ladies First is the only on campus a cappella group comprised entirely of women.



Junior Alejandro Enriquez gets his face painted as a skeleton to celebrate Day of the Dead at the MSU Museum. Enriquez has been a member of CRU (Culturas de las Razas Unidas) since his freshman year, and is now the e-board secretary.

Assistant Professor Estrella Torrez ends the Danza Mexicayotl with a speech about the importance of honoring tradition. Torrez teaches this indigenous dance that originated in Mesoamerica and performs alongside her two daughters.





Assistant Professor in RCAH Estrella Torrez and artist Juan Javier Pescador speak about the tradition and meaning behind Day of the Dead. The celebration this year focused on also honoring those who have suffered and died due to acts of hatred based on discrimination againt sexual orientation.

DAY OF THE DEATH OF HATE

Culturas de las Razas Unidas and LBGTQ celebrate Dia de los Muertos

Spanish floats through the ears of those sitting in the Snyder Hall Theatre. "¡Mira esto!" someone in the audience leans to a family member, lifting her finger to pinpoint two little skeleton heads popping out from a black curtain.

It is Nov. 1, Dia de los Muertos, a Mexican holiday celebrated both within Mexico and throughout the world in remembrance of loved ones who have passed on. To the left of the painted skeleton spotter sits a man wearing a white button that reads "I'm An Ally" in support of the campaign against discrimination towards sexuality preference. How does Dia de los Muertos connect with the LBGTQ community?

"Separate by countries...united by cultures"—the motto of Culturas de las Razas Unidas (CRU), a student organization that promotes Chicano and Latino unity and celebrates diversity at MSU. This particular gathering places supporters of the LBGTQ community and participants of Dia de los Muertos under one roof to commemorate the idea of the whole: the notion that humanity connects and binds members of diverse communities.

A parade of dancers enters onto the middle of the stage, their maracas rattling like the bones of a skeleton as they move. A girl with a painted white skull on her face and an intricate red rose on her cheek pounds against a drum. The sound reverberates against the theater walls, moving the dancers in honor of the ones who danced in the world before them. The band of bones form a circle so that "positive energy may be created within the circle," explained Estrella Torrez, an assistant professor in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, who practices and teaches Danza Mexicayotl, one of the traditional indigenous dances from Mesoamerica.

"We have multiple generations here dancing," Torrez said, exhausted following the final strike of the drum. "We are here to learn the dances of our ancestors."

"And that's what life is all about. Learning every day," proclaimed Chris Rabideau, an Ontario resident and member of the LBGTQ community, rising up after the applause for the Danza Mexicayotl. Rabideau was the victim of a hateful act of homophobia; he was robbed and beaten in the lobby of his apartment five days after the opening of his play, "Waking Up Blue."

The problem with homophobia, he elaborated, is that "it has been built in the social fabric that people who are the way they are, are simply not good enough."

The solution?

"The best thing about humanity is that we are all different in our own ways, but the same," he said. "And that is why we are here: to celebrate and honor all of those around us who are living and not living, and to learn how to be comfortable in our own skin."

Or bones, one might add.

"Because one part of the community can not be okay if one part is suffering," Rabideau continued.

As a vivid point of intersection between the two communities, CRU presented an interview of Jimmy Johnson, who shared his experiences as a gay Latino.

"Continue to be who you are and some day you will become who you were meant to become," Johnson said at the conclusion of the interview.

Still can't see the connection between the LGBTQ community and Dia de los Muertos?

Torrez told a traditional Mexican story of a deer and a hunter who both become one through death, which illuminated the link. The hunter chased the deer throughout his entire life but, when winter finally approached, both found rest upon the snow. The story focused on how to make the "invisible" "visible" and to recognize the common end humans share in life: death.

"From a human perspective, we are all living beings walking and sharing on this earth," Rabideau concluded. Through remembering death, we recognize that beneath our skin, we're just bones.



El Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is an ancient Mexican holiday that celebrates the lives of the deceased. It is tradition to light decorative candles adorning alters or offerings to commemorate loved ones who have passed.

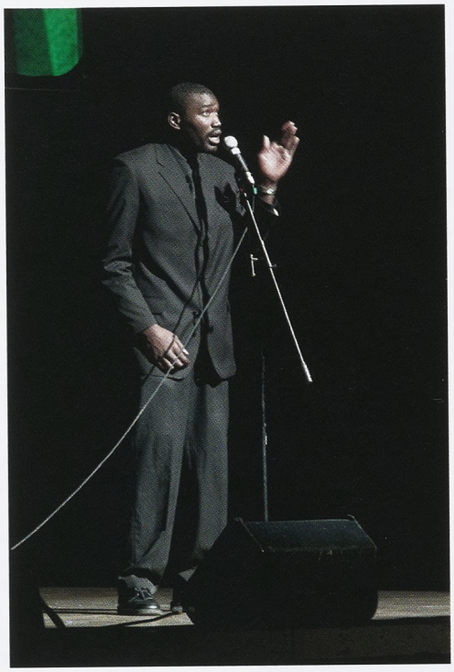


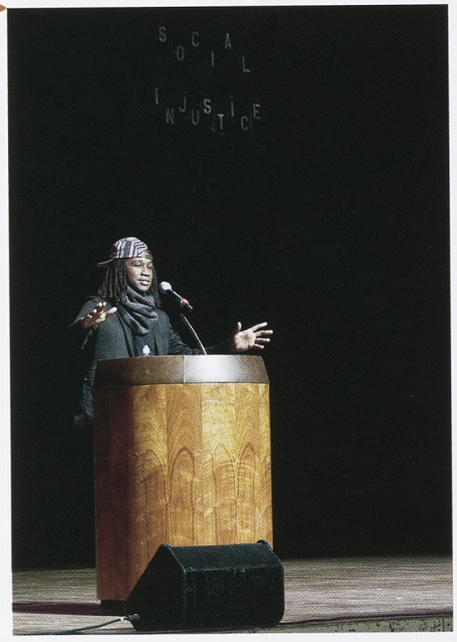
Estrella Torrez, an assistant professor in RCAH, leads a dance that represents the story of hunter and hunted; the movement is meant to be strong and graceful like the movements of a deer. This form of dancing called Danza Mexicayotl is a traditional indigenous dance from Mesoamerica.



Larry Bryant and Lauren Wilson discuss the performances and skits from the 39th Annual Black Power Rally with some friends following the event. Among other material, the rally focused on recent acts of hatred on campus.

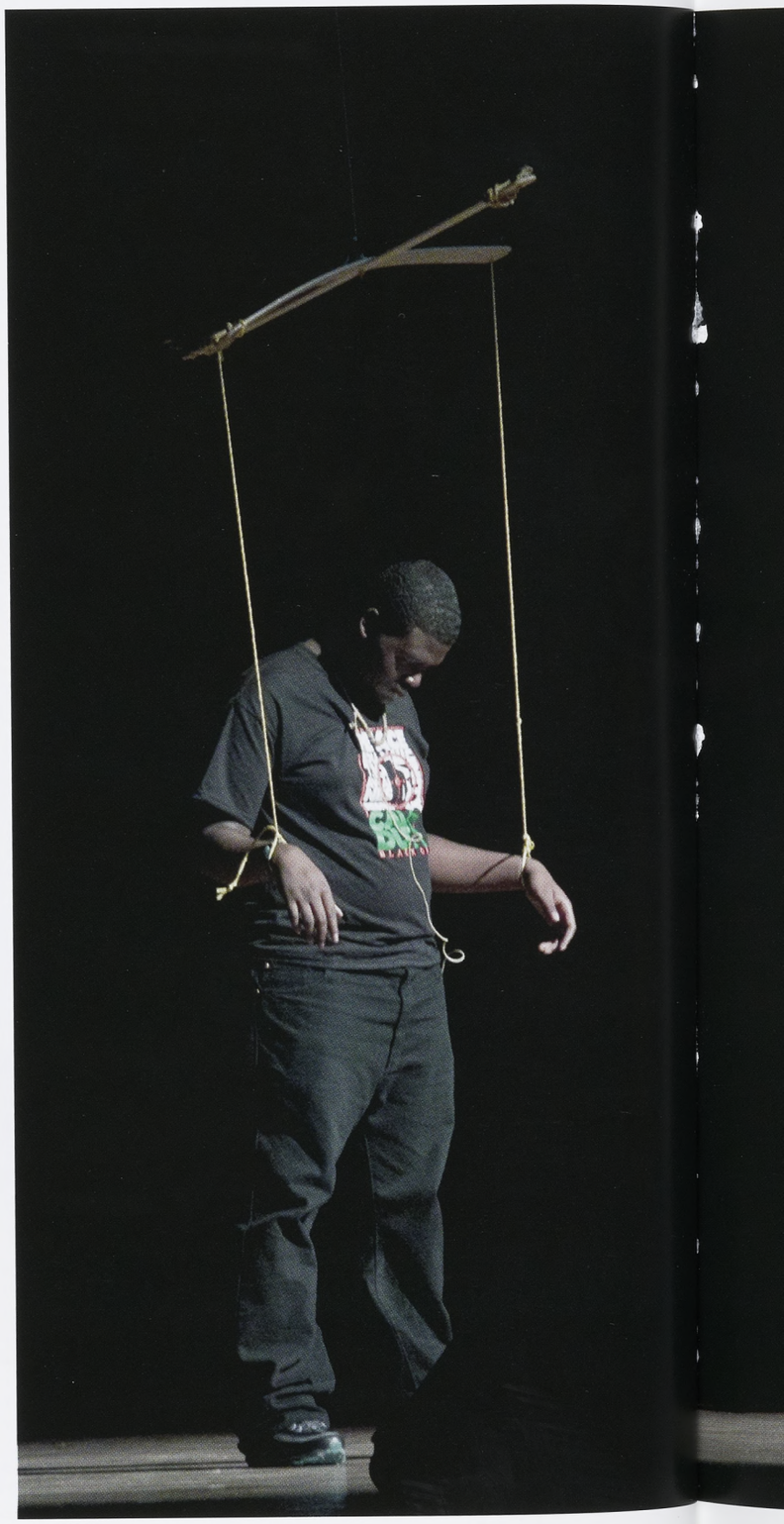
Ralph Paulk, graduating senior, uses emotional rhythm during his speech to emphasize his point and entertain the crowd. Other performances included skits, poetry and speeches.





Award-winning author, filmmaker, and professor, M.K. Asante Jr. speaks. Asante expressed the importance of spreading black power through education and peace.

Richard Jackson, a member of Black Student Alliance, acts out one of the many skits performed at the 39th Annual Black Power Rally. Jackson portrayed the kind of everyday struggles black people face in their communities.





Junior Angela Kengara, senior Christopher VanNest, junior Lanea Williamson and senior Adrian Clark stand among students supporting the 39th Annual Black Power Rally. During intermission, they discussed the performances and acts performed by each group.

SOLID GROUND

Black Student Alliance hosts 39th annual Black Power Rally

In the wake of a recent string of racially-motivated vandalism against minority communities on campus, MSU's black community took the stage on Nov. 2 with force. Commanding the audience in Fairchild Auditorium to stand up for what was right and empowering anyone within earshot, the Black Student Alliance (BSA) hosted its 39th annual Black Power Rally.

The rally opened with a slideshow in the pitch black auditorium, which recapped the past month's hurtful racial slurs. As the audience sat in silence, an image of the notorious Akers Hall white board featuring "No Ni***rs Please" flickered across the screen. While allusions were made to the black doll found hanging by its neck in the Biomedical and Physical Sciences building in September. These images worked alongside senior Mario Lemons', the president of BSA, written presidential address found in the rally's program:

"…I want to say that I am very proud of the black community and its allies," he said. "We have, in the midst of oppression, remained strong, trusted student leadership and stood in solidarity with one another."

Seniors Larry Bryant and Lauren Wilson were no strangers to the rally: both had attended since their freshman year. This year, however, they agreed with Lemons and the rest of the black student community that the rally meant more than ever.

"The overall production of the rally is much better," said Bryant, the vice president of The National Society of Minorities and Hospitality. "(This year) means so much to us; it definitely has a deeper meaning."

Standing as the biggest event in MSU's black community, the rally attracted enough people to fill the entire lower level of the Auditorium. After singing "The Black National Anthem" to a packed room, senior Toni Dunbar stated that the rally was an opportunity for everyone to "celebrate our blackness."

Senior Ralph Paulk performed slam poetry twice throughout the night, building up so much energy and speaking with such passion that he was almost inaudible at times. But when he slowed down, his messages were clear.

"The door has always been open, but if you don't go through it, slavery will never go away," he said.

A first timer to the Black Power Rally, junior Ashley White spoke so fast her friend had to tell her to calm down.

"I'm really excited to be here. I wasn't expecting to see people who aren't of color," she said.

White said she was happy to see that it was not just on the "black side" that people were outraged with the past month's events.

Finally, M.K. Asante, Jr., an author and professor of creative writing at Morgan State University, closed the evening.

"I'm so inspired," Asante beamed to the audience, hands extended toward them. "I've been to hundreds of colleges and universities, and none of them are as put together."

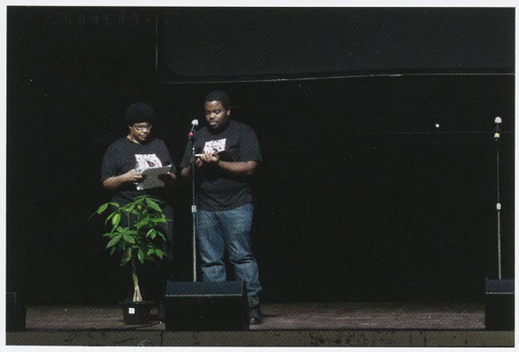
Though he took time to congratulate the students on such a good turnout, he didn't forget why he was there.

Asante started on what seemed like an irrelevant ramble about electronics and technology. Citing the advent of new media like iPhones, Twitter, music, Facebook, laptops and cell phones, he expressed how sad it was that so much racial hate still exists: with all the new technology and all of the new music, we're still listening to the same old song.

He preached the importance of education and earned a few calls and whistles during the process.

"The most important and powerful thing," Asante began, pausing to gain the audience's attention, "is that you excel academically. That's why they're mad at you!"

Everyone erupted in agreement. He encouraged the audience that they are threatening and challenging and capable of anything.



Graduate advisor of BSA, Dominick Quinney, and advisor of BSA, Mary Phillips, speak in memory of past civil rights activists. Quinney and Phillips acknowledged Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcom X on the impacts they made in the world.



Team members practice a small portion of their upcoming routine in minute detail. In addition to being physically fit, every member of MSU pompon has to maintain a 2.5 GPA to be on the team.

PIONEERS OF POMPON

MSU Pompon team wins High Kick competition five years consecutively

What is pompon? Not pom pom, nor pom pon, but pompon. To junior team member Ashley Babinchak, the closest way to explain the sport is a combination of dance, gymnastics and cheerleading.

The Michigan State University Pompon team has a legacy: it was the first traditional Mid-American style pompon team instituted at the collegiate level. The team began in 2005, and since then the pompon fever has fanned outward from Michigan into Mid-America. Today, more than 80 teams exist in the state of Michigan alone.

The goal of MSU Pompon is to provide the opportunity for those passionate for the sport to continue to perform beyond the high school level. Pompon is a non-profit organization, which functions solely on fundraising, sponsorships and donations.

Dancers not only display exceptional showmanship, but exhibit academic and cooperative forte as well. In fact, MSU Pompon members must maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA while presenting a high level of dedication to pompon.

The first competition was Nov. 6 at Eastern Michigan University, where the team competed in the event called High Kick and took first place, becoming the first team to win five times consecutively.

The pompon squad must perform a minimum of 40 kicks above the waist while incorporating a thematic sequence of movements. A kick line is generally incorporated into the presentation while the pompon squad moves in nigh perfect unison. The pompoms, bright balls of plastic, were used in the second competition on Feb. 12 at Eastern Michigan University.

"When you enter the dance floor that place is your world, nothing else," Babinchak said. "It's played a huge role on shaping who I am today."

Fellow senior Danielle Cowper added that, "21 people become one person on the dance floor."

The team practiced diligently in IM East, surrounded by mirrors, analyzing their reflections and fine-tuning their movements to generate one solid movement. With the soundtrack for their piece on repeat, they continued to enhance their performance, for it will pay off when they compete.

"When you get out on the floor you know why you are there," said Alex Brekke, a sophomore.

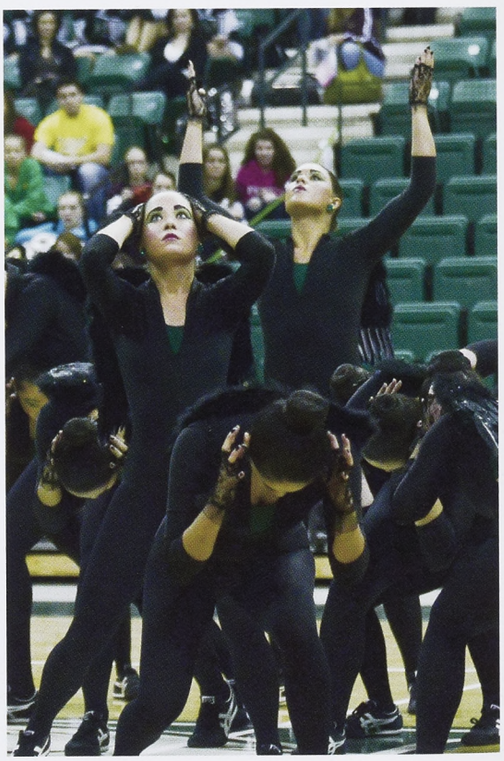
Senior Lea Bowers agreed.

"It is such a thrill to show everyone what we've been working on," Bowers said with a smile.

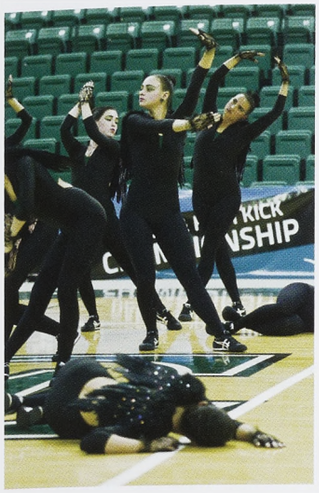
It's that energy that moves each individual on MSU Pompon, on and off the dance floor.



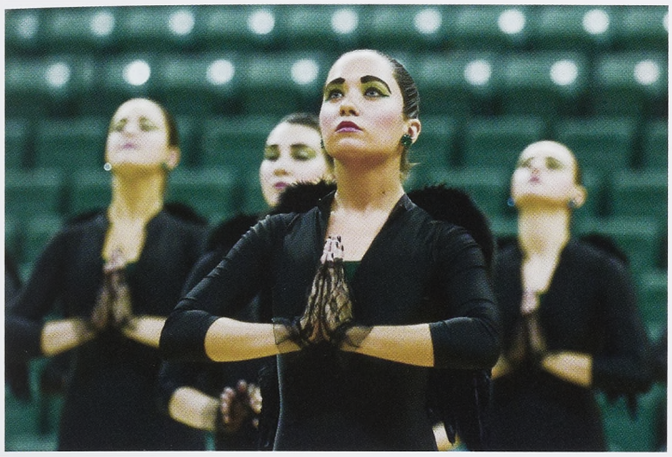
The MSU pompon squad assembles in the center of the floor to begin their routine. The girls won the pompon state championship for the fifth consecutive year in 2012.



The MSU pompon team performs their routine in front of 3 judges. MSU competed against 5 other schools, including the University of Michigan and Grand Valley State University.



The MSU pompon squad adds some theatrical elements to their high kick routine at Eastern Michigan University. MSU pompon was the first mid-American team to perform at the collegiate level.



Senior Ashley Babinchak and teammates pose to begin their performance. The MSU pompon team was created in 2005 when a group of students noticed a lack of collegiate-level opportunities for high school pompon members.

The pompon squad is all smiles as they practice inside IM East. Pompon competitions are focused on the entire group performing in unison, so practice was extremely rigorous.



Kirk Cousins describes how his faith has affected his life. This event was sponsored by MSU Real Life, the MSU chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ.

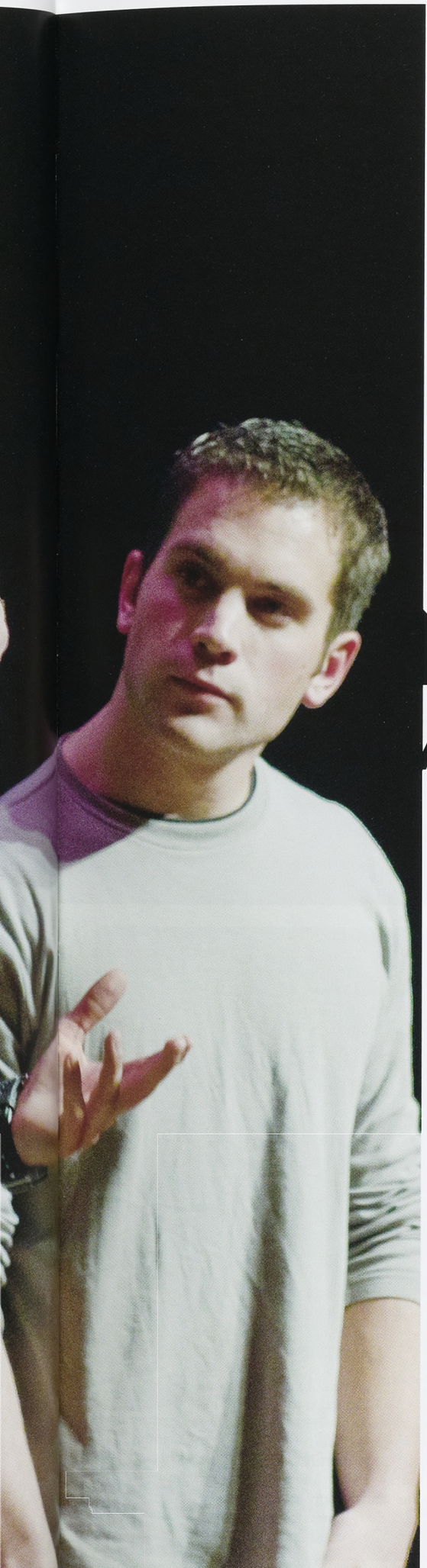




Cousins ends his speech to allow time for a Q&A session. The Auditorium was filled to well-over half capacity for the event.

Cousins answers a question posed by an audience member while senior emcee Phil Lamothe listens intently. The event creators provided the entire audience with a phone number to text questions regarding his faith to him.

content: carolyn sundquist
photo: evan farinosi
design: brendan prost





Seniors Drew Daniels and Erica Frogner end the evening with some light Christian rock. An informational survey was passed out at the end of the night to see what people thought of Cousin's speech.

NOT EVERYONE AGREES WITH KIRK

Kirk Cousins speaks at the Auditorium on his relationship with Jesus Christ

Neon 4-by-4 inch signs, sidewalk chalk and purposefully ambiguous "Do you agree with Kirk?" Facebook events spammed campus in the weeks leading up to an event hosted by MSU Campus Crusade for Christ at the MSU Auditorium on Nov. 3.

The outreach may have confused many students passing by the vague signs posted in almost every building, dorm and telephone pole on campus, but the event brought out over 2,000 students, faculty and Lansing-area residents. The hype, it turned out, was for MSU's quarterback Kirk Cousins.

Cousins spoke for an hour and a half to the attentive mass about his relationship with Jesus Christ and how He has made an impact on his life.

"Kirk wanted to go out giving a big bang to God and I think he really makes an impact," senior and Campus Crusade member Kendal Grant said.

As the lights went down in the Auditorium and "Pirates of the Caribbean" theme music began to play, the chatter stopped, anticipation heightened and a countdown projected on the stage began.

While the 10-minute clock quickly approached zero, a group of four students, at the event to protest, stood silently observing in the back of the room.

Finally, Cousins began to speak. During his speech, he referred to spreading the word about Jesus Christ "the way you would talk about how they have seen a good movie or ate at a great restaurant."

"I want to share what I believe to be good news," Cousins said. "I built my life on Jesus and that's the best decision I ever made."

Cousins made many references to football throughout his speech, and the Notre Dame game in particular. He said even though he messed up his final pass in the game, he still knew God and Jesus were there for him.

"Boy, if my life was built on football, I'm in a lot of trouble right now," Cousins said.

Yet while most of the audience cheered loudly every time Cousins finished a statement, not everyone agreed with him: the four protesters still stood defiantly behind the crowd.

"We didn't want credit," one of the protesters said. "All we wanted was to make (the attendees) think that there was an obvious meaning behind the signs when there actually wasn't."

While they wish to remain anonymous, they hoped to create a sort of confusion at the event with their homemade cardboard signs, some of which read, 'Kirk smokes Kush,' and 'Legalize it (Murder).'

"We thought it was totally ridiculous that this Evangelical was able to rent out the entire auditorium to talk about Christianity and football," the protester said. "You'd never see a gay, Muslim, black or transgendered student able to get that sort of revenue, support and publicity to rent out a venue of that size to talk about their beliefs and life."

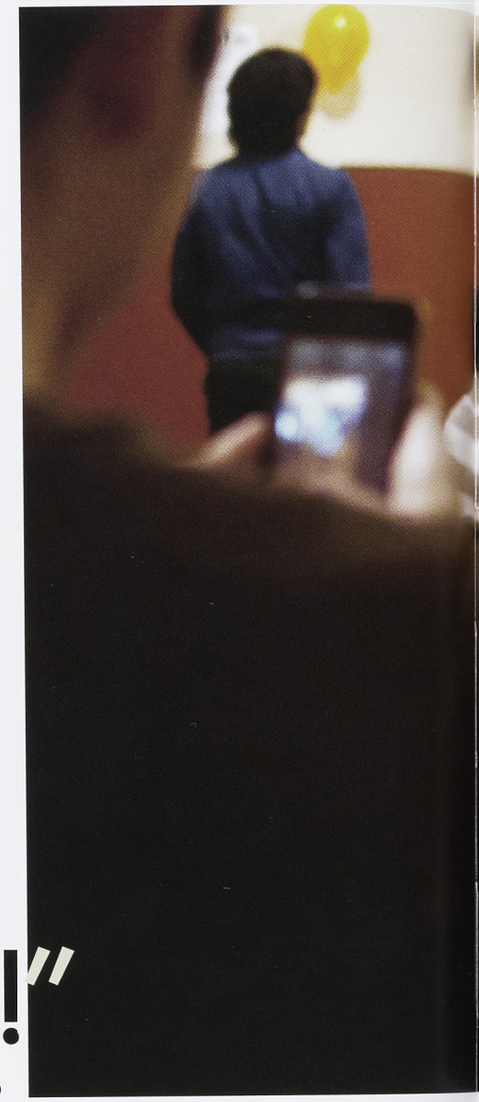
The four protesters left before being escorted out by security, but not before Kirk Cousins' mother approached them.

"Come and get coffee with me and Kirk," she said. "We'd love to talk to you."

"I didn't have my heart to lead this woman on," the protester said. "So I politely shook her hand and we left."



Japan Club's president junior Shohei Ueno participates in the spicy curry eating contest. This specially concocted curry was so spicy, its smell was potent across the room.



"ITADAKIMASU!"

"Let's Eat" curry with the Japan Club

On Oct. 23, the banquet hall of First Christian Church filled with the scent of curry. Hot, spicy, flaming curry. The crowd of around 150 was a mixed-bag of Halloween characters, ranging from Pikachu to a zombie police officer, but all their attention was on one event: the spicy curry contest.

The row of contestants braced in their seats as the tear-jerking odor reached their helpless nostrils. The goal? A race to finish the national dish of Japan.

This hot mess of cultural goodness was whipped up by the e-board members of MSU's Japan Club for their Halloween-themed Curry Party. It contained meat, potatoes, carrots, rice, and sauce made with curry powder and few pounds of hot peppers.

Armed with nothing but a Styrofoam cup full of water and a plastic fork, the participants carefully plotted strategies for tackling the dish. Junior Shohei Ueno, president of the Japan Club, removed his thick, nerd glasses and positioned his mouth inches above the plate before hesitantly scooping up the first bites.

"It was very spicy," he said, conceding that he'd been forced by the other e-board members to compete.

"We made it, so I knew how spicy it was," he added. "I didn't want to eat it at all. I don't want to eat it in the future. My stomach still hurts."

Junior Trent Pasini pounded the table with his fists as he slowly chewed the curry.

"I just sucked it up and kept my cool," he said. "I took it one bite at a time."

Although Pasini opted for the slow and steady route, many of the 13 contestants shoveled down the curry as quickly as possible down their throats until the overwhelming spice hit their taste buds. Others merely looked around helplessly for mercy as tears blinked from their eyes. The spicy curry left casualties choking and coughing, their lips swollen and red.

"Ouch!" Brian Stafford, a former member of the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program (JET), exclaimed after the contest. "I'm in a lot of pain. It was painfully delicious."

Fortunately, for those who didn't want to torch their taste buds, the Japan Club prepared a mildly sweet curry for them to enjoy while they discussed the music, language and culture of the East Asian nation.

In addition to the feast, everyone was invited to participate in a portrait drawing contest. At each table, individuals were instructed to draw a different part of the model's face. Due to the varying levels of art skill among students, the disproportioned scribbles resembled Pablo Picasso's style more than Leonardo Da Vinci's.

Senior Jenny Pang and junior Rachel Cheung giggled hysterically while sophomore Lin Yiyun, who was instructed to draw details, drew dots on the face for acne.

"She drew so many," Cheung laughed.

"I am sorry about that part," an exasperated Yiyun replied.

For sophomore Tu Qiang, who studied Japanese for two months in Shiga, Japan, during summer break with the Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU), the Curry Party was a personal way to reunite with friends he made on the trip. Gesturing to the curry and his friends, he shouted,

"I love curry. This is the best day of my life."

A sweep of the crowd beyond Qiang's amused friends revealed a mix of Japanese and non-Japanese alike. Donning his Reno-911 police officer uniform, sophomore Ryan Gaines, an American student, hustled between checking tickets, serving curry and posing for his Japanese friends' cameras. When he joined the Japan Club, he experienced a cross-cultural companionship firsthand.

"Being in Japan Club has given me a family away from home," he said. "They're like my brothers and sisters. I learn about their culture, and learn about myself."

For students interested in Japanese culture, president Ueno explained that events like the Curry Party are a perfect introduction, as the festivities revolve around one thing everyone loves.

"Everyone likes to eat," Ueno explained. "Food attracts a lot of people to the culture."

Ueno expressed a desire to see students participate and dive in to their interests in different cultures. With its rich character, the Curry Party left a scorching impression on the minds and taste buds of everyone who attended. Their tongues burnt and bellies full, the crowd cried "gochisousama" or "thanks for the meal."



Freshman Vickie Juan has her picture taken with sophomore Ryan Gaines. Many of the guests came dressed as their favorite TV show characters.

Junior Steven Lyszczarz spins in the air while impersonating his halloween character. The event was hosted at the First Christian Church in Lansing.





Freshman Judy Chen wins the Japan Club's award for best halloween costume. Awards included gift cards to local businesses such as Meijer.



Freshman Takuma Ishige sketches sophomore Yuki Tsushi during a portrait drawing contest. Japan Club is a student organization created to support Japanese students who attend MSU.







Sophomore Avani Goyal and masters student Itishree Swain use henna dye to create temporary elaborate drawings on skin. It's a popular form of body decoration used in Indian culture.

Mechanical engineering masters student Abhisek Jain signs a young girl's passport for Global Fest. The passports allowed kids to keep track of the different countries they traveled to throughout the day.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE WORLD

Lansing community engages in a celebration of international culture at Global Fest

On Nov. 13, somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000 people convened at the MSU Union to "travel the world in one day." Global Fest drew a wide demographic, featuring exhibits and performances representing countries from Chile to Japan and everywhere in between.

A teenager wearing a "FREE LIBYA" T-shirt conversed with an older man clothed in a thawb, a traditional garment worn by men in the Arabian Peninsula. Women from Malaysia dressed in sarong kebaya, while members of the Korean Student Organization banged on the janggu, an hourglass-shaped drum. Multiple languages mingled in the air, but a general comprehension of the event's international culture flourished.

Students carried passports that read "United Spartans of the World." The passports were given out "to give kids the opportunity to understand other cultures," explained Aline Franceschini, a Brazilian sophomore participating in a cultural exchange program through la Universidad del Estado de Santa Catarina.

"The purpose of the event is to promote understanding, to know more cultures," Franceschini said, "for by knowing more, you can understand more."

Indeed, new knowledge flooded the Union as people globe-trotted around the snapshot of the world. The space between each stand became that of a cosmopolitan city sidewalk. In Mumbai, India, a little boy learned the meaning behind "namaste," while women of Indian descent decorated the hands of teenage girls with mehndi, or henna. Journeying past Afghanistan into the avenue of Moscow, sophomore Kathryn Smart un-nested Russian matryoshka dolls to a young girl.

"Global Festival allows students to see new cultures and say, 'Wow', and consider studying it," voiced Smart, who is majoring in Russian and international relations.

Further, the knowledge provided at the festival allowed certain cultural stereotypes to disappear, like those placed on Canadians.

"People normally assume there is not much of a difference between Canadian and American culture, but there is," revealed Andy Mayville, a Lansing Resident and member of the Lansing Curling Club.

"The national sport is baseball in the U.S. and everyone golfs, while in Canada, hockey is the national sport and everyone curls," he explained.

"Global Festival," Mayville paused, "is a unique thing. It speaks a lot about the university and how diverse the community is."

In fact, MSU is composed of more than 5,000 international students from countries all around the world.

"The Global Festival is a great opportunity for international students to meet one another," said Nisa Phiungkio, a master's student born in Thailand.

"You get to see what you normally wouldn't see. What people wear, what they do at home, and their general style," said Griselda Tule, a Mexican sophomore who joined the Somali Association of Michigan.

"I was just interested in the culture," Tule explained, "because when people come to the U.S. they change, and I wanted to look further."

To the left, another member of the Somali Association of Michigan adjusted a sign that read, "DONATE TO SOMALIA" in an effort to combat the country's high food prices, armed conflict and crop failure.

Likewise, across the globe, Thailand struggles with a flood that devastated the Meokong River basin.

At 5 p.m., the multicultural conglomeration filtered out of the Union, taking with them the knowledge they had acquired. In Shanghai the sun had risen, and in Buenos Aires the sun had set. But as the festival made clear, no matter where each person travels, we are all under one sun.





Masters student Itishree Swain demonstrates a popular tradition in Indian culture. Henna is used to create body art using dye from the flowering henna plant.

Post-doctoral veterinarian Rodrigo Menezes signs a passport for a little girl during Global Fest. The passports were carried by Global Fest attendees and stamped at each country's booth.



Willie 'Baba Kwaku' Davis speaks about Africa's global influence. Most performers donned traditional African dress.

WITH LOVE FROM AFRICA

The African Student Union sponsors the 26th Annual ASU Gala

Pitch black in Okemos High School's auditorium on Nov. 12, the lights hit the stage and the music starts. Moving down either sides of the middle section of seats, girls and guys alike dance with flags representing African countries to kick off the annual gala hosted by the African Student Union to showcase African dance, fashion, music and poetry.

Sitting giddily in their seats were seniors Cletissa Haynes-Hogue and Amanda McGee. Joking around with each other before the lights went out, McGee admitted that Haynes-Hogue threatened her into coming to the gala.

"I have superior persuasion skills," Haynes-Hogue said with a smile. It didn't hurt that the event gave McGee an excuse to dress up. Attendees were encouraged to represent their culture through their dress, and McGee and Haynes-Hogue put their unused heels to work.

First-timers to the gala, the girls had never been able to make it before because of schedule conflicts. Haynes-Hogue rattled off the reasons she'd missed the galas from years passed: appointments, previous engagements and work.

"So when I learned about this year, I knew I had to be there," she said.

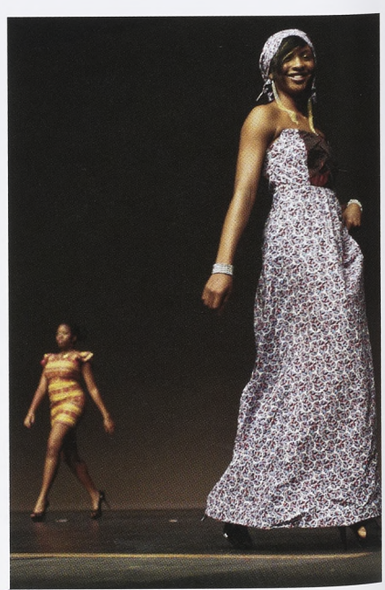
The girls pointed out certain flags to each other during the processional, naming the country they belonged to. Their favorite part of the gala, themed 'Africa Around The World,' was the fashion shows. Their critiques of each outfit, favorite pieces, and catcalls to the models might have been audible if the music hadn't been so loud. But they didn't mind because, in McGee's words, "It was really well put together. Everyone did a good job, and you could tell they put a lot of work into it."

During a "very short 10 minute intermission" stated by one of the night's three emcees, senior Chris Burtley, guests got up out of their seats and mingled. Attending her second ASU Gala was sophomore Gretchen Mathos who was excited to see live music.

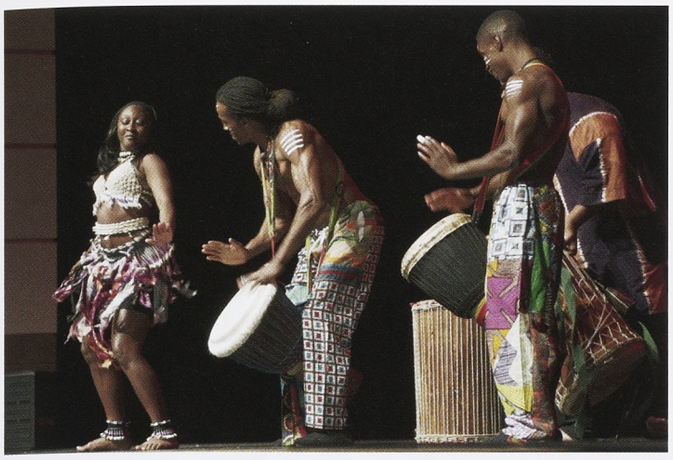
"Last year they had a really cool drumming group," she said. Luckily for her, the group, Omowale made an appearance. Twice. Brought to the stage after the intermission, Omowale was called back for a second performance. Made up of only three drummers and two dancers dressed with bangles that jingled as they moved, the group sounded like a drumming army of hundreds. Call and response was used frequently, involving the audience in the song.

While the entire night was focused on both African and pan-African culture, Haynes-Hogue found it refreshing that the event seemed to bring so many people together.

"I really feel like [this event] resonated unity among everyone," she said.
McGee, who was glad to take her heels off after a long night, wished she had another year to attend the gala and another pair of shoes to walk home in.

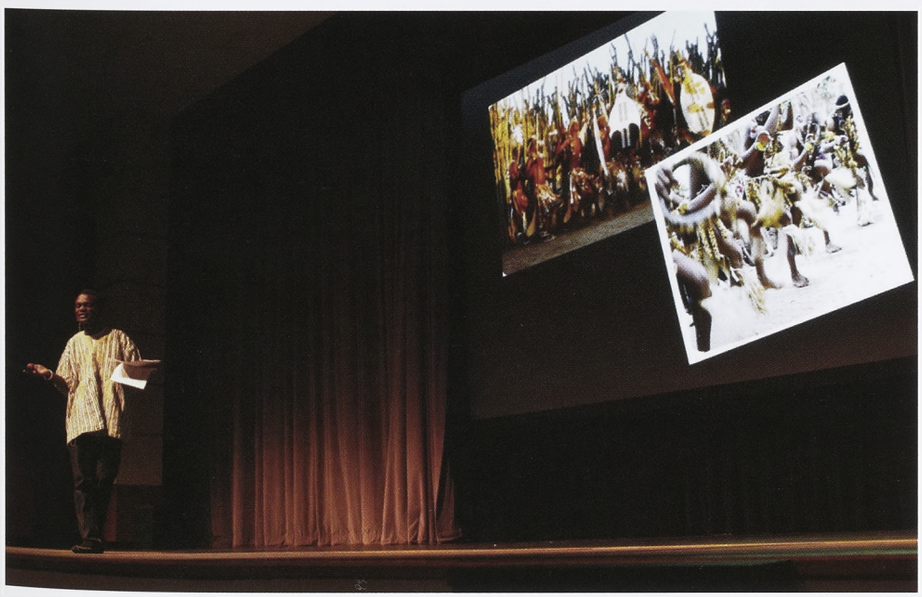


Displaying modern African dress, junior Kuso Atagbuzia pauses at the end of the catwalk. In addition to musical performances, ASU members participated in a fashion show.



Omowale Drummers perform at the 26th annual African Student Union gala. The gala featured performances highlighting African culture.





Sophomore Winnie Imbuchi and junior Betel Ayalew welcome guests to the gala and introduce the first performance. Imbuchi is from Kenya and Ayalew is from Ethiopia.

Kwasi Adu Berchi reads a poem he prepared for the gala while a slideshow of photos picturing African heritage are shown behind him. Berchi's poem was about the history and culture of African Americans.



Donning fall gear, seniors Christian Ross and Brendan LaCroix scarf a donut during the Student Housing Cooperative Rake and Run. LaCroix is the vice president of the Education Committee that helped organize the event.

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF

Student Housing Cooperative gives back to the community

'Twas the day after the first snow at the intersection of M.A.C. Avenue and Elizabeth Road. Not a person was found raking leaves in the cold. With the temperatures cooling and fireplaces lit, the alluring indoors were too hard to quit. But out on the lawn, the grass was dead, covered with leaves nearby trees had shed. The streets were silent as a barren land, till along came the Student Housing Cooperative (SHC) residents, rakes in hand.

Every semester, the SHC Board of Directors plans a way to give back to the community through service. The student committee members from the 15 houses owned by SHC nominated the Rake and Run.

"People hate raking their own houses," said senior Andrea Goossens, resident and committee representative of Phoenix House. She explained that yard work, especially raking, can be a time-consuming hassle for those who spend their day at work. It also puts stress on senior citizens, so Goossens and her friends from the partnering houses were eager to help out.

On Nov. 11, the dedicated students braved the bitter Michigan fall and met on the front lawn of Vesta House.

"Onward and upward, co-opers." said senior Brendan LaCroix, vice president of the education committee. Their rakes ready, the group trenched down M.A.C. Avenue toward their first stop: the home of Ellen Ferency, Zolton Ferency's widow.

Zolton Ferency, who died in 1993, was a political activist, lawyer, and professor of criminal justice at MSU. Zolton Ferency was a friend of the student co-op system, and one of the SHC houses was named after him.

Twenty minutes later, the students returned Ellen Ferency's lawn, once covered with dead leaves and caked mud, to its former green state. After leaving a small pumpkin on the porch with the SHC logo, they took a cider and doughnut break.

"We're just having a picnic on the sidewalk—it's no big deal." laughed junior and Hedrick House resident Christian Ross.

Ross is a maintenance officer in the SHC system. He explained that living in a co-op doesn't mean just sharing a house with others.

"Everyone equally does their part for the co-op system," Ross said, explaining that all residents own part of the co-op organization. With five different committees, there is a way for every resident to be involved.

LaCroix described how his personal interests play into his role on the education committee.

"Education (committee) is a hodge-podge of everything that needs to get done," he said.

As part of his many duties on the committee, the vice president since last May enjoys his time planning events, improving the SHC website and editing the Pine Press, the SHC's bi-monthly publication, which is written primarily by members of the committee.

After pausing a few more times during the afternoon for snacks, the SHC residents gradually moved from block to block, choosing houses they thought would need the most help with their yard. While they worked, seniors Vicki Zou and Betsy Shiner described their experiences with the co-op.

"You get to meet a lot of different types of people," Zou said.

"It's really nice because you can move in with 23 people you didn't know and become best friends with everyone," agreed Shiner.

"Everyone has their own space. They all have character," said president of Phoenix House and senior Kate Depps. Depps added that participating in events with SHC is a perfect way to get to know even more people.

As the day went on, the group reviewed the streets.

"Look at that yard we just raked." said Goossens, triumphantly gesturing toward the now-pristine grass. "It looks good!"

By the end of the day, the streets were empty once more, but something was different; something not there before. Although the air was still chilly and not a soul outside mingled, the warmth of the hearts that raked leaves yet lingered. In Bower, Vesta, Pheonix, and Hedrick, too, the SCH students gave the community something new.





Students from the Bower, Vesta, Phoenix and Hendrick houses in the Student Cooperative Housing community raked the leaves of messy lawns on Nov. 11. Participants enjoyed cider and donuts during breaks.

SO STUDENT HOUSING COOPERATIVE

content: marirose sanborn
photo: natalie kolb
design: jessica hallyard



Senior Brendan LaCroix rakes leaves into a pile at the house of a stranger. LaCroix and members of the Student Housing Cooperative chose random lawns to rake, leaving a pumpkin behind on the doorsteps of chosen homes.

Student Housing Cooperative member and senior Andrea Goossens, leaves a pumpkin on the doorstep of a house that just had its lawn raked. Goossens lives in Phoenix House, which is just one of the 15 houses that are a part of the SHC.







Junior Vicki Zou pours cider into her cup after raking leaves for the Rake and Run event put on by the Student Housing Cooperative. The SHC promotes community involvement and student cooperation.

Seniors Christian Ross, Brendan LaCroix Andrea Goossens and Kate Debs walk north of campus looking for lawns in need of raking. The SHC's education committee helped organize the event.

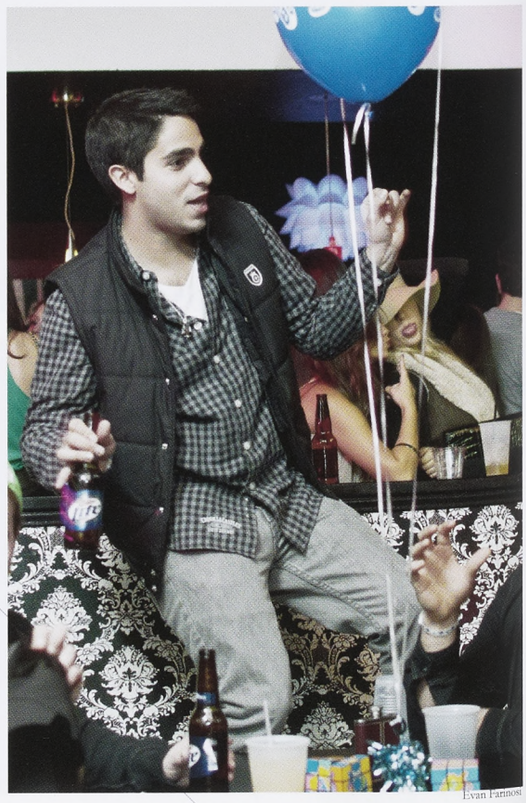




Evan Farinosi

Senior Jake Satin helps himself to some of the event's snack foods. Latkes, a potato-like pancake, were a favorite among the guests.

With beer in hand, senior Joe Chidiac grooves to a favorite song. Students who attended the event were in good spirits, and were drinking spirits if their I.D. confirmed they were over 21.



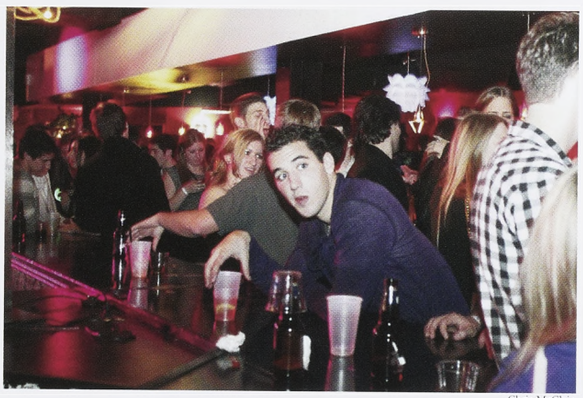
Evan Farinosi



Chris McClain

Students boogie on the dance floor at Club Rush. In celebration of Hanukkah, MSU Hillel provided an event combining 8 days of celebration in one night.

Event guests gather at the bar at Club Rush for MSU Hillel's Eight Crazy Nights Hanukkah. Over 200 students attended the party.



Chris McClain

EIGHT DAYS OF TRADITION IN ONE CRAZY NIGHT

Students celebrate Hanukkah at Club Rush

"Mazal tov!" The Hebrew word for "congratulations" circulated through a network of students participating in Sparty's Eight Crazy Nights Hanukkah Party at Club Rush.

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah was infused into a single evening on Dec. 1 and was reflected by the multitude of people mingling within the club. The event was put on by the Jewish Student Union, Jews in Greek Life and the Lester & Jewell Morris Hillel Jewish Student Center. Since the cover was free to all MSU students, the crowd also boasted many non-Jewish students.

"I personally think that they threw the Hanukkah event to improve the attendance of students," sophomore Kelly Johnston, who is of non-Jewish background, articulated as she stared out upon the crammed dance floor.

In fact, a majority of students were not associated with Judaism and simply came for a jam-packed evening. Sophomore Michael Lemon stood next to the bar with celebratory drink in hand conversing with friends.

"I had no idea it had anything to do with religion," he commented. "I don't think that (religion) had any effect on the event."

However, looking past the energy of the party atmosphere, much more mingled in the air than the resounding bass lines and excited conversation. After all, it was a commemoration of Judaism and of people who shared a similar identity.

"Judaism is all about the community and this event is all about that," freshman Alex Gudenau said. "I am Jewish and with this event you get to meet all the Jews in the school."

From 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., over 200 students attended the event, consuming not only delicious food but digesting the culture of the Jewish religion. The traditional latkes, or potato pancakes, vanished by the end of the night along with the sufganiyot, or jelly-filled doughnuts.

On stage, a group of Greek brothers and sisters of the Jewish community danced beside a menorah. The nine-branched candelabrum commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. After the defeat of the Seleucid monarchy that had restricted the practice of Judaism in Israel, the Temple was purified and, despite a lack of oil, the wicks of its menorah miraculously burned for eight days.

Although Hanukkah began at nightfall on Dec. 20, the menorah symbolized the future holiday traditions to come and the appreciation of the present ceremony—a ceremony that allows "the 40,000 students to become smaller," Gudenau added.

"Hanukkah is not about the lighting of candles, the spinning of a dreidel, or the ingestion of mass amounts of matzo ball soup," freshman Isaac Berkowitz said, "but it is the meaning behind all the tradition, and that is to remain true to one's beliefs.

"And to fight for your right...to party," he continued with a chuckle. "But in all seriousness, the point of this event is to bring everyone together to celebrate Hanukkah and Judaism."

And that is what it became: eight crazy nights of celebration packed into one evening of religious recognition.

Spartan defenders line up on their defensive half to prevent any scoring effort by Davenport as their teammates participate in a scrum. The MSU Rugby Football Club was formed in 1964.



Equipped with a jug of water and MSU themed socks, a MSURFC player waits to enter the action. The Rugby Football Club partnered with local business Menna's Joint for a sponsorship spot on their uniforms for the 2011 season.



Junior Rory Hill leaves the ball in the path of streaking senior Scott Peterson. Michigan State rugby players compete in tournaments and matches from August to November annually.



Envision a sport that combines the non-stop movement of soccer with the tackling of football. Place it on a large, grassy field in 40-minute halves with teams of men wearing no protective pads. This isn't a made-up sport—it's rugby. On Nov. 5, MSU's own Rugby Club concluded its season when it took the field against Davenport University.

Seniors Priya Bayisetti, Katie Langolf and Alex Strauch sat in the first row of the stands, watching the play unfold. Bayisetti and Langolf are not only friends with many of the teammates, but are also rugby fans who got into the sport during their respective times in Australia—Bayisetti when she lived there for a few years and Langolf when she studied abroad last summer.

"I used to live in Australia and New Zealand when I was little and I can remember watching rugby all the time; I was particularly into the All Blacks," Bayisetti said. "In some ways I'm more into rugby than I am into regular football."

Strauch is a member of MSU's team, but was sidelined by illness.

"Play goes forward, but passes have to go backward, so as players are sprinting toward the field goal, they're constantly looking behind them for people to pass to," Strauch said, explaining the rules of the game.

It's evident that rugby is no ordinary sport. If there's a penalty, there's a stand out. Similar to soccer's throw-ins, it involves a ball being thrown in-bounds, but instead of catching it with their feet, three players lift a teammate in the air, the teammate catches it, and then play resumes.

Though MSU lost the game with a final score of 81-10, senior and Rugby Club president Zac Pelton said that was to be expected.

"Davenport University is the defending champions and number one rugby team in Division 1, so it made sense that we lost pretty badly," Pelton said. "I did end up scoring, though."

Pelton said this year's season has been different from the past because this was the team's first year playing in Division 1.

"We were originally Division 2 and we ended up doing really well last year, so well that we were invited to take Notre Dame's spot in Division 1 this year," Pelton said.

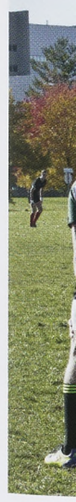
"We didn't have to take it, but we thought it would be an excellent way for the younger teammates to get some experience playing at this level once the upperclassmen leave."

Pelton has been playing rugby since high school. Playing rugby was even a factor in deciding where he went to college: He looked up different teams and decided to stick with MSU. Before discovering rugby, he played football, but it just wasn't working for him.

"With football, plays are only eight seconds long; it's constant starting and stopping and you have time to plan out each play one at a time," Pelton said. "Rugby is continuous; there's no stopping until the end of the half, so you're required to think ahead. Your actions in the beginning of the game directly influence your actions at the end of the game."

The connection to football was prevalent among not just Pelton but fellow teammates as well. Recent MSU alumnus John Reale played for MSU for four and a half years. Even after graduating he continues to help out the team and play in some non-league games.

"What I love about rugby is how easily it unites people; you could be walking down the street somewhere and if you found out you both play rugby, there's an instant connection. I've had people open their doors to me and I've been able to make friends from all over the place because I'm involved in this sport," Reale said.







PAUSE, PAUSE, ENGAGE!

MSU Rugby finishes fall season, looks to the future





Spartan defenders line up on their defensive half to prevent any scoring effort by Davenport as their teammates participate in a scrum. The MSU Rugby Football Club was formed in 1964.

A Davenport player is hoisted into the air during a lineout in Michigan State's defensive end of the field. Following this play, Davenport converted its third consecutive try in the first half.



AN UPHILL BATTLE

MSU Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team has passion and potential

At the top of the slope, the wind whips treacherously. Beyond the ramps and slick runs, the anticipating audience's cheers are muted by the vast whiteness covering the mountain. A skier slowly inches forward, as an invisible clock marks her movement.

Suddenly she whips out of sight, on to face the peril of the slopes.

"It's you against yourself—basically…it's you and the hill." described senior Katy Wright, vice president of the MSU Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team.

Wright is a thrill-seeker when it comes to the dangers of the mountain. Like his teammate, senior Andrew Krause also loves adrenaline-pumping action of dodging trees and hitting jumps down the winding slopes.

"Snowboarding is my escape from everything—school, relationships and other problems…if you lose focus for just a second, there are really big consequences," said Krause, describing several instances of nearly back-breaking wipeouts he and other teammates experienced.

But these close calls never once dissuaded Krause from his passion.

"I plan to snowboard until the day I can't even walk anymore," said Krause, who has practically lived on the slopes since he was 8 years old.

Krause, who took the regional snowboarding competition and competed nationally in the two previous seasons, is returning for his third year with the team with high hopes—winning nationals.

But this season, Krause plans to take his teammates with him.

"We want to get MSU's name back in the race," agreed team president, senior Mark Dawson.

The team is off to a great start; in its first set of races this January, the skiers and snowboarders swept the competition for first place.

"We pretty much flipped the hill," Dawson boasted, describing the skill and enthusiasm shown by senior teammates, such as Krause, Hannah Wolf and Emily Brown, as well as up-and-coming freshmen.

"It's hard to remember the last time our team had this much talent," Dawson said.

However, with as much potential as the team has, it also has its fair share of challenges.

"It's always tough for us southern schools…we haven't had a good reputation compared to other schools," Dawson said, explaining that teams such as Wisconsin, Marquette, Northern Michigan and U of M have renowned varsity programs with a paid coaching staff.

Due the budget cuts MSU recently made, the student-run team lost school funding.

The financial handicap and East Lansing's lack of hills mean the MSU team is only able to practice during weekends while there is snow. This puts the team odds down severely on a national level, where they would have to compete against schools where athletes hit the slopes more regularly.

With an uphill battle ahead of them, these Spartans have the perfect attitude about snow.

"With what we're given, I think we'll try as hard as we can," said Dawson, who is confident in his teammates' abilities. "We're really looking forward to seeing how it's going to turn out."

Despite the challenges they face each season, Wright reflects that each race was an opportunity to get to forage bonds with her teammates.

"I can't imagine my experience at Michigan State without it," she said, looking forward to another thrilling season on top of the mountain.

SKI AND SNOWBOARD TEAM

content: marirose sanborn
photo: chase o'black
design: betsy eber

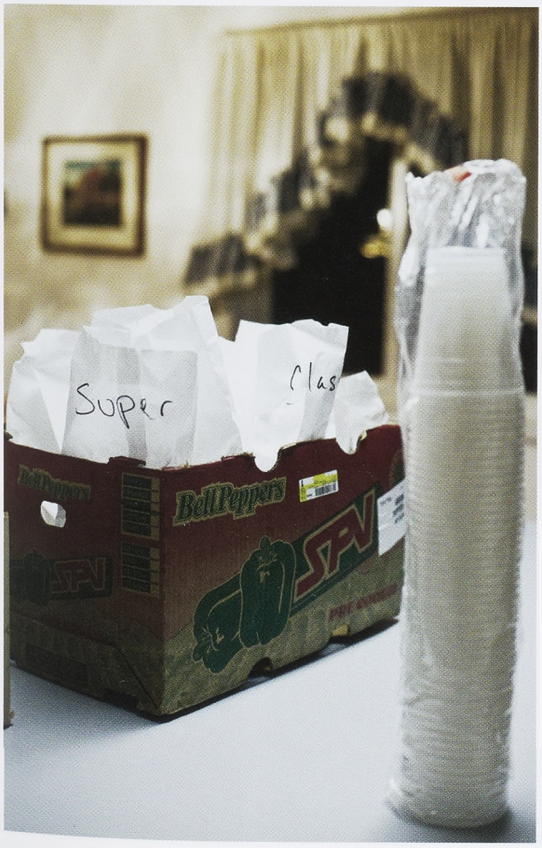


Celebrating another weekend with the MSU Ski and Snowboard Team begins with popping a couple bottles of champagne. The MSU Ski and Snowboard Team competes against the likes of Western Michigan, Michigan, Grand Valley State and Central Michigan during their race season.

Junior Cody Aiken speeds down the hill during a race at Crystal Mountain. Each year, Ski and Snowboard team competes in Marquette, Mich. for a chance to represent MSU at nationals.



In the midst of a heated game of 'Slap,' ping pong balls go flying and cups full of beer quickly begin to vanish. Each weekend, trips are taken to ski resorts such as Crystal Mountain, Nub's Nob, Boyne Mountain and the Otsego Club.





Brought along each Friday courtesy of Menna's Joint, Ski and Snowboard Team enjoys free cups and Dubs for its members. Amongst other perks, members can also enjoy free lift tickets and lodging after paying their dues.

THE SPORT OF KINGS AND QUEENS

MSU Polo duels U - M Polo at the Pavilion

The scent of horse manure stimulated the spectators' nostrils as the players galloped onto the battlefield. Spartan helmets were shaved intricately into the powerful thighs of the noble animals. The announcer's voice rang throughout the Pavilion as she declared over the loudspeaker, "Welcome to Polo at the Pavilion, Michigan State versus the University of Michigan!" The match had begun.

Six players per team threw up dirt as they marched around the playing arena. Arena polo includes three men or women and three horses per team.

"The best way to describe it is like hockey on horses," said Sarah Knapp, who graduated from MSU in 1992 and began the MSU Polo Club in 1998.

Horses, or "ponies," can check one another just like in hockey and players are allowed to hook another player's mallet but cannot use their mallet to make contact with a horse or another player. The objective is to score goals against one another in four seven-and-a-half-minute periods called chukkers. Players line up in two parallel lines in the center of the arena, preparing for the "Bowl-In," in which the referee throws the ball down the center of the two teams.

"Being a part of MSU polo isn't just about riding horses. It's about learning about teamwork, organization, cooperation with both your horse and your teammates," said freshman team member, Julia Johnson.

"Keep your eye on the ball ladies and gentlemen — it's fast," said the announcer, as the third period came to a close. The score was 5-5.

The announcer was heard once more over the loud speakers, explaining the difference between the positions.

"The number one position is similar to that of a forward, and is considered to be the most offense-oriented," the announcer explained. "The number two has many important roles on offense as well as defense and must pass to the number one or score themselves. Number three is the tactical leader and must have a powerful shot, and is usually considered the best player on the team. Number four is the primary defense player. And remember folks, polo must be played right-handed."

"It's a lot more complex then you would think," said Sam Berry, a Spartan sophomore and spectator.

Entering the arena once more the players and their partners seemed ready for the final period.

"Some horses definitely start following the ball, but sometimes it's difficult," Knapp said. "It's more of a game between you and your horse. Sometimes you have that connection, and other times they don't cooperate."

The horses are trained from two years and retire when they are around twenty. Over the years, some players develop a specific connection with a horse. Senior Sheila Skinner, president of the MSU Polo Club, grew to love her favorite playing pony, Nikki, and senior Cassandra Scarfone's favorite playing pony is Peele.

Polo takes time to not only develop your skills, but the communication with your teammates, both human and horse.

"Practicing in 10 degree weather is definitely worth it when you all have the same goal. Riding horses has taught me a lot in life, but overall, it has taught me that you get what you put out in any situation," said Johnson.

With the final whistle from the referee, the end score was MSU 12, University of Michigan 6.

"I've never seen a polo match in my entire life, and honestly, it was definitely a memorable experience," sophomore Vince Tasso said with a grin as the players galloped off the field like kings and queens.



Senior Cassie Scarfone and MSU alumni Sarah Knapp discuss the first round of play while awaiting the round two. MSU's Polo Club started in 1998 by coach Tom Wisehart.



Junior Jessica Sutton closes in on the goal. The MSU Polo Club held a match versus the University of Michigan on Jan. 23.





Junior Jessica Sutton stretches her mallet toward a fleeting ball. The MSU Polo Club defeated the University of Michigan on Jan. 23.



MSU alumni Sarah Knapp stretches for a loose ball during the third round. The MSU Polo Club is divided into JV and Varsity levels for students with varying skill sets.

Senior Cate Flechsig gives her horse some TLC. Students in the MSU Polo Club are responsible for taking care of the Club's horses.



Sophomore Jason Ahlquist closes out the MSU Drumline performance with a bang. Ahlquist emerged from the line in a front flip and had the crowd roaring.



Chase O'Black

Stockpiled in Demonstration Hall are all the necessary components for the Spartan Marching Band to entertain a large crowd on football Saturdays. The MSU Drumline consists of four different types of percussion; snare, bass, tenor, and cymbal.



Hilary Higgins

THE BEAT GOES ON

Life in the MSU Drumline

For senior cymbal player Ryan Smith, a typical football Saturday went something like this—wake up at 6 a.m., get dressed, arriveet to rehearsal at 6:45 a.m., eat breakfast, march to SBS Bookstore at 10 a.m., play a set, and then march back to Demonstration Hall for another rehearsal. By the time kick-off rolls around at noon, Smith will have already been up and playing for at least six hours, all in the name of being a part of MSU's Spartan Marching Band drumline.

"It definitely feels like a full-time job sometimes," Smith said.

Many of his bandmates agree.

"We have to practice to be good, but when you do it every day for five months, it's hard to always enjoy it," senior and cymbal player Page Andrews said in an email. "Sometimes practice can be an escape for what might be bothering you, so although I don't always want to be there, they aren't always terrible."

Andrews also is a section leader, so not only does he have to be at practice every afternoon with the marching band, he also must keep his section in line and oversee weekly practice sessions during spring semester.

Even the audition process was a full-day affair, consisting of memorizing music and exercises, playing individually and also playing with other drumline members. Even then, it's not guaranteed that an individual will make it.

Junior Aaron Levin said he hadn't played cymbals in high school band, but auditioned twice to earn a spot as a cymbal player at MSU.

"I played everything from bass to snare drum; my high school actually didn't even have a cymbal player," Levin said.

Levin said after he didn't make the cut at first, he took a semester to learn cymbals, retried out, and made it.

"There's usually at least 10 cymbal players, so that's where you have the best chance of getting in," Levin said.

The 10 cymbals (seven crash, meaning regular cymbals and three ride, meaning they play one cymbal with a drumstick), added to seven bass drums, five tenors and nine snares made up a 31-person drumline this year. Percussion instructor Jon Weber said "there's some fluctuation, but the final number is almost always between 30 and 33 members."

Weber has been involved with the drumline since 1996 when he accepted a position on the school of music faculty.

"My current position was actually created for me by [marching band director] John Madden, some marching band alumni and other school of music staff members," Weber said.

His duties consist of teaching technique and music to the drumline members, as well as arranging and writing music. One of his most famous arrangements is the third quarter piece played during football games for the student section.

There's lots of work, time and energy being put into an experience that only counts as a one-credit marching band class. What makes it worth it? Simple, Sammy Brooks said: "the friendships."

Brooks, a recent graduate and one of only three girls in the current line-up, said more than anything she will value the friends she has made in her four years in the drumline. She said being female didn't hinder her experience at all.

"I got to hear a lot of crazy 'locker room' talk that I wouldn't ordinarily get to hear," Brooks said. "At the end of the day, we're all there to excel and work hard; it doesn't matter if you're a guy or girl."

Sophomore Gus Navarro, a snare drummer with only one season under his belt, expressed a similar sentiment.

"I have made friends for life here," Navarro said. "Even if I didn't do marching band ever again I know I would be able to call up any of these guys [and girls] and they'd be ready to hang out at the drop of a hat."



Hilary Higgins

Senior Corey Broschak drums atop an MSU Drumline pyramid. While the Spartan Marching Band performs during halftime, the drumline has additional performance between the third and fourth quarters.

MSU alumna Archana Sardar dances bharatanatyam, a dance native to Southern India. Bharatanatyam is considered to be a "fire dance"—the mystic manifestation of the element of fire in the human body.



Members of the Sri Lankan community sing in harmony. Performances included dancers, singers and muscians.



Annohri Welipitiya, 6, plays the violin showcasing another aspect of Sri Lankan culture. Sri Lanka is credited for the creation of the ravanahatha, the violin's earliest ancestor.





MSU graduate student Desmi Chandrasena performs a bharatanatyam dance. Chandrasena is a graduate research assistant in soybean breeding and genetics.



GROWING A CONNECTION

MSU partners with Sri Lanka to add cultural diversity



It's no secret that MSU is a cultural hotspot. With more than 200 study abroad programs and students from almost everywhere on Earth, it's hard to miss the university's global connection. The link between MSU and Sri Lanka, an island country off the coast of India, is an example of their expansion. The relationship is new and progressing steadily, but the connection isn't growing without effort.

This effort was evident the night of the MSU-Sri Lankan Endowment Cultural Event, held in the Union on Jan. 20. The lights were low, the music was loud, and the guests were clapping along to song after song.

Hashini Galhena, President of the Sri Lankan Student Association, said that Sri Lankan culture is so lively that she "didn't know if one room could contain it all."

The event featured dozens of performers from almost every aspect of Sri Lankan culture. Dancers in Sri Lankan saris performed both traditional dances, such as one dedicated to a harvest, and to more modern, upbeat songs. A young girl played the violin and a Sri Lankan group from Detroit performed various pieces of Calypso music.

Galhena, a doctorate crop and soil science student, and Dilshani Sarathchandra, an organizer of the event and a doctorate student in the department of horticulture, said they hoped the event would showcase Sri Lanka's unique culture, and raise money for the endowment, managed by MSU-Sri Lanka Visiting International Professional Program (VIPP). The endowment is used for a variety of purposes, which include bringing Sri Lankan professors to MSU for training programs, and vice versa.

"It goes into cultural exchange, professional development, education," Galhena said. "It kind of captures MSU's mission of 'education, outreach, research.' And it goes both ways: MSU and Sri Lanka can learn from each other."

Although the event raised a sizable amount of money for the endowment, Galhena and Sarathchandra wanted to make sure the event attendees experienced the culture.

"We wanted to bring a bit of Sri Lankan culture to the dinner," Sarathchandra said. "A dinner where people just talk might have been kind of boring, and we wanted to showcase what Sri Lanka is about."

Dennis Hart, the director of the VIPP, and one of the speakers at the event, said the Sri Lankan Student Association's goals of promoting their culture matched up perfectly with MSU's own goals of being a university with global outreach and cultural connections.

"I thought about Michigan State, and its goals about international cooperation and knowledge," Hart said. "Sri Lankan Student Association, MSU; it's a match made in heaven. Both have fantastic goals and ideals."

The endowment dinner is not the only way the Sri Lankan Student Association promotes their culture on campus. During the Global Festival, booths were set up where people could make traditional lanterns that would be used in the Sri Lankan Festival of Lights. Many Sri Lankan professionals have also visited MSU's campus, and there is a new MSU Sri Lankan study abroad program opening soon.

One thing is for sure, Galhena assured event attendees MSU and Sri Lanka are in a partnership, and just like endowments the connection is a lasting commitment.

Four Vegas Night patrons watch their money disappear as a single player realizes he has won. The roulette wheel and craps table were always busy throughout the evening.



LUCK BE A LADY TONIGHT

School of Hospitality Business presents Vegas Night 2012

Junior Lauren Jablonski and freshman Rachel Northey arrived at East Lansing Marriott at University Place at roughly 8 p.m. One short ride in a glass elevator later, they were no longer in downtown East Lansing, but rather in a scene straight out of "Ocean's Eleven" or "Viva Las Vegas."

Jablonski and Northey were among the 400 guests in attendance at the School of Hospitality Business's annual Vegas Night. The Marriott's second floor lobby did more than provide guests with a place to stay for the night on Jan. 28; it transformed into a casino worthy of "The Strip."

Jablonski and Northey made sure to partake of the buffet to support Jablonski's sister and Northey's friend, who were volunteering that night.

"My sister has been very active in her college's events so I wanted to support her," Jablonski said. "I can safely say that I would come back to an event like this in the future."

Jablonski described herself as "not a good gambler," so she and Northey steered clear of the life of the party: the "casino." Three ballrooms were converted into an arena of craps, blackjack, a 50-person poker tournament and every other casino game imaginable. Sophomore Lauren Anderson was one of many hospitality business majors on hand to provide various services for the guests, including ticket-taking and coat-checking. Anderson was a "chip girl." This was her second year volunteering with Vegas Night.

"I signed up mainly because this kind of event looks good on a résumé, and so I could get extra credit in one of my classes," Anderson said. "I'm leaning toward working for a private country club when I graduate, but after helping at Vegas Night I think working at a casino could be cool, too."

Not only was there ample room and time for gambling, but there also was the novelty of playing craps next to a convincing Elvis impersonator dressed in a Las Vegas white sequined jumpsuit and catching a quick performance by a dancer who would have been at home in a Cirque Du Soleil show.

Senior Andrew Blumberg was executive director of the decadent evening—responsible for everything from choosing the venue to hiring and recruiting other e-board members and volunteers. It also was his job to make rounds throughout the second floor to make sure everything ran smoothly.

"[The event] was brought into the School of Hospitality Business as an opportunity for students to experience what it's like to work in the casino industry," Blumberg said. "The experience just wasn't there before that."

It was not only a learning experience but also a financial one—all proceeds from the event go to the School of Hospitality Business for future events, including sending students to different hotel and lodge shows across the U.S.

Blumberg, whose previous casino experience included an internship with MGM Grand, hopes to continue his association with the gambling world when he graduates in the spring. Experiences with Vegas Night are sure to serve him and other Hospitality Business majors well.





Senior Tyler Schroll watches as fellow senior Brad Stout throws the dice at the craps table. Vegas Night was sponsored by MSU's school of hospitality business on Jan. 28.



Competitors in the Vegas Night poker tournament didn't do much talking. The poker tournament began about 5 p.m. and lasted until after midnight.

A group of friends tries their luck at one of the many blackjack tables. Students in MSU's school of hospitality business volunteered as dealers for the night's festivities.





Junior Aaron Boundy shoots at senior Kyle Jones at practice. The Roller Hockey team's practices are intensive in order for the team to be in tip-top shape for their games.



Freshman Ryan Werner gets ready to pass the puck to a teammate. The players spend lots of time practicing and traveling together, and have learned to work well as a group.

SUCCESSFUL SKATING

The MSU Roller Hockey B-Team achieves success through hard work and camaraderie

After a full day of classes, part-time jobs, and homework, it seems like junior Aaron Boundy and freshman Everet Bommarito would want nothing more than to kick back, relax and settle in for the night.

Instead, they run laps around Demonstration Hall in preparation to lace up their skates and play roller hockey. And they weren't the only two: all 14 members of the MSU Roller Hockey's B Team dedicate four nights a week to practicing the sport they love.

"The level of commitment from the team this year is unbelievably high," Boundy said. "We all come out every practice and bring our best. The practices are late at night, but we get the job done."

The pay off of the player's commitment is evident from their record: the team had yet to be beaten.

Boundy said the fact that the team is undefeated stems from their drive to always do their best.

"You've got to think long term," he said. "You've got to think about lifting the cup at the end of the year."

Bommarito agreed wholeheartedly.

"If you want to win games, you've got to play for blood," he said. "You've got to play for that championship. Like every game is game seven of the Stanley Cup Playoffs."

Senior Kyle Jones added that when the team practices, it's not just about the individuals.

"We are a team," he said. "There's not one person on our team that's good enough to beat a team on their own. But as a team, working together, we can achieve our ultimate goal of winning a national championship."

MSU Roller Hockey's B Team has come one step closer to that goal with its victory over Lindenwood University, the defending national champions.

"Beating the number one team in the country was hands down my favorite memory of the season," Boundy said. "There was nothing that could compare."

Jones thought defeating Lindenwood, which is located in St. Charles, Mo., was a season highlight as well.

"We are just a bunch of regular kids, paying for college on our own and coaching ourselves," he said, noting that Lindenwood provides scholarships for playing roller hockey and has three coaches.

Bommarito attributed the success of these self-proclaimed underdogs to the chemistry they have on and off the hockey rink.

"We're like a big group of friends, playing hockey, and living the dream," he said. "Or really, it's even more than that. We're a lot more like a big group of brothers."

Jones said this team camaraderie is the best part of being on the roller hockey team.

"Practicing four times a week and traveling to weekend tournaments gives us a lot of time to spend together," he said. "We've become more than just a group of guys playing hockey; we've become a family."

The brotherly bond between team members is obvious from the way the players joke and laugh at each other during practice. But when it's time to get down to business, the connection also has helped them reach undefeated status, Jones said.

"This year is different than any other year," he said. "We really are a great group of young guys with their own special skills set. It makes for a very dynamic team."

Jones said the team will not rest easy until it has brought home a win from its regional or national tournament.

"We might be undefeated, but we haven't really won anything yet," he said. "Winning regionals and nationals is the ultimate goal, and we will not be satisfied until we do that."

Although the road to winning those tournaments won't be easy, the MSU Roller Hockey B Team has had a great season thus far. With chemistry the best it has ever been and players as dynamic as they come, this team is ready to skate their way to one of the best seasons in MSU roller hockey history.







The team regroups to strategize during a practice. The players needed to be highly competitive in order to uphold the Roller Hockey team's Division I Status.

Freshman John Courtney gestures to his teammates in agreement during a discussion. Communication was key to a successful season.



Sophomore Natalie Wanetick, senior Zoe Middleton, and sophomore Fran Wanetick carefully choose spices and herbs. This event is in its second year of existence and is a multi-cultural event for the Arab Culture Society, Interfaith Council and the MSU Hillel.



Divided into teams of three to four, students create a Middle Eastern dish for this year's Iron Chef competition. Teams had 45 minutes to cook and when time expired they presented their dishes to a panel of judges.



Sophomore Lexis Zeidan, senior Joe Khalil and sophomore Youssef Hammoud work together to create a Middle Eastern dish. Competitors were required to supply their own ingredients and were allowed 45 minutes to create a Middle Eastern dish of their own.

MIDDLE EAST FEAST

Students with Middle Eastern roots compete in the Middle Eastern Iron Chef



Senior Sam Appel, takes notes on the judge's reactions as students present their middle eastern dishes. Participants had a good sense of humor about the judge's reactions and it made for a successful event.



As students scrambled in the last minutes of the Middle Eastern Iron Chef Competition, the MSU Hillel dining hall was filled with the smells of chicken kabobs and stir-fry. As some mashed chickpeas into homemade hummus, others squeezed fresh citrus into juice, all while the three judges circulated the room, stopping at each table to chat about what was being sizzled into creation.

Though MSU Hillel is a Jewish campus organization, members of the MSU Campus Interfaith Council and the Arab Cultural Society were invited to compete in the cooking competition.

"With our cultures, our connection really comes with food," said Sam Appel, a senior and one of the event's organizers.

Appel said the event was created to help bring members of the different cultural organizations together.

"We wanted to connect not only with other Spartans, but with people that come from the Middle East. It's fun and interactive, and we all stem from the Middle Eastern cultures," Appel said.

The result: the Middle Eastern Iron Chef Competition on Jan. 31, which was based on the popular Food Network TV show. The cooking frenzy brought together students whose roots extend to the Middle East, all under the roof of MSU Hillel.

Appel, former president of the Jewish Student Union, said MSU Hillel has been like a home away from home for him.

Senior Emily Berlin shared Appel's fondness for the organization.

"I came from a town with a very small Jewish community," she said. "I think that's one of the reasons Hillel has felt so much like home to me—because it's given me such a bigger sense of a Jewish community."

Coming up on its 10th anniversary, MSU Hillel connects Jewish students with other students of similar faith or background.

Still, the group's emphasis usually turns back to the greater community.

"We've tried to build a kind of community that isn't only exclusive, but inclusive, really opening our doors to the rest of the community," Appel said.

Aside from MSU Hillel's Iron Chef Competition, the Jewish Student Union hosts annual events open to everyone, such as Sparty's Bar Mitzvah and Sparty's Hanukkah.

MSU Hillel has its focus on even broader community outreach programs, including three Alternative Spring Break options. Participants in the Hillel-sponsored spring breaks can choose to help out in Los Angeles elementary schools, provide aid in Israel, or take a trip to New Orleans to lend a hand in urban farms.

And, of course, there always are the free Shabbat dinners.

"(For me) the Hillel House started as a place I would go every once in a while for a free dinner on Friday nights, and then I started making friends within the organization. I really started becoming more active within it because it was fun," said Jonathan Dworin, a Jewish Student Union senior class representative.

It seems, then, that food and fun would be a perfect fit to bring people together under the roof of MSU Hillel.



DJ Conor Peleman keeps the beat with his hi-tech gadgetry. His music selections were well-recieved, as the dance floor remained full for the entire evening.

Freshman Farai Masimira impresses his peers with his dancing skills. Farai is from Zimbabwe and is studying advertising at MSU.

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content: jessica pedersen
photo: lauren gaboury
design: betsy eber

DANCING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND



International Students Association bridges cultural gaps through a formal dance

If someone asked senior Lex Ariff four years ago if he had ever been to a formal ball, he wouldn't have known what one was. Now, Ariff would say that not only had he been to a ball, but he had planned one from the ground up.

Ariff, an international student from Malaysia and the International Student Association (ISA) director of events, was in charge of putting together ISA's Winter Wonderland Valentine's Day Ball on Feb. 11

"Basically, I was responsible for everything," Ariff said. "Booking the space, picking the colors, the DJ, the food. Everything."

That's no small feat for somebody who didn't know what a formal dance even entailed before coming to MSU two years ago.

"You won't see any red or pink in there," Ariff said, referring to the ballroom of the East Lansing Marriott at University Place, where the dance was held. "It's all cool blues, ice sculptures and chill lighting."

Ariff said he was excited about the dance and ecstatic to be a major part of planning it.

"I even matched my shirt to the fruit punch," he said, pointing to his bright blue shirt.

Ariff said the dance was a great opportunity for international students to come and see what a formal dance was like, since many may not know.

"A lot of international students have never experienced a dance like this," Ariff said. "I didn't in Malaysia, so we use this as an example. We like to show everybody, 'Look, we wear really nice clothes and bring dates and dance together.' It's exciting to show them a really cool part of American culture."

Ariff said his favorite thing about the event is that it is a platform for international and domestic students to mix and mingle.

"It helps bridge the gap between the international and domestic students," Ariff said. "A lot of times, international students can't get that anywhere else."

Junior Michelle Cusick, ISA's ASMSU general assembly representative, said bridging the gap between international and domestic students is the overarching goal of ISA.

"We try to get more dialogue going between the two groups," she said. "A lot of times, international students don't get a lot of opportunities to mix with domestic students, and it's like there's this big chasm. We are trying to fix that."

Cusick also said ISA tried to highlight different cultural aspects at the dance.

"There will be salsa dancers, swing dancers and a jazz combination," she said. "It's little pieces of different cultural experiences we can show off. And they should help get the dancing started, too."

Seniors Mallory Deacon and Eve Avdoulos both enjoyed the atmosphere of the dance.

"It's awesome to see international students and domestic students coming together for an event like this," Deacon said.

Avdoulos said she came to the ball because it was something different to do on campus.

"Stuff like this doesn't happen every day," she said. "And the goal to bring international and domestic students together can't be any better."

At the end of the night, Ariff said he couldn't have been happier with the turnout. Even though any snowfall in Ariff's original country of Malaysia would probably melt in a few seconds, Ariff can keep his memory of this winter wonderland and his first ball forever.





Students enjoy the music and atmosphere in the Marriott Hotel Ballroom. The lavishly decorated venue set just the right mood for the "Winter Wonderland" theme.

Senior Andrew Gardner and freshman Alex Hondzinski spice it up with the Salsa Club's performance at the ball. There were several dance performances at the event, exhibiting the many diverse talents of students at MSU.

POWWOW OF LOVE

Dance and music creates a sense of community at NAISO's 29th annual Powwow of Love

As the steady sound of drums filled the air, voices rose in a shrill song that followed the dancers as they ducked and dodged invisible arrows. Feathers and bright patterns adorned the traditional regalia of the dancers, complete with beaded breastplates and feathered bustles, all shifting and twisting to the throbbing beat. The bells of the women's dresses shimmered and jingled loudly, adding to the noise of song, forming a dense cloud of music that filled the Jenison Field House during the Powwow of Love on Feb. 18.

For someone who never has been to a powwow, it may be hard to imagine fitting in. Yet this powwow was dedicated to connecting with those who might see themselves as outsiders. MSU's North American Indigenous Student Organization (NAISO) celebrated its 29th annual Powwow of Love to showcase and honor Native American heritage and culture.

Freshman Zach Riley attended the event as a field trip for his music class. Riley, who has some Native American heritage, said the powwow as a way to connect to some of his heritage from which he felt distanced.

"First, we had heard samples of powwow music, and it terrified me," Riley said laughing.

But that fear soon melted away after a few minutes of experiencing the music firsthand.

"Listening to it over and over, there's something really mesmerizing about it," Riley said. "People start hitting the drums, dancing, and it becomes this infectious beat, so we came down and started dancing with them."

Riley and his classmates weren't the only inexperienced dancers on the floor. The general public was encouraged to participate in the intertribal dances, stepping to the beat around the dance circle.

Traditionally, powwows are intended to bring Native Americans and those with other backgrounds together to provide a sense of community and history.

Though the intertribal dances provide a sense of welcoming to all people, not all dances are open. Some, such as the Men's Fancy Dance are limited to those with experience and knowledge of the dance, in which the dancers are judged and cash prizes are awarded to the winners.

"(The Fancy Dance) is more energetic, more endurance-based than some others," Nigel Schuyler said as he carefully inspected his featherwork. Though Schuyler is a man of few words, it is through his dance he is able to express his own heritage. "My sister and my dad used to dance, so as soon as I was born, they put me out there."

Stephanie Chau, the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Diversity and dancer in the Women's Jingle Dress expressed a similar sentiment to Schuyler's.

"I've been dancing ever since I was little, so it's really all I've known," Chau said. "Even before I could walk I had an outfit."

Chau's jingle dress clinked and chimed as she walked, but as the 10 women began dancing together to the drums in the Jingle Dress Dance, the noise was deafening.

"This whole dress is a prayer dress, so there are 365 cones on here, and for each one we say a prayer," Chau said. "When we're dancing, all of those prayers go up to heaven at the same time."

Unlike those who have been dancing all their lives, 20-year-old Nicholas Morsaw only has been dancing for seven years. Morsaw's grandfather was a full-blooded Native American, but his family never talked much about their heritage until his grandfather passed away. Now, Morsaw dances in the Men's Traditional Dance, wearing what used to be his father's regalia.

"I want to contribute my culture," Morsaw said.

Morsaw, like many of the other dancers, sees the powwow as his chance to connect his personal history to others through dance. The beat of the drum is the same beat that has been heard through generation after generation, and the dance circle is one that is never-ending.





American Indians dance in a circle to celebrate community spirit in the Jenison Field House for the Powwow of Love. The dance circle represented the circle of life, the moon, sun and earth.





A little girl watches her friends and family in the dance circle during the Women's Traditional Dance. Her beaded accessory was vividly colored to match her shawl.

Ronnie Preston of Milwaukee dances in his men's grass outfit during the 29th annual Powwow of Love. The long fringe represented the grass and the dance movements are distinctive for their sliding, shaking and spinning motion.

THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Asian American student organizations combine cultural traditions with modern hip-hop to celebrate the Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is a time to pause from the hustle of everyday life and reminisce about the past while setting goals for the future. With a juxtaposition of cultural and modern dances, three charismatic emcees and an audience in the hundreds, the Asian Pacific American Student Organization (APASO) bi-annual Lunar New Year celebration was a successful homage to Asian-American culture.

In Asian tradition, the Lunar New Year is the most important holiday of the year, said junior Joe Jiang, APASO member and head coordinator of the Lunar New Year celebration.

"For me, (the Lunar New Year) is a great time of happiness and celebration," said Jiang. "I can reflect back on the year before and set goals for the upcoming year."

In Chinese zodiac, 2012 marks the year of the dragon. Jiang said the dragon represents luck, ambition, kindness and confidence. APASO incorporated this theme by performing a skit involving the legend of the dragon, as well as having a traditional Chinese dragon costume, often used in parades, sneak onstage throughout the show at the Auditorium.

The Feb. 19 celebration was an effort of several Asian-American organizations each celebrating the New Year in their own way. The Filipino American Student Society performed an ode to cultural hula dancing complete with choreographed movements to quaking drumbeats and shirtless men in coconut brassieres. Members from the Chinese Student Coalition channeled their inner ninja when performing a masked routine with waving swords and swift combat.

Although much of the Lunar New Year performances were focused on traditional culture, the incorporation of modern hip-hop in routines also was prevalent.

Sophomore June Tang enjoyed the combination of cultural and modern dance and believes it enhances the celebration's relevance to an audience with differing ethnicities.

"I think it's really nice because they're paying tribute to the past and its culture," Tang said. "They're also trying to bring it up to modern times. A lot of times when you introduce people to something completely different they'll be really hesitant. If you blend something that they're familiar with already they'll be more open and more accepting to it."

Popular hip-hop and rhythm and blues music, including Lil Wayne, Rihanna and Ne-Yo, were used and remixed in routines. The dancers often switched between four or five songs within one dance.

Tang was pleased with the variety of music used.

"The remixes keep it interesting," she said. "If you have little kids or people who aren't familiar with [hip-hop dancing] they could tune out quickly, but the quickness kept everyone entertained."

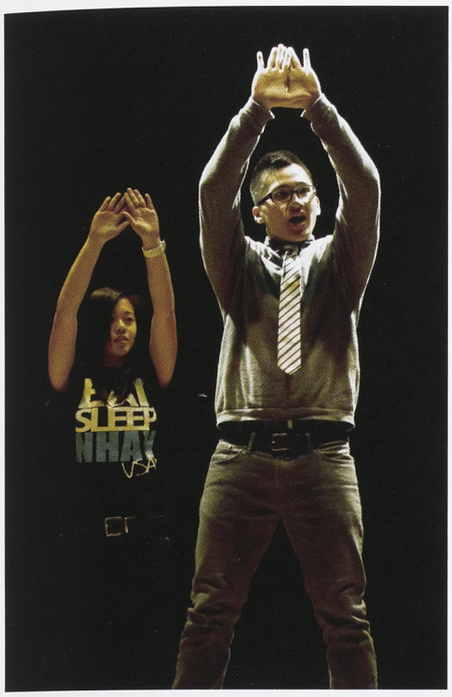
Sophomore Jessica Hoang performed with the Vietnamese Student Association in the celebration and said the group made it a point to include both aspects of their ancestry.

"The Lunar New Year brings together a bunch of different cultures in one," Hoang said. "We want to mix our American side with our Asian heritage. We didn't want to lose either side of us."

Ideals upon which the Lunar New Year celebration are based, including the celebration of family, friends, and future, can apply to all ethnicities—not only those of Asian descent. The Lunar New Year gives a chance to remember what truly matters while focusing on making a difference in the upcoming year.



The Chinese Student Coalition dance team performs a hybrid traditional-modern dance. The variety show was put on by multiple Asian student organizations to celebrate the Lunar New Year.



Freshman Anna Nham and sophomore Steven Le perform an energetic modern dance routine. Students came out to the Auditorium to celebrate the Lunar New Year, 2012 being the Year of the Dragon.

Sophomore Brian Park and seniors Su Ah Yeo and Brian Kim perform a traditional Asian cultural dance, complete with authentic outfits. The APASO puts on this biennial event to help bring awareness to the Lunar New Year on MSU's diverse campus.





Sophomore members of the Vietnamese Student Organization Jessica Hoang and Lyly Chen perform a traditional Asian cultural dance near the end of the night. The performances celebrated the Lunar New Year.



Junior Young Yi shows off his Dougie moves while Junior Robert Phan and and freshman Andrew Jang look on. Parts of the show, such as this dance competition, called for audience participation.



Partiers dance to popular Arabic music. The Club Rush dance floor was packed throughout the entire event.

The smell of hummus and shish kebab lingered in the air of Club Rush as freshly dressed people of all ages mingled around candle-lit tables overlooking the vacant dance floor. A man with a black suit and sequined tie resembling a disco ball climbs the stage. A guitarist, keyboardist and multiple drummers begin warming up as the conversations fade and turn toward the stage. The diverse dinner guests applauded and the burning wicks flicker as the crowd floods the dance floor.

The celebration had begun.

The Arab Cultural Society (ACS) hosts an annual hafla to bring everyone together to enact the Arabic word's meaning: party. The event not only celebrates Arabic culture, but also invites everyone to indulge themselves in traditional food, memorable conversation and captivating entertainment.

One of the performances on Feb. 23 was Jad Soudah and his band, which performed Arabic music all night, engaging the audience in many dances such as an Arabic folk line dance called a dabke. People weaved between the stylish mass, making a literal human connection.

One link in the chain of the dabke was freshman Julia Johnson.

"Before the dancing, I felt isolated, but once we all went to the dance floor, every culture seemed to mold together," Johnson said catching her breath. "I feel that dancing is a universal connection between everyone...a language everyone can understand."

The linguistic groove transcends barriers and connects people from all around the world. For freshman Mohamed Alqahtani, it exceeds the distance of an ocean.

Originally from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, Alqahtani enrolled at MSU in fall 2011. Alqahtani joined the ACS in hope to find a taste of home in MSU's vast banquet of culture.

"I felt homesick, but the (Arab Cultural Society) made it easy to make friends and make MSU smaller," Alqahtani said. "Everyone is really friendly."

Alqahtani dove into the sea of clapping hands as Jad Soudah announced, "Put your hands up in the air!" Drummers created waves of emotion, pounding against the skin of their instruments in the midst of the rhythmic current.

The song ended and the tide of dancers calmed down, just as Soudah split the dance floor to make room for Ameera the belly dancer. The flood of people erupted in applause, as Ameera excited and hypnotized the viewers, like a goddess of the sea.

Among the entranced was Cori Tymoszek, a freshman studying Arabic.

"It's a whole new thing to be in the actual cultural environment, rather than just learning it in the classroom," said Tymoszek observing Ameera gracefully glide from a distance. "In Arabic culture, hospitality and friendliness is heavily stressed, and people will basically bend over backwards in order to make you comfortable."

This welcoming nature epitomizes the purpose of the evening—to strengthen the link between the Arabic community and others by breaking down cultural barriers and solidifying the bond of everyone who poured into Club Rush.



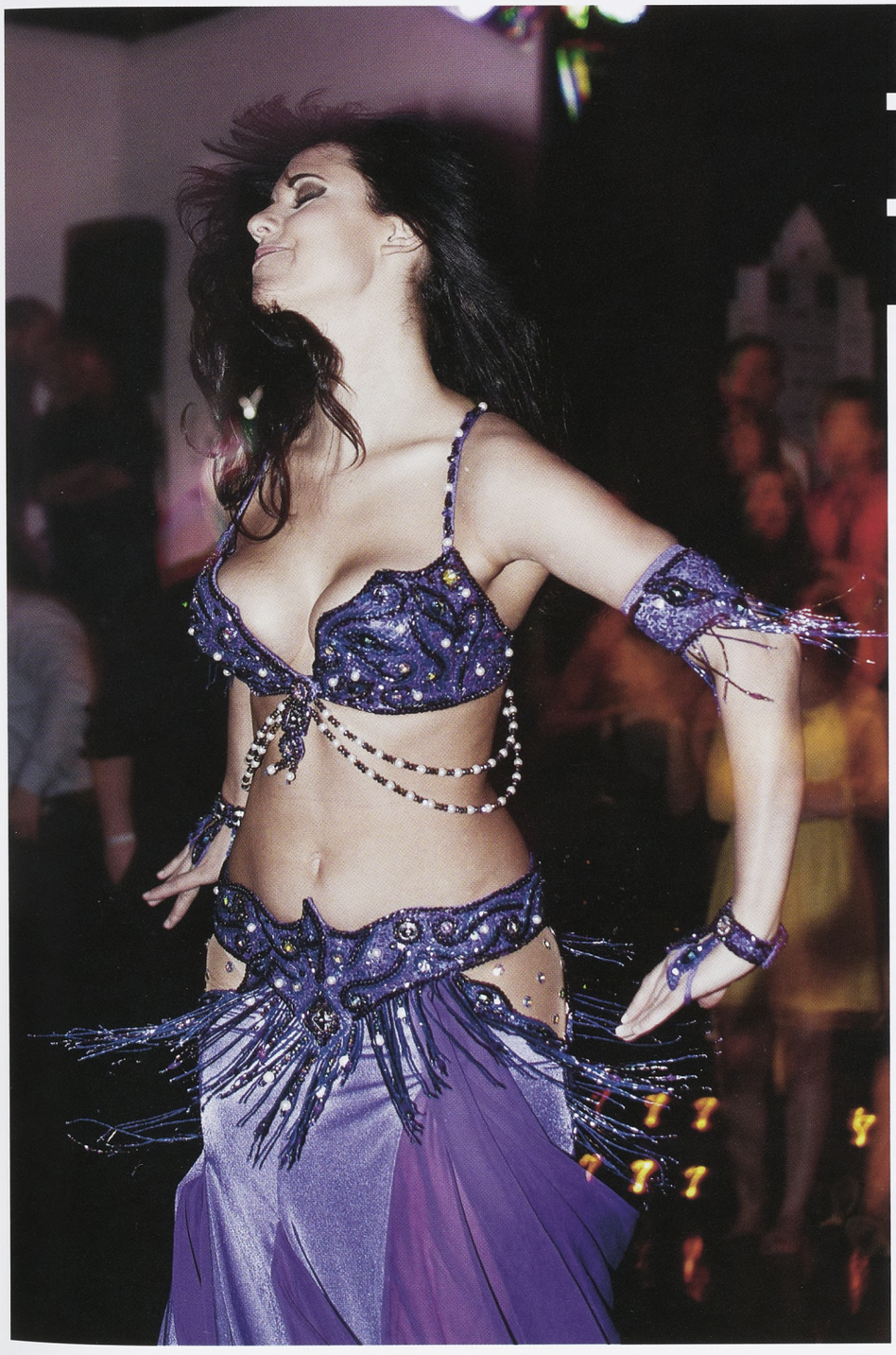
Hafla guests make their dinner selections from the buffet line. The hafla featured authentic Middle Eastern cuisine.



Sophomores Joelle Frangie and Emma Irwin dance as a drummer keeps beat with the band. Lead singer Jad Soudah and his band were hired to perform at this year's ACS Hafla.

DANCING FOR DIVERSITY

The Arab Cultural Society presents the 7th annual Hafla

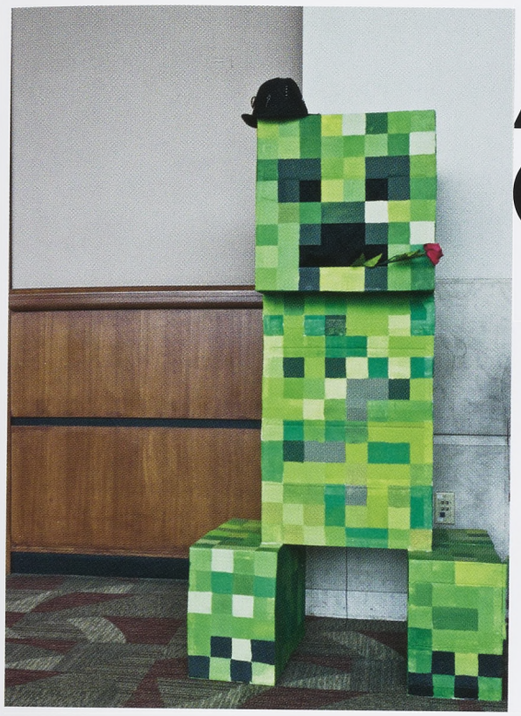


Professional belly dancer Ameera Paone spins gracefully during her performance. Paone has been a staple of the ACS Hafla for the last four years.

SHUTTER CON
MARCH 16TH - 18TH, 2012 • LANSING CENTER
Artwork by
Dwayne Barnett
THREE DAY
BADGE

A Shuto Con participant displays their three day badge that gives them access to the anime convention. A pass that gave complete access to Shuto Con cost anywhere from $30-$50.

This green box-man stood guard at the entrance to a panel discussion. Located in the Radisson across from the Lansing Center, three separate gaming rooms allowed convention goers to play their favorite games types; music-based, fighting-based and table-top games.



ANIME OUTBREAK

The largest growing fandom in America



Anime characters are set on a display for sale in the Artist Alley of the Shuto Con Anime Convention. Amongst a slew of anime actors who attend the convention, musicians such as The X-Hunters and Arc Impulse attend to perform for attendees.

Most American fans were exposed to anime during their childhood. They, like other '90s children, scampered off the school bus each day just in time to catch the latest episode of Hamtaro. They traded Pokémon and Yu-Gi-Oh! cards with classmates and watched Cartoon Network marathons to find out what would happen next time on Dragon Ball Z.

For some, these memories are pure nostalgia. For others, they were the gateway into a vibrant new world.

Two decades after the '90s anime boom, more than 2,400 fans of the Japanese comics and animation gathered in the Lansing Convention Center for the 2nd annual convention, Shuto Con.

At the registration desk, Shuto Con staff hustled to replace entrance badges; attendance doubled since last year's convention. Meanwhile, guests dressed as their favorite characters, or cosplayers, waited hungrily to attend discussion forums, participate in contests and tournaments, shop for anime and manga memorabilia, and meet voice actors, artists, and directors of series.

Senior Michael Prainito, convention staffer and Animosity (MSU's anime club) treasurer, described the event as "seeing the most colorful, creative costumes you would never see anywhere else. The people wearing the costumes are animated characters themselves, so it's literally like you've stepped into another world."

This world supplies the perfect atmosphere for otaku, a Japanese term referring to fans of manga, anime or video games, to express their enthusiasm.

"I like panels because it's more of an organized geek out session," said sophomore Jeremiah Gunn, Animosity president.

For an otaku like Gunn, the panels are a stimulating source of information about their favorite anime, but also allow participants to socialize.

"I really like the atmosphere at cons—everyone is automatically friends with everyone else, even if they haven't gotten around to speaking to each other yet." said senior Melissa Asher, who has attended anime conventions since her freshman year at MSU.

Between games and handmade cosplays, Asher met many memorable characters. She spent months stitching together a flowing purple costume with handmade skull buttons and a green wig for her cosplay, Amaimon from action anime Blue Exorcist, Her dedication was repaid by numerous fans at the con asking for pictures of her cosplay.

"Sometimes people are really creative," said junior Jennifer Sweet, admiring the cosplayers passing by. "You may like an anime that isn't really popular, but then you see someone at the convention cosplaying as them. It's a great conversation starter."

The mutual enthusiasm of otaku forms the beginning of lasting friendships, but there are many other delightful first discoveries for anime fans, such as the diverse layers and genres available.

"I think the main difference between anime and American cartoons is the variety of genres that it covers. In America, cartoons are generally perceived as silly or childish," Asher said citing that only comedy genres of American cartoons, such as the Simpsons, are popular with adults.

"Although it is animated, it does not mean that it is intended only for children," junior Jenny Manning said. "In fact, there are many anime that are aimed at people in their 20s and 30s."

Among these genres are action, science fiction, adventure, romance, drama, comedy and more.

"There is a lot of anime that is really dark and deals with violence, murder, death and that sort of thing," Sweet explained. "There are definitely some themes in certain anime that kids would not understand or probably shouldn't be exposed to."

Because anime is not limited to marketing at children, it tends to explore diverse themes many adults can appreciate, such as dealing with revenge, discovering the meaning of friendship or challenging corrupt, power-hungry organizations.

"You rarely see a show from America that has the same kind of story and feeling that anime gives you," Sweet said reflecting on what originally attracted her to anime. "It has a completely different texture."

This unique storytelling hasn't gone unnoticed. MSU Japanese language professor Nao Nakano said more than one-third of her first year students alone are anime or manga fans.

continued on pg 187





A barrage of brightly colored wigs sit waiting for new owners. There are no didgeridoos over 12 feet long allowed at Shuto Con, due to an incident that occurred during the 2011 convention.



A participant dressed as 'Luigi' acts his part amidst a group of fellow Mario characters, including Bowser and Mario. Many popular video game characters were found roleplaying through the Lansing Center during Shuto Con.



A group of individuals admires some manga illustrations for the sale in the Artist's Alley. Shuto Con also offered a battle arena where participants can fight for the Grand Champion Cup based around the game Kingdom Hearts.



Prepared to battle the Covenant, an attendee shows off his homemade Spartan outfit based off of the popular video game, Halo. People from multiple age demographics attended the Shuto Con Anime Convention, which was located at the Lansing Center.

Miniature characters sit for sale at a Shuto Con display table. The convention celebrated all anime and manga characters and culture.



"Some people say they specifically want to understand manga and anime," Nakano said.

The MSU anime club, Animosity, boasts an average of 50 attendees on its weekly Wednesday night meetings in Wells Hall. Animosity planned events with other anime clubs spanning across the country's college campuses, such as the Univeristy of Michigan, Tennessee and Ohio State University.

This college-age love of anime is disintegrating the American conception that cartoons are for comedy and children. Signs that anime is becoming mainstream are hard to ignore. Massive companies such as Disney have partnered with the renowned Hayo Miyazaki's Studio Ghibli and Square Enix to create timeless classics. The clothing store Hot Topic also boasts an impressive selection of anime swag.

The skyrocketing popularity of anime also is due to online accessibility. Netflix, Hulu, and other video streaming websites have a huge selection available for the curious viewer and hardcore fan.

"I actually feel bad for people who haven't watched it," Gunn said. "On the surface, it's like a cartoon, but it's a lot more than that."

Potentially the most impressive aspect of anime is the way it resonates with viewers.

"The core values are what really stick with you when you watch," Prainito said describing themes of friendship and humanity that anime doesn't shy away from.

"They can explore deep, philosophical questions," added senior Harold Karrar, another club officer.

Prainito explained that because anime is not afraid to be over-the-top or ridiculous, it masterfully touches on issues in a way no other storytelling median can. Because of this, many series have made a very personal impact on the lives of otaku.

"You are what you eat," said Gunn, whose belief in justice and desire to help was influenced by the shows he watched as a child where characters saved the world.

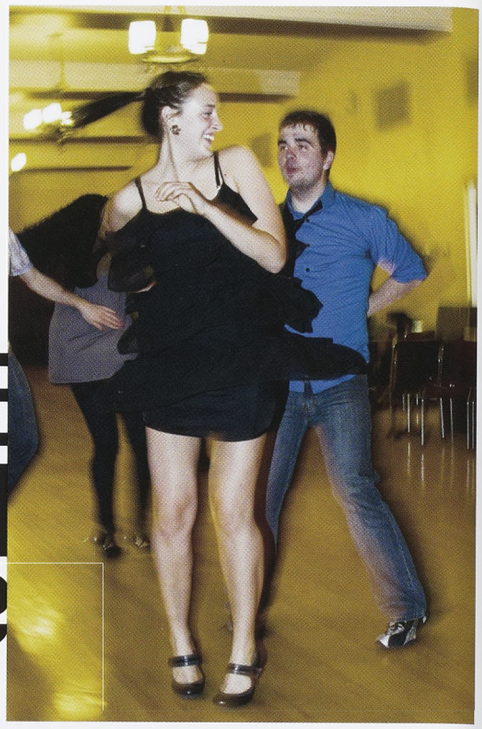
"I've consumed a lot of the strange ones out there," laughed Karrar, a psychology student who has an affinity for science fiction.

"I'm not obsessed by any means, but I really do enjoy the culture. It's made me more interested in Japan," Sweet said. "I feel like anime has given me a wider perspective on how life is like outside of America."

For students like Manning and Asher, anime introduced them to their major, Japanese.

"I have a passion for languages and linguistics in general and Japanese in particular, and I might never have discovered it if anime hadn't exposed me to the language just enough to get me to crave more," said Asher, who now uses anime and manga every day to practice Japanese. "I'm seriously considering becoming a professional translator, so someday I may be able to say that anime indirectly decided my career path."

Anime has swept through campus and the country with increasing interest and enthusiasm. With the growing captivated audience and cultural influence, the anime outbreak will only spread. And the cure? "Try it!" insists Gunn. "There is an anime for everyone."



Senior group members Zac Tomczyk and Liz Hoard have some fun during the waning moments of the open dance period. More experienced Salsa Club members held conversations while they danced.

WANT SOME CHIPS WITH THAT SALSA?

MSU students show off their salsa dancing style

Imagine Williams Hall's main ballroom full of salsa dancers. Everyone, young and old, student and faculty, is grooving to swift Latin sounds, embracing the rhythms of each other's unique beat. This image is reality every Wednesday evening when the MSU Salsa Club meets for practice.

The club began six years ago as a way to "bring salsa dancing to anyone who wants to learn," said club president and senior Andrew Gardner. Since then, the club has grown to more than 70 members.

The club's main function are its weekly meetings, but it also performs at campus events and for resident halls, sororities and fraternities. The club members are especially excited for the Latin Xplosion festival in April because selected members will be chosen to perform.

Every week, the room is split into two lessons, one amateur and one intermediate. After about two hours of instruction, the dancers collaborate for a free-for-all session.

"The first time I came here, I thought I was going to be shy," junior Yui Namiki said. "I warmed up to it very quickly. It's a positive atmosphere, and I'm very glad that my friends told me to come."

Similar to other styles of social dance, Gardner said salsa dancing compliments his outlook on life, as well as his personal confidence.

"When I came to MSU, I was the nerdy kid at parties," he said. "I couldn't dance, and I was like, 'this has to stop.' I went home for the summer, went to a dance studio and asked them to teach me how to dance. They showed me salsa and I've been doing it since."

Gardner's attitude toward salsa dancing is not uncommon in the group. The club's co-president, senior Jenny Kern, credits salsa dancing for improving her ability to listen and express herself. It also gives the dancers a chance to meet new people and feel good about learning something new, she said.

Several of the participants have never danced salsa, or danced at all, but were able to learn the steps quickly.

"I had never been a dancer; it seemed like the easiest dance to start with because it's very loose," Kern said. "I like the looseness and sexiness of it, yet it can be very ballroom (styled). It's very versatile."

The club follows basic steps of salsa dancing. The steps follow a three-beat weight change on a four-beat measure. On the beat that one does not step, one might add a tap, kick or other one-stepped movement, giving an opportunity for the dancer to interpret the movement as they see fit.

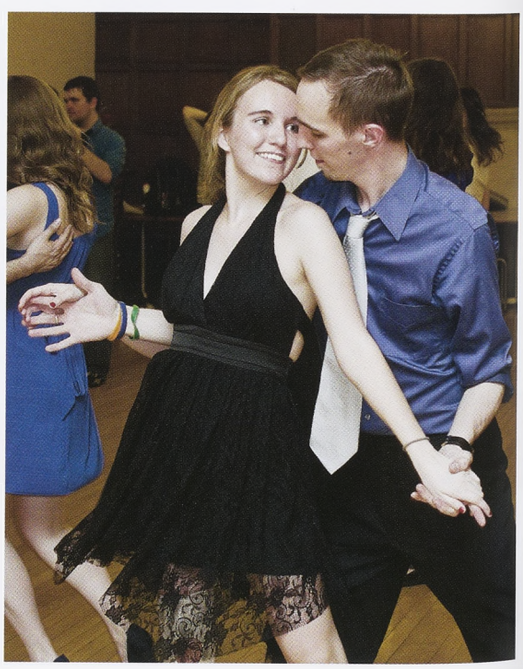
"It's so amazing to see how different people dance," Kern said. "We have people who are quiet and not that verbal express themselves loudly on the dance floor."

Senior Mateus Braga seemed shy and reserved at first but proved to be boisterous on the dance floor. With seemingly expert steps and a gigantic smile, he could not be stopped. Hailing from Brazil, Braga salsa danced while growing up. He said the steps were harder to count in English, as opposed to Spanish, but the movements are universal. He was elated to first find out there was a group of salsa dancers at MSU.

"When I come here, I feel like I don't need the weekends," he said. "It is so much fun. Everyone should go."



Newcomers and veteran group members listen to senior Andrew Gardner as he lays out the plans for the evening. Gardner began salsa dancing lessons in 2009 and has since become the group president.



Senior Salsa Club president Andrew Gardner and freshman Alex Hondzinki share a glance during open dance. Members stress that Salsa Club is not only a place to dance, but socialize as well.

SALSA CLUB

content: holly johnson
photo: evan farinosi
design: brendan prost



Senior Salsa Club president Andrew Gardner dips sophomore Patricia Malang during the open dance portion of the evening. Each Wednesday meeting includes both teaching sessions and open dance opportunities.

Luis Donado leads Jenny Piwonski in an elegant spin on the dance floor. The Salsa Club meets once a week in Williams Hall.





Eastern Michigan University alumnus Justin Dickerson leads senior Alison Inwood in an elegant spin on the dance floor. The Salsa Club meets once a week in Williams hall.

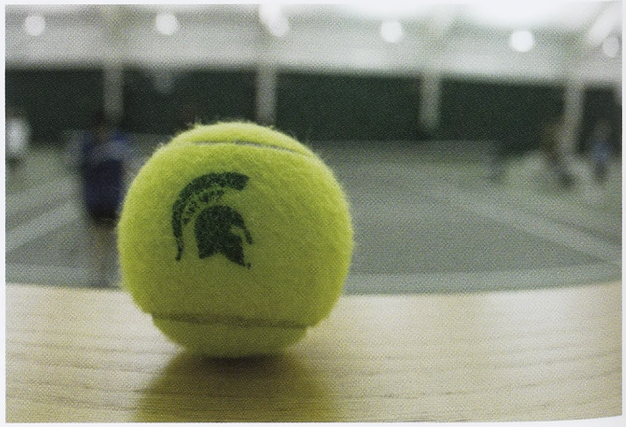


Sophomore Audrey DeYoung does drills with the team during their usual weekday practices. Typically, the tennis club practices involved drills that were followed by match play.

Junior Tina VanDoornik plays a doubles match in preparation for Nationals. As club president, she had high hopes for the team as they traveled to North Carolina for Nationals.



This year's Club Tennis team advanced to Nationals for the first time in team history. The team qualified by taking second place out of 32 teams in the midwest sectionals tournament in Madison, Wisc. back in February.





Freshman Nick Pantely works on his serve during practice with the MSU club tennis team. Each practice gave team members a chance to work on their fundamentals and prepare for upcoming matches.

MOVING ON UP

MSU Club Tennis goes to Nationals for the first time in history

With a university as historic as MSU, the opportunities to lay claim on being the "first" to an accomplishment are few and far between. But that didn't stop the MSU Club Tennis team from racking up a few firsts in its 2011-2012 season.

Not only has this year's team achieved the highest ranking in MSU Club Tennis history by finishing second overall in their regional tournament, they are the first ever MSU club tennis to go to the national tournament.

The co-ed team has had a lot to celebrate this season, but these tennis gurus are keeping their eyes on the prize—doing well at nationals, which will be held in Cary, North Carolina in April.

Senior Christina VanDoornik, who is the women's president of the club, said although it might be challenging to keep the team focused until April, the team has a good chance at achieving success at nationals.

"We placed second at our regional tournament, and we have a fairly strong conference," VanDoornik said, noting they only lost to the University of Wisconsin, at their regional tournament.

Senior Renat Shaykhelislamov said the regional tournament was one of the most exciting moments of the season.

"Everybody was standing around and watching the last mixed match and cheering on their team," Shaykhelislamov said. "There was a lot of tension. There's nothing like winning when you have a whole group of people united over that last game."

Shaykhelislamov said one reason he thinks the team works so well together is because of the general cohesiveness of the players.

"Not only are we friendly with each other, but we all play pretty well together," he said.

Junior Ryan Bell, the men's president, agreed the continuity between players added a layer of depth to the team.

"We don't have to worry about who will be playing with who, because everybody just plays really well together," Bell said. "Not every team is like that."

The club tennis team practices twice a week at the Wilson tennis courts in nice weather and is comprised of about 50 members—half women and half men. With a team that large, diversity between players is to be expected. The team doesn't see this as a disadvantage, however.

"We have about two-thirds new people, and one-third returners," VanDoornik said. "Obviously, those new people have brought a lot to the table for us this year. They are an impressive bunch."

With that many returning players, the graduating seniors can rest easy knowing the club tennis team will be in good shape after they have gone. Shaykhelislamov said despite his sadness about leaving the team, he knows they will do well in future competitions.

"I'm going to miss it," Shaykhelislamov said. "But they have some strong players, and they will be just fine."

Bell and VanDoornik, both returners to the team, are not only co-presidents, but also enjoy playing mixed matches together.

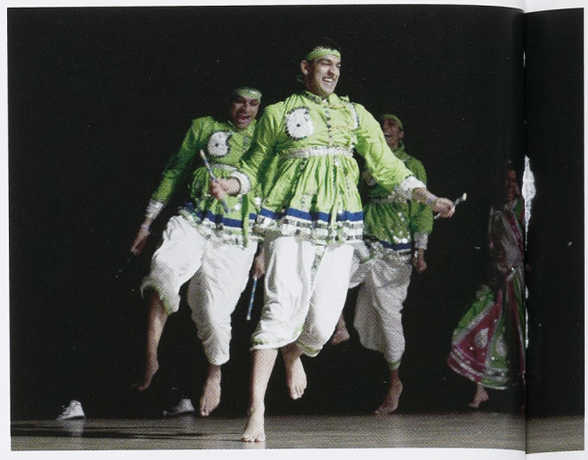
Matches where a man and a woman play doubles together, or "mixed matches," are played last and are the most important when it comes to scoring, VanDoornik said.

"One of my favorite memories was when we were playing Central [Michigan University]," Bell said. "We were really far behind, but then we won 18 games in a row for the win. It was a great moment."

Records don't get broken without a lot of hard work, dedication and perseverance. MSU Club Tennis embodies all of these characteristics with an invitation to their national tournament to show for it.



Club president Tina VanDoornik sets up teams for match play. The club's normal practice routine involved drills followed by an hour of match play.

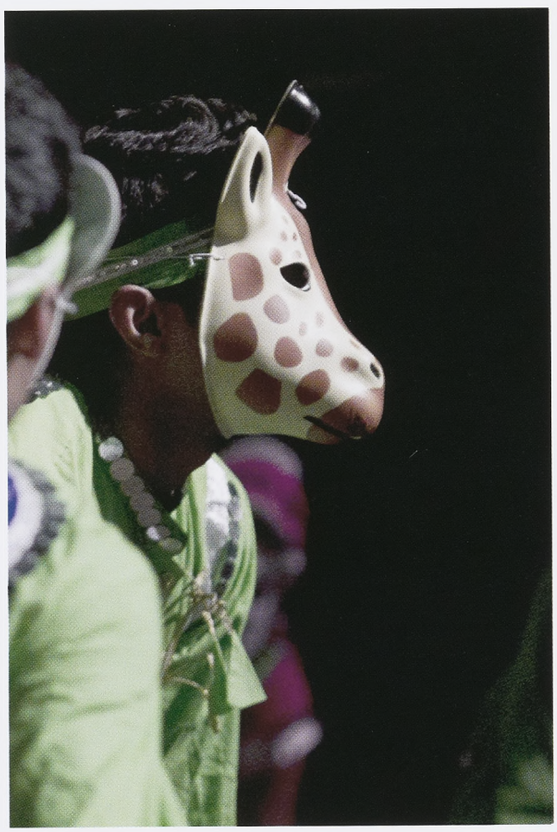


Raghuveer Alla, Vishal Shah, and Rahul Mehta twirl their dandhia sticks to preserve their heritage and display their passion for the Raasparty dance. Satrang took place March 16.

Sirisha Yellayi, Raghuveer Alla, and Siman Mand perform the South Indian dancec Panjaa. "The main reason I joined CIUS is because I love our Indian culture and love that there are so many students here that want to embrace our culture and present it to other people they can learn about it and appreciate it as well," Sirisha says.



Raasparty dance group came out on stage behind various animal masks hiding their identity. Further into the performance the dancers revealed themselves and continued on with a vibrant, upbeat dance.





Young guest performers took the audience on an adventure with an Indian tale of the hero Veera. The tale described Veera, a gentle, strong man who fought an epic battle.

content: merinda valley
photo: danielle turcotte
design: betsy eber, jessica halfyard





Freshman Anwesha Ray began the event singing "Jana Gana Mana," India' national anthem. "In high school, no one really knew I sang, so going onto a big stage like that was a big step. I told myself I'd keep my eyes closed and focus on the song instead of looking at the audience," says Anwesha.



IN STEP WITH TWO CULTURES

Indian students unearth their roots at Satrang

After a year of planning and practicing, members of MSU's Coalition of Indian Undergraduate Students culminated in Satrang 2012: Afsana. Translated from Urdu, these words mean "seven colors" and "short story," and they tell of the event's layered meanings.

Each performance of the March 16 cultural festival incorporated an element of storytelling. The music and choreography revolved around themes ranging from love and jealousy to female power.

At the opening of the show, India's national anthem "Jana Gana Mana" called all audience members in the Auditorium to their feet. Its juxtaposition with the singing of the "The Star-Spangled Banner" fittingly framed Satrang as a blend of cultures through a fashion show, the crooning of an a capella act, and a slew of dance performances.

Alaa Tayeb, president of the Saudi Student Organization and third-year Satrang attendee, thought the show was unifying.

"I like to learn about cultures, and I have friends who are performing tonight," he said. "This event does a really good job of bringing students together. You see both domestic and international students from many different places here."

Shlok Kharod, Coalition of Indian Undergraduate Students president, noted that although Satrang brings awareness to the university, there are not many students of other ethnicities involved in the organization.

"That is just something that comes from expanding and getting more members, and we hope that in the next few years participation will grow," Kharod said, smiling though his forehead was glazed with sweat that he earned onstage.

Regardless of their heritage, each Satrang entertainer donned a traditional Indian costume. It was unclear whether the clothes reflected the performers or vice versa. Both were bold, vibrant and sparkling. Jewels glistened from every angle, shining through folds of draping fabrics. Scarves, accessories and delicate materials wrapped performers, the outfits flushed with oranges, pinks and teals.

In their colorful duds, the dancers held the stage for most of the night. Bobbing their heads and singing along with the music, they revved up the crowd, yet moved gracefully. The soundtrack mixed American songs and Indian music, and for several dances, a live drummer played from a corner of the stage. Gypsy, South Indian and Bhangra were among the styles of dance represented. With fluid transitions between starkly different elements, the routines were modern and traditionally Indian at the same time.

"We are Indians but we grew up in America," said sophomore Sartaj Dhillon, who performed in the Bollywood act. "Both places are part of our heritage. Events like this let us share India with other students, and bring culture and diversity, and that's what MSU stands for."

The pop sounds of artist Ellie Goulding and traditional Indian beats aren't often mixed into the same playlist. When the two are rhythmical representations of who you are, however, it becomes easier to hear the consonance between them. Through events like Satrang, members of the Coalition of Indian Undergraduate Students have found a place for both genres in their music libraries and in their lives.



Over the course of the year, GH2HG collects and packages medical supplies and ships them to countries in need. With the help and dedication of various MSU students, GH2HG has grown since its start in 2010.

Junior and President of GH2HG Raeuf Roushanger and junior/Medical Equipment Coordinator Zach Golder move boxes from the basement of Fee Hall. Medical supplies weren't sent to a newly built hospital in Mexico.

content: jessica pederson
photo: nathan urban
design: brendan prost



Each box filled with medical supplies is marked with a GH2HG sticker before it's sent out. Generate Help 2 Heal Generations is a non-profit organization that started in 2010 and its mission is to collect and send medical supplies to third-world countries.

Members of GH2HG present their collected medical supplies to Out Reach Advisor, Dr. Reza Nassiri, M.D. PHD. This batch of medical supplies was sent to a hospital recently built in Mexico.



HELPING HANDS

GH2HG spreads a diverse message while supporting countries in need

Deep in the basement of Fee Hall, a storeroom is packed with boxes and bags of unopened medical supplies. Tables outside the room are piled high with packing boxes and tape, and a handful of students are hustling back and forth from the room to the tables, arms full of sterile equipment and inventory sheets.

This is the MSU-based nonprofit organization Generate Help 2 Heal Generations, or GH2HG, in action. The organization, started in 2010, collects and sorts medical supplies, and sends them to less fortunate countries.Junior Raeuf Roushangar is the president and founder of GH2HG.

The group meets once a week to organize the medical supplies, such as medicine, unopened needles, surgical tissues and containers that have been donated to them from clinics. Once a year, they send out the supplies to countries they decide on. This year, the supplies are going to Mexico and Ghana.

As GH2HG's medical equipment coordinator, junior Zachariah Golder is in charge of keeping inventory of all the supplies the organization sends out.

"The medical supplies they donate don't meet American standards," Golder said as he entered inventory numbers into his computer. "Either they got unsorted during surgery, or they are close to expiring, or whatever the reason. But they are still perfectly good and some other country would be perfectly happy to use them.",

Marco Botros, the club's vice president, said although there were close to $40,000 worth of medical supplies going out in this year's shipment, all of it came from only a few small medical clinics.

Next year, however, the pace will more than double. . GH2HG signed a contract with Sparrow Hospital to be the exclusive MSU-related nonprofit to receive its medical supplies.

"That's going to pick up the pace," said junior Raeuf Roushangar, president and founder of GH2HG. "We will probably be able to do a $100,000 shipment per semester with Sparrow's help next semester."

Roushangar said the group's focus on diversity and global outreach is what led them to such success, noting that almost every person in the club is from a different country and each e-board member a different religion.

"But diversity is unity," Roushangar said. "When we sit down together to make decisions, we forget our differences and share the positives."

Despite their differences in religion and culture, the students work well together for a common cause.

"Religion is supposed to be between you and your God or gods," Roushangar said. "Nobody else should judge who you are. GH2HG has an interfaith and diverse message."

Botros, who helped Roushangar found the organization, agreed that GH2HG was a positive way to share diversity.

"Campus shouldn't be an isolated place," Botros said. "We are studying here, and we are leading a privileged life, but there are those of us in the world who are not."

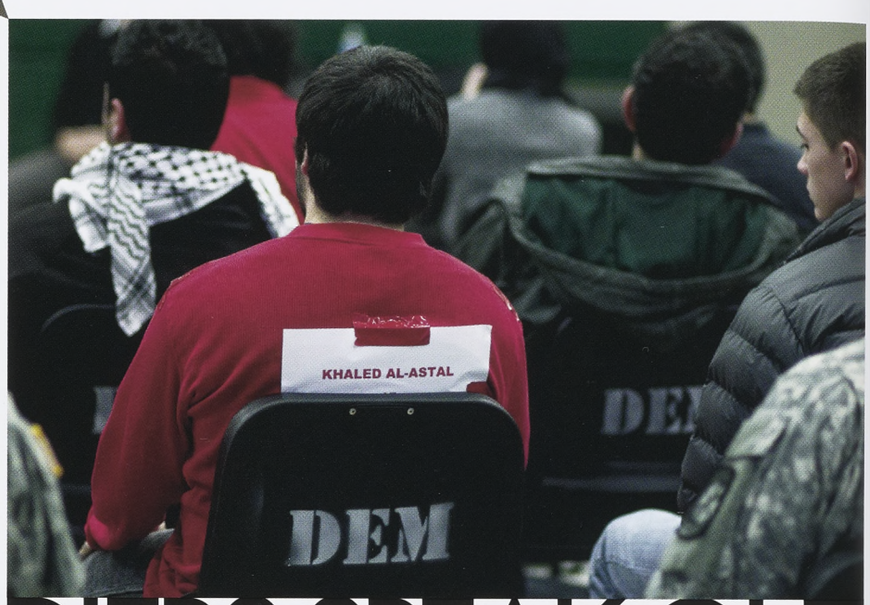
Senior Ankit Desai joined the organization this semester and said it has been an encouraging influence on his life.

"You can meet people with different interests that all have the common goal of bettering the world around them," Desai said.

Although there is still is much more work to be done, the organization is ready to put forth even more time and effort to make sure theirits message is delivered.

Roushangar hopes GH2HG's message of changing the world through acceptance and diversity is one that catches on.

"Hopefully, people will begin to realize that this is the way things need to be done," Roushangar said. "We can start to build bridges, instead of just breaking things."



Student group Hasbara unexpectedly put on a demonstration that shocked others in the audience. During the silence, students stood up and took off their coats to reveal a red shirt underneath—the red shirt represented blood and the piece of paper on each back were names of children that were lost in the Gaza strip during the conflict.

SOLDIERS SPEAK OUT

An interruption by the SAFE organization turns the speech into a discussion

We need about 60 more chairs. Shuffle, shuffle. The door opens, closes. Many pairs of boots tap the floor. Cadets, grab a chair and sit down. The hall readies for the presentation.

This was the scene in Demonstration Hall on Feb. 20, in the moments before Jossi and Itzik (who, for safety reasons, revealed only their first names) told the audience of their experiences while serving in the Israeli Defense Force, or IDF. The talk was a part of "Israeli Soldiers Stories," a program sponsored by the Israeli organization StandWithUs, whose aim is to inform the public about Israel and correct misconceptions about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

MSU became one of many stops on the soldiers' tour of college campuses, as Emerson Fellow for StandWithUs, and political theory and constitutional democracy senior Raffi Appel invited the soldiers to address the university's ROTC.

After brief introductions, Jossi, with his bold neon green watch and similarly colored Converse sneakers took the floor. Within minutes, he made the audience aware of his sexual orientation. His monologue revolved around his experience as a gay man in the IDF and his fellow soldiers' all-encompassing acceptance of him. Jossi jokingly said that while the U.S. military just recently repealed their "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the IDF has always exercised a rule of "don't ask, don't care." Stationed in Hebron, a city in the southern West Bank, Jossi worked with the IDF's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories. To illustrate his unit's goal to balance citizen's needs with the protection of the country, Jossi told a story. He spoke about a severely disabled young boy, but midway through his story, 40 or more members of the audience stood.

Quietly, they rose and stripped off their jackets, exposing pieces of paper stuck to them with red tape. The group, a large part of the audience, collectively called Students Allied for Freedom and Equality, or SAFE, was protesting the loss of innocent lives in the Gaza Strip during Operation Cast Lead. The pieces of paper announced the names of children who had been killed; the red tape symbolized their blood shed. The taped mouths of the protestors represented the forced silence of Palestinians, both dead and alive.

Seemingly flustered, Jossi relinquished the stage to his partner. Itzik began his spiel announcing that the first connection he made with MSU was to the movie "American Pie." Eliciting laughs, the mood lightened some. At 18 years old, Itzik was deployed to the Gaza Strip as a member of a terror-fighting unit.

Speaking of Hamas, Itzik said, "The real obstacle to peace in our region is the minimal group that controls the site."

And then they walked out.

Jossi and Itzik called the protesters to turn around, to talk instead of walking away from the situation. But in the spirit of their silent protest, SAFE members continued to file out of the building. Upon their exit, Jossi said, "Talking to people is the way to solve anything."

Aseel Machi, communication junior and member of the SAFE organization said she heard an air of insincerity in Jossi's remark. "When we sat there for 10 minutes, they did not stop their presentation. They did not ask, 'why are you standing up, what's going on, can you please explain to us?' They did not ask us for dialogue until we got up to leave," she said.

Lieutenant Jeff McDonald, chairperson for the Department of Military Science at MSU said later in an email that he had anticipated "disagreeing members of the audience and potential disruption," but not this type of protest.

"I don't know what their intended message was at the time," he said.

However, McDonald did not feel the protest influenced perceptions of Jossi and Itzik for the remainder of their presentation.

Although the stated intention of the Israeli soldiers' speeches was to dispel anti-Israeli sentiments from the minds of MSU students and ROTC cadets, through their protest, students with the SAFE organization



On February 21st, the Israeli Soldiers Speak Out tour came to campus. "This was mainly set up for the cadets and to initiate discussion," says Lt. Col McDonald.



MSU ROTC cadets listen as Itzik and Jossi describe their experience with the Isael Defense Force. The presentation was met with a protest by the organization SAFE for children lost in war at the Gaza Strip.

Itzik shares the harsh truth of various war facts at the event at Demonstration Hall, Israeli Soldiers Speak Out. According to Itzik, every terrorist that has been killed, three innocent civilians have also been killed.



FOOD FUSION

Members of the MSU community unite over Malaysian dishes

Malaysia. The utterance of this word doesn't conjure up many images in the minds of most MSU students, according to members of the Malaysian Student Organization (MSO).

"Maybe they've heard of Malaysia a few times, but they don't know about the culture, they don't know about the people," MSO member Mia Sobhi said.

As publicity director, Sobhi worked for a month to advertise an event that would engage students' senses and hopefully implant the Southeast Asian country into their minds.

Malaysia is a land with a rich and diverse culture. Its population is a mix of three races—Malay, Chinese and Indian, and the dynamics between these groups is a point of pride among Malaysians.

" I think that if I promote Malaysian culture to Americans, they will know how peaceful it is. The different people of our country are living together in harmony," junior Nur Hidayah said.

This impeccable mix reflects many aspects of Malaysian culture, and even carries over into eating habits. The term "fusion food" is an accurate depiction of traditional Malaysian cuisine. In the various dishes that lined the tables at Malaysian Food Fest 2012, Malay, Chinese and Indian influences were all apparent.

On April 7, this event turned the Executive Room at the Hannah Community Center into a recreation of Malaysia on East Lansing grounds. Leading up to the doors, posters displayed and described the night's menu. MSO members greeted with smiles, eager to escort festivalgoers inside.

Across the length of the room, a runner of red silk lined the floor. Following its path, a couple played the part of the bride and groom in a traditional Malaysian wedding. Heavy drumbeats followed them down the aisle, and a martial arts performance entertained once they were seated. Though beautiful in its own right, the wedding procession was a humble introduction for the Malaysian feast that attendees began to devour moments later.

The line to load plates was perpetually long, spanning both sides of the room, and dying down only after the last grain of rice had been claimed. Even so, the plethora of exotic foods was undoubtedly worth the wait; many made second and third trips.

A curry-like beef rendang, green rice dessert called seri muka and nasi impit, a rice cake, were among the dishes served at the event. With hot milk tea, the meal could be washed down in full traditional fashion. Spicy paste served on cucumbers struck a chord with the eaters. The enticing red color and smooth texture invited a taste, but stung the spice-intolerant.

As the crowd dined, several MSO members stepped up to the microphone and added a musical layer of cultural ambience with their performances of traditional songs. There was laughter and conversation at each table as people got to know those next to whom they had been randomly seated.

Herb Whittier, a retired MSU professor from the departments of Family Practice and Anthropology, is familiar with Malaysian culture. Whittier's anthropological studies took him to more than 70 countries, Malaysia being one of the stops on this list.

"I consider myself a little bit Indonesian, and a little bit Malaysian. I come to events like this to keep up with the culture, chat in Malay," Whittier said. "Most Americans don't know about Malaysia, and so when a Malaysian hears that you know where their country is, or that you have been to it, they're really excited."

In the moments he was able to pull away from his bowl of noodles, Whittier told tales of his travels to the Chinese and Iranian students who shared a table with him. Each person spoke of their heritage and their careers in exchange. This blend of spices, cultures, and people that was brought on by the food made the festival a taste of Malaysia itself.



An array of colorful and diverse dishes were provided at the food festival. Guests were urged to ask questions about Malaysian food, dress, music, language and culture.



Arifin Atan, the husband of an MSU grad student, provided a soulful performance for onlookers at the food festival. There were several performances that night, many of them which involved music and dancing.



SO | MALAYSIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION

content: merinda valley
photo: lauren gaboury
design: brendan prost



Members of the Malaysian Student Organization serve food to the guests. All of the foods were made by members and they took pride in explaining what went into each dish.

Junior Amin Asyraf Tamizi plays guitar along with the band. The lyrics to the song were projected onto a screen and the audience was encouraged to participate in singing along with the performers.



A BASH OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

MSU Students for Fair Trade hosts 6th annual Fair Trade Bash

More than 1 billion people live below the international poverty line and lack access to clean water, health care, education and other basic social services, according to the United Nations Development Group Programme. Critics suggest conventional commerce minimizes the power of less industrialized countries and supplies power to large corporations and rich countries.

Many believe fair trade is the solution.

On April 10, a collection of enthusiastic individuals discussed the growing movement of fair trade at the 6th annual Fair Trade Bash.

The fair trade movement has been accelerating the last few years through various global and local programs, such as the MSU Students for Fair Trade, which organized the event in the International Center's Spartan Room,

The event featured Jeff Goldman, the executive director of the Fair Trade Resource Network, who spends his time teaching as well as leading service learning trips in countries such as Costa Rica, Australia, China and Bolivia. Goldman aims to provide resources to those interested in fair trade and organizes World Fair Trade Day.

MSU Students for Fair Trade co-president and sophomore Seneca McKinzie, helped organize the event.

"The goal is to raise awareness and bring the Lansing, East Lansing and other communities together for an educated and open conversation on matters of social justice," McKinzie said.

In a world where the world's richest 20 percent consume more than 75 percent of the world's resources according to the World Resources Institute, a critical transformation of the current conditions is necessary.

"Fair trade is in the adolescent stage. It is a prosperous idea that can improve over time. The challenge is to initiate that growth process," Goldman said.

The task is to initiate an alternative business model that can be a tool for advancing international development as well as dismantling the marginalization of disadvantaged producers and consumers, according to the Fair Trade Resource Network.

"It allows a long term relationship that looks at producers as partners, rather than commodities and a convenient material for production. It injects authenticity and commitment into the economic and business world," Goldman said.

For example, when you open a bag of fair trade coffee, you are provided with the information of where it is grown, how it was harvested and who produced it.

"That level of transparency brings such a high level of credibility for why fair trade is such a positive method," Goldman said.

That transparency is reflected within the local community as well. For example, the Spartan Global Development Fund raises funds locally and disperses them internationally to multiple social entrepreneurs.

Senior Dan Zaharia, president of the Spartan Global Development Fund, is planning to research the conditions in Nicaragua after he graduates in December to combat social justice and micro finance issues.

"Fair trade is a complementary cause because it enables smaller businesses to receive sufficient funds," Zaharia said. "The problem is banks only give funds to major corporations and rich countries."

Through initiating the awareness and educational consultation, the groups within the local communities and organizations have matured the identity of fair trade.

"A movement must begin on a micro level," Zaharia said.



Keynote speaker, Jeff Goldman, captures the attention of the audience by sharing his experiences with fair trade around the world. The event brought together students, as well as the general public, for opportunity to learn about fair trade.



Grad student Rose Gibbons is welcomed by seniors Erin Brookens and Alex Heitzer during the 6th annual Fair Trade Bash. The event was hosted by MSU Students for Fair Trade.



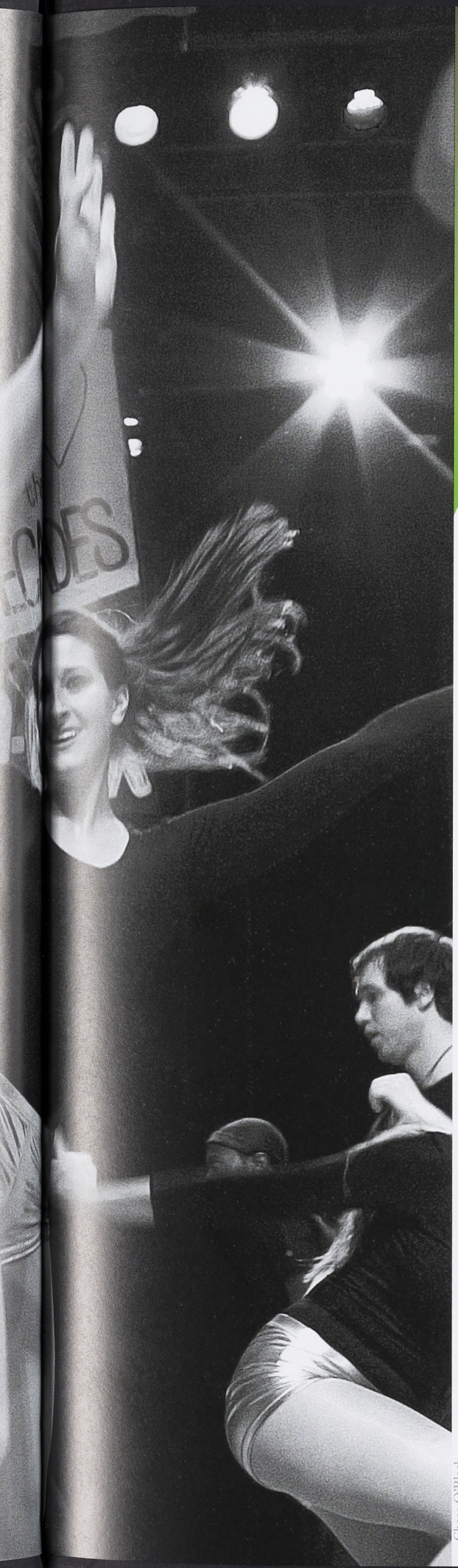
Executive director of the Fair Trade Resource Network, Jeff Goldman, speaks at the 6th annual Fair Trade Bash. Jeff has previously worked with groups such as Co-op America and Mango Tree, giving him a lot of experience to talk about in the field of fair trade.

A bowl made from recyclables was available for purchase at this year's Fair Trade Bash. Kirabo, a fair trade store in East Lansing, came out to support the event by selling fair trade merchandise.









Chase O'Black

GREEKS

With more than 50 fraternities and sororities in East Lansing, it seems as though there is a house for everyone. From fundraising to formals, and academics to athletics, the Greek system has its hands in nearly every aspect of living. Social sororities and fraternities offer a variety of opportunities to enrich the college living experience, while extending a hand to the surrounding community and establishing roots.

As a functioning organization since 1922, the Greek system prides itself in the preservation of tradition and culture. Local chapters of the sororities and fraternities offer a safe place for students to socialize and live with like-minded individuals who just may end up becoming friends for life.

From annual philanthropy events, such as Kappa Delta Pi's Scholastic book fair to Kappa Alpha Theta's Mr. Casanova pageant, Greeks provided for the community at large.

The community embraced the unexpected, too. When one Spartan was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma this year, sisters of Pi Beta Phi banded together to raise awareness and support, encouraging other students with the motto "trust your journey."

Greek life offers a systemized, organized way of life, while providing a sense of stability, as well as a chance to earn scholarship. Their motto is simple and to the point: "Go Greek!"



'JUSTICE FOR TRAYVON'

Alpha Phi Alpha participates in the march for Trayvon Martin

ΑΦΑ

Shortly after the sun had set on March 26, a crowd nearing the hundreds began forming near The Rock. The large mass of people, organized by the Black Student Alliance (BSA), was waiting to march for Trayvon Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old, who was shot and killed by a volunteer neighborhood watch leader on Feb. 26 in Sanford, Fla.

Signs reading, "I am Trayvon Martin," were taped to the backs of several activists as they combined to form an onyx wave of black hooded sweatshirts moving from the Rock to the Union's front steps. The hooded sweatshirts symbolized what Martin wore the night he died.

BSA president and senior Mario Lemons said, "We are here today to stand in solidarity for Trayvon Martin. For a lot of people this issue is a symbol of injustices in this society and injustices anywhere is a threat for justice anywhere."

Martin's death has spawned protests across the nation primarily because Martin's alleged murderer, George Zimmerman, claimed self-defense and has not been arrested in accordance with Florida's "Stand Your Ground" Law.

Ph.D. student and protest attendee Rob Shorette said this case "causes us to question how equitable things truly are right now," in the U.S.

"I think it begs the question of how much progress we've actually made," he said.

The protest began with speeches atop the steps of the Fairchild Auditorium echoing from the outer walls of Bessey Hall and encouraging an expressive crowd. BSA members spoke about the importance of overcoming oppression and combining as a multiethnic community in order to prevent racially targeted violence.

"Unifying people in one purpose can bring back humanity to our society," Lemons said. "If we can connect with one another and understand that we are human beings at the end of the day, then we can realize it's not our right to take away someone else's life."

The rapid rate of protest attention surrounding this issue has set national precedents. Change.org, a website aimed at promoting social change through online petitions, has reached more than 2 million signatures on a petition made by Martin's mother against the Sanford Police Department. President Barack Obama even responded to the subject saying, "If I had a son, he would look like Trayvon."

Through this national attention and the power of social media, the BSA was able to summon hundreds of students, faculty and surrounding residents to protest.

Several student organizations, such as Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, appeared in droves to offer their support. Poetry and songs concluded the march, as well as a moment of silence dedicated to Martin.

Sophomore Tyler Clifford said one primary goal of the march was to "voice a silent people's movement."

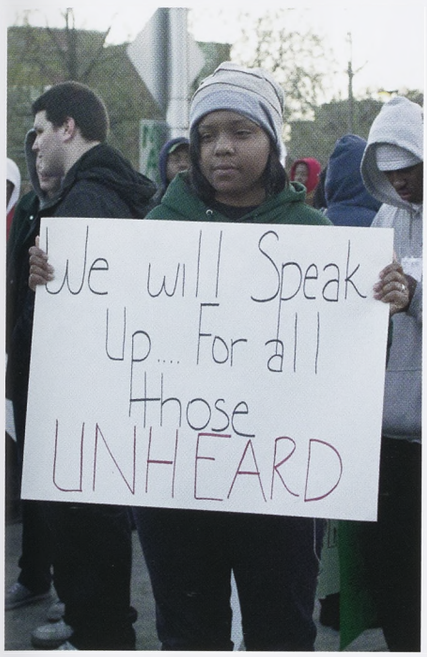
"We want to voice our opinion," Clifford said. "I'm not trying to say you have to think like I do, but people do need to fight for their opinion."

Students who did not participate stopped to stare, and cars driving on Grand River Avenue slowed down to examine the hoodie-clad demonstrators overtaking the sidewalk. Raising awareness to those who may not be familiar with the issue was a primary goal of the march, Shorette said.

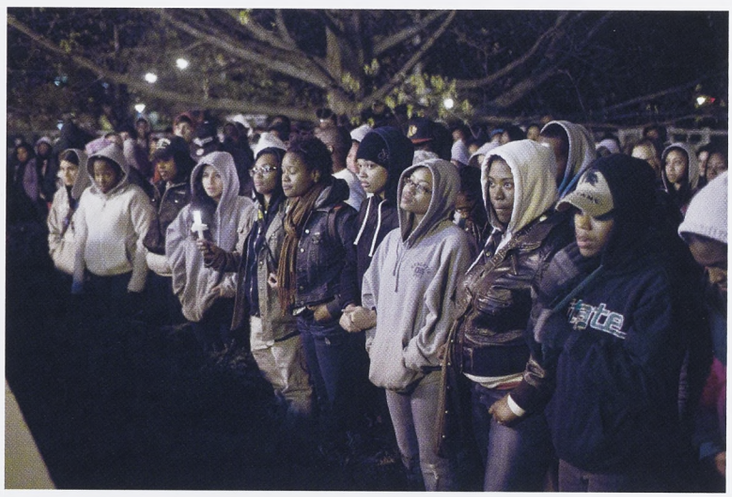
"(Marches) cause people to think differently about an issue than they did before or maybe think about the issue at all," Shorette said. "It might not change the policy right away, but it causes people to think differently about an issue than they did before. It creates awareness and shows people there are powers in numbers."

A student reads a poem to the crowd who gathered in memory of Trayvon Martin at a Black Student Alliance sponsored rally. Martin was a 17-year-old who was shot and killed in Sanford, Fla. On Feb. 26.

Sophomore Domeda Duncan shows her support during the rally for Trayvon Martin. Duncan's sign refers to black youths who lost their lives to hate crimes. Many participants carried skittles and bottles of iced tea, which was in Martin's bag when he was killed.



Students grasp arms during a moment of silence to remember the black youth lives lost to hate crimes. The Black Student Alliance and supporters wore hoodies similar to the one Martin wore the night he was killed.





"We want to voice our opinion. I'm not trying to say you have to think like I do, but people do need to fight for their opinion."

Tyler Clifford, sophomore



Marchers walk from the rock to the Union to gather for more speeches and singing. The crowd was called together to protest social injustice as they walked along Farm Lane Road and Grand River Avenue.

A student lights candles to pass around to the crowd during the Justice for Trayvon Martin rally. The rally was sponsored by MSU's Black Student Alliance as a part of a larger nationwide movement.



Students give their signatures for raffle entries to win prizes from Mary Kay, Girl Scouts of America and Vera Bradley. Kappa Delta also handed out buttons that encouraged greater self-confidence.

Gabrielle Aldridge passes out friendly greetings and buttons that encourage self-confidence. This was the first annual "Go Confidently" Day held by the women of Kappa Delta.

"...you can be confident just by being who you are, and you don't have to change or do anything else."

Anna Bunge, senior





The Kappa Delta booth, just outside of Fairchild Auditorium, aimed to instill confidence in females on campus. Members came up with the idea for this event while discussing how to extend their movement onto campus.

KAPPA DELTA THINKS YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL

Sorority teams up to encourage confidence to the women of MSU

Philanthropy is a word often heard surrounding MSU's sororities. For many, Greek life is a way of forming close groups of friends, while being able to help the extended community. This charitable drive is exactly why Kappa Delta sisters spent their day handing out buttons and candy to those who passed their booth outside the MSU Auditorium.

Sophomore Sydney DeLosh organized March 29's event in hopes to instill confidence in the MSU campus.

"We're handing out [the buttons] to people on campus to pin to their backpacks so that they just remember to have confidence in themselves and within their abilities," DeLosh said.

The event itself is part of Kappa Delta's nationwide efforts with the Confidence Coalition, which includes support from designer brand Vera Bradley, cosmetics manufacturer Mary Kay and the Girl Scouts of the USA.

"We know that a lot of girls struggle with body image, especially young girls, so there's bullying, and the whole eating disorder thing, and everything throughout women's whole lives, so we just started to fight against that and tell everyone that they can do anything," DeLosh said. "We just wanted to say that you can do anything, you just have to be confident in yourself and your abilities."

Aside from receiving buttons with words like "Kappa Delta thinks you're amazing," those passing by the booth were asked to fill out pledges of confidence. These pledges ask women to vow to be generous to others, to keep from sabotaging anyone else's self-confidence and to have the confidence to stand up for oneself and others. After the pledges were signed, they were placed in a shopping bag and a raffle was held. The prizes were donated samples of Mary Kay cosmetics.

This year's event was an effort to expand the philanthropic endeavors of the MSU chapter of Kappa Delta, stepping beyond the previous years' efforts.

"We usually participate with the Girl Scouts, so this was a way where we can target more people, and not just the Girl Scouts," said Kappa Delta president and junior Arielle Hatsios. Kappa Gamma has "adopted" a local Girl Scout troop, with whom they hold seasonal events like winter caroling and spring craft nights.

The group hopes the extended effort brings more awareness to issues of self-esteem problems, especially among women.

Senior Kappa Delta member Anna Bunge sees the buttons as a positive way to instill a sense of confidence.

"I think that everyone seeing the pins on campus will really help show that you can be confident just by being who you are, and you don't have to change or do anything else," she said.

For some members, the philanthropy of the sororities is one of the key reasons for becoming further involved.

After becoming president, Hatsios has strived to make changes for the better in her house, as well as in the community by raising awareness about the sorority's part in the Confidence Coalition.

So the next time you're walking through campus and you notice a purple button on somebody's backpack, it's safe to assume that Kappa Delta thinks you're beautiful.



Keagan Coop, sophomore Sydney DeLosh, and Julie Thompson wait along the sidewalk to hand out their "Go Confidently" buttons. Their enthusiasm served to cheer up students and staff alike on their way to class.



Buttons that were handed out as a part of the Confidence Coalition. Kappa Delta used positivity and encouragement to support confidence growth.

A poster board stands at the entrance of Spartan Lanes, explaining Theta Delta Chi's mission to raise awareness for autism research. The event provided ways for students to help raise funds including wristbands, a donation jar and bowling.



ΘΔΧ

Sophomores David Vogel and Lindsey Hoffman discuss and record scores. Some participants were very competitve, but most were there to support the cause and to have a good time.

Freshman Kyle Pachla takes aim for a strike at the Theta Delta Chi bowling event. The event took place in the MSU Union and was open to anyone who wanted to participate in the fundraiser.





THETA DELTA CHI STRIKES BACK

Fraternity teams up with Autism Speaks for a day of bowling

Theta Delta Chi describes itself as a "come-as-you-are" fraternity—one that guarantees a warm and inviting atmosphere. With only 24 members, Theta Delta Chi is one of the smaller fraternities at MSU. So when brother Howard "Hub" Stowe left MSU last year to help take care of his autistic brother, the loss hit home, which is why Bowling For Autism on April 13 was a fitting philanthropy event for the fraternity.

"To us, it's really important that he had to leave us, so we're trying to help him out by trying to fight autism," sophomore Adnan Abbasi said of the bowling fundraiser at the Union.

Teams participated for $25, and the fraternity sold blue "Autism Speaks" wristbands and painted The Rock for the event. The money raised from the event was contributed directly to Autism Speaks, a foundation invested in Autism research and awareness.

Bowling For Autism was part of the nationwide Theta Delta Chi philanthropy project with Autism Speaks. But philanthropic events aren't simply mandated for president and junior Zachary Naylor.

"We're a social fraternity, and this is a social event," Naylor said.

Keen to extend the fraternity's involvement in the greater community, Naylor decided to run for president of the house would be a way to instill change for the better.

"I really like what we do here, so I wanted to get things going a bit more," he said. "People left, and I had a different perception of how we should be spending our time."

Senior Collin Fitzgerald originally was drawn to the house because of the welcoming atmosphere and strong sense of brotherhood.

"I got to know these guys right away—where they're from, who their parents are—I don't think I could have gotten this same experience from a larger house," he said.

Fitzgerald has since taken over the role of philanthropy chair, which is why he echoed the feeling of loss at having to see Stowe off to take care of his brother.

"I was a kinesiology major with the hopes of getting into medical school, so I naturally enjoy helping people. I noticed [the fraternity] didn't have a strong philanthropy department, so I dove right in and helped to get it set up," Fitzgerald said.

Autism Speaks has no current members who suffer from Autism with a high position in the foundation. This fact, coupled with an ad campaign that some consider to be demonizing and dehumanizing of those with autism, have earned Autism Speaks detractors.

Despite the objections some have toward the foundation, both Fitzgerald and Naylor made it clear that their event had only good intentions.

Naylor spoke candidly, saying, "I know some people don't necessarily agree with Autism Speaks. We're here to help, and that's our main goal. We're not here for political reasons."

As the sound of bowling balls smashing into pins mingled with the laughter in the air, the close bond of Theta Delta Chi was evident. It was clear the brothers were exactly as Fitzgerald said, "We're all good friends."

"I really like what we do here, so I wanted to get things going a bit more. People left, and I had a different perspective of how we should be spending our time."

Zachary Naylor, junior



Delta Lambda Phi President Ryan Pender and Pledge Educator Robert Coffey talk with two pledges. According to the fraternity's website, Delta Lambda Phi's membership is open to all men.



Fraternity members and pledges share a laugh. Delta Lambda Phi was founded in Washington, D.C., in 1986.

COOKOUT FOR A NEW BEGINNING

MSU's fraternity for gay and bisexual men hosts cookout to attract new members

The national Delta Lambda Phi fraternity prides itself on being a place where brothers are welcome and can act like themselves. Here at MSU, Delta Lambda Phi isn't a fraternity yet, but they still pride themselves on those same values.

Delta Lambda Phi—which will be chartering in December—is not like other fraternities; it is a fraternity for gay and bisexual men.

"We're not a bunch of rich people or people who are strict. We are just a group of guys who make each other feel welcome," senior and president Ryan Pender said.

The fraternity held its third rush event of the week on Sept. 13 in Holden Hall, where brothers and potential members were invited to a cookout to socialize and spread the word about the group. Rush week events based around the idea of a new 'chapter' and focused on books and authors. Along with the cookout, the fraternity had a mixer at the Union, drank tea at Bubble Island and embarked on a scavenger hunt. Hovered around a small table in Holden Hall, the brothers shared stories with ease.

The fraternity began as an idea at the Starbucks on Grand River Avenue in the spring of 2009. Delta Lambda Phi is now a place where brothers have fun along with people they call family. Pender joined and ran for president because he felt most comfortable around this group of people and he wanted to ensure others felt that way, too.

"We're just like any group on campus, where people just know each other well, hang out and have a good time," Pender said.

There are currently 29 Delta Lambda Phi chapters, eight colonies and 600 active members in the U.S. According to the official website, Delta Lambda Phi is founded upon three principles: "One: To develop dignified and purposeful, social, service, and recreational activities for progressive men, irrespective of sexual orientation. Two: to lead in determining the rights and privileges of individuals in society. Three: to promote a strong and positive image, which respects the diversity of all individuals, irrespective of sexual orientation."

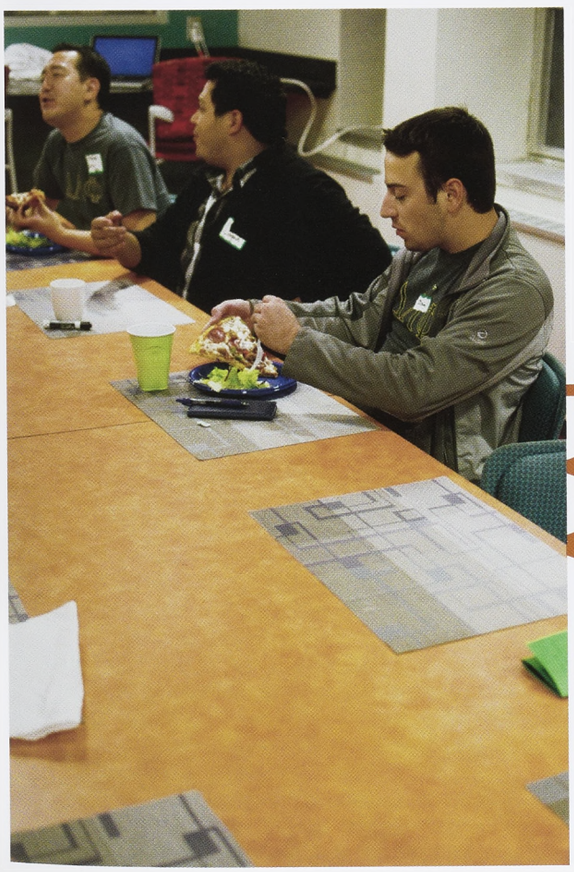
The MSU chapter is made up of 10 members and one alumnus. They had five or six potentials come to rush week events. Junior Justin Drwencke said the fraternity's biggest problem is letting people know they exist.

The fraternity doesn't host many events with the Greek community yet, but rather focuses on special events with the Lesbian Bisexual Gay and Transgender campus group. Delta Lambda Phi also participates in Pride Week and interacts with the greater East Lansing community.

Senior Aaron Miller said even though they don't hold official events, brothers still hang out and meet up for dinner or drinks throughout the week.

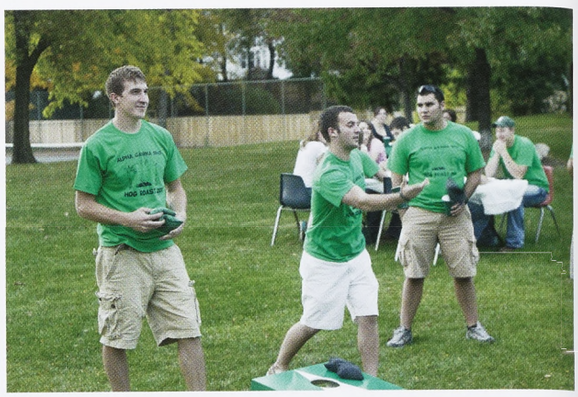
Pender agreed, saying, "It's just a group where we all feel like we're at home."

"It's just a group where we all feel like we're at home."
Ryan Pender, President



Members Steven Chang, Michael Overton, and Daniel Jacks take a minute to eat some pizza. Delta Lambda Phi members attended the event to get to know the pledges.

ΔΛΦ



Seniors Dave Gust and Dustin Baker play cornhole to pass the time in between their work shifts. Alpha Gamma Rho members worked part of the pigroast to make it a success.

AGGREGATING FOR AGRABILITY

Alpha Gamma Rho hosts annual Hog Roast to raise money for disabled farmers

A waft of savory meat and potatoes floated across Valley Courtyard, inviting guests to the neatly arranged white tables and chairs. Across from the brown and red two-story Alpha Gamma Rho house—more commonly known as FarmHouse—brothers prepared their annual Hog Roast.

It's not a common sight for a fraternity. The dinner on Oct. 7 was the annual philanthropic event to raise money for Michigan AgrAbility, an organization that helps people with disabilities employed in agriculture continue to farm and live independently.

"We've helped a farmer get a camera for his tractor because he couldn't turn his back to see behind him," senior Steve Schaeff said. "The money has also helped build chairlifts for farmers to lift them onto their equipment if they are in a wheelchair."

Alpha Gamma Rho, whose brothers all come from an agriculture background or who are interested in learning about it, has donated to AgraAbility for the past 10 years, sometimes raising as much as $3,000.

"Most of us come from an agriculture background, so we want to help farmers in need," philanthropy chair and senior Colby Lievens said.

"Most of us come from an agriculture background, so we want to help farmers in need."
Colby Lievens, Senior

While the idea of roasting a whole pig may seem daunting to some, these guys have been doing it for years. The MSU Hog Farm donated the hog to the fraternity, which started roasting the entirety of it over charcoal in the parking lot of their house at 6 a.m. before the dinner.

"It's roasted for eight and a half hours," Lievens said. "Everyone pitches in to help prepare the hog for the dinner and the other parts of the event, like outreach."

While the dinner was buffet style, a brother stationed at each food item served guests. Most people in attendance were parents of current brothers, alumni, or other Greek students supporting the cause.

The hog roast is the biggest philanthropic event put on by FarmHouse every year and is a time for socializing and camaraderie. Although the dinner was catered and more formal than the usual fraternity setting, the feel wasn't lost. During their tailgate-like games of football and corn hole, they paused to gawk over girls passing by, trying to decide who should talk to them. But despite all the pushing and shoving, not one of them had the courage.



An Alpha Gamma Rho brother shows off his plate before he sits down to eat. Alpha Gamma Rho held a pig roast to raise funds for their fraternity.



Alpha Gamma Rho members are hard at work serving food to those who purchased a plate. Members of Alpha Gamma Rho worked the food line making sure everyone received as many plates as they wanted.



A supporter of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity pours barbeque sauce onto his sandwhich. The pigroast offered a variety of food including the pig.

An Alpha Gamma Rho member tosses a bean bag hoping to score big. Alpha Gamma Rho had their pigroast to support Michigan agrability.

G

ALPHA GAMMA RHO

content: carolyn sundquist
photo: anthony thibodeau
design: carly patterson

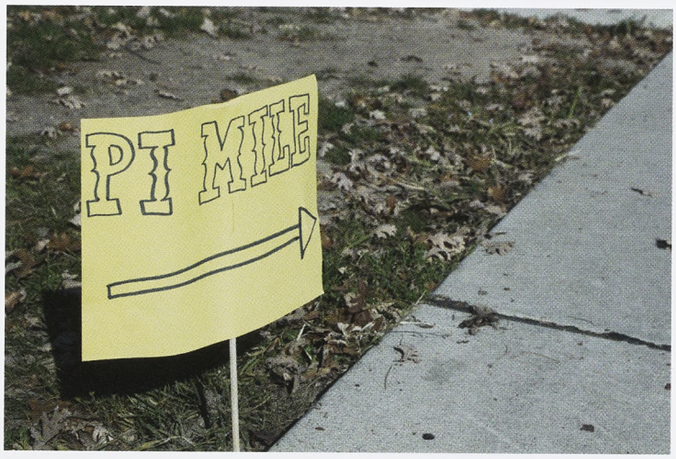




ΑΓΡ

ΦΣΠ ΒΣ

One of the course markers for the Pi Mile 5k. This year marked the 14th annual Pi Mile 5k.





RUNNING FOR SHELTER (BOX, THAT IS)

Phi Sigma Pi raises funds for disaster relief charity with a 5K

"It was nice weather, it's a good cause, and I got to see my girlfriend get a P.R. (personal best)."
Thomas Wilkins, Senior

A gigantic clock and two lines of caution tape awaited senior Thomas Wilkins as he made his way to the finish line of the Pi Mile 5K, a mile race hosted by Phi Sigma Pi on Oct. 9. After winding through MSU's scenic, leaf-strewn campus, the long-time runner was greeted by not only race volunteers taking his racing bib but his girlfriend, senior Natalie Walicki, who was the race's first female finisher.

Later, Walicki would be recognized with a large trophy at an impromptu awards ceremony after all of the participants had finished, but in the meantime, the two found a shady spot to stretch and recuperate. As they warded off post race soreness, more runners filed in through the caution-tape chute, passing what looked like a giant camping tent at first glance.

In reality, the unusual sight was a component of a ShelterBox, a large box containing not just the camping tent but also cooking utensils and other supplies. It was a visual reminder for all participants of what the race was all about: raising funds for ShelterBox, an international disaster relief charity.

Junior and event coordinator Julia Fellows said that Phi Sigma Pi, a national co-ed honors fraternity, chose the organization for its annual charity event after hearing a representative from the organization speak at a meeting last spring.

"After hearing about ShelterBox last year, I fell in love with the cause and we decided to contact them," she said.

Fraternity president senior Annette Gianino has been a part of Phi Sigma Pi since freshman year. She said the organization is based on three components: "Scholarship, leadership and fellowship."

"We do events for all three components," Gianino said. "The Pi Mile 5K is one of those events, and we've been doing it for the past 14 years or so."

With roughly 75 participants, the race raised enough money to purchase up to three ShelterBoxes, the fraternity's original goal.

"I'm pleased. We didn't have as many people show up as I would have liked but we had a lot of people that registered strictly for donation and volunteer purposes, so that helped," Fellows said.

In fact, turnout proved better than expected in light of the race's shaky start: the original date, set for a Saturday, had to be moved a week earlier.

"MSU ended up getting back to us about two months late and told us that there were at least two other races scheduled at the same time as the Pi Mile 5K," senior Jenna Millstead said.

"In fact, we had some people that registered for our race show up to a different race on the wrong day. It was unfortunate that we had to change dates last minute because a lot of people couldn't do it on Sunday instead of the original date," she added.

In spite of the rescheduling setback, the weather was gorgeous and the racers exuded an aura of fun and camaraderie - some even wore superhero costumes, while their pets milled about the area as well.

"The number of dogs definitely increased this year," said Gianino.

Meanwhile, Wilkins and Walicki finished stretching and began partaking in the post-race snacks. Naturally, one of the items was a Grand Traverse Pie. The couple chatted with friends and enjoyed a breeze that temporarily alleviated the blazing sunshine, unusual for early October.

"I had a lot of fun," Wilkins said. "It was nice weather, it's a good cause, and I got to see my girlfriend get a P.R. (personal best)."



A studer
the Pi M
participa



Running shoes used in the Pi Mile 5k. ShelterBox was founded by Tom Henderson; a Rotarian and former Royal Navy search and rescue diver.

Runners line up for the beginning of the race. The Pi Mile is a race that raises funds for the ShelterBox disaster relief charity.





A student dressed as a masked superhero runs the Pi Mile. The Pi Mile 5k had roughly 75 participants this year.



The Pi Mile trophy for the fastest male runner. The ShelterBox disaster relief charity has worked in over 45 countries; providing aid to more than 600,000 people.



The first of the walking groups passes the finish line. The Pi Mile 5k included two types of participants; some enter as runners and others as walkers.



Members of the Sigma Chi team pick up dodgeballs during the game. This was the first year a dodgeball tournament was used as a way of raising funds.

"I'm from out of state and I didn't know anyone at first. But now, I have sisters."

Lizzy Dagres, sophomore



Two teams scramble to the line to pick up dodgeballs. Six teams competed in tournament overall.



Sophomore Lizzy Dagres gets ready to throw. The dodgeball tournament raised $350 for the National Arthritis Foundation.

AOΠ

STRIKING OUT ARTHRITIS

Alpha Omicron Pi hosts fundraising dodgeball tournament

A group of guys from Delta Kappa Epsilon enters a maze of corridors, moving past locker rooms and classrooms until they eventually reach their destination: an old-fashioned gymnasium that looks like something out of a high-school romantic comedy. A group of girls sits on old, wooden bleachers, forming a sea of maroon T-shirts with black and gold lettering—these are the ladies of Alpha Omicron Pi, hostesses of the Striking Out Arthritis Dodgeball Tournament at IM Circle on Nov. 4.

Senior and philanthropy chair Lyz Sandler stood in the middle of the gym where she welcomed everyone.

"If you're hit, you're out. If you catch it, the other person's out. Oh, and head shots are allowed," she said. That last rule got a mixture of cheers and protests, but there was no disputing the MSU Dodgeball Club team, and with that the game was on.

First up was Alpha Omicron Pi versus Alpha Chi Omega. Six girls from each sorority took their place on the line, and with a command of "One, two, three, Dodgeball!" they raced for a line of multicolored dodgeballs. One of the first casualties was junior Jaymie Cohen, a member of Alpha Omicron Pi.

"I had two balls in my hands!" Cohen said incredulously as she was told to sit out. She sat down with her friends, laughing off the obvious innuendo and attempting to catch her breath.

"I was nervous, but now I know to watch out," Cohen said as she watched Alpha Omicron Pi win the first game in the tournament.

Alpha Omicron Pi's major philanthropy is the National Arthritis Foundation, and each semester the sorority holds some sort of fundraising event for it, Sandler said.

"Everyone wanted to do a dodgeball tournament this year. We wanted to get more of the Greek community involved so we picked something that everyone could participate in," Sandler said.

Sandler took a moment to announce that there was pizza, pop, chips and cookies for all participants and spectators. Next to the spread sat a box of beer cozies emblazoned with the words "Dodge! Duck! Dip! Dive! Dodge!" sold as part of the fundraiser. They matched the girls' T-shirts, which sported another popular quote: "If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball."

A few games later in the night gave the audience something different—the first girls vs. guys match-up with Alpha Omicron Pi and Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE).

"We were conflicted," senior and DKE member Kyle Simon said when he and his teammates realized they would be playing against girls. Simon didn't let gender hold him back as the game began, going so far as to hit one of the Alpha Omicron Pi girls in the face.

"I did feel bad about that," Simon later admitted, "but we still came out on top and executed our strategy."

Simon and his teammates beat the Alpha Omicron Pi girls, but sophomore Lizzy Dagres held her own for a good portion of the game when she inadvertently played one vs. four before being taken out.

"It was interesting but also very scary. I had only ever played in high school so this was a bit different for me," said Dagres, who became a member of Alpha Omicron Pi her freshman year.

Dagres joined the sorority as a way to meet new people.

"I'm from out of state and I didn't know anyone at first," she said. "But now, I have sisters."

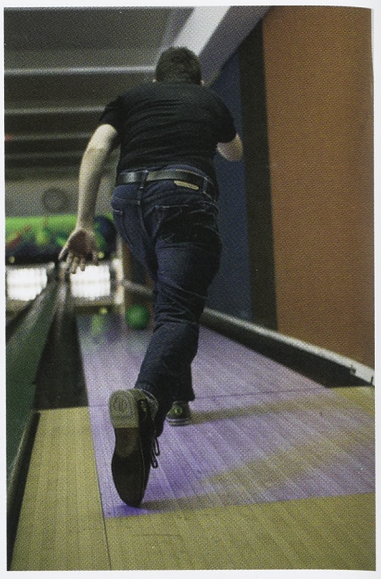
Several games passed with victories and defeats until the MSU Dodgeball Club team took the final prize of a $50 Chipotle gift card. But there were no real losers; just a group of Greeks raising money for a good cause.

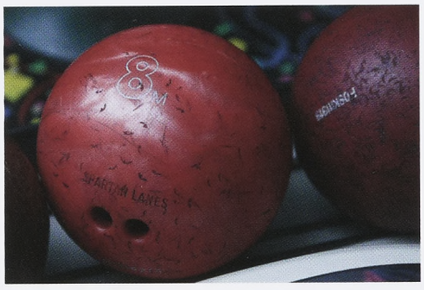


Members of the Greek system wait together for their upcoming dodgeball matches. Alpha Omicron Pi lead the way as hosts for the event.

Senior Erik Syvertsen releases his ball for a charity event supporting the fight against domestic violence. The event was put on by Alpha Phi Gamma, an Asian American sorority, founded in 1994.

MSU Union Lanes played host to the Bowl-a-Thon even that took place on Nov. 1. The Bowl-a-Thon was put on by Alpha Phi Gamma, an Asian American sorority founded in 1994.







Senior Stella Chung dances to the beat during the Alpha Phi Gamma Bowl-a-Thon. The event was put on to raise money to fight against domestic violence.

David Ng a sophomore at Michigan State University throws a bowling ball down the lane during the Bowl-a-Thon event put on by Alpha Phi Gamma. Ng said he does not consider himself an experienced bowler, but enjoys it nonetheless.



"there was so much violence that they had to flee (the phillipines)."

Joan Joy Penaliba, sophomore

STOP THE VIOLENCE!

Alpha Phi Gamma holds Bowl-a-Thon to raise money for fight against domestic violence

ΑΦΓ

Joan Joy Penalba appears to be just like any other student at MSU; but her families past is what separates her from most.

Penalba, a sophomore, said her family was severely abused during their life in the Philippines.

"My family, specifically my uncle, faced some real tough times in the Philippines," she said. "There was so much violence that they had to flee their homeland."

Now, free of political violence in America, Penalba has come to know the importance of fighting against violence of a different sort: domestic. In fact, it's why she joined Alpha Phi Gamma.

Alpha Phi Gamma is an Asian American sorority founded in 1994 in California. According to the sorority's website, it was established "to promote service and Asian awareness to the university and to the community, allowing for all the different nationalities to discover what other cultures had to offer."

This year Alpha Phi Gamma held a Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser at the MSU Union Lanes on Nov. 1 in order to raise money for the fight against domestic violence.

Senior Chelsea Bada said the event was just one of the many national philanthropy events her sorority holds throughout the year, citing a self-defense class, a raffle for Ray-Ban sunglasses, and a professional picture-taking event for networking portfolios like LinkedIn held in October. All of the events are put in place to raise money for the fight against domestic violence. Bada said the sorority's continual support of this cause is the main reason she chose to join Alpha Phi Gamma.

"Many sisters can relate to domestic violence because it has affected their lives in some way," Bada said. "We work hard at gaining more awareness and getting the word out for this cause."

Penalba said she was pleased by the turnout and the donations, which were substantial in spite of the struggling economy.

Senior Jack Kim, president of the Asian American fraternity Pi Alpha Phi, said he came to the Bowl-a-Thon to support the affiliates of Alpha Phi Gamma. Kim said he hasn't personally dealt with domestic violence, but some of his friends and family members have gone through it.

"It's worth it to take a little time out of my day and spend a little bit of money to support the fundraiser," Kim said.





Sophomore David Ng waits for his bowling ball to approach the pins. Funds raised at the Alpha Phi Gamma Bowl-a-Thon were donated to help fight against domestic violence.

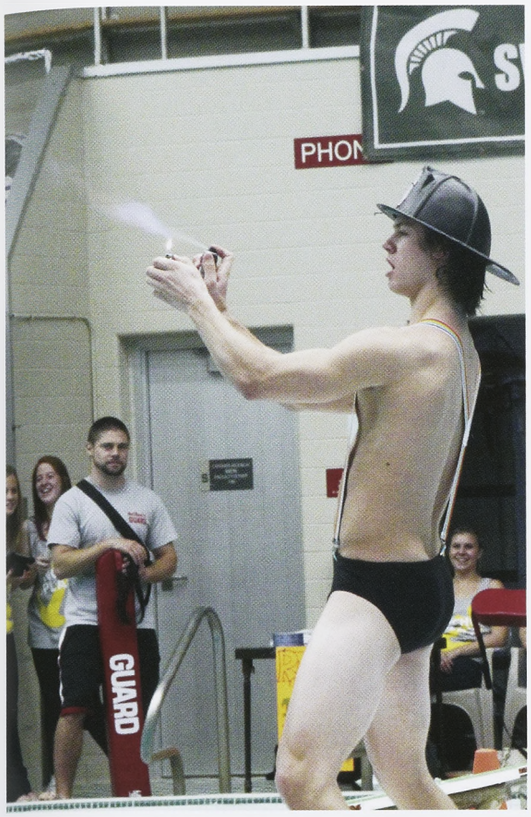
Senior Jack Kim gets ready to throw his bowling ball during the Alpha Phi Gamma Bowl-a-Thon. The event took place at MSU Union Lanes.



The boys of Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash make some noise and show off their muscles. Fraternities competed against one another in a series of events to raise money for Service for Sight, a charity that helps fund services for the blind community.

Fraternity members adorned in deep v-neck T-shirts compete in a synchronized swimming routine. Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash has been an annual event for 130 years.





"I think I'll just use it to pick up some fine DGs"
Kevin Wilberding, freshman

Freshman Kevin Wilberding adds some flair to his routine in his hunt to become Anchorman 2011. In the end, Wilberding was successful in capturing the prized title.

ANCHORS AWAY



Delta Gamma's annual Anchor Splash causes waves

It was cold and windy for the sisters of Delta Gamma (DG) on Nov. 13; thank goodness they were hosting their annual Anchor Splash at IM West's indoor pool. The women are no rookies to this event; MSU's DG chapter has held the splash since it was founded in 1876.

Junior president Kelsey McCabe was all smiles as she glanced around at the crowd, estimating about 120 of the chapter's 130 active members were in attendance. After making sure she wasn't needed anywhere, she gave a little confession:

"I've actually never been to an Anchor Splash!" she laughed. "This is my first one. I've always had things come up."

As screams and cheers from the bleachers and sidelines encouraged members of the four participating fraternities during their relays, McCabe described what was going on. During this particular event, The Mermaid, two fraternity brothers looped one arm on either side of an inner tube. They then had to swim together, arms still looped, to the other side of the pool where they switched places with two other brothers who began the same trek to the other side of the pool.

Sound a little too easy? Now put a DG in the middle of the inner tube.

The "mermaid" for the brothers at Pi Kappa Alpha (Pikes) was sophomore Tiffany Schooley. This being her second year in the tube, the men's incessant splashing didn't phase her. Emphasizing her priority to cheer the boys on and try to stay out of their way as much as possible, she said she's not trying to impress anyone when she's out there.

"A lot of girls put their hair up (for the Mermaid event). I put my hair in a ponytail, but it's pointless. You're just going to get wet, you know?"

While Schooley loves competing with the boys, her favorite part of Anchor Splash is the Anchorman event.

"It's basically set up like a beauty pageant," she said. "One guy is chosen from each fraternity and they walk down the aisle, dance a little and answer some questions."

McCabe said that housemothers from a couple of sororities play the part of judges, "which I've heard can be really funny, really awkward, or both!"

While on the surface the event seemed to be all fun and games, McCabe and junior Emily Ducoffe, the vice president of philanthropy, wanted to emphasize the real purpose of Anchor Splash: to raise money for Service for Sight. Funded by Delta Gamma, Service for Sight in turn helps fund programs for the blind. A national philanthropy, every DG chapter across the country holds an Anchor Splash around the same time to keep Service for Sight alive.

"It's really fun to check out Facebook around this time," McCabe said. "Everyone is putting on their Anchor Splash, and we can talk about different games and events with each other."

Collaborating with other chapters can lead to new games, new prizes and incentive ideas, Ducoffe said.

Along with this event, the sisters put in weekly hours throughout the school year at a local nursing home and with a local, visually impaired resident. The women read mail and books and keep friendly company. While none of them were very familiar with blindness before, Schooley thinks they have all learned from the people they help.

Back to the splash, Anchorman 2011 went to Pi Kappa Alpha freshman pledge Kevin Wilberding. He admits that he was chosen by default. While meeting his Delta Gamma coaches for the first time a week before the event, Wilberding said that he may have been a bit obnoxious:

"(The girls) came to the house (to start teaching us about the games and events). The house had already nominated someone else to compete, but I was being really loud and outgoing, so they were like, 'we want you.'"

What will he do with his new title as Delta Gamma Anchorman? Wilberding won't cure cancer, solve world hunger or preach peace on earth like normal pageant winners.

"I think I'll just use it to pick up some fine DGs," he joked.

HERE HE IS, MR. CASANOVA!

Kappa Alpha Theta hosts annual "male beauty pageant" for charity

Things were hopping at Club Rush on the evening of Nov. 10. Well-dressed ladies and gentlemen representing MSU's Greek community filled the floor. They were all there for one reason—to witness another edition of Kappa Alpha Theta's "Mr. Casanova" contest.

While the guests talked amongst themselves and sipped on cocktails, a storage room in a back corridor of the club acted as a dressing room for the pageant contestants. One of them, junior Max Isaacoff, tried to play off how nervous he was.

"This is my first time, so I'm just going to wing it; I don't really have anything planned," Isaacoff said as a panel of judges awaited the contestants arrival to the main stage in the center of the club.

Junior Harrison Gardner was in a similar position.

"I had just heard about the event when my frat (Sigma Pi) asked if any of us wanted to participate; when no one else wanted to do it, I said yes," Gardner said.

Gardner thought he'd make a good contestant because he's "extremely out-going" and "sexy and he knows it."

As Gardner and the other nine hopeful Casanovas prepared for their first round of introductions, senior philanthropy chair Chelsea Estes made another round of the club to ensure her Kappa Alpha Theta sisters were doing their jobs.

"This sorority has been putting on the Mr. Casanova pageant to help raise funds for Camp Kesem for a number of years now; we're kind of famous for it," Estes said.

Camp Kesem is a summer camp program that provides children with parents who have cancer with a positive and uplifting environment.

In spite of being a well-known Greek community event, Estes said there was a chance that their chapter would be pulling the plug on the pageant next year.

"Apparently they'd like us to try something new, which is a real shame because this is a well-attended event; no other Greek house at MSU does something like this," Estes said.

The prospect of discontinuing the event the following year didn't keep the current contestants from strutting their stuff before a very enthusiastic crowd. One by one, they answered rapid-fire questions on topics ranging from their favorite Taylor Swift song ("Fifteen") to whether they'd date Kim Kardashian ("I'd tap that.") to their opinions on one-night stands ("Overrated!"). The men also showed off a wide range of outfits that included a giant robot head, an American flag Speedo, a variety of occupational uniforms and, last but not least, their formal wear.

Through every hilarious answer and over-the-top ensemble, the judges kept a tally and eventually announced the winner: none other than Max Isaacoff.

"I had no idea I was going to win! It was probably my dance moves that did it," he joked, "and the two free Red Wings tickets (that came with the crown) were a nice plus."

But Isaacoff had also heard that the event might not be continued.

"I'll be a senior next year; I want to be able to pass on my crown to another lucky guy," Isaacoff said disappointedly.

For now, the fate of the Mr. Casanova pageant is up in the air, but Estes has hope.

"This was our most well-attended Mr. Casanova pageant to date," she said. "Between ticket sales and other donations, we managed to raise $2,000 for Camp Kesem. Hopefully our chapter will take that into consideration."



"I had no idea I was going to win! It must have been my dance moves..."

Max Isaacoff, junior



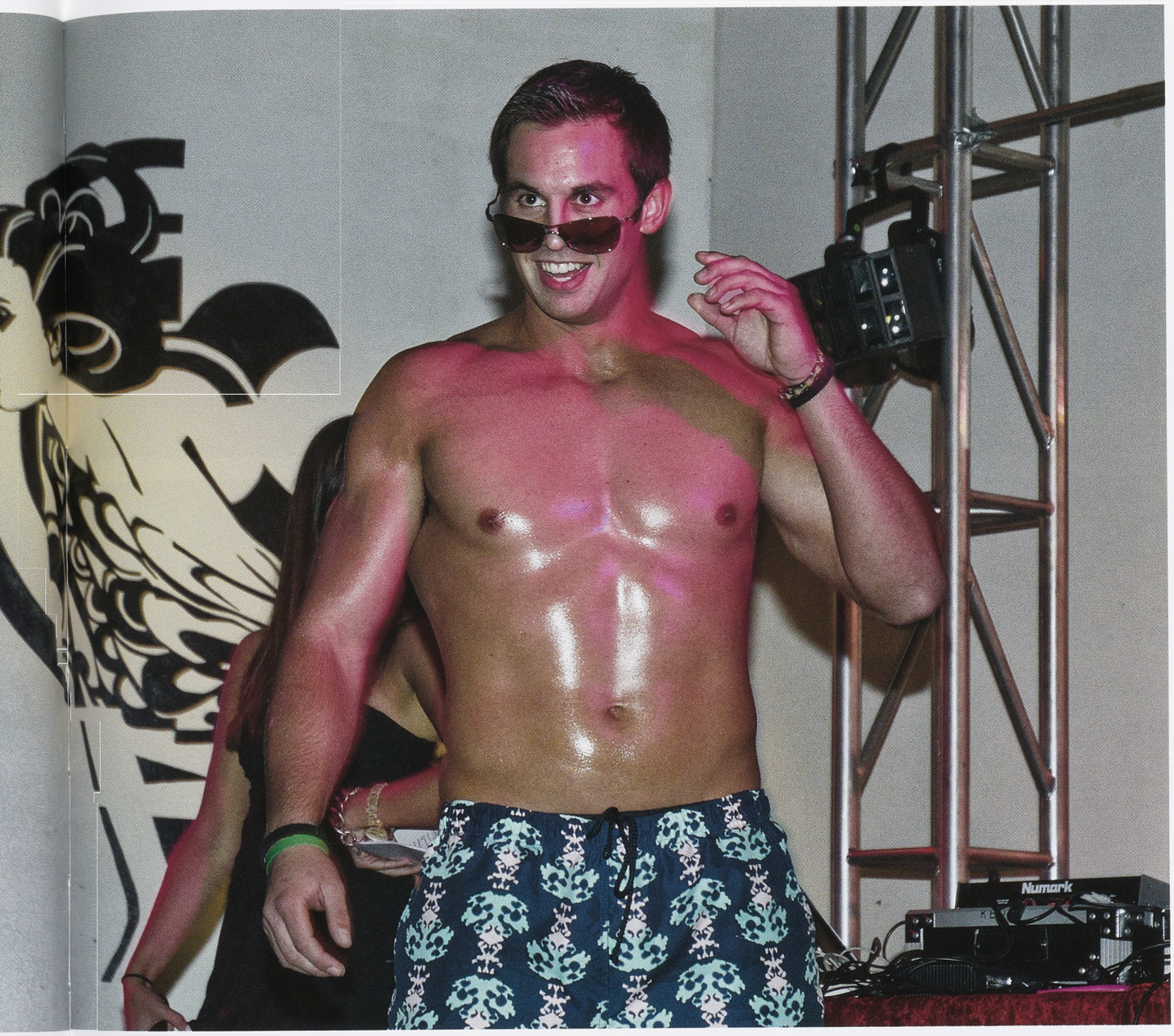
Junior Max Isaacoff shows off his dance moves during the swimwear competition. This section of the competition received the most applause.



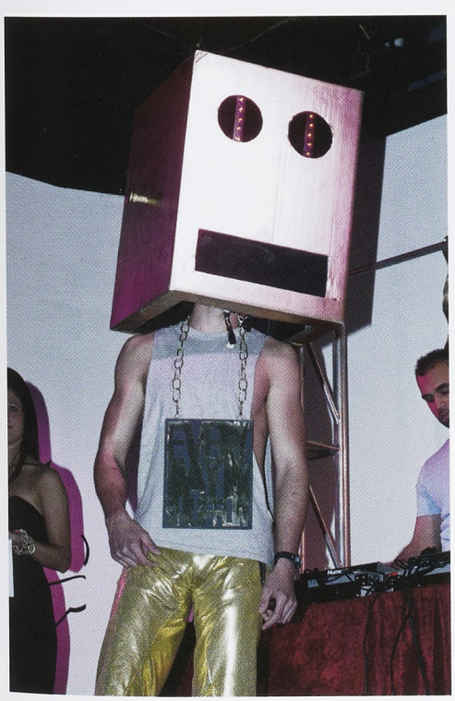
Junior Max Isaacoff celebrates his victory with fellow Sigma Pi brothers. Isaacoff received two free Red Wings tickets for his victory.

G

KAPPA ALPHA THETA
content: noelle sciarini
photo: evan farinosi
design: betsy eber







Junior Harrison Gardner answers an intriguing question in the night's most unusual attire. Contestants were asked two rapid-fire questions during the first round regarding their taste in women.

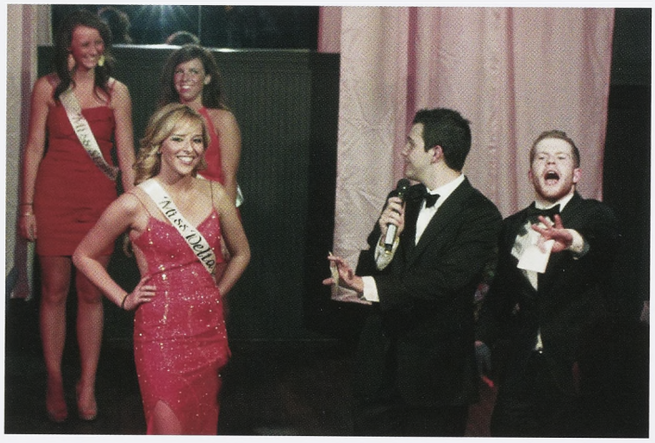


Senior Aaron Smith looks over his sunglasses at the racous crowd during the swimwear contest. Kappa Alpha Theta was founded in 1870 and has chapters at over 210 universities.

Chelsea Estes announces the winner of the 2011 Mr. Casanova crown. Kappa Alpha Theta holds this event every year to raise money for Camp Kesem, a camp specially designed for children whose parents have been diagnosed with cancer.

Sophomore Chelsea Derderian takes the stage as an entry for Kappa Delta. The Sigma Pi Miss Greek Pageant is a charity event that benefits the American Red Cross.





The three finalists await the last portion of the Miss Greek Pageant. This was the 17th annual Miss Greek Pageant for Sigma Pi.

"People assume frat boys and girls only party—but this is our time to shine"
Brieanna Finn, junior

Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty, is said to have been born in sea foam. Millenniums later, an array of Greek goddesses surfaced on the stage of Club X-Cel in Lansing at the Annual Miss Greek Beauty Pageant.

Each year, the Sigma Pi fraternity hosts the event to raise money for the American Red Cross and East Lansing. About two-dozen women participate in the competition, involving representatives from each sorority chapter.

"It gives each girl a chance to strut their stuff," said Ashley Szukalowski, sophomore and member of Alpha Omicron Pi. "Everyone here is supporting everyone, not just the Greek community."

The efforts extend further into the East Lansing community and beyond.

"The most profound fact is that the American Red Cross responds to any American crisis, and as a fraternity we feel it is pivotal to give back to the country that has given so much to us," said junior Trevor Kay, a Sigma Pi brother and former philanthropy chairman. Sigma Pi's effort is reflected in the development of the event and has become the premiere fraternity-sponsored event at MSU, luring in 22-23 contestants on average.

At 9 p.m. on Nov. 17, the lights dimmed and the crowd of brothers and sisters converged as one and fixed its gaze toward the illuminated platform.

"Welcome to the 17th annual Miss Greek beauty pageant," Ryan Pierson, a masters student and Sigma Pi brother, announced. "Before we begin, we would like to thank all of you for coming from the bottom of our hearts. Let's bring out the beautiful contestants!"

The ladies go through four rounds of answering questions and attempt to articulate why they deserve the title of Miss Greek. Questions are asked such as, "What is your ideal job?" "What is your best feature?" and "What is the nicest thing you have done for someone?"

However, their responses may shock you. When asked the question, "What is the nicest thing someone has given you?" one contestant responded, "Well, on Valentine's Day a boy gave me a poem that read, 'Roses are red, lemons are sour, open your legs and give me an hour.'" The mass of hormone-crazed and slightly intoxicated students roared, but some were taken aback.

One of the individuals was sophomore Bridget O'Brien.

"I can't believe that this is actually happening," she said.

Moreover, junior Julie Adamo, a member of Sigma Kappa, remarked that the event was "a little degrading to women, but it is for a good cause."

"I'm looking to support a fellow fraternity's philanthropy," send Jeff Julius, a senior in Phi Gamma Delta.

The reality is that it is difficult to create a philanthropic event that brings everyone together continuously.

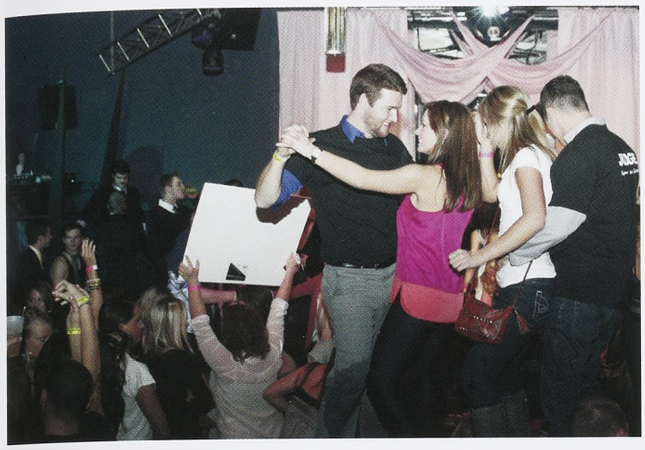
"The annual Miss Greek beauty pageant brings in the most money out of any event for Sigma Pi," Kay said. "The Greek community unifies as a whole, and a clearer image is painted for Sigma Pi. We want to become conscious individuals so that we can benefit society."

At the end of the night, junior Brieanna Finn from Sigma Kappa won the event, with sophomore Taylor Wiedemann from Zeta Tau Alpha taking second, but the true accomplishment was that Sigma Pi raised $1,400 for the American Red Cross.

"People assume frat boys and sorority girls only party—but this is our time to shine."



SIGMA PI
content: cooper franks
photo: chris mcclain
design: jessica halfyard, carly patterson



Between portions of the pageant greek members dance to the beat of Club X-Cel's DJ. MSU's Panhellenic Council is comprised of 13 different sororities.

SIGMA PI SHINE

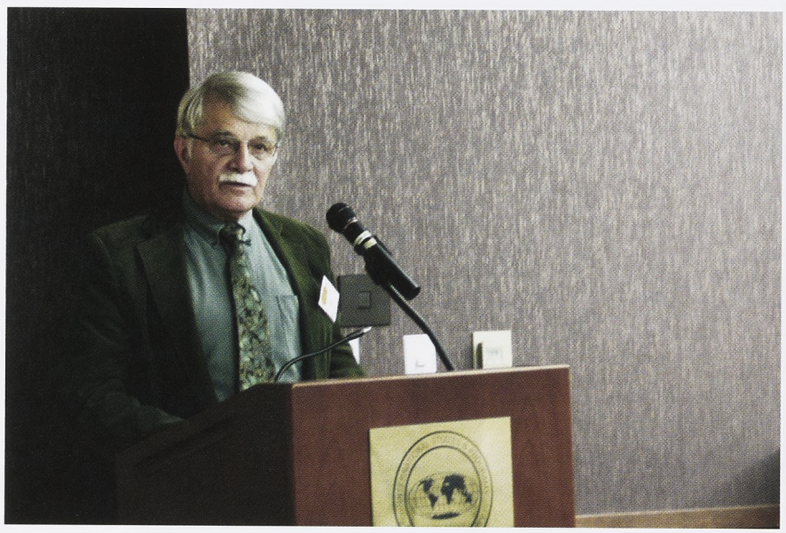
Sigma Pi hosts annual Miss Greek beauty pageant



Junior Brieanna Finn won the the pageant at the end of the night. The event raised $1,400 for charity by the end of the night.



Director of events leader Xiao Ling and chapter historian Nur Syuhada Zakaria welcome inductees. Phi Beta Delta welcomes individuals who have demonstrated scholarly achievement and have participated in international activities or programs.



Dr. David Horner, director of the Office for International Students and Scholars, talks about the commitments, objections, and criteria required to become a member of Phi Beta Delta. Horner asked all inductees to rise as they take there vow to give to Phi Beta Delta as much as they have to offer in return for the lifelong commitment.

"It was one of the most eye-opening experiences of my life and has given me a great deal of insight into what kinds of things can be done here in East Lansing."

Sam Singh, alumnus

Susan Dick is no ordinary student. First, she's in an online master's program. She's also a mother of two and a professor at a community college. Oh, and she's from Ontario, Canada. So what was she doing in the third floor of the International Center on Nov. 16? Getting inducted into MSU's chapter of Phi Beta Delta.

Phi Beta Delta is an honors society focused on international education, which includes "international students who are studying in the United States as well as domestic students who have participated in a study abroad, internship or some other international experience," said senior and Phi Beta Delta president Kristen McCool.

Senior and vice president Yong Jiang, an international student, added that undergraduate inductees must have minimum 3.3 GPA, and graduate students must have a 3.7. McCool got involved in the society after studying abroad in Japan in 2010.

"I was looking to do more with my study abroad experience," McCool said. "Once I received my invitation letter (from Phi Beta Delta) I knew I had a chance to get involved in MSU's international community."

As they stood against a slideshow of photos from the places where this year's inductees traveled, McCool and Jiang began the evening with introductory speeches. McCool highlighted her pride in MSU having a chapter that is "completely student-run" and Jiang gave a quick overview of the chapter's upcoming events, which included an international coffee hour and opportunities for members to meet and talk with others about their study abroad experiences.

This was followed with words from the society's faculty advisers and a special guest: former East Lansing mayor Sam Singh. Singh spoke of his experiences both in an international household (he is the child of Indian immigrants) and his years as a student at MSU, as well as his travels—he recently had the opportunity to spend 17 months traveling the world.

"My biggest regret about my time at MSU was that I didn't have a study abroad experience," Singh said. "It wasn't until I was up for re-election that I decided not to run again, quit my job and embarked on a trip all over the world doing work for different charities. It was one of the most eye-opening experiences of my life and has given me a great deal of insight into what kinds of things can be done here in East Lansing."

Singh concluded his speech by applauding the efforts of the evening's inductees, one of them being Dick. She beamed as her name was called by McCool and Jiang. Her husband and two children cheered when she received her membership medal emblazoned with red and gold, the colors of Phi Beta Delta.

"I hadn't expected an honor like this; I had only chosen MSU's master's program because it had exactly what I wanted to study (coaching and adult education) and it was online, which allowed me to keep working full-time," Dick said. "I look forward to continuing my graduate studies as well as my involvement in Phi Beta Delta."





Each inductee receives a medal that show the letters of Phi Beta Delta. Phi meaning love of knowledge; Beta meaning valuing of human life; and Delta representing the achievement of excellence. Each metal hangs on a thick red and cold ribbon which symbolizes the strength and energy of human kind.

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Phi Beta Delta hosts annual induction ceremony





Former East Lansing Mayor Sam Singh speaks about his international travels and experiences. Singh, a child of an Indian immigrant, relates to his diverse audience by speaking about the impacts of growing up in an international household.

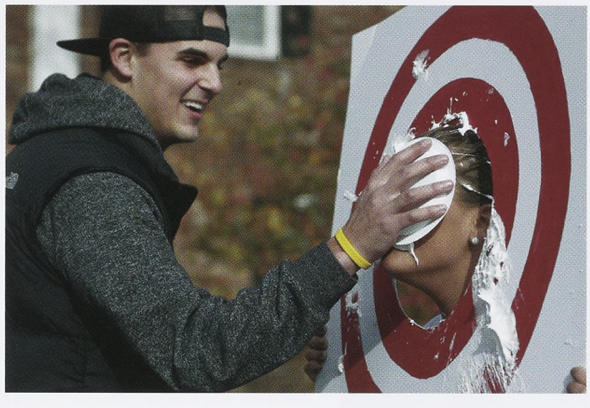
Professor Emeritus and department of history Director Charles Gliozzo congratulates the new inductees by granting each new member with a Phi Beta Delta medal around their neck. The red and gold colors of the ribbon symbolize the strength of humankind and the energy of the sun from which all peoples and cultures draw strength and life.

"As the MSU Greek community, the largest student organization, it's important **for us to give back to the community."**

Anna Ricelli, junior



Seniors Jacki Kettering and Danielle Prigge cringe as whipped cream pies fly at their faces. Even though Kettering's face was spared, house mom Jan Holmes made sure to pie her afterwards.



Brian Perliski thoroughly enjoys pieing his girlfriend of two years, Jill Burton. After tossing the pie and rubbing it in Burton's face, Perliski said he "loved it."



Junior Morgan Reest laughs at junior Samantha Watson after she got pied in the face. Reest said that Watson definitely deserved it.





AXΩ BE

The Pie an Alpha Chi event was held to raise money for MSU's Safe Place. The sisters estimated that they made about 300 whipped cream pies.

Junior Alex Mlynarek smiles between pieing his girlfriend and one of his other friends in the sorority. Each pie thrown at the event raised money to support MSU's Safe Place.



THROW PIES, NOT PUNCHES

Alpha Chi Omega fundraises for the fight against domestic violence

On the front lawn of 243 Burcham Dr., it was all out war. From the safe interiors of their cars, passers-by witnessed over a hundred women scream in terror as the wind whipped by with oncoming volleys of ammunition. Some women were wrestled to the ground, while other victims lay there helpless, temporarily blinded.

Survivors filled the Alpha Chi Omega house, flocking to the bathrooms in hopes of cleaning off the horrors of the battlefield. House officers attempted to boost the group's morale by handing out warm drinks, but most were still in shock.

It was a rough day for the participants of the sorority's Pie Alpha Chi event.

"It was really nerve-wracking," senior Morgan Gyhra said after being grazed over the head by the first pie. "I'm really happy that he missed."

Others were not as lucky as Gyhra. At just two dollars per pie, and a dollar per additional "ammunition," guests eagerly went through the supply of whipped cream to pie sisters holding target signs.

Like all battles, this one was not without betrayal. Friends and neighbors turned against the Alpha Chi ladies. Eventually, the target signs were abandoned all together, and any sorority girl found outdoors was considered fair game.

Even their own house mother, Jan Holmes, mercilessly smushed whipped-cream all over the face of junior president Anna Ricelli.

"I enjoyed every minute of it," Holmes laughed. "She had it coming!"

But vengeance for the president was swift.

"I'm the house mom next door. I've been waiting all week for this!" Sharon Anderson of Chi Omega said, grinning rambunctiously just before she pied rival house mom, Holmes.

So why did the ladies of Alpha Chi Omega put themselves up for such abuses?

The banner hanging from their house said it all: "Throw Pies, Not Punches at Domestic Violence". While on the surface it appeared frivolous, the heart of the event focused around the serious issue of raising awareness for victims of domestic violence.

"I'm a criminal justice major," Gyhra said. "Advocating safety and laws is important because something like this happens a lot. It's sickening." Gyhra, like the other Alpha Chi Omegas, was gladly willing to get her pie on for the sake of the cause.

The funds raised by this event were sent to MSU Safe Place, a local but anonymous location where abused women and their children can find sanctuary.

"It's close to home. It feels really great to be involved," junior Sara Fritz commented, just before she was smothered with pie by junior Alex Mlynarek.

"I'm the happiest man in the world right now!" Mlynarek laughed, while Fritz and her friends retaliated.

Beyond the chaos and laughter going on around her, Ricelli explained that the pie-throwing battle was only one of the philanthropic events the sorority is involved in. Every spring, they sponsor a softball game to raise funds for MSU Safe Place. Nationally, the Alpha Chi Omega organization participates in worldwide movements to raise awareness about the horrors of domestic violence.

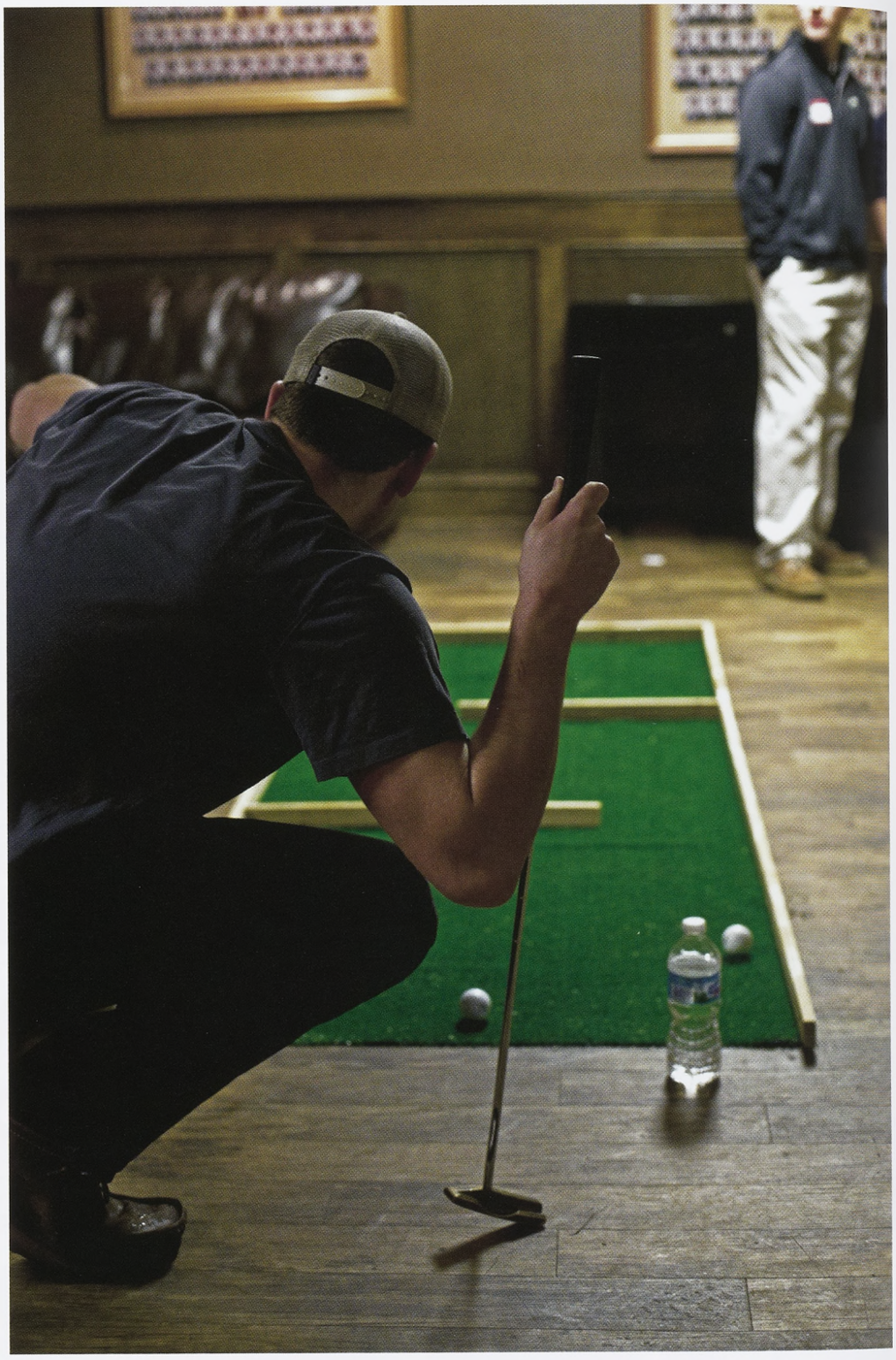
"We hope to make this an annual event. We want it to become a tradition," she said, noting the enthusiasm of her sisters involved.

"As the MSU Greek community, the largest student organization, it's important for us to give back to the community…because we have the power and ability to," she continued. "There are so many opportunities to bring awareness to domestic violence."

Junior Nick Fredricks lines up his putt during the first night of rush week at the Sigma Chi house. This year Sigma Chi is headed by president Michael Chapman and vice president Dave Wolf.

Junior Alex Frankfort chats with fellow attendees during a break from an intense table tennis match. For the past four years, Sigma Chi has won the Philanthropy and Community Service Award during MSU's Greek Gala awards banquet.





Freshman Peter Colasanti lights up a stogey during "Poker and Cigar Night" at the Sigma Chi house. Sigma Chi has more than 250 chapters recognized internationally.



"We want people who are going to go above and beyond."

Matt Lupo, sophomore

ΣX



Piled in the center of multiple tables, were decks of playing cards proved instrumental in "Cigar and Poker Night." The GPA required to become a member of Sigma Chi fraternity is 2.75.

RUSHING INTO BROTHERHOOD

Sigma Chi participates in Rush Week

Take a deep breath. Introduce yourself. State your name. Be personable. I heard this fraternity doesn't haze. But what if they do? What if I don't get any bids? Breathe out. It's only a week.

These are common thoughts of a student partaking in Rush Week, the week in which fraternities and sororities open up their houses to attract potential pledges to join their brotherhood or sisterhood.

"It's the most important week for our fraternity," said junior David Wolf, vice president of Sigma Chi. "It's what builds our fraternity, after all, it's essentially a business."

Sigma Chi is one of the oldest and largest fraternities internationally with more than 250 charters and 300,000 initiated brothers. It was established in 1942 at MSU.

"Our mission is to improve each year, and Rush Week is a major part in that," Wolf said. "It's an extremely time-consuming and selective process where we look for a variety of people with similar qualities but different temperaments."

During the spring semester Rush Week, more than 80 students rushed Sigma Chi.

"I feel that we are successful in breaking the ice. I mean, rush is awkward," Wolf said.

The fraternity hosted nightly events such as putt-putt golf, watching the MSU men's basketball game against Illinois, and poker night.

"The whole process is interaction, no alcohol," sophomore and Sigma Chi brother Matt Lupo said.

Despite the initial anxiety of meeting new people, Sigma Chi was successful in circulating current brothers around the house, looking for someone who matched with certain attributes.

"It's like speed dating with a bunch of guys," said Alex Frankfort, a junior brother. "It's goofy. You meet people and go through the stock questions such as, 'What's your major? Where are you from?' and so on. But, surprisingly, after a while you get to know the people, even though it's only a week."

All the current brothers wore blue nametags, engaging in a variety of conversation with those rushing, who wore red nametags.

"Rush Week is a learning process for us," Lupo said. "We teach each other from the top down and pass on our knowledge of how Rush Week works."

On the porch, many students passed on wisdom of what it's like to live in the house and what it means to be part of the brotherhood.

"We expect kids who will be future leaders," Wolf said. "We want people who have had a balance in their lifestyles, captains of sports teams, philanthropy leaders and people who have character."

In fact, Sigma Chi recently raised its minimum GPA requirement to 2.75.

"We want people who are going to go above and beyond," Lupo said. "Grades, involvement and leadership skills are key factors."

Sigma Chi aims for a successful week-long event every spring that involves all members of Greek Life for their philanthropy, Derby Days. It is a national fraternity tradition that donates all the proceeds to the Children's Miracle Network and Huntsman Cancer Research Institute.

"We want to have fun but we need to get done what needs to be done," Wolf said. "Greek Life usually has a negative bias, but coming from the small town of Armada, Mich., everyone has been extremely open and welcoming."

Each student who passed through Sigma Chi was welcomed with friendly conversation and the immediate feeling of brotherhood.

"Michigan State is a school of [more than] 47,000 people, and whether it's Greek Life, a student organization, club sports, or anything that makes MSU smaller and more of a closely-knit community is a plus," Frankfort said.

Although Rush Week can be stressful and filled with tough decisions, anxiety and constant interaction, it is essential to Greek Life.

"It's definitely something we look forward to. It's what builds upon our brotherhood, it's what carries on our legacy, and it's one hell of a week," Lupo said.

Breathe out, relax and enjoy.





Following the trend of pocket t-shirts, Sigma Chi brethren could be found wearing T-shirts advertising their fraternity. During the week, brothers wore name tags along with potential pledges to ease the greeting process.

Also seen near Bessey Hall and Brody neighborhood, the Sigma Chi rush board sits in the entrance to the house. The official flower of Sigma Chi is the white rose.



Jessica Carney, a special education intern, flips through the pages of a book at Erickson Hall during the Scholastic book fair. All proceeds went towards Kappa Delta Pi's Literacy Alive! project.

KAΔ EK

A FAIR DAY FOR READING

Kappa Delta Pi's annual book fair demonstrates reading for a cause



Special education intern Hillary Ruimveld picks out books to purchase during the 2012 Scholastic book fair. Ruimveld said she loved the convenience of having a bookstore near her classes.

"It's a reading celebration!" read a banner plastered over shelves stocked with dozens of multi-colored books, ranging from picture books and easy readers to non-fiction and reference titles. Education students filled the lobby of Erickson Hall Jan. 30 - Feb. 3 to get their hands on the latest teaching materials, as volunteers from MSU's education fraternity, Kappa Delta Pi, rang up their desired items.

With help from Scholastic, Kappa Delta Pi was able to transform Erickson Hall into a fully functioning book fair. The international co-ed honor society has historically known members, such as Albert Einstein and Eleanor Roosevelt.

For one week out of the semester, these future educators are able to browse book titles, classroom activities and supplies in the confines of their college, at a reduced price.

"It's good to have the books right here, so we don't have to go to the bookstore," special education intern Hillary Ruimveld said. "We're already in classes for the day, so we're able to come here at lunch and peruse the books."

Every year, Scholastic and Kappa Delta Pi collaborate for the book fair. All proceeds are in the form of "Scholastic dollars," which are then used by the fraternity to buy books to donate to Kappa Delta Pi's Literacy Alive! project—a service initiative designed to enhance literacy skills in elementary and secondary education.

"For an entire week, students go to underrepresented and higher needs school districts to work with the students … it's all about the literacy," adviser Kristy Dumont said.

Kappa Delta Pi held a book fair in the fall, as well, and due to its success, Scholastic contacted them about having one in the spring. High profits have enabled Kappa Delta Pi to expand their outreach.

"We've been so successful lately that we're able to give kids multiple books to take home," said Josh Perusse, Kappa Delta Pi president and special education senior. "Its really nice to be able to give kids their own book to use and take home, instead of having to share."

Aside from the beneficiary purpose, the book fair is a prime opportunity for future teachers to build their library and expand their knowledge about what current teachers are using in the classroom. Popular titles this year include "The Hunger Games" and selections from the "Captain Underpants" series. The fair also includes Spanish-language books, such as "Apagar El Incendio!," and books with larger print to cater to students with learning disabilities.

"It's a good place to find books that are non-fiction or fiction and books that include different genders, races and ethnicity," special education intern Jessica Carney said. "It's a good exposure to books even if you don't buy them. You get to see some titles that are newer, or some authors that you really like, at a bargained price."

Although the fair caters to primarily education students, Perusse recalls an elementary school memory that can be had by anyone who wanders past the book fair.

"I really enjoy the feeling of nostalgia from the book fair like thinking, 'Oh man, I'm in fifth grade again,'" Perusse said. "I would appreciate the books, but I'd always spend my money on posters and stickers."

Whether it is for furthering education or mere entertainment, the book fair is an insightful and interactive way to engage students with the ever-changing world of youth literature.

"It's really nice to be able to give kids their own books to use and take home..."
Josh Perusse, Senior



Juniors Lauren Chambery and Michele Weston work the resister for the 2012 Scholastic book fair located in Erickson Hall. The Kappa Delta Pi education fraternity put on the Book Fair.



Freshman Kate Berry waits patiently for her donation bag to fill. The American Red Cross has been operating since 1881 when it was founded by Clara Barton.

Free T-shirts are piled on a chair to entice prospective donators. Blood drives across campus were focused on a friendly competition against the University of Michigan to see which school could record the most donations.



"Blood can go anywhere, and although it is unknown, I felt that I directly saved someone's life."

Benjamin Hesskamp, sophomore



MSU students wait for their chance to donate to the American Red Cross. The waiting area was supplied with puzzles and card games to help deter boredom.

GO GREEN, BEAT BLUE, GIVE RED

Greek community participates in blood drive competition

Dozens of MSU students and East Lansing citizens laid on portable medical beds, hooked up to machines, while white-coat-clad employees wove in between the hodgepodge of medical supplies. Do not be alarmed, for these healthy students were giving blood, so that many people constrained to real hospital beds can have the chance to stand up.

Volunteers from the American Red Cross and the Greek community immediately greeted each student as they entered the IM Sports-West gym on Feb. 8 for the annual Greek Week blood drive.

"Every house is required to have a minimum amount of donors," Sarah Schumacher, a senior at Delta Gamma who helped organize the event, explained. "There are 13 teams, with at least 29 donors per team."

Essentially, each pint of blood donated has the potential to save three lives.

"So at the very least, we will end up saving 1,131 lives," Schumacher said setting down her calculator.

The blood drive is part of the MSU/U-M Blood Challenge, a three-week competition that runs Jan. 30 to Feb. 24. Currently, MSU is in the lead, but it is a win-win scenario for both schools emphasized by the T-shirts sold at the recovery table. Behind the juice boxes, water and multitude of snacks T-shirts were given to donors that read, "Go Green, Beat Blue, Give Red."

"Of course, it's the friendly rivalry that happens on and off the field, but obviously the main purpose is to give red," said Kelly Weber, MSU's American Red Cross coordinator. "The American Red Cross is the largest humanitarian organization, and this particular blood drive at MSU is the largest in the region."

In fact, in one week of the competition, MSU collected more than 1,275 units of blood.

"It's difficult for college students who are restricted by money to give something, but this is the opportunity for young adults to pay it forward so to speak," Weber said.

Even the people who could not donate blood due to their medical history, an issue with the donation regulations, or the fright of donating have the opportunity to volunteer.

Tori Whiting, a freshman and Sigma Delta Tau member, found out she was unable to give after she passed out donating blood due to her anemia, a condition marked by a lack of red blood cells.

"If you can't donate blood, find a way to help," Whiting said.

Benjamin Hesskamp, a sophomore and Triangle Fraternity member, became a volunteer because he could not donate blood after donating bone marrow the previous summer.

"I was at a charity event for Triangle last year, and I saw a stand, so I signed up [to be a bone marrow donor]," Hesskamp said. "I didn't really think that I would be contacted, but I ended up receiving a call that my marrow matched someone with some form of cancer in Minnesota."

The recipient of the donor was kept unknown, but Hesskamp participated in the rigorous two-month process to prepare for the painful donation.

"But it was a good experience and definitely rewarding, I highly suggest you sign up, because you never know if you will even be a match," Hesskamp said. "Blood can go anywhere, and although it is unknown, I felt that I directly saved someone's life."

Like Hesskamp, Weber shares a personal connection with donating since her father was diagnosed with stage four cancer.

`"I can see the personal intention in what I am doing, and although the regulations can make it difficult to donate blood, it's worth the trouble so people like my father can receive safe blood," Weber said.

Although many felt dizzy from losing a pint of blood, each proudly walked out of the gym labeled with the red American Red Cross sticker that read, "I make a difference."



Freshman Hannah Weiss and sophomore Joshua Gronlund make small talk during their post-donation snack. According to the American Red Cross, someone needs a blood transfusion every two seconds in the United States alone.



Sophomore Meg Harris keeps her spirits high as she battles through lymphoma cancer. Throughout her battle, Harris has kept a blog about her tumor, whom she's nicknamed "Barb."



Harris is a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority, and on Feb. 4, as a part of Greek Week, the Greek community sponsored a Relay for Life fundraiser at IM Sports-Circle. Harris' sorority sisters attended the relay in full support.

TRUST YOUR JOURNEY

Meg Harris, of Pi Beta Phi, lets nothing stand in the way of her optimism

Sophomore Meg Harris is the type of person who hugs instead of handshakes. Her positive nature and outlook on life don't halt for anything, not even her recent diagnosis of nodular sclerosis, the most common form of Hodgkin's lymphoma cancer.

"When it comes to my cancer, I feel like I'm such a fighter with it," Harris said. "You have to be lighthearted when going through something like this, you can't just mope around."

When Harris went home for Thanksgiving in November, her mother noticed a swelling on her neck. At first, she and her parents thought it was an enlarged thyroid, but after a needle biopsy, the swelling proved to be a cancerous tumor.

"When the surgeon walked in and told us (about the tumor), my mom and I were like, 'Excuse me, that isn't on the agenda today,'" Harris said. "I didn't even cry. I just wanted to know what we could do next to fight it."

Harris undergoes chemotherapy treatment at the Sparrow Cancer Center in Lansing every two weeks. Soon, she will undergo four to six cycles of chemotherapy and then radiation for three to four weeks. Harris joked when comparing the radiation treatment to a videogame between the cancer cells and radiated energy, further proving her optimistic attitude.

Harris is a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority, and on Feb. 4, as a part of Greek Week, the Greek community sponsored a Relay for Life fundraiser at IM Sports-Circle. Harris' sorority sisters attended the relay in full support.

"(Relay for Life) was a completely different experience this year," said Mary Kate Halm, a Pi Beta Phi member. "Every one of us was much more emotionally connected than ever, and everyone rocked our purple and green—the colors that represent Hodgkin's lymphoma."

Aside from wearing purple and green, Pi Beta Phi sold bracelets labeled TYJ, or "Trust your journey," Harris' catchphrase.

"'Trust your journey' means you've just got to have faith," Harris said. "Focus on your prize and move on with your life. Never look back."

Harris, a communication major, has dreams of someday working in radio, but in the meantime, she started a blog detailing her journey with Hodgkin's lymphoma. On the blog, Harris discusses appointments, symptoms and emotions while undergoing treatment. She hopes it provides a positive perspective for others battling cancer.

"I try to make (the blog) funny and relatable," she said. "I'll go into a lot of details about my appointments or post pictures, it just depends what I'm feeling."

The blog, megcharris.wordpress.com, is primarily used to update friends and family about what she is going through. Harris said because she is such an independent and prideful person, it is difficult to keep her family involved through her time of struggle. The blog helps her reach out to loved ones through words.

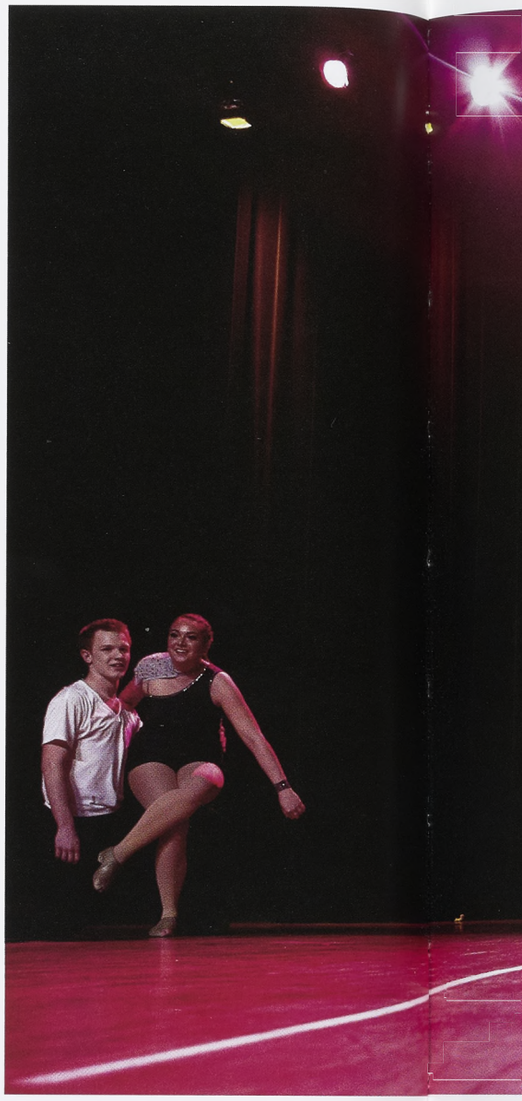
"Thank you for sharing this difficult and very personal journey," Harris' aunt, Allie Milus, said in response to a blog post. "(You are) a true inspiration and a reference guide to those who find themselves with the same diagnosis."

A large portion of the blog discusses a figure Harris "has no sympathy for" named Barb, which is Harris' nickname for her tumor.

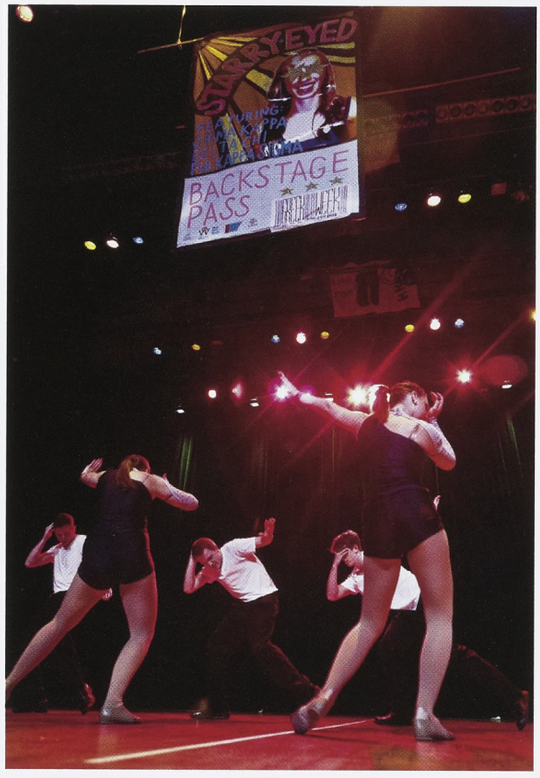
With an incredible support system and an even stronger backbone, Harris is ready to conquer anything that tries to knock her down, particularly Barb.

"Every day I face the challenge of beating cancer. I am constantly learning about myself and using this to my advantage," Harris wrote in a blog entry. "So far I have learned, Barb chose the wrong chick to mess with, because I will show no mercy."

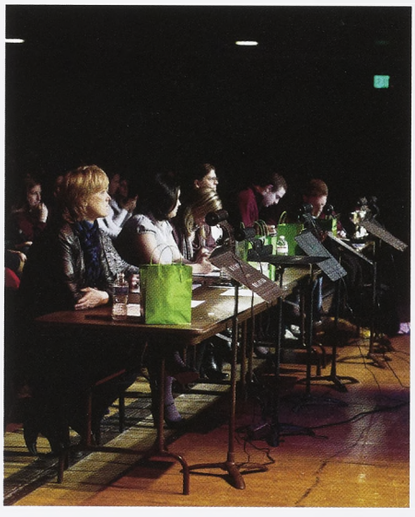
"Focus on your prize and move on with your life. Never look back."
Meg Harris, sophomore



Mid-performance, dance partners Delta Chi and Sigma Kappa teach the crowd "how to dougie." Multiple organizations benefited from not only MTV Night but Greek Week itself; Camp Kesem and Relay for Life were included among a few others.



Members of the community including East Lansing mayor Diane Goddeeris, judge contestants on accuracy, choreography, creativity, and difficulty. Goddeeris was a member of the Alpha Phi sorority during her time as a college student.



"Having all this fun is great, but what's even better is that it's going to a good cause."

Carly Hill, sophomore

Although the house lights were dim and the performance many minutes away, chants and cheers rang through the Auditorium. The sounds bounced from the stage to the balcony and joined with the sight of glow sticks swinging to the beats of background music to create a scene wild by Thursday night standards.

Sheer pride for Greek life radiated from every corner of the room, too thick to be contained until the beginning of the show. Videos of the dancers practicing for MTV Night colored the screen in the front of the Auditorium, and as the name of each house was announced, roars erupted from its members. It was electric. As the dancers took the stage and competition ensued, the current only climbed in kilowatts.

For MTV Night, which took place on Feb. 16, 13 teams competed with routines impressive enough to rival performances on the TV show "America's Best Dance Crew." The dancers lit up the stage with the sequins of their outfits shining and smiles sparkling even brighter. It was clear the performers were excited to soak up the glow of the spotlight. With clever transitions and creative moves, the dancers entertained. A multi-man worm, a flash photography stunt, and a slew of acrobatics peppered the performances. With male partners holding onto their feet, the Sigma Kappa women swung back and forth in a unique pendulum move.

Sigma Kappa dancer and sophomore Carly Hill felt the trick really stood out.

"I'm not a gymnast," she said, "so it was great to do that."

Sigma Kappa team members said they began practicing after winter break, which gave them just five weeks to perfect their dance. Although Hill had previous dance experience, like many others who participated in MTV Night, her team held two-hour practices most days of the week.

The atmosphere was vibrant, and the dancers talented, but there was one element of the night that was more impressive. one that didn't appear onstage. MTV Night, and Greek Week overall, has a profoundly positive impact on the community.

All funds raised through Greek Week events are donated to the American Cancer Society, and several smaller charities. According to Megan Barrett, American Cancer Society Senior Community Representative for MSU Greek, this year's Greek Week events brought in a total of $243,122.

Throughout the year, each fraternity and sorority has its own philanthropic projects, but during Greek Week, they all work together.

"It's a great way to show what sisterhood and brotherhood really means. The reason we're doing this is not to get first place or second place, or third place, it's to raise money and awareness," said communication senior Heather Nykamp, Director of Sponsorship for the Greek Week Leadership Team, and Zeta Tau Alpha member.

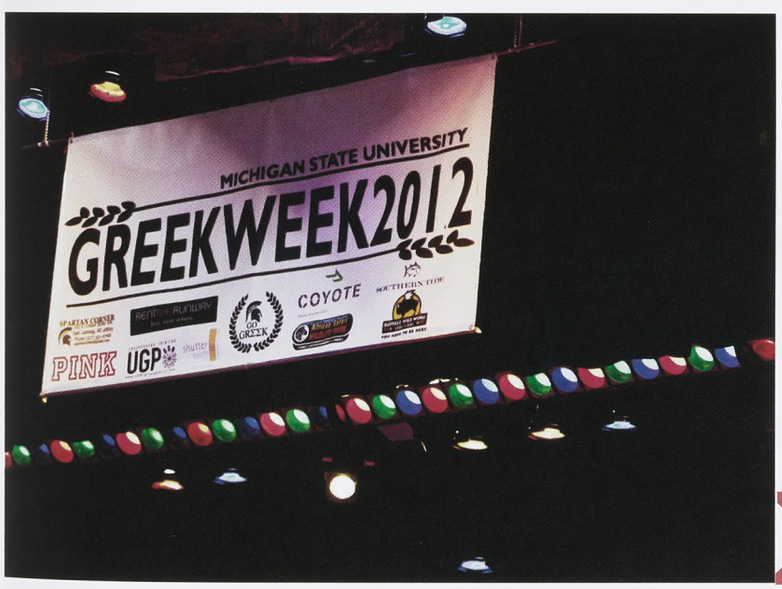
After the performances on MTV Night, a panel of judges—made up of former dancers and local dance instructors—evaluated the routines on elements of accuracy, choreography and difficulty. Sigma Kappa took second place, after Alpha Phi and Kappa Alpha Theta tied for first. Nevertheless, the enthusiasm that fueled Hill's performance onstage still was present in her voice after the decision.

"Having all this fun is great, but what's even better is that it's going to a good cause," she said.

From just a glimpse of the Auditorium on MTV Night, an onlooker might have written off the event as a typical, glittering talent show. But the dancers were motivated by a cause more meaningful than a trophy or a title, and that is undoubtedly deserving of applause.

G | SIGMA KAPPA
content: merinda valley
photo: chase o'black
design: carly patterson





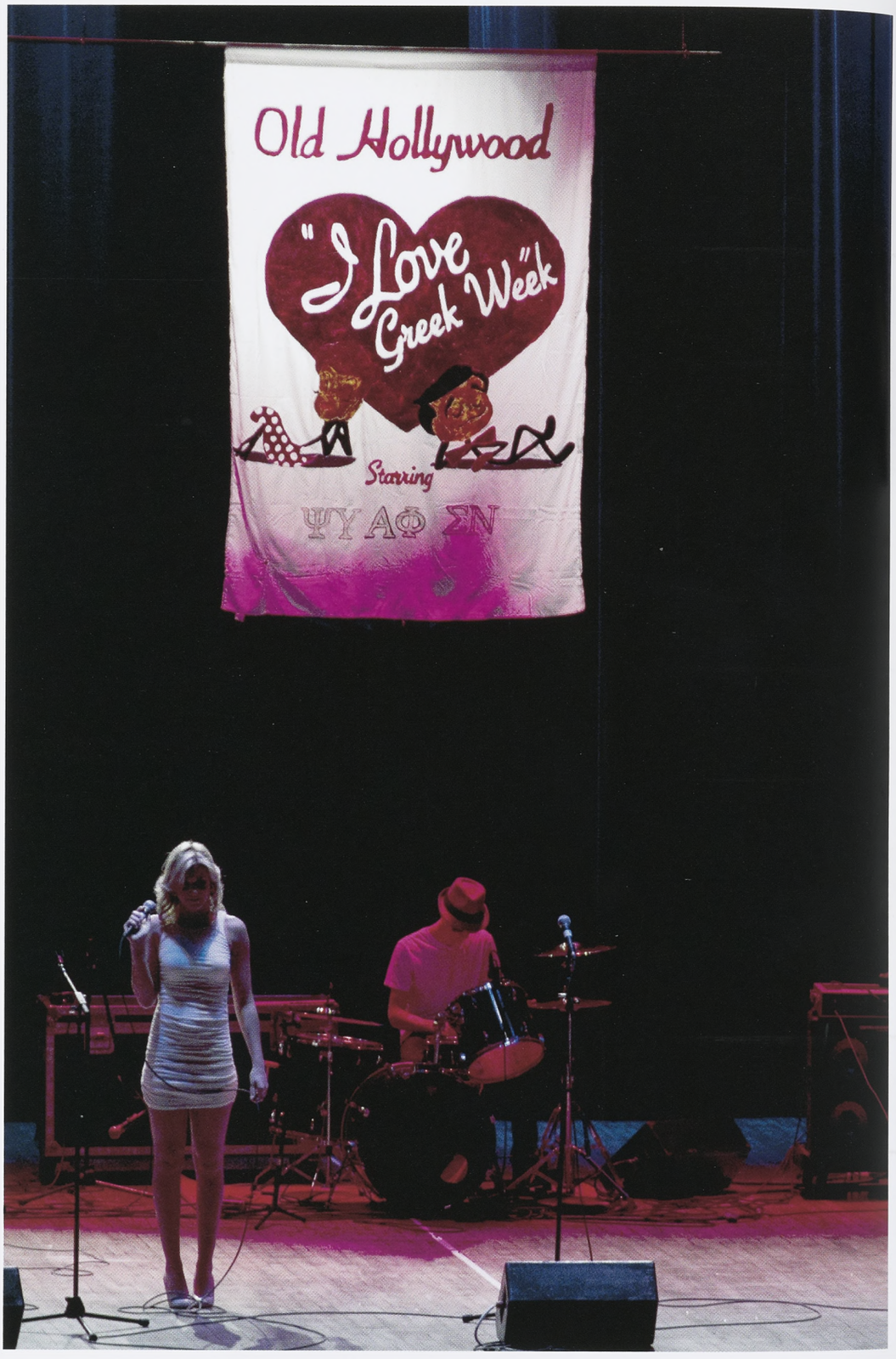
Brothers of Delta Chi rest the sisters of Sigma Kappa on their knees during the finale of their dance performance in Fairchild Auditorium. The sisters of Alpha Phi took first place in Greek Week's rendition of "America's Best Dance Crew."

Shining bright throughout MTV Night, the Greek Week 2012 banner includes a list of sponsors that supported the greek community's efforts throughout the week. Greek Week occurs once a semester allowing sororities and fraternities to compete for a cause.

ΣΚ ΔΨ

A CAUSE FOR COMPETITION

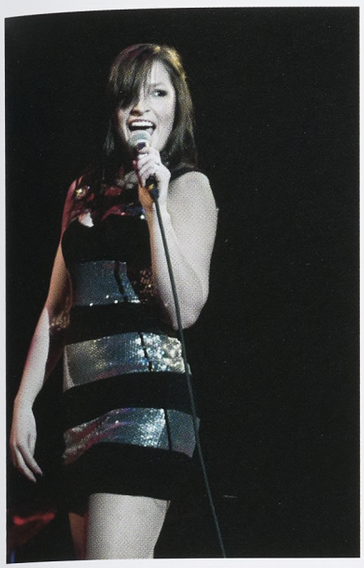
The Greek community moves to the tune of $240,000



Natalie Herzog from Alpha Phi shakes off nerves before her team begins to perform. Alpha Phi, Psi Upsilon, and Sigma Nu performed classics like "Hound Dog" by Elvis Presley and "All That Jazz" from Chicago the Broadway musical.

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET

Greek Life participates in a Battle of the Bands



Monica Love performs a Taylor Swift song. Love's team took first place in the Battle of the Bands competition.

Ladies and gentlemen, take a stroll down the red carpet of Greek Week 2012 for the annual Battle of the Bands competition.

Legendary Hollywood was this year's theme, meaning fraternities and sororities performed based on a subcategory, such as the first old western rodeo or an after party. The annual event worked to continue Greek Week's mission to celebrate the founding values of all Greek letter organizations, which are leadership, service, scholarship and friendship.

The Battle of the Bands also raises money for the American Cancer Society, the main philanthropy of MSU's Greek community. In fact, MSU's efforts bring in the third largest amount for the American Cancer Society in the country.

"Battle of the Bands brings everyone together as a community, to not only compete, but celebrate our achievements so far," said junior Susan Halstead, a member of Pi Beta Phi.

Dozens of jugs filled with pennies, nickels and some checks, lined up in front of a table of MSU Stars, an organization that works as a liaison between the Greek community and Make-A-Wish Foundation. They are the bridge that allows the Penny Wars of Greek Week to become a wish for a child in need.

"This year we raised enough money to help sponsor a kid to go to the Super Bowl," said Jamie Goetz, president of MSU Stars.

The competitive atmosphere on Feb. 17 gives birth to teamwork, because each team consists of one randomly selected fraternity and sorority paired to create a musical act.

"It is a random pick out of the hat with a little bit of luck, but it's competitive," Halstead said. "The girls take charge, and that's why a lot of the men think we are psycho, but it is totally worth it."

Senior Jake Hoppert, a member of Triangle Fraternity, who worked on the After Party, worked with members of Delta Gamma and performed songs that epitomized the post-gathering of the red carpet.

"It helps when they take charge," Hoppert said. "It was a challenge to work together, and it's pretty nerve wrecking, especially when your keyboardist forgets the power cables right before we were about to go on and has to run all the way to Shaw."

Fortunately, the keyboardist ran cross country in high school.

Pi Beta Phi took first place, with Theta Chi in second, and following in third was Chi Omega and its partners.

"We included a diverse amount of songs rather than classic rock or top 40 as well as a variety of instruments...even the banjo," sophomore Sammy Sant said with a sigh, after yelling for the Pi Beta Phi victory. "I honestly did not expect us to win, but I guess we fell into the unique category."

After celebrating with her friends, Halstead revealed she is a vocalist in music education.

"It definitely helped seal the victory," Sant said.

Unlike Halstead, sophomore Katie Peterson, a member of Delta Gamma, never sang before the event.

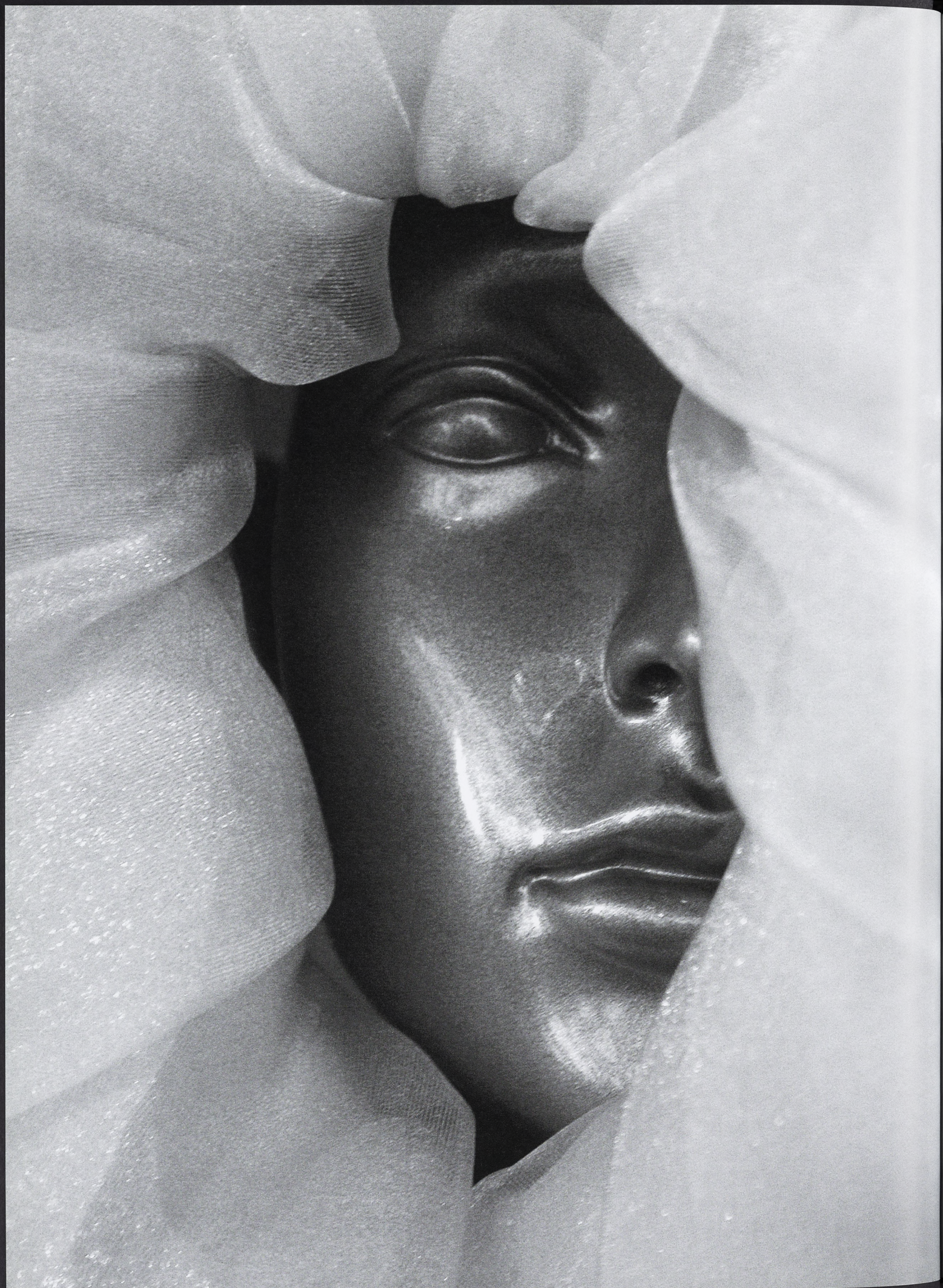
"The Battle of the Bands is definitely the most fun way to raise money," Peterson said. "I am glad I could participate in it."

At the end of the competition, although the red carpet is rolled up, the famous philanthropic actions and Greek spirit remains, like photographs of the paparazzi.

"The Battle of the Bands is definitely the most fun way to raise money."
Katie Peterson, sophomore



Katie Peterson and Elizabeth O'Malley sing a duet hoping that their voices do not give out. "I was extremely nervous before we went on stage because unfortunately, the day before Katie and I both lost our voices," O'Malley said.





COLLEGES

Founded in 1855, under the Michigan Constitution, the Agricultural College of the State of Michigan was formed. The curriculum balanced science, liberal arts and practical training but continued to develop throughout the years into present day Michigan State University. MSU is a garden that began as a seed and has grown into more than 200 academic programs offered by 17 degree-granting colleges.

The land-grant institution of MSU is irrigated not only by the flowing Red Cedar River but also by the external flood of staff, students and faculty who provide life to the East Lansing campus. Passion for knowledge is the source of energy that shines down on the green and white Spartans. Despite the diversity of each student's roots, the colleges that compose the plot of MSU, provide the nutrients in which they can bloom.

Like plants, each student requires different conditions and each college epitomizes that function. In the College of Nursing, students learn the value of enhancing the health of the community through education, research and practice. At the other end of campus, students are developing into world leaders at the Eli Broad College of Business.

Within the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, students explore the value of literature, history, ethics, visual and performing arts, and cultures.

Each student finds rest in a nourishing college. Each college enhances that student's ability to blossom and eventually take on the world full force. MSU is a garden, filled with an interwoven system of roots supporting that cultivation of increasingly flowering minds.

Allison Jarrell

content: matthew revers
photo: nathan urban
design: brendan prost

college of

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Special Olympics fundraiser has community members taking a chilly plunge

Cold was the word of the day at the eighth annual Lansing Polar Plunge. As community members lined up in the snow to jump into the frigid waters, others cheered them on to raise money for the Special Olympics.

Even if the water was unbearable, those who took the leap appeared to be enjoying themselves. Emerging with the help of the police department's scuba team, soaking cupids and shivering Kung-Fu masters were never without a smile. Graduate Fisheries and Wildlife student and repeat-plunger Emily Johnston said if the blankets, cocoa, and spirit of the participants don't warm your heart enough, the speeches given by the Special Olympians certainly will. Between Johnston and her fiancé Andy Flies, who is an MSU Ph.D. student, they have raised nearly $1,000 for the Special Olympics in the past two years.

Maybe it was the common bond of the cold, or the loss of muscle control that made participants in the Polar Plunge smile.

But when asked how the plunge was, Johnston said, "Bottom line, it is a great event for a great cause and we have a great time participating."

With more than 350 registered plungers, the line snaked around the reception hall of the Eagle Eye Golf Club, looking more like a Halloween parade as participants filed in. Mermaids, cowboys, hula dancers, and yes, even polar bears, showed up to take the plunge into the frigid waters, all of whom would help to raise more than $50,000, said Valerie Suszko, event organizer and special education teacher at nearby Holt Elementary School. Although Suszko wouldn't be taking the plunge herself, her efforts in organizing the fundraiser have allowed plungers like the blue spandex-clad Ben Bakken to participate in his fifth consecutive year in the polar plunge. According to his personal fundraising page, Bakken managed to raise $2,695, exceeding his personal goal of $2,000.

With encouraging comments on his personal page like, "I am suddenly looking forward to snow…" and "We stand behind you—way behind, warm [and] dry," it's no wonder Bakken found himself at the edge of the dock once again.



Sponsored participants jump in a freezing lake to raise money for Special Olympics. Named the Polar Plunge, this event raised money through sponsorship by local businesses.

content: carolyn sundquist
photo: allison jarrell
design: brendan prost



The 2011 Apparel and Textile Design Exhibition featured student work chosen by peer and faculty curators. Many of the designs were created using sustainable practices, such as Krity Shrestha's garment made out of recycled newspaper.

The exhibition also featured many two-dimensional art works, like croquis. Croquis drawings are quick sketches of models usually done within a few minutes.



college of

ARTS AND LETTERS

Apparel and Textile Design students present 2-D and 3-D designs

The bright lights, shining not only from the ceiling, but also from six models sporting illuminated dresses, drew dozens of students and faculty to the Kresge Art Museum for the opening of the Apparel and Textile Design Gallery Exhibit on Nov. 22.

The dresses were the result of a project assigned by assistant professor Theresa Winge. In her class, ATD 423, Design Methods and Approaches, Winge says she "taught the students how to build basic and complex circuits and program simple computer interfaces to create 'etextiles,'" with the end goal to create illuminated fashion designs.

"As a designer, I hacked together illuminated garments in the 1980s from holiday lights and transparent fabrics," Winge said. "Students from ATD 423 created designs using LED lights, EL wire, and even hacked holiday lights."

The annual ATD Design Gallery Exhibit, in its third year, allows students in any ATD class to submit either 2-D or 3-D designs. The works were judged, and the chosen 25 were displayed in the exhibit, featured from Nov. 22 to Dec. 4.

"We were looking for an avant-garde look that would look good far away and up close for people viewing it," said Lauren Dale, a junior and one of four exhibit curators. "We wanted to showcase really innovative techniques."

Dale had two dresses featured in the exhibit. One was striped blue and white, encompassing a "wedding, nautical theme," and the other was one of the six illumination dresses called 'Young Lady.'"

"From the beginning stages of sketching the garment to the end it takes a couple weeks. The actual construction of the dress took about a week," Dale said.

Dale has known since high school that she wanted to study Apparel and Textile Design, a program in the College of Arts and Letters.

. MSU provided the perfect fit.

"Going right into freshman year of college, I fell in love with the program," she said. "The classes are often smaller and the professors know each student's work and have a personal relationship with them."

But not everyone knows his or her career path going straight into college.

Senior and the exhibit's head curator, Stephanie Gupta, realized her love for design just before entering her junior year, when she was still a pre-vet major.

"I love animals and everything. It's just being an art major helps me express myself even more, so it was perfect for me to switch," Gupta said. "I'm so happy to be able to express myself in garments."

content: noelle sciarini
photo: danielle turcotte
design: brendan prost

LYMAN BRIGGS college

Lyman Briggs professor wins National Science Foundation grant

Lyman Briggs professor Teena Gerhardt has a little more than teaching to look forward to this year. She recently found out she was a recipient of a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation as part of the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program.

"Basically, only junior faculty [who don't qualify for tenure yet] are allowed to apply for the award," Gerhardt said. "It's very competitive, so it was thrilling to find out I won."

Gerhardt will be using the funds she received from NSF for both research and teaching. The research aspect focuses on two areas of mathematics, particularly the Algebraic K-Theory. Aolgebraic K-Theory is mainly is used to study properties of fundamental objects in algebra called rings, which can be applied to other aspects of mathematics such as the equivariant homotopy theory. Gerhardt has been studying both theories since her PhD days.,

Part of her research will focus on groups that are underrepresented in mathematics, particularly women.

"Women have come a long way in this field. It wasn't that long ago that it was unheard of for women to study math, and now they make up about 40 percent of undergraduates in that field," Gerhardt said.

"However, once you get up to graduate school, the number drops to 20-30 percent, and when you get past that to faculty positions, it's less than 10 percent. Something is happening between the school and professor ranks and I'd like to try to figure out what that is."

Gerhardt currently is developing a senior seminar on the subject that will also include a history of women mathematicians. She also plans to include students in her research during the undergraduate research program Lyman Briggs puts on each summer for students from around the country.

Katie Walicki, a Lyman Briggs freshman, said she is excited to see where Gerhardt's studies take her over the next few years.

"The fact that a Lyman Briggs professor received a National Science Foundation grant is a great thing for women and for the Lyman Briggs residential program at MSU," Walicki said in an email.

"I support Professor Gerhardt's research interests of women in mathematics and I think the area is worth studying because it could lead to valuable data as to why women are not choosing to pursue math past a certain point and what reasons or other interests are behind this occurrence."



Teena Gerhardt, a Lyman Briggs professor, is the recipient of a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation. She will be researching the history of women and reasons why so many choose a different area of study other than math.



college of BUSINESS

Road to Broad 5K raises $3,500 for Make-A-Wish Foundation



Runners fight for the front of the pack at the begining of the race. Roughly 320 participants joined the race.

Students gather to register for the Eli Broad 5k race. This was the fourth year the race took place.



Freshman Beth Petro adjusts her polka-dot headband one last time before taking her spot on the starting line. It's Sunday, Oct. 23, the sun is shining and Petro is about to take off on the annual Road to Broad 5K. As the race official announces, "Runners take your mark!" Petro wishes her brother and his girlfriend good luck, and then they're off on a winding trail along the Red Cedar River.

"I'm in the Business College, and since this is one of their major events during the year, it made sense for me to do it," Petro said. "I also run a lot in [MSU's] Running Club, so a 5K wasn't too difficult for me."

The race was hosted by the Eli Broad Undergraduate Student Senate, a student organization for the College of Business that exists to make sure the voices of their student body are heard. The proceeds went toward the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This year, a girl name Jada will have her wish of going on a Caribbean Cruise, sophomore and Student Senate member Chris Thieda said.

Thieda became involved with the Student Senate his freshman year after speaking with his adviser. Now the treasurer of the organization, he said there were close 320 registered participants in this year's race.

Not only did they raise enough money for Jada to take her trip with two or three additional people, but they raised close to $3,500, which is almost $2,000 more than last year. Thanks to race director and junior Jake Warnick, this year's race was different.

"He did a phenomenal job getting things organized and making sure the race was well-advertised," Thieda said of Warnick

Thieda wasn't the only one who spoke highly of Warnick, who is also part of the Student Senate. Runners, spectators and community members alike came up to him after the race to offer congratulations and handshakes. Warnick shrugged most of it off.

"Every year someone volunteers to be the race director, and this year I decided to step up. I was able to delegate most of the work," Warnick said. He focused on marketing to specific parts of campus—mainly students in the Business College as well as alumni groups as part of Homecoming weekend. The strategy worked.

"We still had a lot of people show up despite the awesome football game the night before," Warnick said. "It went really well. No one got lost, we didn't run out of food... It just went smoothly."

Petro finished the race with a giant smile across her face, crossing the finish line along the Red Cedar just south of The Rock at exactly the same time as her brother and his girlfriend. They talked and joked as they snacked on bagels and fruit and waited for Warnick to announce the age group and raffle prize winners. While they didn't end up winning anything, Petro still enjoyed herself.

"It was a lot of fun, and totally worth it just for the T-shirt alone. They look like those tuxedo shirts from the 80s!"

content: cooper franks
photo: lauren gabbury
design: carly patterson

college of

COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES

Journalism students partake in SPJ conference



Sophomores Kayley Sopel and Lauren Evasic converse about their time at the conference. Both had the opportunity to speak with experts about the skills needed to succeed in today's journalism industry.



Senior Jacob Kanclerz, sophomore Ian Kullgren and senior Kate Jacobson look on as they listen to discussions between students and professionals. They all hold positions at the State News, which provides an excellent platform for students to enter into journalism careers.

On a rainy afternoon in March, dozens of journalists huddled together in the State News' newsroom. What's the story? The annual Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) regional conference at MSU.

On March 23-24, the mid-Michigan Pro and MSU student chapters welcomed speakers from Patch, MLive Media Group, The Huffington Post, Yahoo! and more to discuss how they are transforming the field of journalism. SPJ dedicates its focus to perpetuate freedom of press, while ensuring the concept of self-government and informing people in an accurate, comprehensive, timely and understandable manner.

Jacob Kanclerz, a senior and president of MSU's SPJ chapter, said he aims to bring SPJ's message to the community, especially for the journalists of the future.

One of those future journalists, Kellie Rowe, a sophomore studying broadcast journalism, said she wants to be Oprah Winfrey. Rowe, who has been working at The State News since spring 2011, currently is the paper's diversity reporter.

"I tend to cover cultural events, but sometimes I go offbeat," Rowe said. "I figured Oprah would like that."

Rowe's goal is to either work at MSNBC or possibly host a television show of her own.

"I want to cover the inspirational stories, and specifically how gender roles play out in society," she said.

Lauren Gibbons, an MSU sophomore majoring in journalism and history, said she hopes to pursue her passion as well.

"I'm not 100 percent sure of the outcome, as long as it has a lasting impact," Gibbons said.

One thing Gibbons is sure of is the potential to make that difference within a city.

"The diversity within a city is immense. You could talk about a court date, community event or local legislation, but then you can take that into perspective and make it into something much more through the power of retrospection," Gibbons said.

This beauty of journalism—its ability to consistently be different—is a factor that appeals to freshman Julia Nagy.

"I could never work a 9 to 5 job," Nagy said.

Staring out at the passionate journalists conversing, Nagy took a deep breath in appreciation.

"The buzz in here is so…," Nagy paused to take it all in, "infectious."

"I love the human element of journalism," Nagy said. "You get to step into their shoes for that moment and you become genuinely connected. It requires a lot of trust because you are in control of their story, so they are entrusting you to do it justice."

That justice is embodied in the SPJ's message—to convey the infinitely vast diversity of information to the people.



Students stopped by the Materials Science and Engineering Society's table to learn about a variety of opportunities available with the organization. The Society often holds fundraisers and student panels and has attended conferences in the past.



college of ENGINEERING

Engineering students check out student groups during O-Night

The center court of Wilson Hall was hoppin' on Sept. 28. A DJ spun hot dance music, balloons and candy lay scattered over tables and floors, and in the back corner of the large circular room separating the north and south sections of Wilson Hall rested two fully operational racing cars. Sounds like the setting for a rave, right? Wrong.

For a college serving over approximately 3,086 undergraduate students and offering nine degree programs—not to mention specializations—MSU's College of Engineering has its work cut out for it. One effort to foster cohesion among such a sizable and diverse population is O-night, or Organization Night, a veritable smorgasbord featuring about half of the engineering student groups currently sanctioned by MSU.

Senior and Student Engineering Council member Horacio Munoz said the council hosts the event annually.

"It's in collaboration with ERE (Engineering Residential Experience), and it gives freshmen, sophomores and transfer students a fantastic opportunity to see some of the student organizations the College of Engineering has to offer," Munoz said.

One freshman in particular, Joe Wandyez, took full advantage of this opportunity, bustling from table to table until he'd chatted up nearly every one of the 23 student organizations that participated in the event.

"I got an email (about O-Night) and then I saw this sweet party and I said to myself, 'I should go,'" Wandyez said. "It's fun because I get free candy and casino bucks and I get to talk to all of the student organizations."

But not all organizations are what they seem. The Society of Women Engineers, senior Liz Hinds was quick to point out, also has male members.

"It's a support group for women in science and engineering fields, but you don't have to be a girl to be in it," Hinds said. Hinds joined the society her freshman year, but this was her first time recruiting members at O-Night.

"O-Night is a great event because you can get exposure to a lot of different groups," Hinds said. "Doing it with just your major makes it so it fits into what you'd want to do outside of classes anyway."



Engineering Freshman Cha Yang inspects an MSU Baja Racing car at Engineering O-Night. Each year members of the group design and build an off-road vehicle that can withstand tough terrain challenges.

content: carolyn sundquist
photo: nathan urban
design: carly patterson



Honors College students pursue the ball as they fight for position in the annual broomball match. The event brought together over 50 students who were eager to showcase their skills on the ice and get a goal for their team.



Students celebrate after a contraversial goal scored in the broomball game. Every year, the Honors College holds the game to give students a chance to meet others and a break from their demanding schedules.

It's about 30 degrees down in the rink of Munn Ice Arena, yet only minutes after starting a game of broomball, the Honors College students were sweating so much they had to take their sweatshirts and jackets off.

The college's annual broomball game, held on Nov. 15, brought out over 50 of its students to let out some steam during their hectic schedules.

"It's not too often I take a break from studying and actually do things with a bunch of other people," sophomore Zane Crawford said. "To do something large like this with a bunch of other Honors kids is good."

These known studying-enthusiasts were able to let loose and run around while the radio played Maroon 5's "Moves Like Jagger." The red dodgeball, which eventually became two as more people arrived, flew around the ice while students holding broom-length clubs wildly tried to hit it across the arena.

The Honors College is comprised of around 2,000 students selected by their GPA and standardized test scores. They can be admitted either straight out of high school or by the end of their sophomore year at MSU. Honors students also are allowed early class registration, waived prerequisites and have access to the advisors and staff working for the Honors College.

"The reason I wanted to come here was for the Honors College," sophomore David Crouse said.

Crouse, anxious to run out on the ice, also said he loves the freedom of choosing his own schedule, since he isn't required to take any integrated studies classes. He raved about EGR 102, a programming class.

"We covered a lot more material all in all and we had a much more challenging and frankly, fun final project," Crouse said.

The regular section of the course tracked the temperature of a lake for their final project, but the Honors section wrote a computer program to determine the exact optimal fuel configuration of a real rocket to hit a target in space.

"Essentially, the math we could have done, you could have plugged it in to a physical Soviet surplus rocket and hit a target in space, we hope," Crouse said.

While these students may be learning how to send rockets to space, they still know how to release some fuel and let loose.

HONORS college

The Honors College unwinds with a game of broomball

college of EDUCATION

College of Education's new dean steps up to the plate

Taking leadership of MSU's elite College of Education may seem like a daunting task to many, but Dean Don Heller is up to the challenge. Heller, who became dean in January 2012, said there were exciting aspects of his new job, as well as obstacles to overcome.

"I'm most looking forward to working with the people in the College of Education," Heller said. "Everybody is so bright and engaged."

Heller also knows taking charge of one of the highest rated education colleges in the world isn't going to come without challenges.

"As a professional, my background has been focused in higher education," Heller said.

Before coming to MSU, Heller was a professor at Pennsylvania State University, as well as the director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education. Heller said although he feels very experienced in matters of higher education, he has to do some exploring in areas like K-12 and kinesiology.

To help start his time at MSU, Heller said he believes in three guiding principles, or what he called "core values," that he hopes to incorporate into his.

The first principle Heller stressed is respect.

"We should treat everybody respectfully," Heller said. "Whether it's a student, staff member or faculty, everybody deserves respect."

The second core value is transparency.

"I hope to manage the staff in a way that everybody understands decisions," he said. "Even if everybody doesn't always necessarily agree, I want them to at least understand where a decision came from. The best way to do that is to have high involvement in that process."

The third and final guiding principle is simple: have some fun.

"There are lots of people in this college that work very hard," Heller said. "If there's an opportunity to have fun, we need to take it."

Audrey DiComo, an education junior, said she was excited to see what the dean has in store for the college.

"It'll be interesting to see if there is a significant change at the undergraduate level," she said. "His ideas seem great; I think he has a lot of support."

Ashley Chamberlain, an education senior, also said she approves of what the dean's goals may mean for her.

"I like that he wants to involve everybody as much as possible," she said. "When there is so much involvement, everybody's voice gets to be heard and we as students can feel like what we think is important and that it matters."

Managing one of the most elite education colleges in the U.S. is no easy feat, but Heller's in it for the long haul.

"We are going to see opportunities and grab them," he said. "The university believes I have what it takes, and so do I."



Donald Heller accepts the position as the new Dean of the College of Education. Heller was a professor at Pennsylvania State University, as well as a director for the Center for the Study of Higher Education.

JAMES MADISON | LAW
content: marirose sanborn
photo: nathan urban
design: brendan prost

JAMES MADISON college

College of Law and others discuss the influence of religion on politics

There are two topics about which it seems everyone disagrees — religion and politics.

With the variety of opinions at MSU, bringing up the terms liberal, conservative, atheist or Christian can send the seemingly meek into a raging rant. For this reason, students tend to avoid these topics altogether.

But on Jan. 25 in the International Center, no one was walking on eggshells.

"Americans overwhelmingly define themselves as religious…it may be our religious diversity that raises so many issues," said Frank Ravitch, College of Law professor and chair of law and religion.

Ravitch Three other experts joined Ravitch and a room full of students of different beliefs to discuss the influence of religion on the way people vote, and how it will affect the presidential primaries. From Rick Santorum's republican presidential campaign to the controversial Islamic Sharia law, every imaginable topic that sends even politicians off their hinges was examined.

Despite the potentially controversial content , there was not a single outburst during the event. Rather, the atmosphere was one of composure and interest.

"It was great to hear professors from a bunch of different departments," senior Evan Stewart said. "It was nice to get a variety of perspectives from everyone."

Along with the other departments participating, the College of Law hoped to engage students in a dialogue that would get them to think critically about issues of religion and politics.

"You need to be informed if you're going to consider these religious issues in politics," Ravitch said. "You shouldn't just listen to what people say; look at the rules on the ground."

When Mohammad Khalil, assistant professor of Religious Studies brought up the concerns of conservative Christians, Jews, and Mormons about whether or not President Barack Hussein Obama was a Muslim, Ravitch challenged the audience.

"Who cares if he's Muslim, or worships a holy pickle?" Ravitch said, begging the question of just how much a candidate's religion should matter come election time. "But to modern Americans, it does…Even Western politics outside of America don't brazen religion."

Ravitch said he does not think the U.S.'s religiosity can last as it is not regarded well by other nations. However, some believe Americans are not actually educatedion about religion.

"Religious literacy in America is so low," senior Sara Lone said, disturbed with the amount of prejudices religious and non-religious voters carry with them into the ballot box.

Lone, president of the MSU Religious Studies group, hoped that the forum would cause students to "think more outside their religion" when it comes to making political decisions. .

The College of Law's input in the panel provided a thought-provoking example of examining perspectives and broadening horizons for a generation that is shaping the political climate of tomorrow.



James Madison College and the College of Law hosts an event for students that explores politics and religion. The panel of speakers discussed religion and the role it would play in the presidential election.

content: matthew revers
photo: evan farinosi
design: brendan prost



MSU's Symphony Orchestra performs at the Wharton Center Jen 27. The orchestra was led by faculty member and composer Ron Newman.

Newman received a standing ovation for the world premiere of his "Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra. The orchestra also performed pieces by Beethoven and Brahms.



college of MUSIC

MSU's Symphony Orchestra acknowledges the past

As one of the most diverse colleges at MSU, the College of Music's Symphony Orchestra isn't afraid to be different. This explains why renowned composer and faculty member Ron Newman received a standing ovation for the world premiere of his "Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra" at Jan. 27's concert at the Wharton Center.

The audience wasn't the only group enthralled by the performance, though. Even the players' stone-faced concentration gave way to glinting smiles as cheers spread through the audience after the first performance.

"At some point, Beethoven and Brahms was new music, too," said bassist Robert Johnson, a first-year doctoral student in the MSU Symphony Orchestra. "The culture we're starting to develop, especially in the orchestra world, is getting a lot healthier, and it's pretty thrilling."

In its 85th season, the MSU Symphony Orchestra has a firm understanding that, in nearly every sense, music is change. Yet, the past was hardly ignored at this performance; following Newman's "Concerto" were performances of Claude Debussy's "Nocturnes" and Maurice Ravel's "Daphnis et Chloé Suite No. 2," both of which were composed well before World War II.

The temporal distance of the two pieces is all the more apparent when comparing the angular percussiveness of Newman's piece to the impressionistic sonic swells of Ravel.

Christina Steyer, a fourth-year music education major in the College of Music, attributes much of the diverse prowess to the students themselves.

"The music school has one of the largest populations of international students, which is great because we get to see a lot of different cultures in the classroom," Steyer said. "There are a lot of passionate people within the college that like to devote their entire selves and lives to the music. At the same time, they are some of the most affable people I've ever met."

Many students—most of whom are music education majors—plan to teach after their five-year stay at MSU. But others, like Robert Johnson, have different ambitions.

"I really want to play in the military bands, and do some freelancing," he said.

Others still have different plans, like Rachel Miller, a senior harpist in the MSU Symphony Orchestra.

"I might get my doctorate because you can never learn enough," Miller said.

For now, Miller plans to apply to various graduate programs, including the likes of renowned Julliard School for performing arts.

Being in the music school isn't all performance, however.

"Usually we have at least seven to 10 classes a semester. It's a lot of work and there are a lot of one-credit courses, so it requires tons of practice time," Steyer said.

In addition to practicing and attending classes, many students are active in other events. After all that, the music still isn't over.

"There are lots of ensembles, and the harp department is limited in size so we get a lot of opportunities to play," said Miller, who is president of a small orchestra in East Lansing.

Most College of Music students would agree that things can get hectic, and it can be difficult to keep up at times. Yet, Johnson likes to keep things in perspective.

"When you play in an orchestra, you need to remember that it's not about you. It's not even about the conductor," he said. "It's about the product."

content: marirose sanborn
photo: nathan urban
design: betsy eber



Using real human brains, students were able to show participants what each part of the brain was responsible for. The Brain Bee was a popular event that was put on by the College of Natural Science.

College of Natural Science students help kids learn using activities that were fun for all ages. In its second year of existence, the Brain Bee was a great opportunity to share interesting facts about the brain in a fun environment.



college of NATURAL SCIENCE

College of Natural Science hosts neurology competition

The hallway of the Biomedical and Physical Sciences building usually contains hoards of twenty-somethings waiting for an 8 a.m. lecture. But on Feb. 11 the college students were replaced by bright-eyed children scuttling between displays of brain anatomy art and mind teaser games at the Brain Bee fair.

"I love how you see some younger kids interested in the brain already … The brain we use every day is so amazing in how it works and can be manipulated," psychology sophomore Jona Agolli said. "I wish I had known about neurons and the brain when I was younger."

The fair entertained the families of those competing in the College of Natural Science's second annual Brain Bee, a oral neurology test for high school students.

"Our main goal is to show that science can be fun, but if they can learn about neurology too, that's great," said graduate student Jessica Poort, who helped organized the event. "I want people to see it's something everyone can understand."

A boy with a green neuron painted on his cheek stared wide-eyed as graduate student Carmel Martin-Fairey held out a human brain for him to touch. This kind of interactive experience, the graduate student said, is essential to creating "awareness and advocate to the elementary and high schoolers to science in a way that's not overwhelming."

In another room, high schoolers burned through questions ranging from protein types to inhibitors that affect brain activity.

"It was just impressive," said neuroscience professor S. Marc Breedlove, who moderated the competition.

The high school students easily answered most of the questions Breedlove admitted his college students would have trouble with.

"I don't know what we would've done if we couldn't stump them," laughed Breedlove, who thought the question difficulty would need to be increased for next year.

After winning the competition by just one point, high school junior Sid Chand received two all-expenses-paid tickets to the national Brain Bee competition in Washington, D.C., as well as a paid opportunity to work in a MSU neuroscientist's lab during the summer. For Chand, who hopes to pursue a career in biochemistry and pharmaceutical science, this is the perfect way to kick-start his dream.

"If you get experience working in a lab, you're setting a foundation for your career that some people never have," Martin-Fairey said, describing the advantage of young students getting the opportunity to tailor their educations.

When the university introduces the neuroscience major to the College of Natural Science in the fall of 2012, the next wave of students will embrace opportunities to pass on their passion for the groundbreaking science.

college of
NURSING

Through a federal grant, nursing students inspire young students in Lansing

When walking into a Wexford Middle School classroom, one sees the small-sized chairs, brightly colored wall decorations and fluorescent lights illuminating the smiling faces of each student in the classroom. These sixth, seventh and eighth-graders were especially enthused on March 23 because of a special visit from MSU student nurses visiting to share medical knowledge and, more particularly, encourage the kids to pursue a career in nursing.

"We're offering hands-on activities to get the kids really excited about nursing," said associate project organizer and MSU alum Kendra Elam.

The nursing fair was made possible by a grant issued to the College of Nursing from the Health Resources and Services Administration Nursing Workforce Diversity Program in 2010. Elam said the ultimate goal of the grant is to "have more underrepresented populations in nursing."

"We want there to be more diversity of nursing students," she said. "More first-generation nursing students, more low-income nursing students and more males, and also to encourage minorities to pursue nursing."

Elam said with help from the grant, the College of Nursing can educate students in the Lansing School District about the medical field, teaching information these students may not be exposed to in a standard classroom setting.

The classroom at the middle school was full of about 40 students and more than a dozen MSU students. Six stations were set up around the classroom, each explaining a different medical procedure or demonstration. In one corner was a black light hand-washing test where students washed their hands with bright orange soap and then held them under a black light to examine how many germs were left.

Other stations included interactive activities, such as computer game-like software detailing ways to maintain a healthy heart and a step-by-step example explaining how and why nurses use IVs.

Wexford Middle School was the second school in Lansing the nursing students visited this year, and they plan on visiting more before summer. Also in the works is a summer program that will house Lansing high school students on campus to learn more about nursing.

"We really want to combat the current nursing shortage and get kids excited about nursing," Elam said. "They can leave here thinking, 'Wow, that was interesting I want to know more about it.'"

The College of Nursing has reached out to other parts of the community by volunteering at several places throughout Lansing, such as the Ronald McDonald House and various elderly homes, Lin said. Although Lin enjoys working with people of all ages, pediatrics remains her favorite medical branch.

"Kids are just so innocent," she said. "Everything we show them they seem so amazed by."

Events like these exemplify the importance of learning outside of the classroom and hands on interaction and experience in the workplace are vital entities needed to succeed in any field.

Nursing graduate and Family Nurse Practitioner Robyn Jensen teaches middle school students basic Nursing procedures. The College of Nursing put on events across the Lansing area to teach middle school kids basic Nursing skills.





Middle school students work together while learning about Nursing. The event was held by the College of Nursing to get kids in the local communities educated and interested in Nursing careers.



Middle school students use orange soap to test the amount of germs that remained after they washed their hands. The activity emphasized the importance of proper hand washing.

C OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
content: carolyn sundquist
photo: nathan urban
design: betsy eber

college of

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Students and faculty learn to transform doctor-patient relationship through the arts

On the second floor of the Wharton Center for Performing Arts the weekend of Jan. 12–14, there were no actors or musicians to be found. Instead, 17 College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) students and faculty tapped into their creativity.

Classical music filled the room as each participant led his or her partner— whose eyes were closed—around the room. From dancing in circles to lifting their arms, the leader could never take their hands off the partner's body for the 12-minute exercise. Similar exercises, as well as writing and discussions, filled the three-day, 16-hour workshop.

"I love those group experiences and interactions that make you feel uncomfortable, but if you get into it, they're rewarding," said first-year student Matthew Dandois.

According to Suzanne Costello and Stuart Pimsler, the husband and wife duo who led the workshop, after the activities "participants will come away with a renewed sense of self as a means for invigorating their compassion while reconsidering their techniques as healers."

The COM students are required to take a class on the doctor-patient relationship, "and this expands on the emotional and human or patient part of the relationship- trying to put yourself in their shoes," Dandois said.

Although the event is in its second year, there aren't many chances for medical students to engage in medicinal focused art programs. Students in the college are required to take classes their first two years and complete hospital clinicals the last two years.

"This workshop was something extracurricular to do. Your nose is buried in books all day, so it's something to do to get around and move," Dandois said.

This type of workshop is a new concept for the College of Osteopathic Medicine, as well as the Wharton Center for Performing Arts.

"We are trying to reach out to communities that haven't had experience with us yet," said Bert Goldstein, Director for the Institute for Arts & Creativity. "One of those was with medicine."



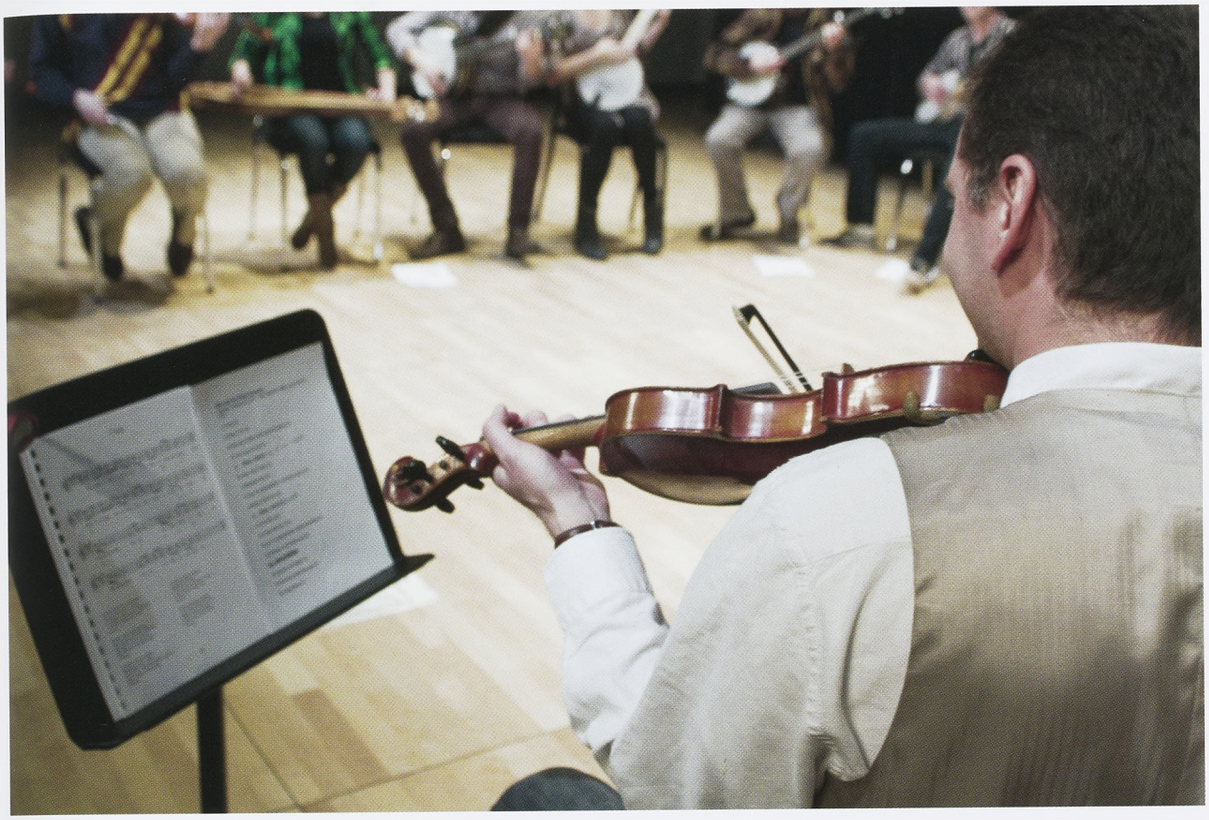
Stuart Pimsler and Suzanne Costello lead a discussion about new concepts, strategies and techniques for exploring their patients' backgrounds. Their work integrated the arts through story-telling and non-verbal exercises that promote individual, creative expression.



Divided into groups, students work with a faculty member to create an environment that would provide the best holistic treatment for the mind, body, and spirit. Students put together small representations of waiting rooms to promote comfort and patient care.



Suzanne Costello, director of the Transforming the Doctor-Patient Relationship workshop, leads a discussion about the importance of treating each patient holisticly. First-year medical student Matt Dandois and second-year medical student Doug Anderson attended to gain a better understanding of how doctor-patient relationships are evolving.



Assistant professor Chris Scales plays his fiddle. RCAH 291 section 001 is a RCAH creative workshop that focuses primarily on Appalachian music.





Zach Zweifler, Ben Thorp, and Evan Mikalonis sing songs originating from America's Southeastern rural mountains. The muscians performed as a class on Dec. 6.

Elleda Groenveld, Taylor Davis, Zach Zweifler, Dylan Devries, and Dan Hacker perform a group piece. The workshop focused also on the social function of Appalachian music in American public life, politics, and identity.

A brief look into the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities

"I wish I was an apple hanging in a tree, and every time my sweetheart passed she'd take a bite of me," sang 17 students and professor Christopher Scales on Dec. 6 in the auditorium of Snyder-Phillips Hall. It was one of many performances illustrating the creative and intellectual comprehension of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities. This particular class, The Music of Southern Appalachia, studies musical traditions in Appalachian communities and their unique role in the political and social life of America.

With a mixture of banjos, fiddles, guitars, harmonicas, mandolins and more, students indulged themselves in their subject of study, allowing them to not only reproduce bluegrass, country, folk, gospel and protest music, but to understand it.

"Typical classes on campus exemplify only one style of learning, but in Scales' class I learned about the historical impact of immigration on Appalachian music in the classroom and had the chance to actually live that learning experience," said sophomore Taylor Davis.

Students took center stage to perform cover songs of their choosing, including Bob Dylan and a contemporary musical group, Shovels and Rope. To allow students to see the evolution of music, Scales applied his knowledge on how Bob Dylan took music styles from traditional Appalachian music Davis said.

"I feel enriched because I not only grew instrumentally but grew with a closely-knit community around me," Davis said. "I think that people overlook the transformative power of art and see typical learning as something that is done for achievement only. Economics, culture and history cannot be truly learned without the experience and emotion."

Scales has a PhD and is an ethnomusicologist who has produced, recorded and performed in various locations and independent music labels. Studying geographically-based traditions generated by minorities is essential in his classes,

"If you never travel there you'd never truly know, so this class immerses you into that culture so that you can know," he said. "It's a way of knowing a culture in a unique and distinct way, and that is a main message here at RCAH."

residential college in the
ARTS AND HUMANITIES

content: noelle sciarini
photo: evan farinosi
design: carly patterson

college of
SOCIAL SCIENCE

School of Social Work to offer zombie apocalypse course this summer

Zombies will walk the earth. At least, that's the scenario being pitched in Glenn Stutzky's new social work course, "Surviving the Coming Zombie Apocalypse: Catastrophes & Human Behavior."

The School of Social Work calls on instructors to come up with interesting two or three credit electives for the summer sessions, Stutzky said.

Stutzky said he had been thinking about formulating a course around catastrophic events throughout history, but it took a visit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website for him to be struck with inspiration.

"I couldn't believe such a well-known organization had an entry about what to do if there was a zombie apocalypse," Stutzky said. "I realized they were using it as a way to get people interested in emergency preparedness, so I decided to shape the course around that idea as well."

The class will not only take students through different catastrophic events in history, such as The Black Plague and various earthquakes, but also use a zombie outbreak as a simulation for what to do in the face of an unforeseen emergency. The class is experimental since much of the coursework will be done online, which will allow students to take advantage of things like social media.

"We decided to switch things up a bit, so we made a short video about the class in the style of a movie trailer and posted it on YouTube," Stutzky said.

A month after it was posted the video garnered more than 27,000 hits and has received media attention ranging from The State News to an Austrian magazine.

Senior Orli Ginsburg heard about the course through The State News article and initially was skeptical about a "zombie class," saying "it seems like it will have more abstract applications than everyday ones, but I bet there are a lot of ideas that it could teach."

After learning a bit more about how the course will be set up, Ginsburg said, "I'm sure the name of the class will raise some eyebrows, but it does sound different and innovative. And if it gets people talking about the School of Social Work, why not?"

Stutzky knows that with an experimental course such as this one, things can and will go wrong. He hopes that by the end of the course, students will have learned about catastrophes and had a good time doing so.

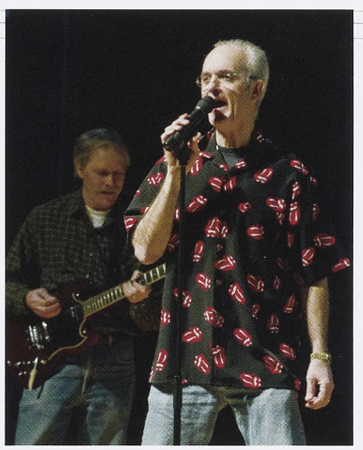
"The School of Social Work and the College of Social Science are watching this class to see if we will use this approach for other classes," Stutzky said. "The idea is to try to make them more accessible to students, but we also want there to be an element of fun as well."



The undead lie in wait as MSU students prepare for the zombie apocalypse.



CVM student Tracy Tamashiro performs a melodious hula dance during the CVM Vet Rap. All proceeds from the evening went to paying the hall rental fee for the event.



Steve Sneed belts out the chorus of Fatal Plus's opening song. The band is known for taking classic rock songs and transforming the lyrics to describe issues in veterinary medicine.

college of VETERINARY MEDICINE

The 23rd Annual Vet Rap celebrates talent and diversity

When Fatal Plus and the PPE's started playing songs like "Out on the Necropsy Floor" to the tune of the Beatles' "Back in the USSR," the audience was a sea of smiles. As the 10-piece "animal rock" band cruised through their especially memorable set, the words to the songs, as well as pictures of dissected and dismembered animal corpses were displayed above the performers, making the performance as funny as it was dark.

Though it all sounds a bit strange, founder and frontman of Fatal Plus and College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) faculty advisor Jon Patterson's smiling face amongst the various limbs and horse guts served as a reminder that this was all in the spirit of fun.

Of course, Fatal Plus was far from the only memorable act of the 23rd Annual Vet Rap. The show was an overwhelmingly diverse mix of talent, featuring heavy metal band Ouchy, an a cappella performance by Kristen Seymour with kazoo accompaniment by Drew Snider, and samba lessons by native Brazilian Luana Torres.

"Circles, circles, hips, hips!" Torres chanted as she guided the audience through a fast-paced samba dance.

"It's really quite easy. It's just like a salsa, but instead of front to back, it's more side to side," said Torres.

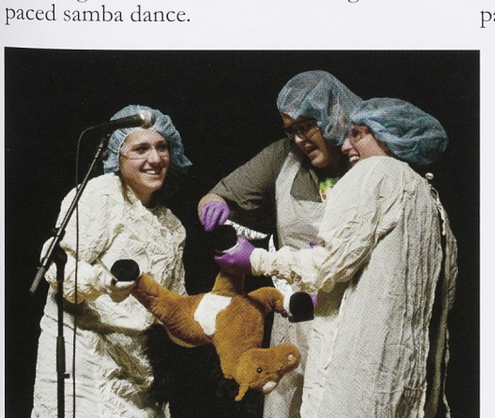
Despite the bevy of diversely talented performers, they all are linked by a strong academic drive.

"It's really the cream-of-the-cream that get into veterinary school, since it's so competitive," said Patterson.

Though the CVM is a unique program, it offers a four-year graduate program like that of the other medical schools at MSU, including five semesters of classwork followed by three semesters of clinical rotations. The Vet Rap is a way for students to take their heads out of their textbooks and show a side that might not get much exposure inside the classroom.

Tracy Tamashiro ended the first half of the talent show with a hauntingly beautiful demonstration of her heritage. She moved easily across the stage, flowing with rhythm and spry confidence as the Hawaiian music slid through the speakers.

Musical performances dominated the night's program, but the most captivating element of Vet Rap was its undeniably diverse participants.



CVM students Sara Lefman, Amber Waun, and Stacey Wylie serve as back-up singers for Fatal Plus, a band consisting of veterinarians. Fatal Plus has performed at every Vet Rap since its inception.





Natalie Kolb

VARSITY SPORTS

Squeaking shoes. Splashing water. Whistling wind. These are sounds that could be heard at the various sporting events across MSU.

The athletes who made up this year's varsity sports teams were tasked with not just excelling in the classroom; they also had to excel in places like Spartan Stadium, Jenison Fieldhouse and Kobs Field in front of hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of people.

They served as representatives of MSU on the road as well, traveling across the U.S. by land, sea and for the men's basketball team at least, onto an aircraft carrier. No matter the location or means of transportation, Spartan athletes took on whoever their opponent was that day or night.

They brought in trophies, medals and titles, including but not limited to a Big Ten Championship courtesy of women's cross country and an Outback Bowl football game victory over University of Georgia. Through it all, they provided endless debate and entertainment for their fellow students and other Spartan fans around the world.

Though some Spartans' athletic careers will come to a close this spring, the rest of their lives will be rich with the roots they have formed with fellow teammates, coaches and the fans who turned out to watch them. Their absence will be filled soon enough, though, for there are more Spartans waiting in the wings, ready to make sure the school on the banks of the Red Cedar is indeed known to all.



SCOREBOARD

Ohio State	**L, 1-0**
Ohio State	**W, 2-1**
Ohio State	**W, 10-5**
Michigan	**L, 4-0**
Michigan	**L, 4-3**
Michigan	**W, 10-8**
Indiana	**L, 3-2**
Indiana	**W, 6-0**
Indiana	**W, 20-10**
Minnesota	**W, 3-2**
Minnesota	**L, 4-2**
Minnesota	**W, 5-4**

ROSTER

Torsten Boss	**JR**
Tony Bucciferro	**SR**
Andrew Carpenter	**JR**
Anthony Cheky	**FR**
Trevor Cousineau	**JR**
Joel Fisher	**SO**
David Garner	**SO**
Kevin Goergen	**FR**
Jared Hook	**JR**
Cody Huge	**JR**
Bryce Jenney	**SR**
Andy Johnson	**SR**
Ryan Jones	**JR***
Jordan Keur	**JR**
Jeff Kinley	**SO**
Ryan Krill	**FR**
Ryan Martin	**JR**
John Martinez	**JR**
Mike Mestdagh	**FR**
Andrew Mulato	**FR**
Chad Nielsen	**SR**
Jimmy Pickens	**FR**
Trey Popp	**JR***
Andrew Rademacher	**JR**
Chase Rihtarchik	**SO**
Blaise Salter	**FR**
Justin Scanlon	**SR**
Tim Simpson	**SR**
Mike Theodore	**SO***
Chase Toth	**FR**
Mick VanVossen	**FR**
Andrew Waszak	**JR**
Tony Wieber	**JR**
Zak Wilkerson	**SO**
Joe Zwierzynski	**JR**

Junior pitcher Andrew Waszak fires a pitch toward a Minnesota batter while freshman Ryan Krill stands ready at first base. MSU won the three game weekend series against Minnesota, two games to one.

Junior John Martinez lays down a bunt during a three-game series against Minnesota. MSU defeated Minnesota in dramatic fashion during the final game of the series, with a walk-off single that brought in the winning run.



content: noelle sciarini
photo: evan farinosi
design: carly patterson

PLAY BALL!

MSU Baseball team steps up to bat for another season

There is snow on the ground and a chill in the air, but the MSU baseball team can practice in the comfort of its own indoor training facility—a warehouse-shaped building next to McLane Baseball Stadium's third base. Essentially, a series of batting cages with artificial turf and dirt, this is where the team spends the first half of the season until spring comes along.

In the first "cage," senior Tony Bucciferro gets into position, winds up and launches a baseball through the air. It will land either with a thud against a catcher's mitt or, if the batter is lucky, it will connect with a loud twang against an aluminum bat. Bucciferro makes pitching look easy, but that's to be expected.

"I've played (baseball) all my life," Bucciferro said. "It's a beautiful sport, and it's fun to be out there competing with my team."

At the moment the team's record is 4-3, which Bucciferro said the team "would have been ecstatic about a couple years ago."

"With where we're at in the program we'd expect to do better. We have to keep our expectations high," he said.

The team's high expectations can be traced back to one crucial moment from last year's season when it won the Big Ten Championship for the first time in 30 years.

"It was a moment I'll never forget," head coach Jake Boss Jr. said. "There's just nothing like being in the middle of the field with your team after a win like that."

Boss has kept a close eye on his returning players and was pleased with their efforts thus far. Bucciferro was named the preseason Big Ten pitcher of the year, which Boss Jr. said was due to his playing "extremely well right now." His efforts have even earned the attention of a few scouts.

"I want to keep playing after graduation, so if an opportunity presents itself, I'll take it," Bucciferro said.

Fellow senior and captain Justin Scanlon also expressed his wish to continue playing baseball after graduation, but for now he's content to "just go out and compete with these guys."

"Whether I get picked by a scout or not, this will be my last time I'll be playing with MSU," Scanlon said.

Scanlon's relationship with baseball began early—very early.

"My first word was 'ball,'" Scanlon said with a laugh. "I grew up throwing a ball around. I went from T-ball to little league to high school to playing short stop here. I just kept rolling with it."

A shout from Boss signifies it's time to stop hitting. Almost as quickly as the ruckus began, it stops as Bucciferro, Scanlon and the rest of the teammates form a circle around their head coach. Boss' pep talk focuses on the team's next big game against Texas A&M University. For a few minutes, Boss stresses the importance of hard work and that the team is only as strong as its weakest player. Scanlon takes away more than just life lessons; he also feels excitement.

"The stadium we'll be playing in holds 12,000 people. I've never played in front of that many before, but I'm looking forward to a spoiler," he said.





Junior Ryan Jones slides safely into third base on the way to a victory over Minnesota. The Spartans came in to the 2012 season defending the conference title the team won in 2011.

Freshman Jimmy Pickens connects to a solid hit against a Western Michigan University pitcher. MSU handily defeated Western Michigan 13-3, with Pickens batting in four of the runs.

SCOREBOARD

Indiana	**W, 80-65**
Nebraska	**W, 68-55**
Wisconsin	**W, 63-60**
Iowa	**W, 95-61**
Northwestern	**L, 81-74**
Michigan	**L, 60-59**
Purdue	**W, 83-58**
Minnesota	**W, 68-52**
Illinois	**L, 42-41**
Michigan	**W, 64-54**
Penn State	**W, 77-57**
Ohio State	**W, 58-48**
Wisconsin	**W, 69-55**
Purdue	**W, 76-62**
Minnesota	**W, 66-61**
Nebraska	**W, 62-34**
Indiana	**L, 70-55**
Ohio State	**L, 72-70**
Iowa	**W, 92-75**
Wisconsin	**W, 65-52**
Ohio State	**W, 68-64**

ROSTER

Keith Appling	**SO**
Russell Byrd	**FR***
Dan Chapman	**SO**
Branden Dawson	**FR**
Alex Gauna	**FR***
Draymond Green	**SR**
Anthony Ianni	**SR***
Brandan Kearney	**FR**
Derrick Nix	**JR**
Adreian Payne	**SO**
Joe Sweeny	**SR**
Austin Thornton	**SR***
Travis Trice	**FR**
Keenan Wetzel	**FR***
Colby Wollenman	**FR**
Brandon Wood	**SR***

*red shirt

Senior Austin Thornton blocks a shot against Iowa. Thornton earned a starting position for his senior year, and along with Green, lead the team through adversity.



Evan Farinosi

JUST A GAME

Men's basketball honors military in Quicken Loans Carrier Classic

It's not often that winning or losing doesn't matter for Draymond Green. Yet as the sun set on Veteran's Day in Coronado, Calif., the white glow of the looming scoreboard was far from the senior forward's mind.

Standing on a temporary court aboard the deck of the USS Carl Vinson after a 67-55 loss to the University of North Carolina, he felt something four cutthroat years in the Breslin Center had almost caused him to forget: basketball, in the end, really is just a game.

Green headed toward the Tar Heel's bench, awestruck in that moment by the enormity of a soldier's commitment to defend his country. Enveloped by the California dusk, he asked the team if they'd join him and the rest of the Spartans in giving their camouflage jerseys to the military veterans who flanked the court.

"I don't think I'm mature enough to do what they do," Green told a State News reporter. "Us playing basketball doesn't amount to near as much as they do for this country."

The game aboard the famous, 95,000-ton Navy warship was the first of its kind; never before had a basketball team played on board an aircraft carrier, let alone one that had buried Osama bin Laden at sea six months earlier. MSU's Athletic Director Mark Hollis conceived of the idea as both a reverential nod to America's armed forces and a unique kickoff to the 2011-2012 season.

Before tip off, President Barack Obama addressed more than 8,000 active-duty and reserve personnel, veterans and college basketball fans who packed into the stadium. Standing center court in an olive bomber jacket, he implored them to remember America's veterans beyond that night.

"When they come home, part of the long line of those who defended our freedom, we have a sacred trust to make sure that they understand how much we appreciate what they do, he said, his voice floating on the San Diego Bay wind. And that's not just on Veterans Day. That is every day of every year where we salute them and we say thank you for making the sacrifices.

As a symbol of America's appreciation for its soldiers—even if the nation's wars don't quite garner the same support—he cited the surprising, bipartisan Senate passage the previous day of a bill that would give tax credits to businesses that hire unemployed and wounded veterans. He would eventually sign the bill into law on Nov. 21.

"I probably looked a little starry-eyed, the President sitting there watching at the 50-yard line," Coach Tom Izzo admitted. He said the players "got caught up in the moment" too.

Indeed, the realities of war are daunting. That same day, Taliban insurgents attacked a district government center in Eastern Afghanistan, wounding three American soldiers inside. And nearby in Kandahar Province, 25-year-old Pfc. Theodore B. Rushing died of wounds from an explosive attack on his unit.

Before the sun disappeared, officials halted the game for a moment of silence. Draymond Green stood with his team on the sideline; President Obama rose at half court; the sailors who had slid Bin Laden into his final resting place stood from their seats.

After almost two minutes, the ball was put back into play. It was just a game, after all.



Evan Farinosi

Senior Draymond Green puts down a thunderous dunk against Iowa. The Spartans routed the Hawkeyes 95-61 on Jan. 10.

Freshman Russell Byrd and senior Austin Thornton go up to block a shot against Duke's offense. Michigan State went up against Duke for the 2012 Champion's Classic game in Madison Square Garden, which also featured Kansas and Kentucky.



Hilary Higgins



Evan Farinosi

Sophomore Adrien Payne, senior Draymond Green and freshman Branden Dawson swarm an Iowa guard on an ill-advised drive. The Spartans finished the season 13-5, taking a share of the Big Ten title.

SCOREBOARD

Lake Superior State	**W, 94-31**
Grand Valley State	**W, 75-23**
Villanova	**L, 75-64**
North Carolina A&T	**W, 113-60**
Ipfw	**W, 62-56**
Western Michigan	**W, 80-45**
Florida Gulf Coast	**L, 59-58**
Milwaukee	**W, 70-57**
Oakland	**W, 67-42**
Miami (Oh)	**L, 76-60**
Eastern Michigan	**W, 60-59**
Detroit	**W, 64-41**
Texas	**L, 61-53**
Colorado State	**W, 72-45**
Pittsburgh	**L, 64-54**
Indiana	**W, 63-49**
Michigan	**W, 60-55**
Pennstate	**W, 75-65**
Indiana	**W, 67-47**
Ohio State	**L, 64-56**
Minnesota	**L, 71-65**
Purdue	**L, 67-49**
Illinois	**L, 71-62**
Penn State	**W, 83-77**
Michigan	**W, 65-63**
Northwestern	**W, 72-58**
Iowa	**L, 74-57**
Wisconsin	**W, 62-46**
Purdue	**W, 67-52**
Nebraska	**W, 73-53**
Northwestern	**W, 76-57**
Indiana	**W, 97-68**
Purdue	**L, 73-64**
Louisville	**L, 55-67**

ROSTER

Taylor Alton	**S**
Klarissa Bell	**SO**
Bryonna Davis	**SO**
Jasmine Hines	**F**
Kiana Johnson	**F**
Lykendra Johnson	**S***
Becca Mills	**F**
Anna Morrissey	**F**
Tracy Nogle	**J**
Annalise Pickrel	**SO**
Porsché Poole	**S**
Courtney Sciffauer	**J***
Akyah Taylor	**F**
Jasmine Thomas	**J**
Madison Williams	**F***

SPARTA WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY

Women's basketball focuses on building up a young team

When asked what position she played, senior Taylor Alton had to chuckle. Playing both guard and forward, Alton painted a picture of a season full of ins and outs, ups and downs. Making up a third of this year's seniors, Alton described her final Spartan season as nothing short of a "whirlwind." Despite the challenges a young team posed, MSU still managed a 21-12 record overall, with only three losses at home.

"We were second overall in the big with such a young team, so our approach to winning had to be a bit unorthodox," Alton said.

She said having a young team is one thing, but having to transition from a team that was almost double the number of upper classmen is a whole different ball game.

"This team is definitely open and willing to learn because we had so much senior experience and leadership last year, so we had to sort of figure things out as we went," Alton said.

Despite what Alton described as a "learning curve" for the younger players, she had nothing but positive things to say about them, expressing her fullest confidence and support for the next generation of Spartan players. Even so, Alton expressed her own feelings of doubt in her younger years at MSU.

"My first two years I didn't really play," she said. "It's hard to play at a D1 level. Everyone is so good, so you start to think, should I be here? Am I here for the right reasons?"

Of course, Alton and others were happy with the team's performance overall, with the highlight of the season being the 11th straight victory against the University of Michigan. A nail-biting 65-63 final score left the team with enough momentum to carry through the rest of the season with only one loss until the tournaments.

Having successfully reached the NCAA tournament nine times in the past 10 seasons has made the young team's securing of a 10-seed ranking all the more meaningful. This, coupled with head coach Suzy Merchant's 300th career win, could have made the season a win by itself. Instead, the Spartans proved themselves further still with their overtime win against 17-seed, and Big Ten rival, Purdue.

Regardless of any personal or team-related misgivings Alton had, she can only urge and encourage the younger players to keep their heads up and theirs eyes on the prize. To the younger players who will soon have to look their hoop dreams in the eye—"Keep a bigger picture in mind, and always give 100 percent."



The women's basketball squad gets pumped up just before tip-off against Northwestern. MSU defeated Northwestern 72-58.



Senior Lykendra Johnson takes a hit to the face on a lay-up. Johnson and Porsche Poole shared the Player-of-the-Year award, which was voted by their teammates.



Senior Porsche Poole squares up and elevates after contact with a Northwestern defender. Poole may have hit the biggest shot of the year, which was a last-second jumper to defeat the University of Michigan 65-63.



Junior Jasmine Thomas breaks down a defender on the way to the paint. Thomas was a known defensive threat, and averaged 1.5 steals per game.



Junior Kevin Yarnell focuses ahead of his feet while competing at the Spartan Invitational. Yarnell was the second Spartan to cross the finish line, posting a time of 24:48.

IN FOR THE LONG RUN

Men's and Women's Cross Country teams enjoy season of ups and downs



Junior Shaka Dukes shoots a glance toward senior Aaron Simoneau during the Spartan Invitational. The Invitational hosted more runners than ever before this year with over 4,800 athletes participating.

Juniors Isaiah VanDoorne and Josh McAlary run with a large pack during the Spartan Invitational. MSU had 4 runners finish in the top 15 this year.



SCOREBOARD

Jeff Drenth Memorial	**No Team Score**
Spartan Invitational	**No Team Score**
Roy Griak Invitational	**Women 4th Men 8th**
Michigan Intercollegiate Championships	**Women 1st Men No Team Score**
Wisconsin adidas Invitational	**Women 9th Men 34th**
EMU Fall Classic	**No Team Score**
Big Ten Championships	**Women 1st Men 8th**
NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championships	**Women 2nd Men 9th**
NCAA Cross Country Championships	**Women 16th**



Freshman Angela Swain pushes through the last 100 meters of the Spartan Invitational. This year's Spartan Invite took place on Sept. 16.



Juniors Brian Hankins, Isaiah VanDoorne and Kevin Yarnell bolt from the starting line at the Spartan Invitational. VanDoorne and Yarnell both finished in the top 10.

At MSU, cars aren't the only things with a lot of mileage—just ask the cross country team. Every day this year involved some amount of running, red-shirt junior Katie Haines said, whether it was a warm-up, base run or workout on the track. The results, though tiring, were ultimately worth it when the women's team took home the Big Ten Championship on Oct. 30, making this the second victory in a row for the long-distance ladies.

"That was definitely a highlight this season," Haines said. "Winning as a team is always a great feeling."

Haines finished in 28th place overall with a time of 21:00 for the 6K race, a feat she is proud of after a rocky start to the season that included a bout with low iron levels.

"It was a slow progression through the season this year but Big Ten and regionals went well, and I'm looking forward to another season this fall," Haines said.

Haines is no stranger to the sport, having participated in cross country since sixth grade. Next fall will mark her final season with MSU, but she plans to continue running, whether it's on a team or on her own.

"What I love about cross country is how team-oriented it is," Haines said. "You get to go out and race with all of your teammates there with you."

For Haines, that included both female and male teammates, including fifth year senior Joe Dimambro. Like Haines, Dimambro has been running cross country since middle school.

"I've been running for about 10 years, and what I love the most about cross country is that what you do at practice directly correlates to how you do at a meet," Dimambro said.

For Dimambro, one highlight from the season was the Roy Griak Invitational in Minnesota where he thought "the team did well and ran collectively as a group." Later he ran his "best cross country race ever" at regionals.

Another highlight was sophomore David Madrigal's performance at the NCAA Championship meet at the end of the season. Madrigal ended up with a personal best of 24:27 for the 8K race, and was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year.

He shrugged off this success, saying he's just happy to be able to "train and get to a good fitness to see how fast you can run against other schools."

"I was 24th in the conference this season; I want to get that up into the top five and get a shot at a championship," Madrigal said.

Although Madrigal has a few more seasons to go, Dimambro will be graduating at the end of the year.

"It will probably be tough to let go of getting up and running every day, so I wouldn't mind taking a few more years to keep training and see what happens," Dimambro said.





Senior Taylor McCurdy, junior Amanda Field and freshman Monica Randall pace each other during the Spartan Invitational. The women's cross country team claimed their second Big Ten title in a row this season.

Freshman Chris Platt finishes strong in the final stretch of the race. Along with collegiate athletes, the Spartan Invitational hosted races for High School and Middle School teams from the state.

SCOREBOARD

Youngstown State	**W, 28-6**
Florida Atlantic	**W, 44-0**
Notre Dame	**L, 31-13**
Central Michigan	**W, 45-7**
Ohio State	**W, 10-7**
Michigan	**W, 28-14**
Wisconsin	**W, 37-31**
Nebraska	**L, 24-3**
Minnesota	**W, 31-24**
Iowa	**W, 37-21**
Indiana	**W, 55-3**
Northwestern	**W, 31-17**
Big Ten Championship	**L, 42-39**
Outback Bowl	**W, 33-30**

WEEKEND WARRIORS

MSU beats U - M for the fourth straight year



Sophomore defensive end William Gholston revs up the crowd during the Indiana game. The Indiana game was also Senior Day, making it the final time seniors would play on Spartan soil.

Hilary Higgins



As the Michigan State football team stormed the field to battle its archrival, the Michigan Wolverines, they weren't just Spartans, they were warriors.

The Spartan football team took the field on Oct. 15 in new Nike Pro Combat jerseys. Annually, at the beginning of each season, Nike chooses a select number of teams for whom they create the special jerseys. Michigan State was among nine schools selected to wear Pro Combat uniforms for one game this season, the green and bronze jerseys symbolizing the men from Sparta who battled with bronze armor.

Some students were upset about the jerseys, claiming they ruin MSU's tradition of green and white. Others loved them and showcased their spirit at the game, where Spartan pride seemed to hang in the air like heat waves; it was impossible to look anywhere without seeing fans displaying the new jerseys. Whether it was a Nike Pro Combat jersey, a T-Shirt or sweatshirt, each fan's garment burned with excitement.

Junior Megan Weiner said this is one of the best weekends of the year, and the jerseys help complete it.

"The new jerseys are incredibly nice and really help pump up the fans and make you feel proud to be a Spartan," Weiner said.

The game quickly began as a back and forth battle in which both teams easily scored touchdowns on their opening drives. Michigan's first touchdown came from star quarterback Denard Robinson, whereas State's first touchdown came off a one-yard run by junior running back Edwin Baker. However, the defenses took over the game, making this the only scoring in the first half.

The weather was chilly, causing fans to huddle close together for warmth, and the wind was so strong that it almost pushed some students off the bleachers. Others didn't mind the cold, however, as they took their shirts off, displaying chests painted with "MSU" or "UofM Sucks." Amid the fiery cheers of, "GO GREEN, GO WHITE!" that assaulted spectators' eardrums, senior Aaron Robins said this game holds much meaning for him. A win by State would mean that MSU would have defeated Michigan in all his four years as a student.

"I think the jerseys help pump up the crowd and really make this game more special," Robins said. "Not one MSU fan wants to deal with the embarrassment of losing to Michigan."

The second half kicked off with MSU scoring to take a 14-7 lead. Wide receiver Keshawn Martin scored the touchdown, spinning and shaking his way around Michigan defenders into the end zone. With twenty-five seconds left in the quarter third, he found his way into the end zone again to give the Spartans a 21-7 lead.

Despite it being a home game, a few Wolverines found their way into the student section. One Michigan student, junior Alex Lipnik, said he came to the game to watch Michigan beat its "little brother." He was torn about MSU's jerseys.

"Despite being a Michigan fan, I do like State's new uniforms," he said, "but I think they mess with the traditions and respect of college football. I don't like Michigan's uniforms either."

With nine minutes remaining, Michigan scored, arousing the nerves of MSU fans.

Spartans battled the cold weather and weakening voices and continued to cheer, as if trying to use the force of their vocal cords to prove we are the dominant school. Michigan's Denard Robinson threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown, and MSU gained a 28-14 lead, sealing a win for the Spartans.

The game wrapped up with a score of 28-14. Spartan fans were ecstatic and chanted, "Four straight years" and "Little sister!" Michigan fans complained that Spartan players played dirty and demanded some be suspended. One player, William Gholston, eventually was suspended for punching a Wolverine player, but that was the only ramification.

As warriors in their green and bronze jerseys, the Spartans had beaten their rival yet again.



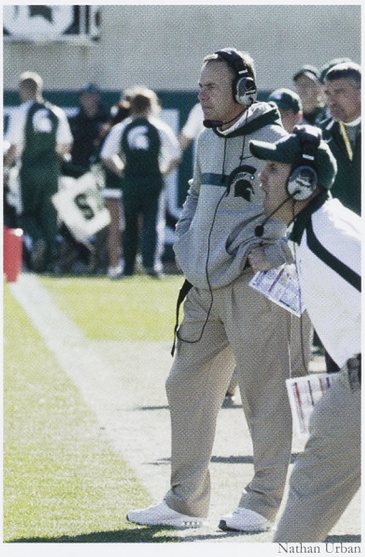
VS FOOTBALL

content: jason davitz
photo: hilary higgins, chase o'black, anthony thibodeau, nathan urban
design: brendan prost



Anthony Thibodeau

Wide receiver Keith Nichol prepares as a U - M player tackles him for a down. MSU beat U - M 28 - 14.



Nathan Urban

Coach Mark Dantonio watches the game unfold against their Big Ten rival Minnesota. The 31-24 Spartan victory gave the team their sixth straight home win.



Anthony Thibodeau



Chase O'Black

Wide receiver Keith Nichol catches a pass made by quarterback Kirk Cousins. Nichol scored the winning touchdown against Wisconsin on a "Hail Mary" pass from Cousins.

Senior Jared McGaha raises the Paul Bunyan trophy after defeating U - M for the fourth consecutive year. MSU has retained the trophy since 2008.

SCOREBOARD

Fossum Invitational	**1st of 12**
Fossum Invitational	**2nd of 12**
Wolverine Invitational	**2nd of 11**
Wolverine Invitational	**3rd of 11**
Inverness Intercollegiate	**5th of 11**
Rees Jones	**7th of 13**
Rees Jones	**9th of 13**
Georgetown Intercollegiate	**3rd of 12**
Georgetown Intercollegiate	**1st of 12**
Nebraska	**L, 3-3**
Penn State	**L, 3.5-2.5**
Seminole Intercollegiate	**7th of 18**
Seminole Intercollegiate	**6th of 18**
Seminole Intercollegiate	**7th of 18**
FAU Spring Break Championship	**8th of 15**
FAU Spring Break Championship	**9th of 15**
FAU Spring Break Championship	**8th of 15**
Irish Creek Collegiate	**5th of 13**
Irish Creek Collegiate	**7th of 13**
Hawkeye Invitational	**10th of 11**
Hawkeye Invitational	**8th of 11**
Boilermaker Invitational	**8th of 18**
Boilermaker Invitational	**8th of 18**

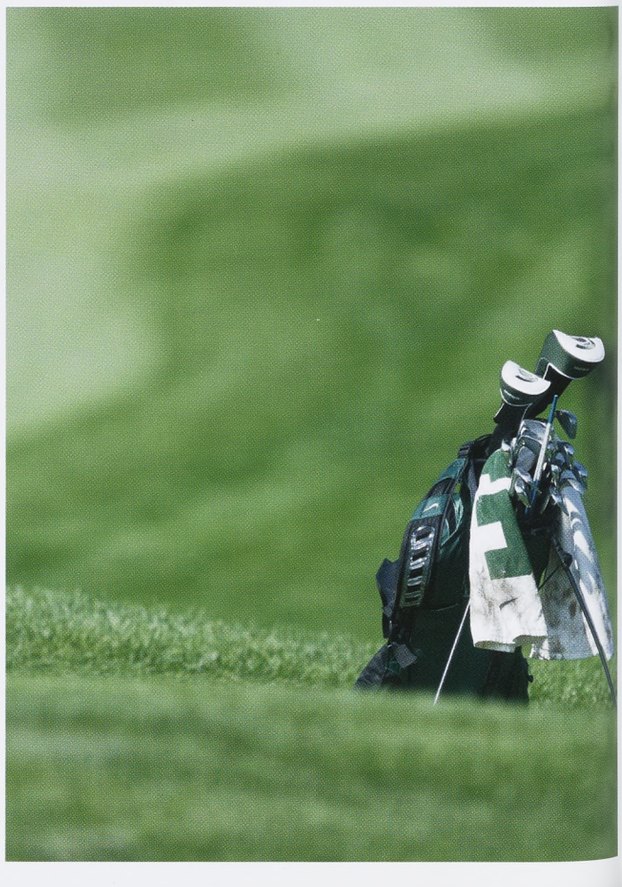
ROSTER

Gareth Blease	**SO**
Carson Castellani	**SO**
McCormick Clouser	**FR**
Jimmy Dewling	**SR**
Dan Ellis	**JR***
Dave Ellis	**JR***
Jon Finley	**FR**
Will Morris	**JR**
Chris Mory	**SR**
Matthew Moseley	**JR**
Chenai Mushiri	**JR**

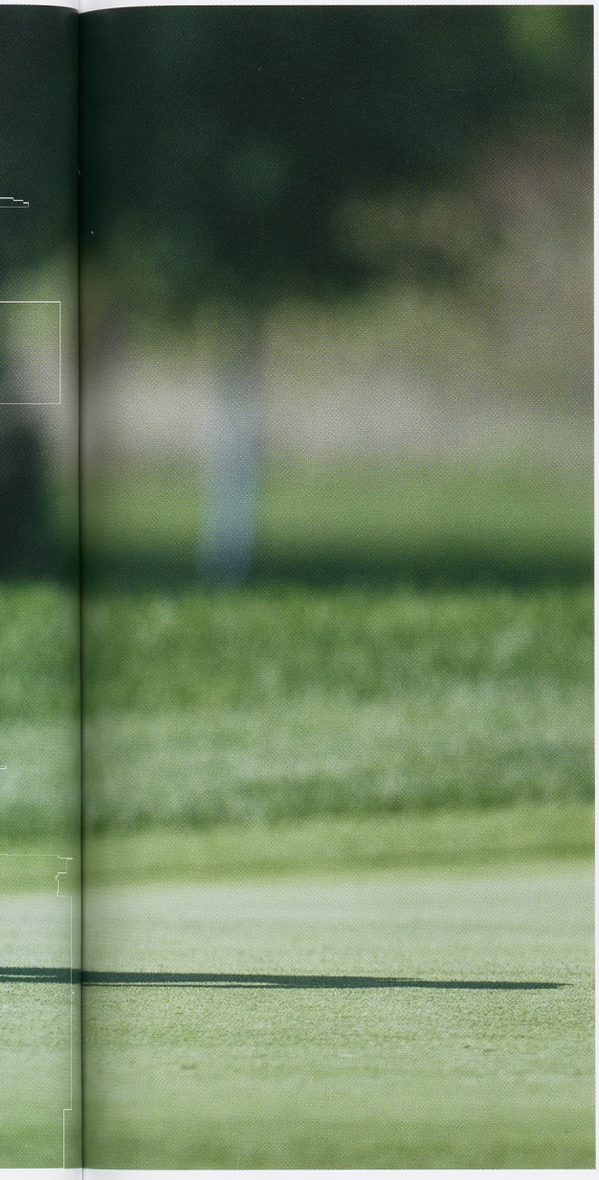




A men's golf team member plays on the green during a golf match. The team is led by head coach Casey Lubahn.



A bag of clubs sits on the green during a men's golf team match. The men's golf team finished first at the Fossum Invitational at the beginning of the season.



Junior Matthew Moseley focuses on how to make his best shot. The first day of the Wolverine Intercollegiate match, Moseley joined the competitive line-up for the first time of the 2011-2012 season.

Senior Chris Mory's second-round score was a career low 18-hole score during the Wolverine match. Ending the 2011 being the only Spartan to appear in all 11 events and having received multiple awards, Mory set high expectations for the 2011-2012 season.



SEEING DOUBLE

Seniors lead men's golf team with passion

Redshirt juniors Dan and Dave Ellis are not only brothers, but also twins, and joined the MSU men's golf team from Negaunee, Mich., where the season is shorter due to the Upper Peninsula weather. However, that did not stop head coach Casey Lubahn from discovering the twins' talent.

"Dan and Dave were two young men we took a chance on in 2008, and this program is immeasurably better off because we did," he said. "Their limited season as juniors in the Upper Peninsula set their development back slightly, but their incredible will and work ethic has them playing the best golf of their lives this season."

The close connection between the brothers helped them develop into the golfers they are today.

"We grew up doing all the same things," Dave Ellis said. "We're competitive with each other, and always trying to get a leg up on each other, and in a way that helped us challenge each other to get where we are today."

The brotherly relationship expands beyond the twins and into the team.

"The camaraderie amongst all the athletes is extremely special," Dave Ellis said. "It's amazing how community is such a significant aspect within sports."

According to Lubahn, this season was vital for the future of Spartan Golf.

"Our leadership and team culture has laid the ground work for many years to come," Lubahn said.

Among the leadership are the Ellis brothers, Jimmy Dewling, and Chris Mory.

The seniors present themselves as leaders not only on the golf course, but also off.

"Their passion for this program is inspiring and has proven to be a great example for their teammates. They have played well week to week and performed extremely well in the classroom," Lubahn said. "Their desire to be champions in everything they do has been wonderful to watch."

SCOREBOARD

Texas A&M MoMorial	**11th, 321**
Texas A&M MoMorial	**10th, 625**
Texas A&M MoMorial	**8th, 929**
Mary Fossum Invitational	**1st, 584**
Mary Fossum Invitational	**1st, 892**
Tar Heel Invitational	**7th, 291**
Tar Heel Invitational	**8th, 582**
Tar Heel Invitational	**8th, 877**
The Landfall Tradition	**10th, 312**
The Landfall Tradition	**6th, 620**
The Landfall Tradition	**5th, 923**
Regional Challenge	**8th, 302**
Regional Challenge	**8th, 599**
Regional Challenge	**9th, 914**
Central District Invitational	**4th, 589**
Central District Invitational	**5th, 887**
Liz Murphey Collegiate	**8th, 296**
Liz Murphey Collegiate	**7th, 587**
Liz Murphey Collegiate	**8th, 881**
Bryan National Collegiate	**14th, 314**
Bryan National Collegiate	**13th, 610**
Bryan National Collegiate	**12th, 909**

ROSTER

Allyssa Ferrell	**SO**
Mackenzie Johnson	**FR**
Maddi Massa	**SR**
Mariah Massa	**FR**
Lindsey McPherson	**FR**
Christine Meier	**SO**
Bea Murray	**FR**
Liz Nagel	**SO**
Caroline Powers	**JR**
Carley Saint-Onge	**FR**
Soleil Singh	**FR**
Lindsey Solberg	**SR**
Jenny Sritragul	**FR**
Trisha Witherby	**FR**



Senior Lindsey Solberg drives the ball down the fairway. The Spartan women's golf team finished 12th in the competition.



WOMENS GOLF

Reigning Big Ten champs hope to round off another strong season

Last year's golf season might be a tough act to follow, but the MSU Women's Golf team is ready to face the challenge head-on.

The reigning Big 10 champions beat three-time defending champion Purdue last year to earn the title, and they aren't quite ready to part with it just yet. If the team's past tournaments are any indication of future success, it has a good chance of making that dream a reality.

The Spartans finished in first place at their home tournament, the Mary Fossum Invitational, which was held Sept. 17-18, 2011. Head coach Stacy Slobodnik-Stoll said the weekend of the East Lansing-based tournament is an enjoyable one.

"It's named after our former coach, [who is] in her 80s now," Slobodnik-Stoll said, adding that Mary Fossum comes and presents awards to teams. "It's a special weekend at Michigan State for us."

At the end of October, the team headed to Chapel Hill, N.C., to play in the Tar Heel Invitational tournament, where they tied for eighth place and rounded out their fall season. After practicing through the winter, the Spartans started back up in the spring, and placed seventh at the Liz Murphey Collegiate Classic in Athens, Ga., among other successful tournament performances.

Slobodnik-Stoll said she feels the success of the team is largely due to the sister-like bond between the athletes.

"We're like a family," she said. "Every student-athlete on our team feels comfortable. Everyone cares about their wellbeing."

Junior Caroline Powers said the team's main goal is to win at the Big 10 Championship and at their regional competition, and she feels the team is in the right mindset to make that happen. However, Powers points out that the team isn't just focused on winning titles.

"[The team is] determined, and we're very goal oriented," Powers said. "We're also really concerned with the process along the way. It's easy to get ahead of yourself. One thing our coaches have instilled in us is that you can't win a championship without the steps along the way."

Senior Lindsey Solberg agrees that the team has potential to make it to the NCAA National Championship.

"We're all pretty accurate and keep high numbers to a minimum, and there's no reason why we shouldn't be in the running," Solberg said. "We have all the potential in the world. It's a matter of playing well all together at the same time."

Solberg and Powers both are leaders of the Women's Golf team this year. Both athletes have won numerous awards for their golf performances as well as their academics. They both have been honored as members of the National Golf Coaches Association's All-America Scholar Team. Powers also has broken two MSU records.

Powers said her athletic success at MSU has taken her by somewhat of a surprise, but she always strives to do her best for the benefit of her team.

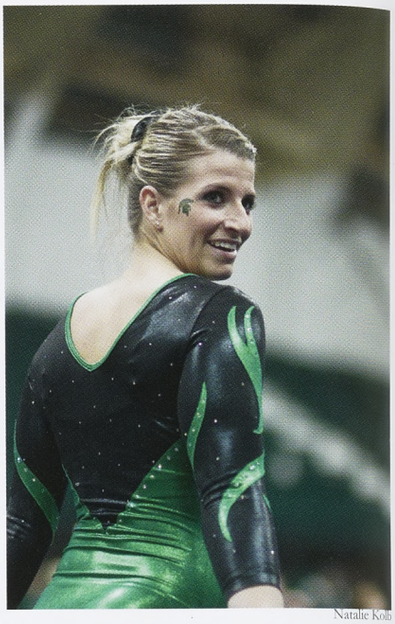
"The better I do individually, the better the team is going to do," she said.

Slobodnik-Stoll said having Powers and Solberg on the roster has made a marked difference in the team.

"Both of those women have had a phenomenal year and are wonderful ambassadors for Michigan State," she said.

Solberg and Powers aren't the only players that are hardworking both on the golf course and in the classroom. The Women's Golf team recently was recognized as the MSU sports team with the highest average GPA on campus.

With the Big 10 Championships coming up, the women's golf team knows what it needs to do to defend its title, and they are prepared to do whatever it takes.



Natalie Kolb

Senior Jackie Berg dances her floor routine at the annual Alumni meet. Berg placed second, getting a 9.800 on her floor exercise routine.

JOURNEY TO A 10

MSU gymnastics finds success after a rough start



Evan Parinosi

Senior Selina Rodriguez soars through the air on the bars during the MSU vs. Illinois-Chicago meet in the Jenison Fieldhouse. This meet was also senior night where MSU celebrated with a season-high score.

Junior Taira Neal does her routine on the balance beam during the MSU vs. Illinois-Chicago meet. Michigan State finished first place with a 195.550, and Illinois-Chicago second with 195.175.



Evan Parinosi

SCOREBOARD

Western Michigan	**W, 192.425**
Washington	**L, 191.875**
Iowa	**L, 190.175**
Penn State, Alabama, Cornell	**3rd, 192.875**
Illinois State	**W, 194.400**
Southeast Missouri State	**W, 193.450**
Pittsburgh	**W, 193.875**
Illinois	**T, 195.175**
Ball State	**W, 195.025**
Illinois-Chicago	**W, 195.550**
Alaska-Anchorage	**W, 194.175**
Alaska-Anchorage	**W, 195.425**
Michigan	**L, 192.700**
Big Ten Championships	**8th, 194.675**

ROSTER

Jackie Berg	**SR**
Alyssa Brennan	**SR**
Sarena Bumbarger	**SO**
Gillian Carr	**SO**
Alina Cartwright	**FR**
Ellie Gosselin	**FR**
Daneen Haba	**SR**
Dani Levy	**SO**
Kelsey Mazur	**SO**
Taira Neal	**SO**
Ashley Noll	**FR**
Alex Pace	**SO**
Selina Rodriguez	**SR**
Ashley Stevenson	**FR**
Carson Tabiolo	**FR**



Natalie Kolb

Junior Taira Neal does the splits in the air during her balance beam routine at the MSU vs. Southeast Missouri State meet. Michigan State defeated Southeast Missouri State in the 193.450-188.350 victory.

Clouds of chalk explode in a puff every time an MSU gymnast applauds her fellow teammates and with a group that has as much to cheer about as the gymnastics team does, there is quite a bit of clapping.

The Division I team has had a successful series of meets, but those wins didn't come without some challenges. The team lost its first few meets, and injuries had the gymnasts in low spirits at times.

"We had a lot to overcome in the beginning of the season," senior Jaclyn Berg said. "We had some injuries, and confidence was a big issue for our team as well."

Berg said a lot of the team's troubles stemmed from the balance beam.

"Nobody wanted to go near the beam," Berg said, gesturing to the beams set up in the Jenison Fieldhouse. "Girls that normally do well on the beam were falling off, and nobody else even wanted to try."

Berg said the team's struggles resulted in the gymnasts often quickly getting frustrated with themselves and pushing more than they should to make up for mistakes.

"We were doing really uncharacteristic things; we were falling when we shouldn't have been," she said. "We needed to remember that you can only do your own job."

With a decisive 193.450-188.350 win against Illinois State on Jan. 28, the gymnastics team found their balance once again, and it gave them the momentum to move on.

"It felt good after we got our confidence back," freshman Ashley Noll said. "It became less of a question of if we would make our routines and more of a question of just how well we would make our routines."

The team has since had a streak of wins and ties, and posted its season high score of 195.550 at its March 2 meet.

"We finally remembered that we are in control of what we're doing," Berg said. "It just takes one good performance to get you back into the swing of things. Once we had a good base, we just built on it."

Senior Alyssa Brennan said the season's upturn had a lot to do with team camaraderie.

"We are so much closer than the teams have been in past years," Brennan said. "As a gymnastics team, we have to be able to trust each other, and we do."

The cohesive team dynamic is obvious from the way the gymnasts act together. At practices, music blares as they take turns swinging on uneven bars and flipping on a balance beam while talking, laughing and enjoying each other's company.

The sparkles on their uniforms and their matching hair bows might give a cute and girly impression, but this team is filled with seasoned gymnasts that consistently bring their athletic abilities to the floor, uneven bars, beam or vault.

"People just don't realize how much effort and how much strength actually goes into gymnastics," Noll said. "Sometimes, it can look easy."

Berg agreed that gymnastics is a sport that requires top-level physical and mental stability. She said remembering this was a major factor in "climbing out of the hole" in the beginning of the season.

"It's one of those things where you just have to push play and get on with it," Berg said. "If you stop and think too long, you'll start asking yourself questions like, 'Why am I doing this? Why am I flipping upside down and hanging from this bar?' You just have to shut your mind off and do what you do best."

The Big 10 Championships are coming up, and the MSU gymnastics team has set its sights on a high score at that meet.

After every gymnast's turn at an event, the team celebrates its accomplishments with an ear-splitting round of applause. Cheers as loud and authentic as those of the MSU gymnastics team can only come from a group that has bonded over their journey together.



Natalie Kolb

Freshman Carson Tabiolo smiles as she finishes her dismount from the uneven bars during the MSU vs. Southeast Missouri State meet in the Jenison Fieldhouse. Carson received a 9.525 on her uneven bar routine.

SCOREBOARD

Michigan	**L, 2-0**
California	**L, 4-3**
Louisville	**L, 2-1**
Boston University	**L, 3-1**
Northeastern	**L, 5-0**
Virginia	**W, 3-0**
Miami (OH)	**W, 2-1**
Maine	**L, 4-1**
Providence	**W, 3-2**
Central Michigan	**W, 2-1**
Iowa	**L, 2-0**
Kent State	**W, 2-1**
Northwestern	**L, 3-0**
New Hampshire	**L, 5-3**
Ball State	**W, 1-0**
Indiana	**L, 4-2**
Ohio State	**W, 2-1**
Michigan	**L, 2-0**
Stanford	**L, 3-0**
Penn State	**L, 4-1**
Ohio State	**L, 2-1**

ROSTER

Allie Ahern	**FR**
Abby Barker	**FR**
Corey Block	**JR**
Molly Cassidy	**SO**
Chelsy Coil	**JR**
Michelle Graham	**FR**
Elizabeth Helffrich	**SO**
Alli Helwig	**FR**
Kristen Henn	**JR**
Heather Howie	**FR**
Katherine Jamieson	**SO**
Claire Johnson	**FR**
Christie Jones	**JR**
Adelle Lever	**JR**
Jessica Lindner	**JR**
Angie Lucik	**SR**
Mallory McDonagh	**SO**
Rachel Roberts	**FR**
Holly Sherman	**SR**
Jenni Smith	**FR**
Becky Stiles	**FR**



A FRESH START

With nine freshmen and a new head coach, women's field hockey team grows through a transition year



Freshman Heather Howie takes the ball down the field as MSU battles against U of M. Playing as a forward, Howie, one of the 9 new freshman, has started off her career at MSU on a strong foot.



Sophomore Mallory McDonagh takes control of the ball before she passes it up the field. McDonagh took the field for the Spartans for the second year in a row as a midfielder.

Freshman Abby Barker signals to her team what positions to take based on the play she will make. The All-Ohio honoree in 2009-2010 made her way to the field at MSU to continue her successful career in field hockey.



After five years playing women's field hockey for MSU, senior Angela Lucik never ended a game with a shoot-out. But this year in a game against Ohio State University, after the two 15-minute overtime the clocks ran out and the score was still tied 5-5. The only option was a head-to-head shootout battle.

Lucik was chosen to be one of five players to go head-to-head with the goalie of Ohio State, but never got the chance to shoot. Her team had already outscored them. Even though she didn't get a chance to shoot, she said the game was her proudest moment of the season.

"The attitude was like night and light between the teams," Lucik said. "We played as a team and held it together, and you could see the frustration in the other team."

Despite the team playing so well together against Ohio State, it was a major transition year. Nine seniors graduated the year before, and the team gained nine freshmen.

"It wasn't our best season, but it was a big learning season for us," Lucik said. "The freshmen tried to fill in and understand everything, so it was a good building year, but we didn't have all the outcomes we would have liked."

This was not the only hurdle the team had to overcome. It gained a new head coach this season, Helen Knull, who stepped up from her position as assistant coach the previous year.

"It was a smooth and enjoyable transition," Knull said. "MSU is a great place to work; so much support and great people around who are all willing to help."

The players also thought the transition was a success.

"It was a really easy transition for all of us," senior Holly Sherman said. "It was easy to respect her, and the other two coaches were great."

Sherman, who has been playing since she was 7 years old, thinks every player grew both individually and as a team this year, with help from Knull.

"My favorite part of the season was watching people come into their own," she said. "We had a lot of turnover, but what was most memorable was watching people shine in positions that didn't have an opportunity before, especially the young girls."

Off the field, the women immersed themselves in an atmosphere of camaraderie. From playing card games while living in the dorms during the summer to secret Santa gift exchanges, the teammates know how to have fun.

"That's always the way MSU field hockey has been and always will be," Sherman said. "We like to goof around and have a good time."

The team ended with a 7-13 record, but the women believe the collective growth this year will create a strong team for the coming years.

"This past season we grew a lot from day one of preseason until the final whistle blew," Knull said. "I saw the team grow tactically and technically, individuals developed on and off the field and seeing the growth of the individual and team is the best part."

For Lucik, even though she will be one of the two graduating seniors along with Sherman, she thinks the team will be a powerhouse next year.

"They are continuing to build and get stronger," Lucik said. "They will be a force to reckon with next year."

SCOREBOARD

Western Ontario	**W, 6-1**
Boston College	**L, 5-2**
Air Force	**W, 3-2**
Lake Superior State	**L, 5-4**
Lake Superior State	**L, 3-2**
Ohio State	**W, 3-0**
Ohio State	**L, 5-2**
Robert Morris	**W, 5-2**
Robert Morris	**W, 6-2**
Western Michigan	**W, 3-2**
Western Michigan	**W, 4-2**
Northern Michigan	**W, 4-3**
Northern Michigan	**L, 2-1**
Minnesota	**W, 4-3**
Minnesota	**T, 4-4**
Bowling Green	**W, 5-1**
Bowling Green	**W, 4-1**
Michigan	**L, 4-3**
Michigan	**T, 3-3**
Michigan Tech	**W, 3-1**
Michigan	**L, 3-2**
Miami (Oh)	**L, 2-1**
Miami (Oh)	**L, 4-0**
Norther Michigan	**T, 5-5**
Morthern Michigan	**W, 2-1**
Lake Superior State	**W, 4-2**
Lake Superior State	**T, 2-2**
Ferris State	**L, 2-1**
Ferris State	**L, 4-3**
Ohio State	**W, 6-3**
Ohio State	**W, 3-2**
Michigan	**W, 3-2**
Michigan	**L, 3-2**
Alaska	**W, 3-2**
Alaska	**W, 3-0**
Notre Dame	**L, 2-0**
Notre Dame	**W, 4-2**
Miami (Oh)	**L, 6-0**
Miami (Oh)	**L, 4-1**
Union	**L, 0-0**

ROSTER

Matt Berry	**F**
Tim Buttery	**S**
Brandon Carney	**F**
Dean Chelios	**J**
Jake Chelios	**SO**
Matt Crandell	**S**
Brent Darnell	**F**
Chris Forfar	**J**
Zach Golembiewski	**J**
Matt Grassi	**J**
Anthony Hayes	**J**
Justin Hoomaian	**F**
Torey Krug	**J**
Daultan Leveille	**S**
Mike Merrifield	**S**
Trevor Nill	**S**
Drew Palmisano	**S**
Brett Perlini	**S**
Nathan Phillips	**F**
Lee Reimer	**SO**
Chris Sandmeyer	**SO**
Brock Shelgren	**S**
Tanner Sorenson	**F**
AJ Sturgis	**RS F**
Kevin Walrod	**J**
Greg Wolfe	**SO**
Will Yanakeff	**SO**





MSU celebrates after scoring the first goal to take lead in the series against Northern Michigan. After ending with a tie in the first game of the series, Michigan State took the Win in the second game with a 2-1 final score against Northern Michigan.

Senior Daultan Leveille watches closely as he prepares for the puck to drop during the face-off. Leveille returned this season after recovering from an ACL tear from the previous season.

A MIRACLE RECOVERY

For ice hockey player Branden Carney, an injury increases motivation

It was a usual day for the varsity hockey practice at Munn Ice Arena on Nov. 3, 2011. The team was performing scrimmage drills when, suddenly, freshman defenseman Branden Carney caught skates with another player, slamming him head first into the boards surrounding the rink.

"Once I hit [the boards], it was pretty loud; everyone stopped," Carney said sporting a blue and gray neck brace stretching from his shoulders to his ears. "There was a sharp pain in my neck. I moved my arms and legs to try to get up, but it was too painful."

Carney was then rushed to Sparrow Hospital in Lansing to find out he fractured the first two vertebrae in his neck. Although the injury is devastating, Carney, his team and coaches recognize it could have been much worse.

"[I was] horrified when I heard about [his injury] initially," head coach Tom Anastos said. "Then extremely grateful that it turned out as it did…given the injuries that he sustained, he's truly a miracle."

Carney missed nearly a month of school for healing and had to wear a halo cervical neck brace for three months.

Carney credits his brotherly bond with his teammates as motivation for his recovery. Once word got out to the team about his prognosis, several of the players began visiting Carney and offering help whenever he needed it.

"You want to pull together and do the best you can for his sake," team captain and junior Torey Krug said. "More importantly, away from the rink, you want to be as much help to him as you can, whether its helping him get to class or talking to him about other problems."

From the moment Carney was lying in his hospital bed, he knew he wanted to get back on the ice as soon as he could.

"All I wanted to do growing up was play college hockey." Carney said with a smile, staring onto the ice from the press box. "Once I get out of this [neck brace], I'll probably work harder than I ever have in my life just to get out there again."

In his neck brace, Carney is able to work out on a stationary bike, which is a good sign considering he has been on bed rest for three months. He also attends practices and games regularly and hangs out with teammates outside the rink.

His injury holds sentimental value for the players, Krug said.

"You go to work with 24 guys every day on the ice, beating each other up and working as hard as you can, then you see something like that nasty injury," Krug said. "It could have been anyone of us…it definitely touches you."

Carney's ability to skate again depends on how quickly his neck heals. It will be months before he can consider contact again.

As an inspiration to individuals on and off the ice, Carney's optimistic attitude and determination to overcome his setback do not go unnoticed.

"It re-emphasized the importance of living in the now and never taking anything for granted," Anastos said. "It was also very inspiring to see the compassion and support of his teammates and determination in which [Carney] attacked his recovery."







Senior Drew Palmisano reaches out his glove to make a crucial save during the Northern Michigan game. Palmisano blocked 23 out of the 24 total shots on goal during the game.

MSU skates back towards the bench to rally past the team for high fives after scoring against Northern Michigan. Goal was scored by number 5 senior Brock Shelgren.

ROSTER

Nicole Bade **SR**
Brie-Anne Breton **JR**
Michelle Campbell **SO**
Hannah Champ **JR**
Abigail Christiansen **SR**
Kaitlin Clark **SO**
Amelia Clary **SO**
Alicia Dimauro **SR**
Kate Elbourne **SO**
Theresa Geelhoed **SR**
Elinor Hannum **FR**
Lydia Hawthorne **SR**
Heather Holliday **JR**
Hayley Jenkins **SO**
Zion Keck **FR**
Elizabeth Kurcz **JR**
Brianna Lakanen **SR**
Monica Lapointe **SO**
Kathleen Leighton **SR**
Anna Ludes **SO**
Erin Mcgarry **JR**
Amanda Mcgeachie **JR**
Elicia Milne **JR**
Shelby Motoligin **JR**
Michelle Neuder **SR**
Matilyn Ozment **SO**
Samantha Palmer **SR**
Rose Pawlowski **SO**
Camille Press **SR**
Shelby Rockwell **JR**
Carolyn Schaner **JR**
Emily Sharp **JR**
Jocelyn Smith **SR**
Michelle Sosa **SR**
Breanne Walkowiak **SR**



The women's rowing varsity eight practices to prepare for their appearance at the NCAA National Championship Regatta for the fourth year in a row.

Members of the women's rowing team lift their boat to the water to begin practice. During the winter, rowers used rowing machines to prepare for the upcoming season.





The women's rowing varsity eight synchronizes strokes to move the boat at the fastest pace. The women's rowing team is led by head coach Matt Weise.

EYES ON THE PRIZE

MSU women rowers look onto a spring season and toward nationals

Going into her third year on MSU's women's rowing team, junior Shelby Motoligin has high expectations. With a strong attitude and even stronger team bond, Motoligin hopes the team will place at the NCAA National Championship Regatta for the fourth year in a row.

Rowing is made up of two seasons, one in fall and one in spring. Fall is based on endurance because the sets are longer, and spring is sprint racing, Motoligin said. As the year progresses and the season switches to spring, each race's intensity is enhanced, according to head coach Matt Weise.

"There's a point with the increased intensity when [the rowers] come off the boat so physically and mentally exhausted but happy at the same time," Weise said. "For me, that is the part I enjoy the most because it shows that we, as athletes and coaches, have done our jobs well."

Before the rowers can dream of making it to nationals, they must train.

"Training is basically all year," Motoligin said. "You want to get that strong mental state. It's as much building mentally as it is physically. You really push yourself farther than you thought you could ever push."

All winter, rowers use rowing machines, rowing simulators or 'swingulators,' lifts and endurance exercises to train. Assistant coach Christina Donley said this year's training has proven to be particularly positive.

"They've had a really great winter this year with progression," Donley said. "Their confidence and motivation going into spring is really high. One of the things we're attacking is the idea of relentless power. This team has got a lot of fire."

Motoligin acknowledges her teammates as a few of her closest friends, as well as her toughest competitors.

"We're constantly trying to keep the competitive spirit up because that is how we make progression as a team," Motoligin said. "It's like you're competing with your friend but you're also helping each other build."

One way the team heightens its energy off the water is through the classic technique of cheering and chanting. The team bus driver, a former Marine, has special rants he uses to pump the team up on the way to practices and meets, Motoligin said. Another aspect the team uses to enhance focus is the motto, "Leave your drama at the door."

Like Motoligin, most of the varsity rowers started rowing by walking onto the novice team and working their way up to varsity level. Motoligin never picked up a row before she arrived at MSU, and now she never wants to put one down.

"I learned it all freshman year," Motoligin said with a hint of nostalgia in her voice. "We had to learn everything, from technique to getting into shape. We train to have the mindset of a varsity rower, and it's a continuing challenge each year."

May 2011 was her first time competing in nationals. Her heat, the second varsity eight, won within seconds against Princeton, a challenging rival. She said the experience put her involvement with rowing into perspective.

"We previously lost to Princeton by 10 to 12 seconds, so to come back and win was great," Motoligin said. "[The win] made me get a feel for the sport and connect with it."

With a successful training season and an army of rowers ready to attack its rivals on water, the team's goal of placing at nationals is not out of reach.

SCOREBOARD

Oakland	**L, 1-0**
Northern Illinois	**L, 2-1**
Detroit	**L, 1-0**
Connecticut	**L, 2-1**
New Hampshire	**W, 3-0**
Geargetown	**L, 2-1**
Marshall	**L, 1-0**
Marquette	**T, 1-1**
Notre Dame	**L, 1-0**
Northwestern	**T, 1-1**
Illinois-Chicago	**W, 2-1**
Ohio State	**L, 2-1**
Milwaukee	**W, 2-1**
Penn State	**W, 1-0**
Wisconsin	**L, 1-0**
Bowling Green	**T, 0-0**
Indiana	**T, 2-2**
Western Michigan	**W, 2-1**
Michigan	**W, 1-0**
Akron	**W, 1-0**
Indiana	**L, 2-1**

ROSTER

Quinn McAnaney	**F**
Garret Back	**S***
Kevin Cope	**J**
Tim Kreutz	**SO**
Ryan Thelen	**SO***
Mark Barone	**S**
Bubin Bega	**S**
Domenico Barone	**S**
Ryan Keener	**F***
Tyler White	**J**
Joe Paljaj	**S***
Kyle Rutz	**F**
Nick Wilson	**J**
Cyrus Saydee	**S**
Josh Barens	**SO**
Blake Skamiera	**F**
Brent Rosendale	**S**
Cody Henderson	**F***
Adam Montague	**F**
Wesley Curtis	**SO**
Stephen Lucianek	**S**
Asa Miller	**F**
Fatai Alashe	**F**
Nick DiRienzo	**F**
Bryce Dobbins	**SO***
Jeremy Clark	**S***

*red shirt



Players from both teams prepare for a goal kick from the Ohio State goalkeeper as Michigan State tries to erase a single goal deficit against Ohio State. Michigan State finished 5th in the Big Ten during their 2011 season with a conference record of 2-2-2.



Spartan Senior Brent Rosendall elevates successfully for a header amongst two Marshall University defenders. Six members of the Spartan soccer team received post season honors during the 2011 season.



content: marirose sanborn
photo: chase o'black
design: betsy eber



Michigan State senior Rubin Bega steps to receive a ball during a match against the Marshall Thundering Herd. Michigan State started the season ranked 17th in the USA Today Coaches' Poll.

The Spartan logo waves in the wind as Michigan State battles conference rival Ohio State during Big Ten soccer action. The Spartans were defeated 2-1 by Ohio State during their homestand on October 2nd.



FIGHTING THE ODDS

Men's Varsity Soccer breaks into the Big Ten Tournament

MSU Football wasn't the only one to conquer the Wolverines this season. On Oct. 26, Varsity Men's Soccer successfully reclaimed the Big Bear Trophy at 1-0 after a corner kick soared into Michigan's net, courtesy of the center defender.

"It's one of those feelings you can't replicate," commented sophomore Ryan Keener, who scored the winning goal. But even for Keener, a defender who doesn't get many opportunities to score, this was just one highlight during the tumultuous season for the team that qualified in the NCAA Big Ten Tournament.

To say the soccer team merely improved throughout this season would be an understatement. The team started at a disadvantage by losing starter senior Domenico Barone and team captain junior Kevin Cope to injuries at the beginning of the season. The gaps left by the injured players was daunting for their teammates. After failing to secure the next few wins, the team faced what it thought would be a lackluster season.

"You lose hope in those times when you're not winning games and you think you should be," reflected Keener.

However, instead of continuing down a hopeless path, the team grew closer, and teammates gradually gained more confidence in one other.

Junior goalkeeper Bryce Dobbins explained how they revived and stepped in to fill the positions. Adam Montague replaced Barone, while Keener filled in for Cope. Meanwhile, Cope and Barone continued to motivate the team from the bench.

"They've been able to work out problems in the game just as though they were on the field," Dobbins said.

"[We would say] 'Let's win this one for Kevin!' It's what the teammates would want. We've got to do it for them." Dobbins said, explaining the drive they developed in the season.

After the nearly two hour-long practices every weekday and traveling for hours to games, the soccer team attends many social outings together. Some of the players even live together.

"There are very few times when we're not with our teammates," Dobbins added.

With the amount of time teammates spent together, their bond and trust in each other hugely impacted their season. Head Coach Damon Rensing and Assistant Coaches Kylie Stannard and Ben Pirmann helped facilitate the team's morale, as well as its coordination together during the season.

"They kept telling us, 'I'm proud of you guys.' They've kept us together and pushed us in the right direction," said Keener, while he discussed the effective and supportive advice from the coaches. But, he explained, "It comes down to what the players do with it."

By the time they won the Big Bear Trophy from U of M, the season changed courses. After the Michigan game, MSU faced an even stronger opponent: University of Akron. The Akron Zips held an impressive record. Former NCAA national champions and undefeated at home for four years, this was the team to beat.

During the first half of the game, the Zips pressured the net while 3,000 belligerent fans jeered. But senior goalkeeper Jeremy Clark remained steadfast and magnificently defended the goal. As the second half began, the intensity only increased. Then, with three minutes to spare, Montague passed to senior forward Rubin Bega, who sent the ball over the goalkeeper's head.

"Our team stuck together, and later in the game we were able to pull off a win," Bega said. "We couldn't have done it individually; everyone played their role on the field."

MSU broke the national champion's winning streak at 1-0, qualifying them to compete in the Big Ten tournament in November. The team wrapped up its regular season with a 5-1-2 record.

"It's been a rocky season," Bega said. "Going into the tournament, we're one of the hottest teams right now. I think we really could shock the world."



Junior Olivia Stander winds up for a long pass toward the goal against Penn State. Penn State rallied late in the game to defeat MSU 3-1.

Although the MSU women's soccer season is "over" by springtime, practice is not. On any given Friday afternoon during spring semester, the sounds of women yelling and soccer balls smacking the walls can be heard in a roller hockey rink. The high walls, two goals and hard surface make it an ideal location for practice that is unhampered by large piles of snow and rapidly chilling temperatures. It is here that senior Mikki Dennis begins to say "goodbye" to a sport that has been a large part of her time at MSU.

"I'll be graduating in May, and I don't plan to keep playing soccer like I have been here," Dennis said.

Dennis was a midfielder during this season, an experience she said she enjoyed immensely.

"I was very proud of the team this year. For one thing, we finally beat [the University of] Michigan, and it's always exciting when MSU beats Michigan," Dennis said.

Dennis credits the team's win over MSU's infamous rival to "senior leadership."

"We had so much momentum and frustration pent up from the last time we played them and it was great to finally leave it all on the field and finally win," she said.

Another crucial moment came when the team qualified for the Big Ten Tournament, "which was huge for us," junior and center midfielder Jordan Mueller said. "We ended up third in our conference, too. We owe a lot to our seniors, but we were also just a really talented team this year."

Fellow junior Olivia Stander also touched on the excitement of playing in the Big Ten tournament as a forward and how they won many away games. Like Mueller, Stander also has been playing soccer for a long time.

"My grandparents signed me up when I was 3 in the summer," Stander said. "I liked it so much that my parents continued to keep me focused and motivated and helped me get where I am today."

In spite of the many good things, there were a few sour notes as well.

"It seemed very likely that we would get invited to the NCAA tournament this year, but for various reasons that didn't come to pass," head coach Tom Saxton said. "Having said that, though, I wouldn't want to hold something like that against what was easily one of the best groups of seniors we've had in recent years."

Saxton said along with Dennis, at least 10 other girls from a 30-person roster were going to be graduating this year, leaving a fairly "young but talented team in its wake."

This year's senior class was the biggest the program has had, meaning there will be plenty of freshmen and sophomores stepping up next year.

Upperclassmen like Mueller and Stander will be around as well, and are already looking to the future.

"I'm looking forward to another shot at the Big Ten championship and a berth in the NCAA tournament," Mueller said. "I've been playing soccer since I was 9 years old; it's one of the few sports you can start at a really young age."

Although the team will be sad to see seniors like Dennis leave, the next generation of MSU women's soccer is already raring to go.

SCOREBOARD

Eastern Michigan	**W, 1-0**
Milwaukee	**L, 3-2**
DePaul	**W, 1-0**
Duquesne	**W, 3-0**
Oakland	**W, 1-0**
Akron	**W, 5-0**
Bowling Green	**W, 2-0**
UC-Santa Barbara	**W, 4-1**
Detroit	**W, 4-3**
Purdue	**W, 2-1**
Wisconsin	**L, 2-1**
Minnesota	**W, 3-0**
Nebraska	**W, 1-0**
Iowa	**L, 1-0**
Illinois	**L, 1-0**
Michigan	**W, 2-0**
Indiana	**W, 2-1**
Penn State	**L, 3-1**
Ohio State	**W, 2-0**
Northwestern	**W, 2-0**
Iowa	**T, 0-0**
Illinois	**L, 0-1**

ROSTER

Desiree Aber	**JR**
Paige Burke	**SR***
Nicole Caruso	**FR**
Katelin Chaklos	**SR**
Courtney Clem	**SO**
Mikki Dennis	**SR**
Mary Kathryn Fiebernitz	**FR**
Jill Flietstra	**SR**
Gabrielle Gauruder	**FR**
Courtney Hammer	**FR**
Alexandra Heffron	**FR**
Laura Heyboer	**SR**
Karly Kasper	**SR**
Kelsey Kassab	**JR**
Kelly Lindsay	**SO***
Megan Marsack	**FR**
Chelsey Miller	**SO**
Taylor Miller	**SR**
Jordan Mueller	**JR**
Kelsey Mullen	**SO**
Chelsea Peterson	**JR**
Hannah Peterson	**SR**
Megan Pines	**SR**
Rachel Van Poppelen	**FR**
Kori Reinhart	**JR**
Olivia Stander	**JR**
Annie Steinlage	**SO**
Sarah Stern	**SR**
Lisa Vogel	**FR**
Elizabeth Watza	**SR***
Paige Wester	**FR**

*red shirt



Senior Hannah Peterson drives the ball toward the goal against a University of Michigan defender. Peterson finished the season with a flurry of offensive play.



Senior Laura Heyboer fights for the ball against an Ohio State defender. MSU finished with a 2-0 win against OSU in the final home match of the season.

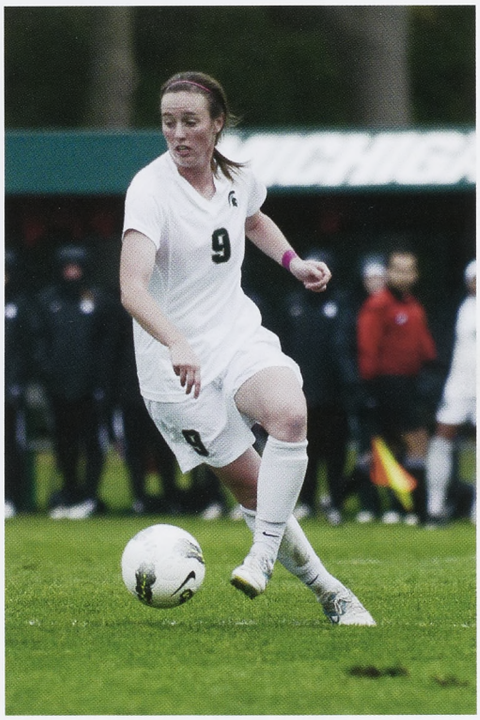
content: noelle sciarini
photo: evan farinosi
design: carly patterson



PLAYING WITH THE PAST AND FUTURE

Women's soccer team reflects on past, looks to future

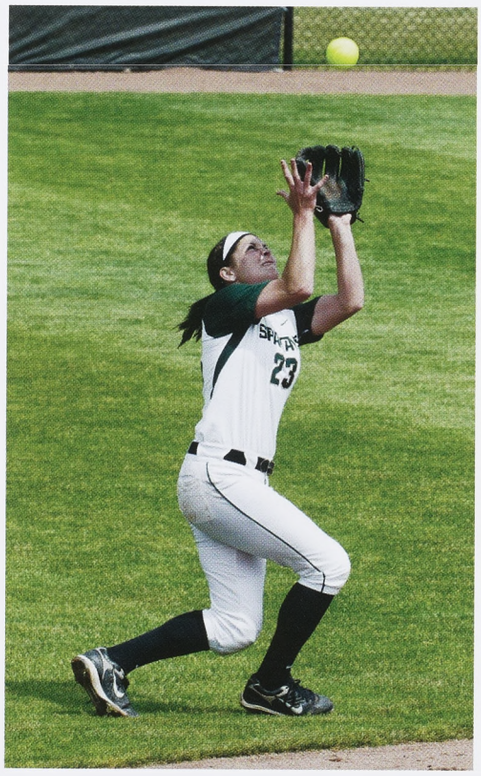




Junior Jordan Mueller looks downfield for open teammates while dribbling the ball. MSU finished 3rd in the Big Ten this year behind Penn State and Illinois.

Senior Katelin Chaklos reverses the course of an incoming ball. MSU defeated the University of Michigan 2-0 at DeMartin Stadium.

Freshman Alyssa McBride, number 23, catches a pop-fly during the MSU vs U-M face-off. The Spartans lost the game against their rivals with a score of 8-0.



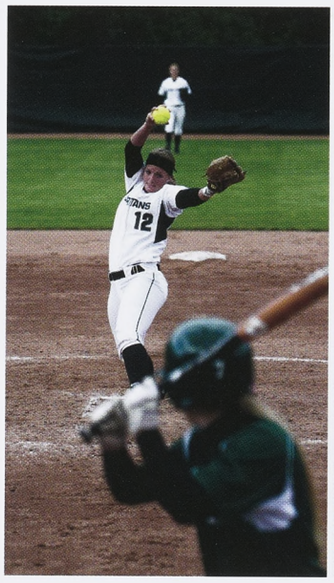


SCOREBOARD

Central Michigan	**L, 8-4**
UIC	**W, 11-3**
North Dakota	**W, 8-6**
Wright State	**W, 4-2**
Purdue	**L, 10-6**
Purdue	**L, 8-4**
Purdue	**L, 2-0**
Butler	**L, 8-1**
Ohio State	**L, 9-4**
Ohio State	**L, 14-1**
Ohio State	**L, 6-4**
Central Michigan	**W, 6-1**
Penn State	**L, 4-3**
Penn State	**L, 11-5**
Penn State	**L, 7-5**
Eastern Michigan	**L, 6-3**
Michigan	**L, 8-0**
Michigan	**L, 2-0**
Michigan	**L, 5-0**

ROSTER

Melanie Bensema	**SR**
Sarah Bowling	**SO**
Kelsey Cleary	**FR**
Raime Cronkhite	**JR**
Mary Kate DiVirgilio	**JR**
Emma Fernandez	**SO**
Mckinzie Freimuth	**FR**
Ali Grant	**SR**
Kylene Hopkins	**JR**
Cassee Layne	**SO**
Alyssa McBride	**FR**
Carly Nielsen	**FR**
Jayme O'Bryant	**JR**
Lori Padilla	**SR**
Jenny Ramsaier	**JR**
Rebecca Rogers	**SR**
Stephanie Sanders	**FR***
Ellie Stoffer	**FR**
Brett Williams	**SR**
Shelby Wise	**JR**







Freshman pitcher Carly Nielsen, number 12, throws the ball to an Eastern Michigan player at Secchia Stadium at Old College Field. The Spartans lost to the Eagles 6-3.

The team huddles together to talk about their strategy for the home game against the Wolverines. The Spartans failed to overtake the Wolverines falling to an 8-0 loss.





Junior Jayme O'Bryant, tags out a Wolverine before she reaches the base. The game took place at Secchia Stadium at Old College Field.



REBUILDING THE FOUNDATION

MSU Softball and Secchia Stadium undergo growth

At the bottom of the second inning, the MSU softball team trailed by one run in the second game of a doubleheader against Ohio State University on March 31. A spring breeze brushed against the Spartan green jersey of third base, Jayme O'Bryant as she steps up to the plate. The sun peaks through the clouds as she sends a solid line drive between the Buckeye short stop and second base stepping safely onto first. Unfortunately, the MSU Spartans lost to the Ohio State Buckeyes 14-1.

Head Coach Jacquie Joseph took the loss as a lesson toward improving for the future.

"The energy was there, we just missed a lot of essential spots," Joseph said.

The spirit of the team is reflected by its enthusiasm for the game and optimism for upcoming seasons.

Although MSU currently is 11-30 in the season and 0-10 in the Big Ten as of April 17, the love of the game still remains for the players like O'Bryant and growth is just around the corner.

"I am so thankful to my coach for giving me the opportunity to play for her and this university," O'Bryant said. "I haven't just learned about the game of softball, I've grown and learned life lessons from this program that I will forever cherish."

Joseph knows first hand the valuable lessons softball can teach through her own experience as a player as well as coaching at MSU for 19 years.

"You can make a difference in [the students'] lives," Joseph said. "I love college kids because they have so much to offer and such promise for the future."

The softball team is young, composed of only five seniors, and it is the team's first full season to play in the recently built Secchia Stadium.

Through the $1 million gift from alumnus Ambassador Peter F. Secchia, a new 1,100-seat facility was created, which included 120 chair-back seats, a new press box and sound system and handicap accessible seating. Located at Old College Field, Secchia Stadium matches the architecture of Jenison Field House, McLane Baseball Stadium, and the hitting and pitching facilities.

"The facilities will not only help our current team, but will elevate our recruiting," Joseph said.

Construction still is progressing, working toward adding a ticket booth as well as paving a new entryway to the stadium that will help attract more Spartans.

"The MSU Softball Team and [athletic] program as a whole could not be more thankful to Mr. Secchia for giving us such an amazing facility to play on," O'Bryant said. "There has been a lot of construction that has been occurring," not only in the developing facilities, but the team as well.

"We are young, but we are developing," Joseph said.

The optimistic nature for progress is embodied in the outlook of the players like O'Bryant.

"This has been an experience in itself," O'Bryant said. "I can't reflect on one thing without it leading into my whole career here at Michigan State. I look forward to what the future has in store for us."

The future appears to be bright for MSU's softball team, where a foundation will not only be set for the softball complex but for players and coaches alike.

MAKING HISTORY

Swimming and Diving team hosts first outdoor meet in 15 years

Senior Kerry Sodonis has been swimming for the majority of her life. Her love of the sport started at age seven when her mom bought her lessons and has taken her all the way to MSU's swimming and diving team.

On Oct. 8, it took her into the history books when she participated in MSU's first outdoor swim meet in 15 years.

"We had heard that the last one was in the 90s and that it was freezing cold, so we were excited to not only participate in it this year but also to have fantastic weather," Sodonis said.

Not only was it close to 80 degrees that afternoon but it was also bright and sunny, characteristic of a typical Indian Summer day in early October. The Spartans took full advantage of the warmth, beating Cleveland State and Oakland University with scores of 247 and 202 for the women's and men's teams respectively.

"The people that organized the meet did an incredible job," Sodonis said. "I had a lot of fun and I really went after it in my races."

Those races included the 200 breaststroke, the 400 medley and the 400 freestyle relay. For Sodonis, it was difficult to describe the difference between the outdoor meet and a regular swim meet, besides the obvious fact that one is indoors and the other is not.

"It's kind of a different atmosphere," Sodonis said. "The sidelines were a lot more crowded, so it was cool to hear everyone cheering for you."

Senior Sarah Falconer, who participated in the 200 IM, a race consisting of the butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle, and 200 breaststroke, also mentioned the crowd being a factor in the meet.

"Most of our regular meets don't get a lot of spectators besides our parents and family," Falconer said. "This time a lot of our friends came; I think this might have been the biggest group of spectators we've ever had at a meet."

Since an outdoor meet is a fairly rare event for the team, the competition drew a large crowd, including one very special guest.

"I've been on the swim team for four years and this was the first time we had Sparty come to one of our meets," senior Mark Schramm said.

Schramm, a mid-distance freestyle specialist, used both the roar of the crowds and his knowledge of the McCaffree swimming pool outside of IM West to earn his relay team the first place spot in the 400-meter medley relay, a race in which each member of the relay swam a different stroke: butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle.

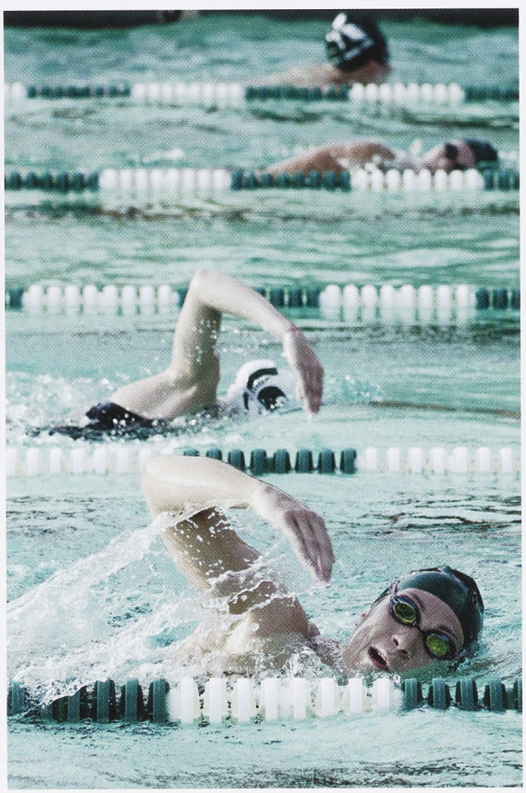
"In the outdoor pool it's tough to gauge where you are during the backstroke, so you end up with an advantage if you know to pay attention to that," he said.

All three swimmers agreed that the early wins over Cleveland and Oakland signaled a promising season.

"I think our team did an amazing job; we took our adrenaline and ran with it," Falconer said.



Sophomore Bryan Williams works tirelessly during his butterfly stroke exercise. MSU held the first outdoor swim meet at the university in 15 years on Oct. 8.



Senior Kerry Sodonis finishes the home stretch of a hard workout. Both men's and women's swimming and diving teams took first place in the outdoor event.



SCOREBOARD

Iowa	**M: L, 202-91 W: L,184.5-93.5**
Illinois	**W: L, 154.5-145.5**
Ohio State Invitational	**M: L, 4 of 4 W: L, 5 of 5**
Purdue	**M: L, 180.5-107.5 W: L, 176-124**
Ohio State	**W: L, 144-98**
Notre Dame	**M: L, 174-121 W: L, 218-82**
Michigan	**W: L, 171-120**
Michigan	**M: L, 226.5-53.5**



Sophomore Marcella Kupraszewicz focuses on her butterfly stroke. The special outdoor event drew a large number of spectators to MSU's outdoor pool.





Freshman Alison Menzies spins through the air in competition against Ohio State University. Though the MSU women's swimming performed well, they weren't able to pull out a team victory.

Junior Mark Gammell swims the backstroke during a cool-down lap. The weather cooperated perfectly for this year's outdoor meet.

BEYOND THE CLAY

Men's tennis team works toward the NCAA tournament

The MSU men's tennis team consists of 13 members all working toward one goal: the NCAA tournament. The 11 players are guided by two voices of experience, Head Coach Gene Orlando and Assistant Coach Matt Roberts.

In talking with Orlando, one can sense the excitement for the sport, and the amount of respect he has for the men he works with.

"I count on everyone to give everything they've got, and in return, they count on me to teach them everything I know," Orlando said.

Many think of tennis as an individual sport, but working together is crucial to a team's performance. A freshman doubles player is just as essential as the No. 1 singles player.

Senior Austin Brooks said although, "it's an individual sport, you are nothing without your team. If you are having your best day, it doesn't matter unless everyone does well because that bar we set as a team is what is most important at the end of the day."

That bar is essential to success for the men's tennis team as it continues to "build upon the past years in order to take the game to the next level," Orlando said.

Orlando left Bowling Green after it dropped its men's tennis program, and has been coaching at MSU for the last 20 years.

Bowling Green discontinued its program due to the lack of funding and gender inequity at the university, and other major universities have followed, such as the University of Kansas.

"We are not the most funded program in the school because we are not a money-making sport like football or basketball," Brooks said of MSU's program.

However, that doesn't stop the Spartans from continuing to excel. Currently, MSU is ranked 54th in the nation, but six teams in the Big 10 are ranked in the top 30.

A team finish in the top six in the Big 10 to advance to the NCAA inter-league tournament is the main goal for Orlando and the team. With Michigan, Illinois, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Iowa and Penn State in the games to come, the team is preparing for key matches that will allow it to advance in the rankings.

"The coach tells us that a Big 10 win counts as 10," Brooks said. "You have to work that much harder because it is a dog fight to win."

Brooks, originally from Houston, has been playing with the team since freshman year.

"I've learned a lot from playing college sports," Brooks said. "You see how invested people get into it, and slowly it becomes like a family."

That family extends beyond the tennis court and onto the turf, wood floor and sidewalks of East Lansing.

"It's incredible, because when someone does good everyone starts following suit," Brooks said. "It's funny how close the athletic department is. If football or basketball does well, we move on their confidence … it's all intertwined."

Brooks' friend, who attended Purdue University, quit the tennis program because of the lack of that crucial relationship.

"In his team they recruited foreign players who were more of almost professional athletes, rather than students who were teammates, while the coaches were unbearable," Brooks said. "A coach is an essential part of the team … it's not about how well they train you physically, but how they prepare and connect with you mentally more than anything."



Freshman Harry Jadun returns a backhand during a doubles match against Nebraska. Jadun is a East Lansing native left-hander who was a four-time letter winner in high school.



Sophomore Drew Lied swings back during a tight match against Big Ten rival Nebraska. Lied and his doubles partner Aaron Pfister lost to Nebraska in a tie-breaker on Apr. 15.

SCOREBOARD

Ohio State	**L, 7-0**
Michigan	**L, 7-0**
Minnesota	**L, 7-0**
Wisconsin	**W, 6-1**
Indiana	**W, 5-2**
Purdue	**W, 6-1**
Northwestern	**L, 6-1**
Illinois	**L, 6-1**
Iowa	**W, 6-1**
Nebraska	**W, 5-2**
Penn State	**W, 5-2**

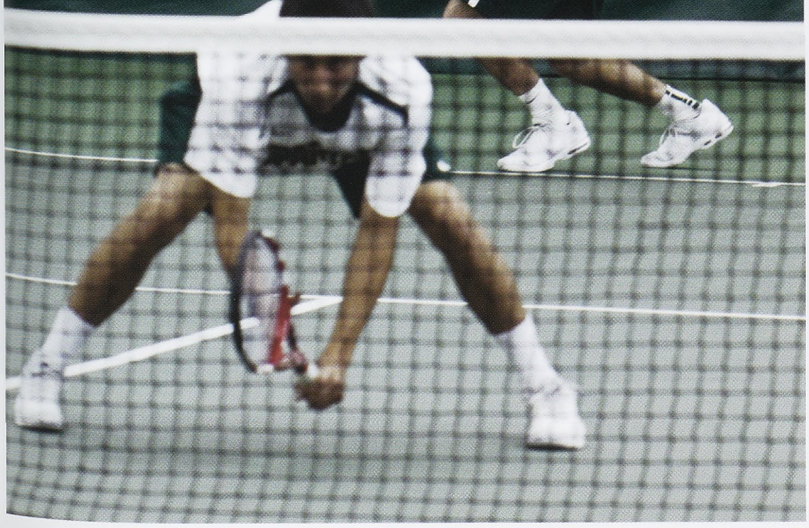
ROSTER

Denis Bogatov	**JR**
Austin Brooks	**SR**
Will Davis	**JR**
Ronnie Hulewicz	**SR**
Harry Jadun	**FR**
Drew Lied	**SO**
Gijs Linders	**FR**
Aaron Pfister	**SO**
Ryan Richmond	**SO**
Christian Roehmer	**JR**
Doug Zade	**FR**



A tennis ball sits on the court during a game break at the MSU Indoor Tennis facility. Sophomore Aaron Pfister was named First-Team All-Big Ten during the 2012 season.





Lied steps into a backswing at the MSU Indoor Tennis Facility on Hope road. MSU Men's Tennis went 16-10 this year and finished 7th in Big Ten.





Lied chases a lob during a conference tennis match in the Spring 2012. MSU graduated two seniors from their team this year with 9 players returning.

Senior Austin Brooks eyes the ball during a serve while freshman Harry Jadun prepares for a return in one of their 17 doubles matches this season. Brooks was 12-12 during singles matches this year.

COURTLY LOVE

Women from all corners of the globe come together as Spartans

The fact Olga Chernova isn't from the East Lansing area, or even the continent, may be what one notices first about the tennis star off the court, but it may be what makes her a true member of the MSU community.

"Every time I go onto the court, I know that I'm a Spartan," sophomore Chernova said in a lilting Russian accent.

MSU's women's tennis team is defined by its diversity, with the majority of its players originating from abroad and only two of the players native to Michigan.

Although Chernova has lived in the United States for little more than a year, she already feels at home at MSU.

"Even the weather is similar to Russia here, so it was a perfect fit," she said.

But not everything came so simply to Chernova at first.

"Everything is just different, from the people to the culture," she said. "It's like you get out of the plane, and everything has changed."

Chernova said it was because of her team that she was able to acclimate herself, giving her the support she needed for success in all areas, from the tennis court to the food court.

"When I first got here, we went to eat, but I didn't know what a fork was or what a spoon was," Chernova recalled, laughing.

Of course, much of Chernova's success as a tennis player is due to the hard work she, along with the rest of her teammates, are committed to as part of the team.

"It's a lot of hard work, blood, sweat and tears," Georgia native and teammate Dana Geuntert said.

Guentert said she has been playing tennis all her life. Her mother is a tennis instructor at Bowling Green State, so Dana decided she wanted to "try something new" and make the move to MSU.

"I like the big school feel," Guentert said.

Freshman Julianne Gruber, originally from Florida, echoes Guentert's sentiment of wanting to try a new and different place to continue her tennis career and couldn't agree more that hard work is the name of the game for the tennis team.

"Sometimes I was so sore I couldn't even move after fall conditioning," Gruber said.

However, the pain pays off, and the common experience is what builds each teammate up together.

"Compared to the other teams we play, we're louder, and it seems like being part of a team is more significant," freshman Hilary Hagar of Frisco, Texas said.

During a doubles match against Bowling Green State, Chernova recalls when she and her partner were down 7-2, and there already had been two match points against them. The duo then fought to win the match in a startling comeback.

"After that, you walk off the court and you think, 'You can do anything,'" Chernova said with a distinct brightness in her eye.

Games like that show that the bond of diversity isn't the only thing the tennis players' share. When asked what she likes best about playing for MSU's tennis team, Chernova spoke for the rest of her team when she said, "Winning."



SCHEDULE

Oakland	**W, 7-0**
Akron	**L, 5-2**
Eastern Michigan	**W, 5-2**
Cleveland State	**W, 5-2**
Bowling Green	**W, 4-3**
Toledo	**W, 5-2**
Detroit	**W, 6-1**
Michigan	**L, 7-0**
Western Michigan	**W, 4-3**
Central Florida	**L, 5-2**
Stetson	**L, 5-2**
Ball State	**W, 7-0**
Minnesota	**L, 5-2**
Wisconsin	**L, 6-1**
Indiana	**L, 6-1**
Purdue	**L, 6-1**
Northwestern	**L, 7-0**
Illinois	**L, 7-0**
Iowa	**L, 5-2**
Nebraska	**L, 6-1**
Ohio State	**L, 6-1**
Penn State	**L, 4-3**

ROSTER

Amy Barton	**J**
Marina Bohrer	**SO**
Olga Chernova	**SO**
Julianne Gruber	**F**
Dana Guentert	**J***
Hilary Hager	**F**
Nicole Herzog	**J**
Katarina Lingl	**SO**
Michaela Silesova	**J**
Jennifer Yen	**SO**

VS WOMEN'S TENNIS

content: matthew revers
photo: submitted by erin wilson
design: betsy eber



Junior Dana Guentert practices for a women's tennis match. The team is led by head coach Simone Jardim and assistant coach Tyler Faulkner.

With a tennis ball fast approaching, junior Nicole Herzog prepares for a powerful return. Only two of the women's tennis players are Michigan natives.





Spartan freshmen David Madrigal and Austin Wissler lead the pack during an eventful 1500m race. Madrigal and Wissler ended up taking first and second, respectively.







SCOREBOARD

GVSU Bob Eubanks Open	**L, 2-0**
Notre Dame Invitational	**L, 4-3**
Indiana Invitational	**L, 2-1**
Meyo Invitational	**L, 3-1**
GVSU Big Meet	**L, 5-0**
SPIRE Invitational	**W, 3-0**
Silverston Invitational	**W, 2-1**
Big Ten Indoor Championships	**L, 4-1**
Alex Wilson	**W, 3-2**
NCAA Indoor Championships	**W, 2-1**
Raleigh Relays	**L, 2-0**
Spartan Invitational	**W, 2-1**
Jesse Owens Classic	**L, 3-0**
Don Kleinow Memorial Invitational	**L, 5-3**



Sophomore Zack Hill hurtles a shot put through the air during the Spartan Invitational. Hill won the competition with a throw of 17.78m.

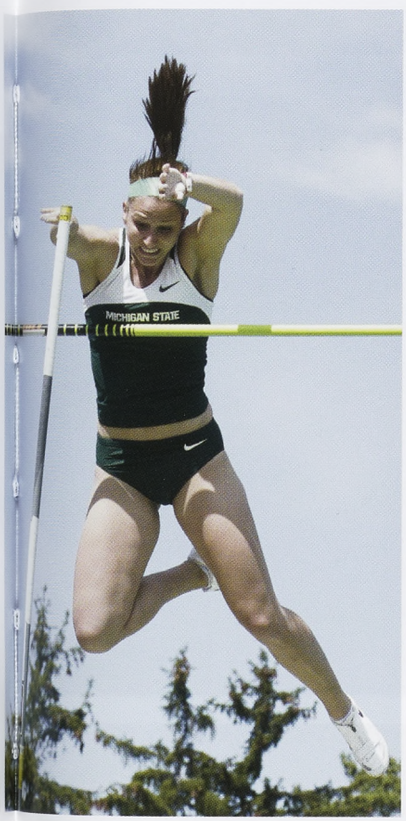


Junior Josh McAlaray lands near the edge of the steeplechase pool during the Spartan Invitational. McAlaray finished with a personal best time of 9:02, handily defeating the competition.

HARDER, BETTER, FASTER, STRONGER

Track and Field team is poised for greatness







Sophomore Amanda Impellizzeri soars over the bar during the pole vault at the Spartan Invitational. Impellizzeri set a new personal record with this jump, clearing 3.97m.

Sophomore Brett Burdick and freshman Chris Platt compete in the 5000m. The weather conditions for the Spartan Invitational were picture-perfect.





Becca Buchholtz can fly. At least, it looks like she can as she breezes over the rope again and again, landing softly on the giant mat each time she attempts her specialty—the high jump. It's an event in which the senior athlete been making a name for herself this season, especially after breaking MSU's record with a six-foot jump.

"It's the highlight of my life and career so far," Buchholtz said about the feat she achieved when the Spartans took on Notre Dame in the second meet of the season. "I've never done this well this early in the season, so it's exciting to see what happens next."

Buchholtz got her start in track and field in middle school, where she said she wasn't allowed to do high jump until high school.

"When I finally got to high school, I broke my school's record at the first outdoor meet of the season," she said.

Her skill only grew from that point.

Along with Buchholtz and the rest of the high jumpers, junior Codi Mattix did some flying of his own, but he had a little extra help from a long, flexible pole. His specialty is pole vault, and he has devoted nine years to perfecting the sport.

"There's a lot that I love about [pole vault]," Mattix said. "Probably the biggest thing is how unique it is, and how many things go into it."

Mattix explained that even with proper technique and approach, everything from how the strong the wind is that day to what kind of pole is used can affect how high a pole vaulter gets. This, he said, makes setting personal records "that much more exciting because the further you get into the sport, the harder it is to [to set a personal record]."

Mattix described his season as "good so far."

"I have a lot more in me and I'm excited to see what I can do at Big Ten and some of our outdoor races," he said.

To someone observing senior Lonnie Pugh perform wind sprints in Jenison Fieldhouse for the first time, a couple of things might stand out. First, he is extremely tall. Second, he is covered in chalk.

"We use a lot of chalk when we throw," Pugh explained.

Pugh is a thrower, specializing in shot put, discus, hammer and weight throw. His large frame is reminiscent of a football player, which is fitting considering he played the sport in high school.

"My high school football coach was also the track coach, and one year he asked me to give throwing a try," Pugh said.

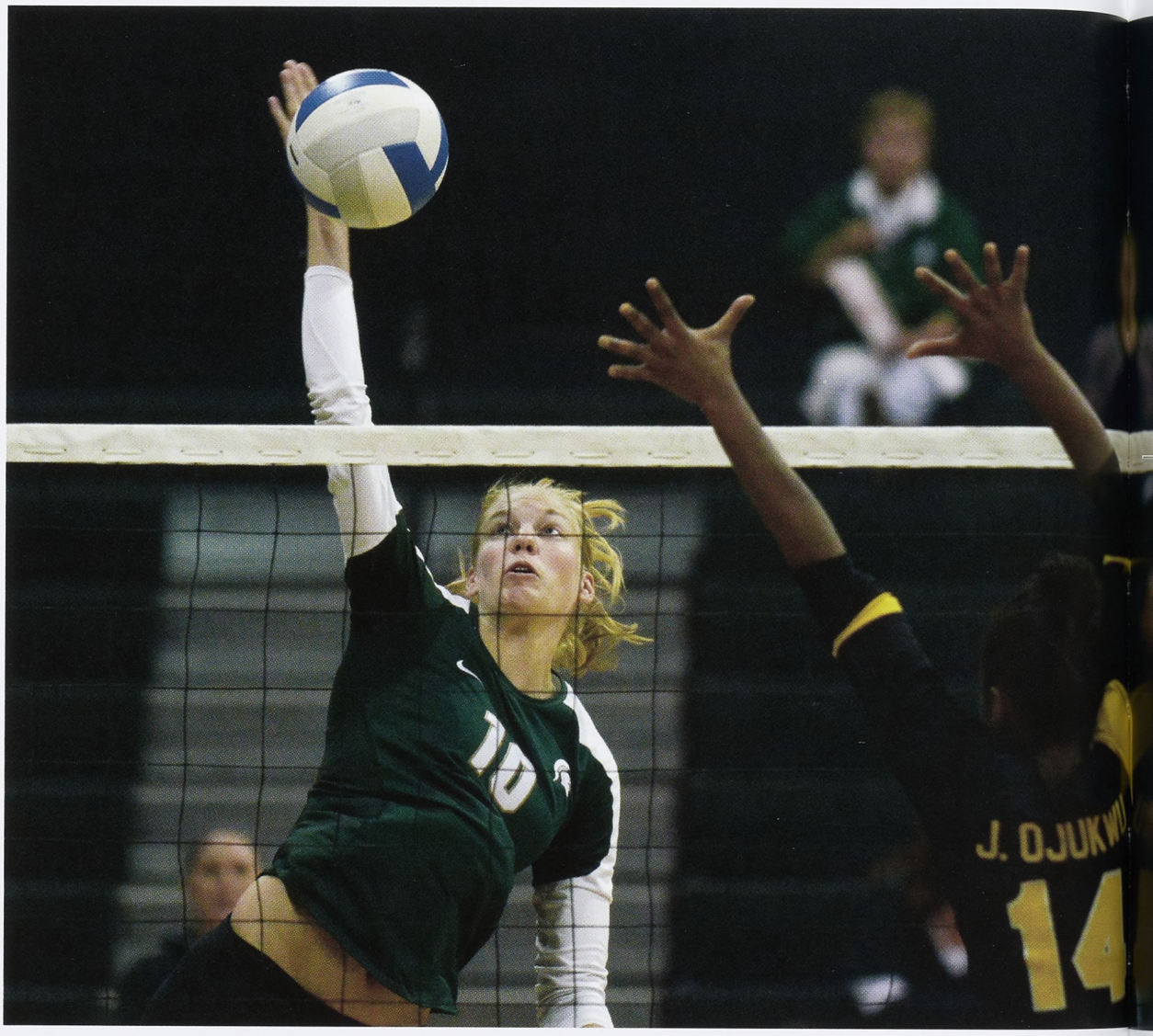
Pugh said he went to the first day of the practice, tried it out, then "went and tried out for tennis without giving track another thought." It wasn't until his coach called his mother that he retired from tennis and went back to throwing.

Although this will be Pugh's fourth year at MSU, this is only his third year on the track team because he was red-shirted as a freshman.

"They usually have throwers take off as much of a year to focus on the event," Pugh said. "A lot of people aren't used to throwing, so they take the time they are red-shirted to just get better and learn better technique."

He might not fly like Buchholtz and Mattix, but that won't stop him.

"I'm looking forward to performing better than I ever have every week and scoring as many points as possible for my team at Big Ten and Nationals."



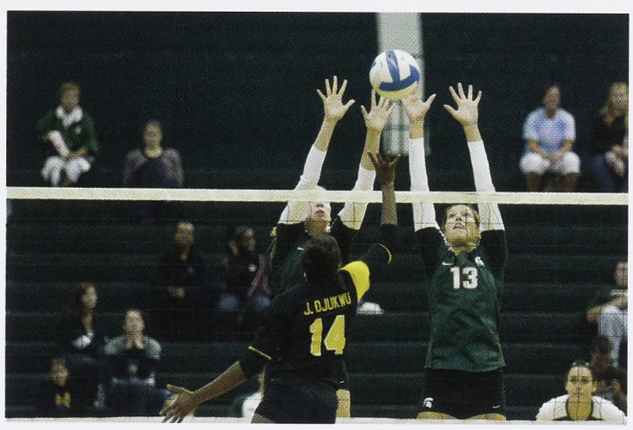
Sophomore Kelsey Kuipers gets air while redirecting a set. The volleyball program will return 9 of its 16 players for the 2012-2013 season.

SCOREBOARD

Purdue	**L, 0-3**
Indiana	**W, 3-1**
Nebraska	**L, 2-3**
Iowa	**W, 3-0**
Wisconsin	**W, 3-1**
Minnesota	**L, 3-0**
Northwestern	**W, 3-1**
Illinois	**L, 2-3**
Michigan	**W, 3-1**
Ohio State	**L, 1-3**
Indiana	**W, 3-1**
Purdue	**L, 1-3**
Iowa	**W, 3-0**
Nebraska	**L, 0-3**
Minnesota	**L, 0-3**
Wisconsin	**W, 3-1**
Illinois	**W, 3-1**
Northwestern	**W, 3-2**
Michigan	**L, 1-3**
Penn State	**L, 1-3**

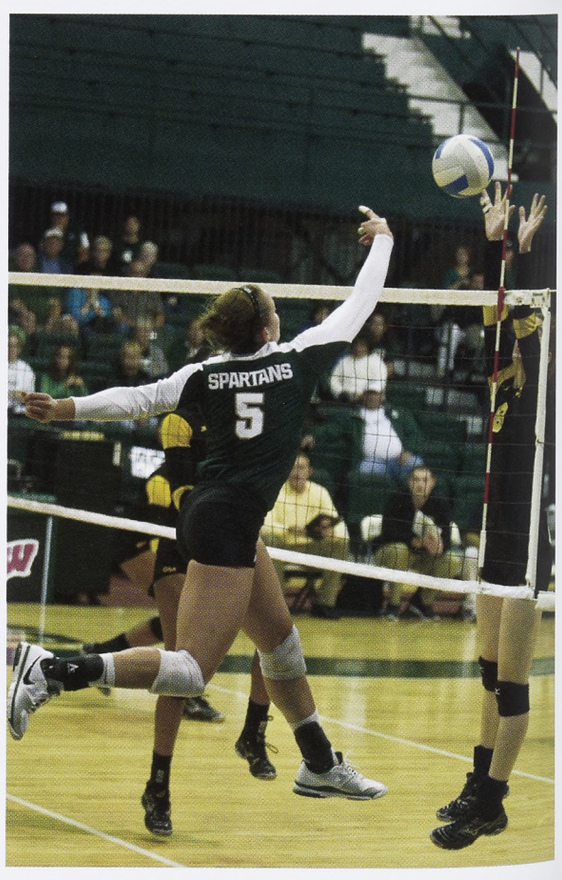
ROSTER

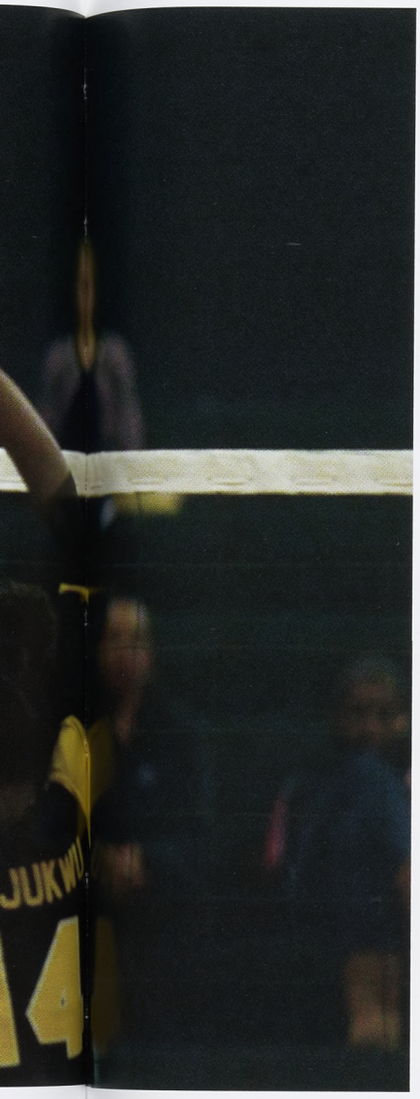
Kyndra Abron	**SR**
Amy Dentlinger	**JR**
Natalie Emro	**SR**
Taylor Galloway	**FR**
Ryian Hubbard	**FR**
Kristen Kelsay	**SO**
Kelsey Kuipers	**SO**
Gina Lang	**JR**
Alexis Mathews	**RS SO**
Kori Moster	**FR**
Chelsey Probst	**JR**
Jenilee Rathje	**RS SR**
Stefanie Shiramizu	**JR**
Carli Weiler	**SR**
Jazmine White	**FR**
Becca Zlabis	**SR**



Sophomore Kelsey Kuipers and senior Natalie Emro team up to block a VCU spike. MSU's volleyball team saw their season end in the second round of the NCAA tournament with a loss to Texas.

Senior Jenilee Rathje carefully directs the ball to a blind spot in the defense. Jenilee was named to the All-Big Ten Team after a fantastic individual season.





WHO NEEDS LUCK?

Freshman libero Kori Moster on playing as a Spartan



The team talks strategy during a brief pause in the action. MSU advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament with a first round win against Arizona.

Though a freshman, Kori Moster is mature beyond her years. She doesn't have time for boys or parties, and she doesn't have time for luck.

"People tell me 'Good luck' before a game; I don't believe in luck," she said. "You go out on the court, and you do the best you can. (You) just do, and you don't rely on luck."

Then again, Moster has been making her own luck for some time now. The sweat of a well-played match has been dripping from her temples since she was five years old.

Moster came from a "volleyball kind of family" and was thrown into the sport by her godparents. Of the three daughters, two of them play volleyball.

She started playing on a team in third grade, then worked her way through middle school and high school, where the Big Ten began to scout her vigorously. Though she lived in Cincinnati, Moster decided to forgo Ohio State University and sign with MSU her senior year. She "wanted a change of scenery," she explained.

That change of scenery came sooner than usual after her high school graduation. Moster moved into her Wonders Hall dorm on July 4. From there, she started a rigorous schedule of two-a-days and summer classes. Belonging to the first freshman class of athletes to have summer classes, Moster thinks it gave her and her team a leg up while transitioning into college.

"And the older girls on the team definitely appreciate that we've had the experience of juggling class and practice before we start playing games," she said.

It doesn't hurt that she, as an athlete, is required to clock in six to eight hours a week (depending on whether games are home or away) at the Clara Bell Smith Center to ensure that she is on top of her educational game.

Off the court, Moster keeps a sustainable diet. Not wanting to disappoint head coach Cathy George, who likes the women to eat as healthy as possible, Moster strays away from food that could mess with her game.

"It's important for us to eat healthy all the time, but if you're around (George) you have to make sure you're eating really well."

Along with keeping her body in check, Moster and the rest of the team watch films of themselves and their opponents to keep their mental and physical game on par.

"There is a stereotype, a true stereotype, that younger players make more mistakes, dumb mistakes," she said. Watching films of herself has helped her mature, and she believes that maturity is the biggest difference between high school and college volleyball.

"Not missing a serve or not missing a dig shows maturity on the court; acknowledging that you messed up and working twice as hard the next practice shows even more (maturity)," she said.

Two of her role models on the team, captains and seniors Carli Weiler and Jeniliee Rathje, have helped her mature. Moster said that the two guided her to become a stronger player while keeping the team together as well.

"Our team is supportive. We don't have any drama, and we take pride in that," she said.

The team's no-drama attitude might even be the source for their successful season. Going 6-6 into the NCAA tournament, Moster said she was most proud of the team and herself after their game against the University of Michigan.

"(The Michigan game) showed what we as a team can do and what we can be," she said. "Every game in the Big Ten is a battle, and we play to win."

CAUGHT IN A HEADLOCK

Wrestling team rallies on Senior Day



Senior wrestler Eric Olanowski fights against Ohio State on Feb. 5. Michigan State fell short in the hard fought duel against No. 6 Ohio State on Senior Day.

SCOREBOARD

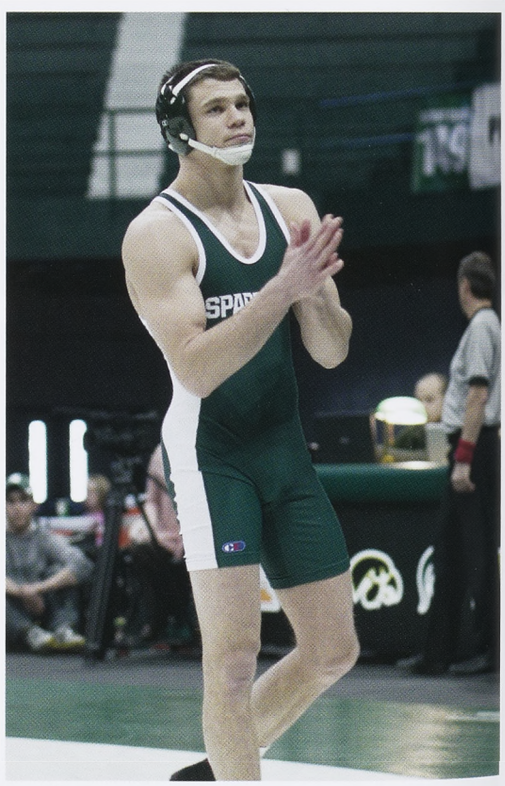
Eastern Michigan	**L, 20-16**
Lock Haven	**W, 30-6**
Bucknell	**W,27-6**
Purdue	**L, 22-17**
Reno Tournament of Champions	**5th, 66 pts**
Penn State	**L, 36-6**
West Virginia	**L, 23-12**
Indiana	**W, 21-20**
Northwestern	**L, 30-12**
Illinois	**L, 26-13**
Nebraska	**L, 27-8**
Michigan	**L, 26-9**
Ohio State	**L, 24-13**
Edinboro	**L, 18-15**
Central Michigan	**L, 21-12**
Big Ten Championship	**10th, 41 pts**

ROSTER

Steve Andrus	**J**
Robert Buckhannon	**F**
David Cheza	**S**
Zach Coreoran	**F**
Bryant Craft	**J**
Tyler Dickenson	**S**
Andrew Ermatinger	**F***
Brandon Fifield	**F**
Eric Ford	**F***
Brian Gibbs	**F**
Ian Hinton	**S**
Neil Hyska	**F***
Curran Jacobs	**S**
Joe Johnson	**F**
Anthony Jones Jr.	**S**
Luke Jones	**F***
Nick Kaczanowski	**SO**
Troy Lamson	**F***
Brenan Lyon	**SO**
Chris Lyon	**SO**
Michael McClure	**SO**
Nick McDiarmid	**F***
Kevin Nash	**F***
Eric Olanowski	**S**
Dan Osterman	**J**
Nick Proctor	**F***
Joe Rizqallah	**J**
John Rizqallah	**F***
Terry Turner	**F**
Ryan Watts	**F***
Roger Wildmo	**F**



Senior Anthony Jones Jr. gets a major win over Indiana wrestler, Ryan Konz. Michigan State earned a tie-breaker point by winning six of the 10 matches with a final score of 21-20.



Senior David Cheza mentally prepares as he gets ready to wrestle against Indiana on Jan. 15. Michigan State came out on top with a 21-20 victory.

Michigan State earned its first conference win of the season over Indiana with a 21-20 victory. The team ended its season with a 3-11 record, 1-7 in the conference.

For some, Sunday Feb. 5 meant sitting around a TV watching a certain "super" football game. For others, such as seniors Anthony Jones and Curran Jacobs, it meant something much more — saying goodbye to East Lansing in their final home wrestling match of the season.

"It's a rare feeling," Jacobs said of being in Jenison Fieldhouse for MSU's match against Ohio State University. "It was an honor to say goodbye to that arena."

This The match also marked this season's Senior Day, where during which each of the six seniors on the team stood with family to be acknowledged for their time with the wrestling team.

"It was pretty cool having them call out your name, say a little bit about you for your family and everyone else to hear," Jones said.

Jacobs and Jones were able to post wins in their respective weight classes —- Jacobs at 174 pounds and Jones at 157 pounds. — which Jacobs said this allowed the team to "hang in there with one of the top wrestling teams in the country.," but Ultimately the Spartans lost to Ohio State 24-13.

"We were ahead in the next-to-last match, and then we lost the last two, so we almost got them [Ohio State]," head coach Tom Minkel said. "We've been wrestling well all season but we just weren't able to follow through that time."

Minkel's comment relates to one of the more interesting aspects of wrestling – while although there may be only one teammate in each match, their actions can make or break the rest of the team's performance. This has led to some memorable moments during the season, such as the time they beat Indiana University by one point.

"It was a battle in all 10 weight classes," Jacobs said. "Some of our younger guys stepped up in their matches and at the end both teams had posted five wins. When they announced the final score [of 21-20], we all went crazy."

In spite of their the victory over Indiana and the camaraderie of the team, there have also been some setbacks.

"It's been a pretty successful season for me individually but as a team it's been a struggle," Jacobs said. "Injuries have cursed us, and we have a lot of younger guys in the lower weight classes... we've faced some of the top teams in the nation and we're steadily improving each week but we're still coming up a bit short."

Undaunted, Minkel and the rest of the team is getting ready for bigger and better things.

"My guess is we'll do well at the NCAA Championships," Minkel said.

Jones agreed, adding he is "looking forward to some good matches and hopefully bringing some championships home."

The nationally-ranked Jones has been wrestling for about 15 years.

"I just walked into a room when I was about seven and heard about the sport and thought it might be interesting," he said.

He has since taken to the sport extremely well and plans to continue with it after graduation with aspirations including trying out for the Olympics and becoming a college coach..

"I want to try out for the Olympics and see if I can get into college coaching or something around that area," Jones said.

Jacobs has other plans.

"I'm in theater, so as soon as I graduate I'm moving to Los Angeles to try my hand at acting," Jacobs said. "Hopefully, you'll see me in a theater somewhere opposite Ryan Gosling."

As for Minkel, he will keep on coaching and prepping for next year.

"We've got some good wrestlers graduating this year, but I've also got some pretty strong young guys waiting in the wings," Minkel said. "It looks like we should still have a fairly strong program next year."

In the meantime, it's back to the practice mats as Jones, Jacobs, and their teammates set their sights on individual and team titles in the upcoming Big 10 and NCAA tournaments.







Chase O'Black

SENIORS

It is hard to imagine a moment of time that moved faster than the four years spent on the banks of the Red Cedar River for a certain group of students. They arrived as freshman ready to take on the realm of academia and beyond and progressed toward their goals as sophomores and juniors.

In the upper echelons of the student body are those who have stood the test of time and change. They are now standing on the precipice separating them from college and the rest of their lives. They are the seniors of Michigan State University.

Through every exam, sporting event and moment spent with friends, these individuals have been forming roots. For some, these roots might include roommates from another country or fellow sorority and fraternity pledges. For others, it might be club tennis teammates or biology classmates. Overarching all of these roots are the ones they have with each other—the roots of being in the Spartan class of 2012.

Though they may leave MSU, their roots never will. They leave behind a legacy of excellence, achievement and a great sense of fun. They also leave space for the roots of new students to form and thrive in their own ways.

Spartan seniors will always have these roots with them, even as they go forth and form roots of a different variety. For some, it might be employees or colleagues. For others, it might be spouses and children. College may fly by, but as long as Spartans maintain their roots, both with MSU and themselves, their college memories and experiences will never be far away.



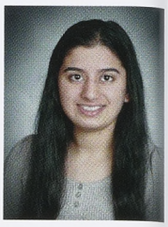




Marley Kay Aalto
Kelsey Nicole Abbgy
Ryan Rukni Abboud
Mohd Aizat Abdulrahim
Genevieve Jean Abisaab







Nicholas James Abruscato
Samantha Jonelle Acevedo
Christopher Wesley Adamczyk
Aziza Adawe
Riti Adhi







Yekaterina Afonina
Shereen Ahmadtermizi
Allison Sue Ajluni
Sakib Waheed Akhtar
Shehzeen Akhter







Emmanuel Kwassi Akono
Mohamed Abdulla Albreiki
Muna F Alchaer
Emily Taylor Alcini
Shurouq Kh Aldamkhi







Courtney Eugene Alexander
Lionel Alexander
Suha Hassan Alhabeeb
Adero Allen
Ashley Marie Allen







Samantha Jo Allen
Trisha Lauren Allen
William Sanford Allen
Ashley Ray Allison
Christina Lee Allison







Nataly Al-Majar
Khalifa Al-Mansouri
Nasir Almazmi
Faisal Khalf Almazrouei
Hashim Alsadah



Mohammed Alsadah
Sheereen Jasem Ali Alsayegh
Sajer Mohmmed Alshalan
Arturo Altamira
Jordan Burroughs Altus



Wendy Marie Alverson
Kristopher Elijah Amos
Hanna An
Jongwoo An
Jeffrey Scott Anderson



Kaitlin Elizabeth Anderson
Kelly Anderson
Taylor David Anderson
Ian Michael Antoniolli
Joshua Padua Aquino



Camilo Arguello
Kiandra Arnold
Dogac Arslan
Michael Christopher Arthur
Cody Theodore Atkins



Jamie Lynn Aubrey
Ernscie Augustin
Nickolas Brian Avram
Symone Nicole Ayers
Christina Dora Azoury



Blake Roy Baca
Crystal Dena Bachi
Brittany Leigh Bachteal
Lauren Nicole Badish
Junhan Bae



Andrew Mark Baglini
Jacob Robert Bahns
Lirongzi Bai
Michael David Bain
Eric Jonathan Bair

"I miss the people who leave. We develop relationships over 3-4 years and it's sad to see them go, but luckily, we have things like Facebook to keep in touch and watch their careers sky-rocket. Basically, when people leave, till the day I die I'm going wonder how it all turned out for them."
-Karl Gude, professor



Brittany Suzanne Baize
Dustin Richard Baker
Jillian Kathryn Baker
Michelle Miho Baker
Stewart Andrew Joseph Bale



Hollyce Balentine
Molly Ann Ballantyne
Nicholas Sungho Ballou
Tasha Banks
Tiffany Laki Banks



Siyi Bao
Brittany Lee Barber
Lia Michelina Barduca
Ji Hou Bark
Jonathan Barney



Ashlee Barrett
Lindsey Barrett
Adam James Barry
Mehmet Barutcuoglu
Nikolas Connor Basford



Justin Russell Bashore
Ellicia Bass
Nilutpol Basumatari
Laura Rose Bates
Megen Elizabeth Batway



Kara Marie Bauer
Megan Baughman
Bridget Lynne Baumgart
Aaron Joseph Baxter
Brent A Bayagich



John Bazzi
Asia Beard-Watkins
Andrew Ryan Beaver
Stephanie Marie Bechard
Danielle Jane Becker







Bridget Bednark
Kristin Stephanie Bednarowski
Jennifer Diane Beebe
Holly Anne Begeny
Hayley Marie Beitman







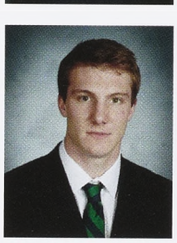
Erica Christine Beitz
Drew Allen Bekins
Frances Jane Belanger
Kelli Belcher
Timothy Lynn Belcher







Alissa Kate Bell
Kristel D Bell
Leslie Bell
Bianca Benguche
Catherine Elizabeth Benham



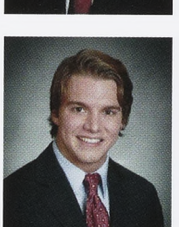

Annette Marie Bennett
Kenneth Peter Bennett
Thomas Lee Bennett
Gina Susan Benninger
Emily Jo Benson







Patience Marie Bentley
Jonathan Douglas Benton
Aaron Peter Berger
Lance Austin Bergeron
Nana Sarpong Berko




Ryan Alexander Bernard
Jonathan Lewis Berry
Colby William Berthume
Shaina Palermo Bertrang
Qin Bian







Anna Bieciuk
Spencer Robert Bierlein
Karyn Bigelow
Latasha Billings
Anne Chandler Billington

"Hands down, the best place on campus is the bridge right behind Wells Hall. There's no better place to forget about the hustle and bustle of campus and turn your brain off for awhile. The sound of the brook and the changing leaves guarantee a perfect afternoon."
-Kristel Klank, senior



Kaitlyn Billops
Kevin Daniel Birch
Brittany Susanne Birdsall
Nicole Diane Birmingham
Melissa Lynn Bizer



Matthew Ira Blackwell
Kelly Marie Blakeslee
Jessica Lynn Bland
Kelsey Blegen
Hope Ann Blevins



Katherine Rose Blinke
Andrew Block
Stephanie Bochenek
Louis Andrew Bodnar
Marie Bodnar



Katherine Grace Bolton
Amanda Nicole Bond
Cherelle Tiaire Bond
Tate Richelle Bonifer
Jordan Thomas Bonk



Ashleigh Symone Bonner
Rodney Benson Bonner
Meghan Nicole Bonthuis
Shelby Booker
Alexander Boone



Peter Charles Borchgrevink
Bryce Botorowicz
Whitney Channell Boulter
Aiesha Bowie
Kari Lee Boyd



Katherine Lynn Brady
Jennifer Rose Bragiel
Kyle Wayne Brandon
Eric Branoff
Nicholas Dennis Branoff



Britteny Lee Bratschi
Max Bradley Braun
Melissa Braun
Eric David Brinkman
Juliane Brinkman



Thomas Anthony Briscoe
Amanda Jean Brohman
D'Angela Brooks
David Dawson Brooks
Tommy Clyde Brooks



David Tyler Broome
Brittney Brown
Hailey Renee Brown
Kevin Thomas Brown
Laura Brown



Michael David Brown
Parrisa Brown
Shaniece Brown
Eric Levi Michael Bruch
Ashlee Rebecca Bruewer



Karl Joseph Brunsman
Kyle J Brusveem
Arielle Bryant
Larry Bryant
Tawana Anginette Bryant



Dreux Alexander Brys
Matthew K Budd
Carlos Budziszewski
Christina Marie Buffa
Du Minh Bui



Alexis Ann Burch
Nicholas Burger
Seth Leon Burk
Kyle Edwin Burke
Marissa Burns

"I will miss the community and the atmosphere the students create. Of course, I will definitely miss all the people I have grown close to in these four years, but I am excited to see what we all make of ourselves."
-Alyssa Sprague, senior



Lemeia Faye Burrel
Cutrina Burse
Christopher Vincent Burtley
Josef Martin Burtney
Ashley Bush



Kellee Marie Busley
Devin Lanier Butts
Brendan James Byrne
Amber Bytwerk
Meng Cai



Caitlin Cecelia Cain
Stefanie Rose Cairns
Sara Lynn Calkins
Sharay Callaway
Giovanny Alejandro Camargo



Sarah Leigh Campbell
Stephen Douglas Campbell
James Thomas Canty
Cristina Marie Cao
Jessica Carbajal



Steven Michael Carman
Courtney Renee Carpenter
John-Paul James Carron
Laura Margaret Catalano
Tyrone James Caver



Jessica Alexandra Ceh
Hyun Jung Cha
Tong Chai
Chelsea Lynne Champlin
Rebecca Elizabeth Champney



Jeffrey Fai Chan
Marianne Leslie Chan
John Edward Chancey
Bumsoo Chang
Chungwei Chang



Shuqi Chang
Daniel Adam Charlat
Christina Charles
Maria M Chavez
Mohd Faisal Chehusain



Christlynn Chelladurai
Hao Chen
Hongchu Chen
Min Chen
Sixue Chen



Xiaoxi Chen
Xin Chen
Yan Chen
Yanzhang Chen
Yue Chen



Yung-Ching Chen
Zuhao Chen
Te Jun Cheng
Dawei Chi
Yalin Chi



Marie Patrice Chiara
Chian-Jwu Chien
Pei Yin Tina Chien
Sung Min Cho
Tae Yuen Cho



Yeongho Cho
Yeon Hee Cho
Youjin Choi
Darcy Lynn Christian
Kaitlin Marie Christman



Brian Lee Christoffersen
Eric Christophels
Sarah Marie Chrustowski
Hui-Hsuan Chuang
Junsung Chun

"My favorite place to live was definitely the Ellsworth-Bowie co-op my junior and senior year. I lived there with 20 housemates, and we shared a lot of love and a lot of colds."

-Carol Thompson, senior



Sung-Hwi Chung
Yena Chung
Clarissa Church
Christine Lizbeth Churchill
Kristen Mary Ciechanowski



Brittany Nicole Cigna
Mary Lynn Ciotta
Timothy City
Paul Davis Clark
David William Jerry Clatterbuck



Kayla Bethany Claxton
Ashley E Cleghorn
Genivive Janelle Clinton
Kelly Clouser
Megan Lynn Clute



Erika Coates
Dominique Cobb
Breeana Lenee Coe
Alexa Rae Cole
Tracey Cole



Collin James Colegrove
Amethyst Coleman
Jazlyn Rayanne Collier
Michael Andrew Colosimo
Kaprise Michael Colvin



Jaclyn Rene Cominotto
Abby Marie Confer
Robert Conley
Rachel Cook
Jennifer Lynn Cooke



Jessica Coolidge
Courtney Cooney
Kayla Danielle Cooper
Raleigh Leston Theophil Cooper
Shannon Lee Cowan



Kyle James Crayne
Myra Crayton
Meagan Rose Creutz
Melissa Ann Crosby
Jasmine Cross



Melanie Anne Cross
Marilyn Elizabeth Crowley
Shuang Cui
Anthony James Curley
Joshua Timithy Curtis



Anne Elizabeth Curto
Elizabeth Ashley Cusick
Meghan Christine Cvetic
Bradley Roger Cyr
Dana Christine Czekaj



Alice Marie Daily
Kelly Marie Dakesian
Stephanie Dale
Patrick Mark Daniels
Ronald Daniels



Nicholas Dansby
Kyle Philip Daugherty
Jooi Dave
Punita Pinak Dave
Nikia Davis



Seara Skye Davis
Stephanie Davis
Tiuana Toria Davis
Kevin Jordan Dawe
Charles Bernard Dean



Kaitlin Ainsley Deboyer
Nadine Gravador Defensor
Jennifer Lee Degraaf
April Marie Degroat
Jarrod Douglas Deitrich

"What I will miss most about this year's senior class is their enthusiasm for (Professional Writing) and how much they identify with the work that we do here at Michigan State. My hope is that they take that enthusiasm and infuse it into their work once they leave us. If they do, lots of people will be better for it."
-Jeff Grabill, senior



Kelsey Elizabeth Deland
Frank Lee Delaura
Ana Sofia Deleon
Christie Lynn Delgado
Alison Marie Demarco



Jun Deng
Li Deng
Zhenni Deng
Jeffrey Dylan Denison
Alyssa Dennis



Meleah Denson
Nicole Marie Dereski
Lisa Karyn Dershowitz
Brittney Renee Deruiter
Justin David Desilets



Martin Edward Deskovich
Molly Elisabeth Hye Devendorf
Jordan Daniel Dickinson
Chelsea Michelle Dietlin
Katherine Susanne Dike



Deborah Utz Dillon
Sarah Dimaria
Salvatore Damiano Dimercurio
Jia Ding
Sarah Cathryn Sophia Dipietro



Stephanie Cristina Diponio
Erin Dixon
Kristina Rose Dixon
Mason James Dixon
Deanna Doan



Michael John Donaghue
Jie Dong
Catherine Elizabeth Donovan
Amanda Doran-Maleski
Stacy M Dorgelo



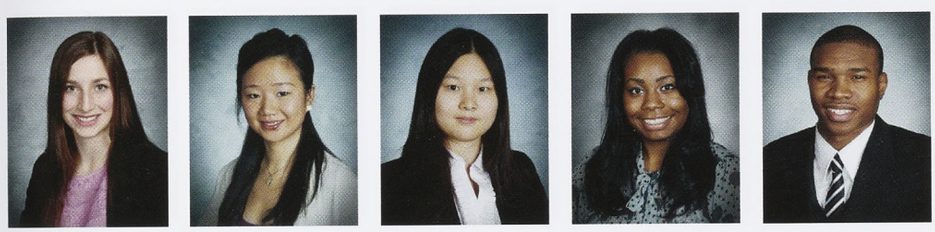
Jaclyn Ann Doroshewitz
Melyssa Dotson
Stephen Doty
Lauren Doud
Devon Douglas



Kevin G Dow
Erin Alysse Dowdall
Daniel James Downey
Victor James Draine
Megan Jane Dreffs



Timothy Andrew Drew
Adam John Drews
Adellie Drillock
Lavonne Driver
Kathryn Rose Drummond



Kelly Drummond
Mingxue Du
Sijie Duan
Darneshia Kierra Dugeon
Justin Dunn



Elie Charlotte Durkee
Weston Paul Dwight
Whitney Nicole Eastlund
Lauren Ann Ebelt
Chacola Paulett Edwards



Amanda Marie Egert
Tabitha Michelle Ehlers
Jessica Eidenier
Rebecca Elizabeth Eidt
Laura Michelle Eisenhauer

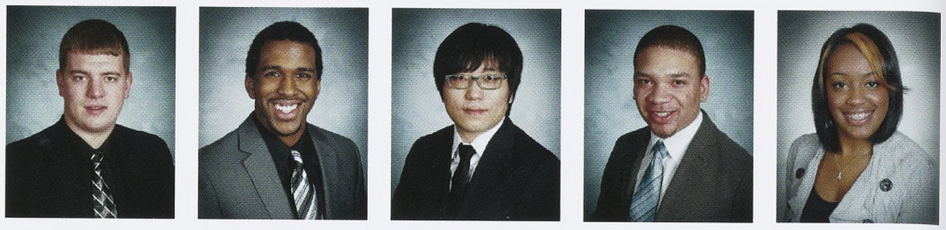


Sarah Eisho
Yasmin Saeed Elgamel
Elizabeth M Elsner
Rachelle Lillian Emerling
Tracy Enners

"I'm not sure if it's cliché to have it revolve around a football game, but this year's Wisconsin home game was easily one of my most memorable experiences. Even before I was a student, I had been going to MSU home games with my family and after winning that game in October I can't remember a more electric atmosphere—definitely something I will remember forever."
-Caitlin Hudgins, senior



Jeffrey Howard Entin
Oritsematosan Chukwuma Erenshay
Emily Autumn Erickson
Maysam Esfahanian
Danielle Eskridge



Robert Dennis Esmay
Kiel Ethridge
Young Seok Eum
Antonio Evans
Shakia Latrice Evans



Laura Elizabeth Everard
Emily Elizabeth Evers
Andrew Alan Faber
Xiaozhou Fan
Wei-Ning Fang



Eric Richard Fann
Latrice Fant
Shaun Paul Fantaro
Rebecca Leanne Farnum
Carrie Gene Feher



Joanna Barbara Felczak
Yingyi Feng
Zachary Aaron Fenton
Gaebrial James Ferguson
Thomas Robert Fielitz



Ryan Henry Figurski
Stefan Joseph Figurski
Andrew William Filler
Alan Josef Finder
Alisha E Finkbeiner



Amanda Lynn Finos
Andrew Mitchell Fiore
Lauren Margaret Fischer
Tristin Lynn Fisher
Emily Katherine Fitzgerald





Conner Hagen Fitzpatrick
Michelle Flachs
Dustin Shane Flake
Allison Flanagan
Krista Rachelle Flanders



Gabrielle Elizabeth Flasck
Justin Flegel
Michaela Chante Fleming
Kevin Ray Fleury
Chelsea Ann Fogwell



Sean Spencer Foley
Carolyn Joy Folk
Melissa Ann Foor
Robert James Ford
Spencer Carroll Forester



Karlie Elizabeth Forgacs
Johanna Leigh Forsberg
Kimberly Lynn Forte
Tyrone Foster
Jasmine Fountain



Jeffrey Fowler
Markeya Fowler
Alexander Starr Fox
Sean Michael Francis
Nicole Nassim Frangie



Erica Leighann Frank
Sharon Frank
Amanda Kate Franklin
Garett Andrew Fraser
Paul Matthew Fritschen



Bo Fu
Yuanyuan Fu
Bobby Dean Fuentes
Benjamin Thomas Fulger
Rebecca Marie Furlo

"My favorite place used to be Barnes & Noble on Grand River (Avenue). I'd sit in the café section and read books and magazines between classes. I'm really bummed that it's not there anymore."
-Alexandra Yeadon, senior



Allison Ann Gadbois
Kyle Allen Gagneau
Rachelle Ann Galang
Christina Beaudin Gallanis
Marie Francesca Gambino



Han Gao
Jiarong Gao
Lin Gao
Yi Gao
Yiqing Gao



Stefanie Kay Garbe
Martha Garcia
Erika Gardner
Sarah Mary Gauthier
Alexandria Lynn Gawel



Winta Gebrezgher
Chrissy Alana Gentry
Drew Alexander Gerling
Ebonee Geter
Alexandra Ghaly



Asia Gholston
Leia Gibbard
Cameron Edward Gibson
Vanessa Gibson
Meagan Nicole Gilbert



Shyann Jenay Gilkey
Allegra Essence Gill
Rebecca Ginsberg
Gbemisola Giwa
Niccole A Glenn



Chau Kee Goh
Katrina Gohil
Agron Gojcaj
Rachel Leah Goldberg
Edwardo Gomez



Wang Gong
Rolando Gonzalez
Chelsea Marie Goode
Chelsea Marie Goodsell
Andrea Jean Goossens



Achala Chandu Gopal
Danielle Gordon
Melissa Ann Gosbee
Clarissa Ruth Gosciej
Corey Lee Gotshall



Elizabeth Anne Goudie
Stephen Andrew Grabowski
Dana Gradl
Michael John Grady
Abigail Grande



Colleen Meghan Grattan
Kayla Michelle Green
Nicole Green
Jessica Renae Greenfield
Shardaya Latrice Gregory



Brian Dillon Grieve
Nadine Louise Griffith
Angela Melissa Grimmer
David Andrew Grix
Melissa Ann Grix



Johnathan Loren Gross
Jamillah C Gross-Caldwell
Jacqueline Franke Grow
Timothy James Gruber
Adam Richard Gruszcynski



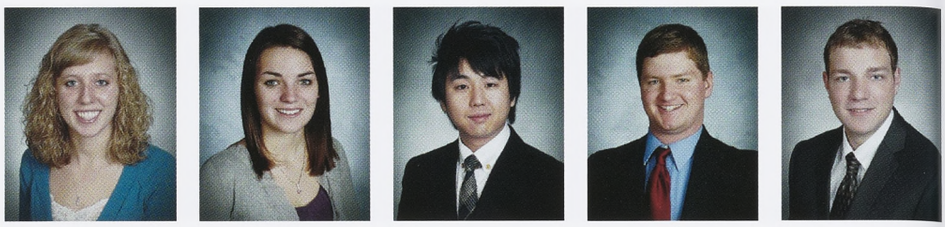
Richard Paul Grysiewicz
Brittney Lynn Grzesiak
Heidi Ethel Mae Guck
Megan Elissa Guidroz
Rachel Suzanne Gulley

"I'd tell underclassmen to look out for things they might be interested in, both academically and socially, because there may be things that they might love that they never thought of before. I'd also tell them to go to a show at the planetarium at least once and to have lunch in the beautiful gardens around campus. Finally, I would tell them to pick two of the following three things: reasonable sleep, a lot of friends and good grades, because it's very hard to have all of them."

-Matthew Boughton, senior



Nicole Jean Guntle
Kirk Jeffrey Guotana
Sharif Yousif Gushgari
Carly Beth Gustafson
Stephen Anthony Guyton



Marcelina Marie Guzzardo
Emily Jane Gwardzinski
Jaehong Ha
Justin Habalewsky
Eric Matthew Hadley



Katherine Elizabeth Hadley
Dominique Haggen
Ashley Haglund
Julie Ann Hahn
Victoria Rose Hahn



Wendy Sue Hakken
Jenica Marie Hale
Kevin Bernard Hale
Jessica Lauren Halfyard
Taylor Nicole Halperin



Holly Ann Hamel
Katherine Louise Hamell
Chong Han
Hyun Jong Han
Mingxuan Han



Tao Han
Yuxi Han
Benjamin Levi Hancock
Lashawn Hanes
Kevin Joseph Hanley



Lauren Anita Hansard
Timothy Jeffrey Hansen
Katiana Haratsis
Anna Grace Hardenbergh
Arthur O Harder



Christopher John Hardigan
Michael Alan Hardigan
Junika Hardy
Stephen John Harnadek
Jayne Michelle Harper

Kimberly Harris
Monique Dianne Harris
Rachel Lea Harris
Cameron Ray Harrison
Nicole Rita Hart

Andrew James Harte
Alexandra Lee Hartman
Stephanie Lynn Hartner
Jessica Mae Hasler
Sarah Hisham Hassaballah

Daniel Joseph Hatala
Jonathan Anson Haupt
Holly Lynn Havens
Jeremiah S Hawkins
Bradley L Hayes

Danwei He
Xiaomeng He
Lindsay Marie Hedgecock
Michael Timothy Heinz
Kendall Elaine Heller

Suzanne Marie Hemond
Michael William Hemovich
Patteera Hengboriboonpong
David Ross Henkin
John E Hennis

Melanie Renee Henry
Anne Marie Herman
Mara Patricia Herman
Alexsandra S Hermans
Raditya Prajna Hermawan

"I chose Michigan State because of the stellar Professional Writing program—I knew that it would help get me where I want to go in a way that would be interesting, as well as a great learning experience."
-Vanessa Levin-Pompetzki, senior



Cassandra Renee Hernandez
Christopher Wallace Heuser
Justin Michael Hewson
Chanel Hicks
Hilary Erin Higgins



Kaylee Patrice Hightower
Ashley Lavine Hill
Steven Richard Hill
Hilary Louise Hinds
Kyle Joseph Hine



Yolanda Hines
Kathryn Elizabeth Hintch
Austin Edward Hinz
Theodore Patrick Hirsch
Alexander James Hishon



Frida Hiustra
Maureen Hnatiuk
Brandon Henry Ho
Rebecca Dianne Hodge
Akemi Holmes



Michael Robert Holp
Erica Holt
Krista Nicole Holz
Tiffanie Ann Honer
Stephanie Marie Honeycutt



Sungmin Hong
Yea Ji Hong
Martina Hooke
Matthew Hooper
Meredith Rae Hoopingarner



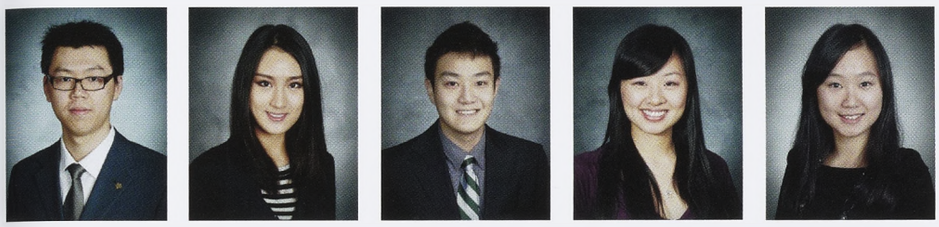
Nicole Hordos
Jennifer Lynn Horn
Jessica Elizabeth Horstman
Valand Rene Horton
Ebony Houston



Keri Mary Elizabeth Hovey
Alyssa Lynn Howard
McKenzie Izetta Howard
Alonzo Raymon Howell
Emmalilly Hoxsie



Marie Catherine Hruby
Jing Ting Hu
Kaixue Hu
Qianying Hu
Xiaoxi Hu



Qiang Hua
Chen Huang
Chin-Meng Huang
Jennifer Jie Huang
Jingqiao Huang



Yishi Huang
Yuting Huang
Daniel Alexander Hubbard
Carmeisha Huckleby
Mitchell Wayne Huff



David Edward Hufnagel
Chelsea Lee Hughes
Nora Darlene Hughes
Sung Woo Huh
Cong Hui



Janet Huicochea
Ryan George Humphries
Patrick Hunt
Aaron Robert Huntington
Kangmin Andrew Hur



Cory Robert Hurst
David Hurst
Timothy Jon Hutchings
Jeffrey S Hutchinson
Chan Suk Hwang

"I'm going to make sure I go to all of the professors (who) have influenced me over the years and thank them. I'm so different now than I was when I first came here, and they're a huge part of that. My professors have made college challenging and enjoyable and thinking about leaving is getting harder by the second."
-Lauren Ebelt, senior



Jane Hwang
Joon Ho Hwang
Stephanie L Hwu
Myounghae Hyun
Silvia Iacobescu



Kelli Lyn Iceman
Aaron David Ide
Ahmed Surjil Imran
Andrei Ionescu
Norradihah Ismail



Viktoriya Stoycheva Ivanova
Yuga Iwamoto
Aubrey Diane Jabour
Alexis Jackson
Angela Grace Jackson



Caitlin Taylor Jackson
Christopher Ray Jackson
Corey Jackson
Drew Robert Jackson
Jarreau Richard Jackson



Jordan Layne Jackson
Kelvin Terrel Jackson
Steven Jerome Jackson
Lawrence Joseph Jacques
Benjamin Thomas Jacquier



Chan Jaegal
Patrick Carl Jahnke
Mohd Azrin Bin Jamalruddin
Paul Brandon James
Christina Vladimirovna Janco



David Richard Janego
Paige Elizabeth Janer
Nicholas Todd Janicke
Brandon Steven Januszewski
Allison Ann Jarrell



Sarah Louise Jaslow
Kathleen Jeffery
Logan Tyler Jenks
Andrew Steven Jessmore
Xiaocen Ji



Chenxin Jiang
Hongfan Jiang
Toufic R Jildeh
Shione Alysse Jimerson
Yucheng Jin



Lu Jing
Stella Jogisaputra
Cassandra Johnny
Andrea Lynn Johnson
Arielle Johnson



Candace Johnson
Chelsea Rae Johnson
Jonathan Phillip Johnson
Keith Andrew Johnson
Kelsey Ann Johnson



Morgan Renee Johnson
Raegaan Tiye Johnson
Shamone Johnson
Tatianna Shelise Johnson
Thomas Jeffrey Johnson



Amber Marie Johnson-Weeks
Nur Azan Joned
Breonna Renita Jones
Cheryl Jones
James Benjamin Jones



Jasmine Jones
Jasmine Jones
Kierra Jones
Skye Bryanna Jones
Steffon Jones

"My fondest memory of MSU was from freshman year, when me and my friends laid out on the grass behind (Snyder and Phillips halls) one sunny day. I attempted to play mandolin, and then we painted our nails and soaked up the sun. Ah, to be young and free!"
-Orli Ginsburg, senior







Stephanie Elaine Jones
William Foley Jones
Kenneth Eoin Nicholas Jordan
Fan Ju
Yeji Ju







Hyojin Jun
Sun Ah Jung
Sun Pil Jung
Defne Kabas
Kourtney Kadrich







Matthew Anthony Kahn
Justinas Kaminskas
Benjamin Douglas Kamphuis
Jacob G Kanclerz
Mee Sun Kang







Katie Kanitz
Steven Kapeles
Anthony John Karpiak
Brett Joseph Kavulich
Michael Simon Kazanowski

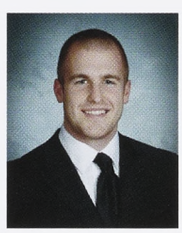






Anthony Paul Kazmer
Sarah Ann Keaton
Kayla Brooke Keller
Peter Justin Keller
Sarah Marie Kelley




Valerie Kelley
Caitlin Patrice Kelly
Courtney Michala Kendler
Nathan David Keniston
Zachary John Keniston







Benjamin Bernard Kennedy
Amanda Yasmine Khameneh
Angela Ratdavanh Khamphouy
Regina Toya Khan
Saad Khan



Alexandra Khromatidi
Christan Kidd
Kelsey Marie Kiefiuk
Adrienne Kilgore
Thomas Richard Kill



Ahrom Kim
Bo Kyung Kim
Byung Kook Kim
Heyng Nam Kim
Hye Jin Kim



Jessica Kim
Ji Yong Kim
Joo Yeon Kim
Keoung Kim
Kyoungho Kim



Kyung Won Kim
Min Ji Kim
Min Young Kim
Saet Byeol Kim
Sangwoo Kim



Songeun Kim
Sung Hoon Kim
Vadim G Kim
Yeani Kim
Ye Ji Kim



Young Hwan Kim
Young Jun Kim
Stacy Kinel
Charlotte King
Jacqueline Marie King



Robert Royce King
Nicole Ann Kiriazis
Laura Ann Kirkby
Daniel David Kirkpatrick
Andrew Mark Klimbal

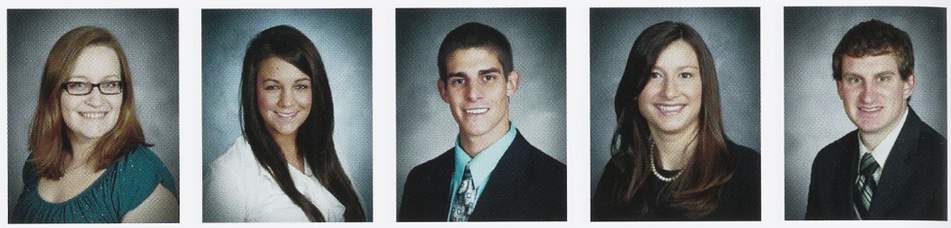
"Under the bridge by the library is my favorite spot on campus. It's the first place I went to on campus, so it holds sentimental value. I like to go there to sit, think and watch the ducks."
-Maureen VandeWater, senior



Elizabeth Kline
Brandon Mikkel Knapp
Katie Lynn Knoedler
Jacob Michael Koch
Lance Robert Kohs



Karen Lynn Kolasinski
James Jacob Kenneth Kolkema
Amanda Elizabeth Kondrot
Bethany Kae Konesko
Kyo Eun Kook



Katherine Anne Korman
Elizabeth May Kosorski
Andrew Ludwig Krause
Natasha Marie Krupa
Brett Michael Kruse



Kyle David Kubitskey
Amy Kue
Christopher Michael Kuenning
Francis Kuffour
Michael Leonard Kujawa



Sadye Kutt
Regan Alvin Kwong
Natalie Selena Kyles
Matthew Estil Ladhoff
Blake Nicholas Laethem



Clinton Joseph Darrow Lafayette
Shuang Lai
Zhenjie Lai
Lauren Ashley Lambert
Lauren Grace Lammy



Timothy Alan Lance
Angelia Marie Lane
Latia Lane
Thiera Lane
John Peter Langenhorst



Devin Taylor Bidwell Langham
Kaitlyn Gayle Langolf
Joseph I Langston
John Oscar Atiles Lao
Lindsey Roslyn Laparl



Danielle Elizabeth Largent
Deborah Marie Larsen
Joseph Robert Larson
Michael John Lask
Patricia la Torre



Janna Marie Laverdiere
Amber Danielle Lawson
Miranda Joy Lawson
Nemanja Lazic
Diana Catherine Leadley



Lady Nardiot Learned
Shannon Colleen Leary
Lance N Lecureux
Michelle Renee Leduc
Byoung Joo Lee



Eun Bi Lee
Hojung Lee
Hyang Young Lee
Hyekyoung Lee
Hyoncheol Lee



Jang Han Lee
John Jihoon Lee
Leon Lee
Elise Lefere
Jie Lei



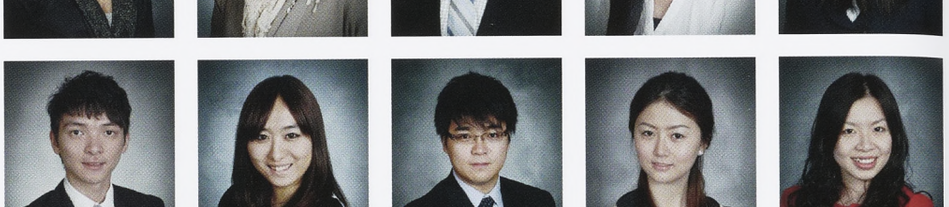
Elizabeth Ann Leipprandt
Mario Dandre Lemons
Krystal Renee Lenz
Erin Danielle Leskow
Michelle Lynn Lewandowski

"My favorite part about MSU is being surrounded by people with diverse interests. I get to try things I would never do and that opportunity would not happen as often in the real world. Once you leave MSU, you'll never be around this large amount of ambitious, like-minded and good-looking people again."

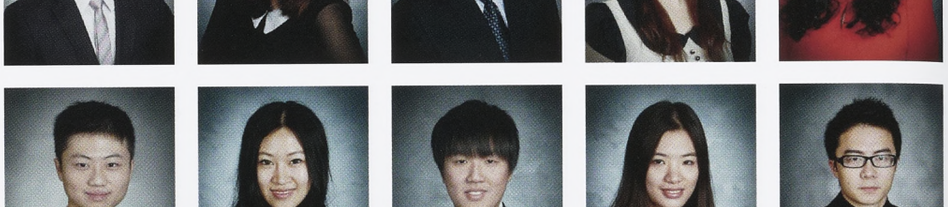
-Erin O'Connor, senior



Grace Lewis
Jazzmin Lewis
Chunheng Li
Congshan Li
Duan Li



Jianhua Li
Jing Li
Keji Li
Manshan Li
Mengdi Li



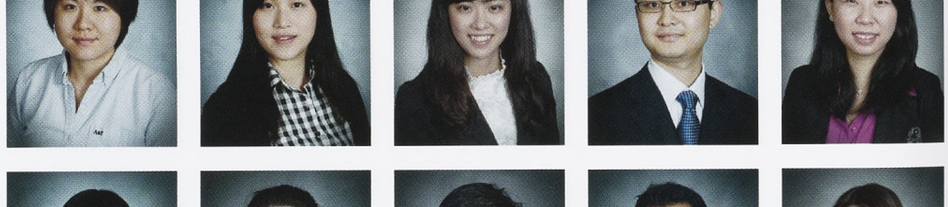
Pan Li
Peilei Li
Quan Li
Tunghiu Li
Wei Li



Wenxin Li
Xin Li
Xingdong Li
Xuan Li
Yanqing Li



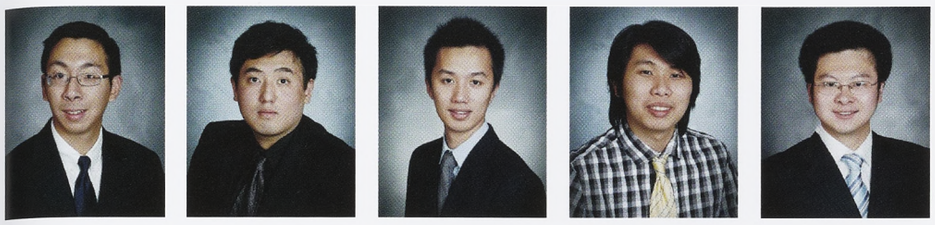
Yongfeng Li
Yu Li
Zhixu Li
Wenjie Lian
Danjing Liang



Yilin Liang
Yuan Liang
Xin Liao
Hamza Liaquat
Ayla Wilson Lienhart



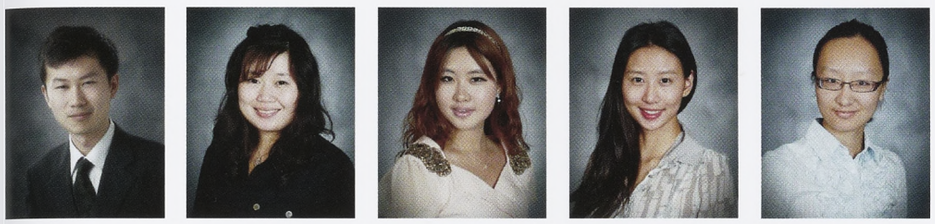
Janelle Marie Lightbourn
Chai Yong Lim
Ga Ae Lim
Hana Lim
Sung-Young Lim



Derek Lin
Po Chun Lin
Tuo Lin
Xiao Lin
Yang Lin



Asia Little
Daniel John Little
Mary Elizabeth Litzler
Fangbing Liu
Hanxiao Liu



Hao Liu
Kun Liu
Lin Liu
Lulu Liu
Ran Liu



Ruicheng Liu
Runkai Liu
Wenjun Liu
Xinye Liu
Xuanyi Liu



Yi Liu
Yi-Chi Liu
Yirang Liu
Zhumeng Liu
David William Locher



Kate Lynn Londy
Sara Melisa Lone
Megan Ann Long
Qian Long
Jessica Lopez



Russell Patrick Losey
Jessica Catherine Love
Margaret Ellen Love
Christian Loyd
Shuai Lu

"I once took a creative writing workshop in the (Residential College in the Arts and Humanities), It was called 'Writing Miniatures.' I thought I was going to creatively write about small things. As it turns out, it was a poetry course. I was screwed. But it turned out to be really fun and empowering to look inside myself and try and produce poetry. Even though my poetry was pretty bad and I once got a 2.4 on my haikus, it was still a great experience and my favorite class at MSU."
-Abby Schottenfels, senior



Yao Lu
Jasmine Lucas
Monica Lydia Lucas
Stephen James Lucianek
Malasha Luckett



Hannah Mairin Lukasiewicz
Xiaodi Luo
Jonathan Donald Lusczakoski
Nicholas Edward Lusk
Jason William Lyman



Patrick Henry Lyons
Courtney Anne Lyskawa
Hui Ma
Christine Elizabeth MacHin
Anna Catherine Machowicz



Alphonso Brandon Mack
Robert Edward MacKool
Lucas Magnini
Kelly Nicole Maisel
Brittany Rose Major



Antoni Malachowski
Matthew Joseph Malburg
Ashley Jamie Maloff
Julie Anne Maloney
Juliette Ann Mandrella



Erica Mann
Rex William Manning
Brandon Paul Manson
Audrey Diane Manz
Chen Mao



Matthew Scott Marcantonio
Shaireen Sharif Maredia
Morgan Leigh Margraves
Michael Juan Marinez
Amber Rochelle Markey





Christopher Michael Marsh
Kyle Marshall
Sharnese Marshall
Samantha Paige Martens
Allen Martin



Sabrei Martin
Thomas John Martinez
Marianne Martz
Brock Christian Marvin
Victoria Elizabeth Marzec



Eric Hiroshi Mascot
Laura Elizabeth Mason
Thomas Alan Mata
T Santino L Mateo
Valencia Renee Mathews



Donald Matlock
Michael Patrick Matlock
Christopher Stanley Matthes
Ashley Grace Matusz
Brandan Dean Maurer



Carter Clifton Mauter
Janelle Mayes-Henry
Karen Ann McAllister
Morgan Amanda McAtamney
Melissa Dianne McAward



Brittly McBride
Kathryn E McCabe
Camille McCall
Cyntoya Monay McCall
Nathan Andrew McCalla



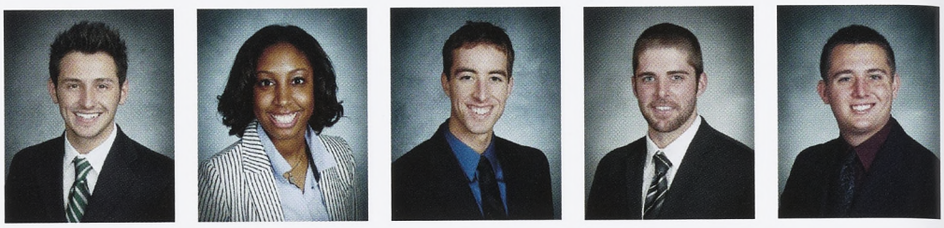
Thomas Masato McCandlish
Austin L McCann
Laura Christine McCarron
Rachel McClain
Ashley McClellan

"One of my favorite moments was St. Patrick's Day weekend of my senior year. I went out with friends, and it was just the perfect summary of the kinds of amazing people I've met here at (MSU who) I would never have if I didn't go away to school. Just the amazing atmosphere walking around campus was the epitome of all the great, sociable people that come to (MSU) and make everyone feel so welcome."

-Audrey Torma, senior



Matthew Michael McCloskey
Katelyn Marie McCormick
Lauren Meghan McCulloch
Taylor McCurdy
Allan Bernard McDaniel



Wade Thomas McDermaid
Amber McDonald
Kyle Thomas McDonald
Todd Michael McDonald
Charles Cole McGovern



James Hayden McGuckin
Amy Lynn McIntyre
Krystle McKay
Caitlin McKee
James Ian McLaughlan



Carolyn McLean
Corey Stephen McLeod
Eric Michael McLeod
Hugh Edward McMath
Sean Vincent McNamara



Kaitlyn Margaret McNulty
Nina Elyse McNure
Chanda McPherson
Nicholas Michael McWherter
Claire Ann Meconi



Asia Marie Melcher
Meagan Frances Meldrim
Jalisia Melendez
Marissa Ann Meli
Allison April Melkonian



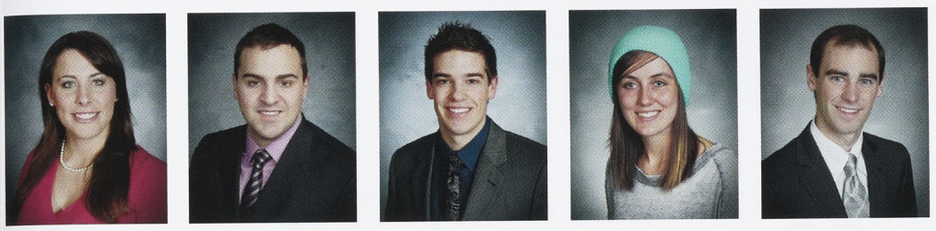
Marc Geoffery Mens
Reva Mercado
Damon Nicholas Mestdagh
Alyssa Renee Meucci
Michelle Nicole Meunier



Michael Robert Meurer
Emily Meyer
Kevin David Michalzuk
Samuel Jonas Mikalonis
Amy Kristina Miller



Brandon Scott Miller
Jessalyn Miller
Kyle Gene Miller
Mara Miller
Marcus Miller



Stephanie Miller
Steven Crowe Miller
Travis Anthony Miller
Victoria Jean-Marie Miller
Grant Mills



Kristen Mills
Jenna Elaine Millstead
Tona Milton
Nicole Minott
Shezreh Mirza



Abigail Lynn Mitchell
Brent Mitchell
Danielle Nicole Mitchell
Thomas Alan Mitchell
Christina Miteff



Marko Mitkoski
Matt Modlin
Jennifer Ariel Moeller
Fazaldin Moghul
Abrar Mohamadpauzi



Saurabh Mohanachandran
Natalie Elizabeth Molnar
Lauren Emily Monaghan
Heather Susan Montie
Michael B Montpetit

"I'm going to miss being able to see someone fall off their bike or crash into something at least once a day. I would see someone do something stupid on their bike all the time outside of Wells (Hall). I saw a dude slam into a girl who was standing in the middle of the sidewalk texting. It ruled."

-Ethan Pollard, senior



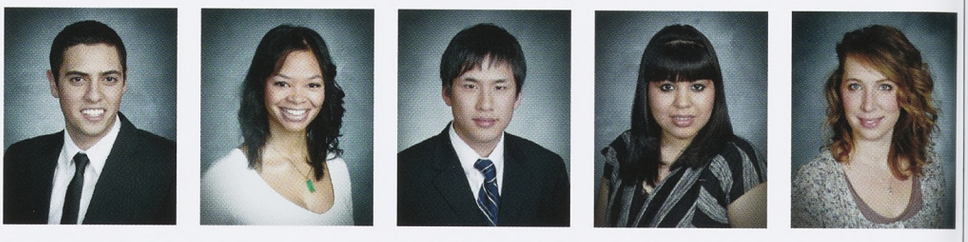
Sunwoong Moon
Susan Moon
Dylan Thomas Mooney
Janell Moore
Latisha Moore



Nakisha Latrice Moore
Virginia Ann Morales
Adah Moreno
Gregory Louis Morey
June Morris



Ramone Stephon Morris
Augusta Rose Morrison
Joshua Brandan Moss
Barenda Moss-Jackson
Matthew James Mount



Ahmad Mahmoud Mousa
Cezanne Mouton
Allen Moy
Janie Daria Moyeda
Jessie Cora Moyer



Kate Mudgett
Brent Daly Mueller
Colton Mullinix
Terry Brian Munger
Jessica Lynn Munson



Meaghen Murray
Grace Catherine Myers
Matthew George Naeyaert
Sean Phillip Nagler
Veronica Nagy



Ryo Namiki
Bola Ndifontah
Amy Jean Nelsen
Andrea Christine Nelson
Kate Morgan Nelson








Zachary Shane Nemitz
Andrew Floyd Newell
Drew Jeppesen Newell
Georgette Suzanne Newman
Jessica Anne Newton








Ngoc Thanh Thi Nguyen
Regina Danielle Nicholas
Bryon Wickham Niemczak
Megan D Niner
Yicheng Niu








Jenise Noble
Christopher Noffze
Aisling Michelle Nolan
Juan Noriega
Matthew Joseph Norman








Kaitlin Elisabeth Nye
Samuel August Nyquist
Ian Winfield Oberg
Scott Donald Oberlander
Abilene Ochoa








Elizabeth Keira Odonnell
Danielle Nicole Offner
Shannon Alaina Oguinn
Sangyeop Oh
Robert Kenneth Oikarinen








Kimara Eyana Oku
Ladun Olateru-Olagbegi
Matthew James Oloff
Laura Lee Olson
David Oneill






Timothy John Orr
Karri Lynn Ort
Alejandra Marie Ortega
Cathrine Anna Osborn
Scott Andrew Osdras

"I've definitely become a lot more responsible while attending MSU. Living both on and off campus teaches you a lot of hard life lessons, and I feel better entering the working world with that knowledge. Growing up as an only child made it really difficult for me to adjust to college life. Taking care of myself and sharing space with four other people is something I needed to experience in order to grow up, and I couldn't have had a better group of Spartans around me to grow with."
-Elizabeth Christensen, senior







Dillon Andrew Oslin
Emelia Ann Oslund
Ross William Otten
Tzu-Lin Ou
Candyce Adair Pacione







Joseph Anthony Packard
Krystina Marrie Packard
Chelsea Elyse Paga
Gavin Robert Page
Chelsey Lynn Paksi







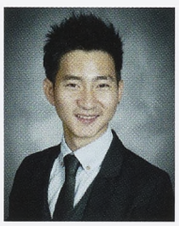
Lauren Danielle Palajac
Annalisa Joann Palazzolo
Maria Palestis
Caitlin Marie Palmiter
Ruihong Pan







Oi Yee Pang
Lena Marie Pantely
Daina Lynn Parent
Esther Park
Hye Won Park




Ji Hae Park
Keun Hyeung Park
Mikyoung Park
Eric Cameron Parr
Andrew Bert Parsons







Adam Dale Partlo
Bradley Christian Pasbjerg
Christine Marie Pasko
Jessica Marie Pasko
Hemant Patel







Patrick Edward Patterson
Patrick Paul
Katherine Rose Pavlak
Jeffrey David Pawloski
Ryan Edward Pawloski







Jenna Mary Pearson
Rachel Elizabeth Pearson
Samuel Joseph Peck
Sarah Emily Peck
Elise Chantay Peeples

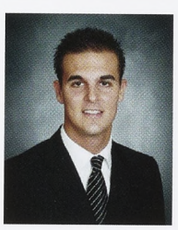






Zachary William Peers
Nicholas James Pelzer
Bo Peng
Katelyn Shirley Penterics
Ashley Laura Perales







Alaina Maria Perez
Stormie Brooke Perez
Brian Anthony Perliski
Kristen Perry
Marissa Kay Perry







Amanda Caroline Person
Joshua David Perusse
Kalli Sophia Pervolarakis
Peter Eric Petersen
Tony Norsouvanh Phetdara







David C Phillips
Jacob Cody Phillips
Marlon Jerard Phillips
Melanie Lynn Pierce
Tiffany Marie Piotrowski







Jennifer Piwonski
Aimee Louise Plamondon
Mallory Pline
Matthew Nelson Plomp
Scott Kenneth Plude







Naomi Louise Poirier
Nina M Poli
Jacqueline Rochelle Polleiner
Trevor John Pollo
Nicole Marie Pollock

"What I love about MSU is the energy. Everyone is so positive and different and exploring the things that they love to do. It is such a great feeling to be surrounded by all these minds. I chose to come to MSU because I thought I could relate to more to the type of realness that was present in most of MSU's students."

-Gillian Hall, senior



Lanequia Porter
Brittany Powell
Lisa Marie Powys
Maruscha Pranata
Christopher Michael Prather



Tierra Jade Prichard
Autumn Defarra Prince
Erika Pritchett
Ahmad Proctor
Alyssa Julia Provagna



Natalie Pryor
Joshua Robert Pung
Rebecca Leigh Purvis
Derek Edward Pyne
Xuemeng Qi



Jiawei Qin
Danhong Qiu
Chengeng Qu
Jia Qu
John Ra



Jennifer Marie Raab
Julianne Theresa-Williams Racine
Corinne Lea Rademacher
Bradford Sullivan Ragland
Ashiq Rahiman



Bryan James Rais
Yuvanesh M Rajeev
Alessandro Mercurio Ramirez
Jose Luis Ramirez
Brittany Anne Ramsey



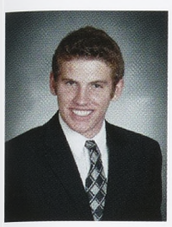
Shuo Rao
Nicholas Gregory Rasch
Jourdan James Devere Rasmussen
Molly Christine Rau
Arielle Rawlings







Muhammad Norfazli Razali
Ryan Christopher Reagle
Jeremy Franklin Redman
Ashley Redmond
Nathan Redner







Brandon Bruce Redoute
Jessica Lynn Reemsnyder
Zachery Edwin Reeser
James Patrick Regan
Sarah Kallen Regner







Kathryn Abigail Reichard
Logan Charles Reigner
Kaitlin Elizabeth Reilly
Julie Laura Reinheimer
Margaret Ann Rennolds







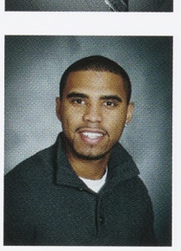
Allison Michelle Repp
Kellie Anne Reynolds
Tiffany Liana Rhymes
Rachel Richardson
Tatiana Shanee Richardson







Rebecca Suzann Richart
Nicholas Edward Righetti
Scott Edward Rinnas
Shatia Monae Rison
Christopher Rivard




Thomas James Robb
Ruben Dennis-Ray Robelin
Ashley Danielle Roberts
Rhiannon MacKenzie Roberts
Suni Jo Roberts







Aaron Robertson
Lauren Anne Robertson
Aaron Seth Robins
Adrianne Nicole Robinson
Alycia Marie Robinson

"My favorite MSU professor was, hands down, Stephen Patrick Walton in CHE 201. The man is a gentleman and a scholar. He would spend hours with me outside of office hours teaching me all the things about mass and energy balances and just chatting about various other things. He also still stops to chat and catch up when I run into him in the Engineering Building."
-Jessica Ferko, senior



Ashley Kiera Robinson
Briaa Robinson
Lindsay Renee Robinson
Onetress Robinson
Jacob David Rochte



Hannah MacKenzie Rodbro
Chloe Fouchey Rode
Kayla Denee Rodgers
Alyssa Mary Roehm
Alex Pearson Rogers



Rozalyn Julia Rogers
Luisa Oralia Romero
Kristen Elyse Rood
Molly Vee Rooney
Amber Marie Rosalez



Megan Jane Rose
Jonathan Charles Rosewood
Danae Elizabeth Rossman
Leia Marie Rouse
Jenine Rowe



Daniel Jordan Rudnik
Joel Everett Ruffin
Kevin Andrew Ruhland
Courtney Lynn Ruhno
William L Rule



Zikeshia Rush
Katlyn Rae Ruterbusch
Emily Rutkowski
Diane Alexis Rutter
Seuk-Min Ryu



Destinee Sadler
Michelle Elizabeth Sadler
Mohamed Said
Nurulaina Fasya Saifulanuar
Laura Elaine Salani



Andrea Margarita Salazar
Ryan A Salem
Emily Lucine Samarian
Dominique L Sanchez
Marco A Sanchez



Monica Joanne Sanders
Patrick Joseph Sandoval
Waylon Eugene Sanford
Jonathan James Sangregario
Angel Marie Santibanez



Stephanie Nicole Santoro
Aubrey Rose Sapala
Kali E Sarcinella
Christine Sarikas
Jasmine Elaine Sarkis



Chelsea Marie Satkowiak
Megan Saucedo
Hannah Sarah Saunders
Paul Gregory Sauve
Naquiyah Shabbir Savliwala



Vincent Sawaya
Andrew Michael Schaad
Steven Schaeff
Corey Paul Scheffler
Justin Michael Schefka



Samantha Scheltema
Katelyn Nulu Schermerhorn
Timothy William Schintzius
Nickolas Hanns Schlatter
Margaret Claire Schmidt



Matthew Joseph Scholand
Christopher George Schotten
Kaleigh Michelle Schout
Peter Joseph Schultz
Claire Emily Schuurmans

"I'm going to spend my last months at MSU trying to spend as much time with friends as possible, outdoors, and not letting class get in the way. Also applying for jobs and internships."

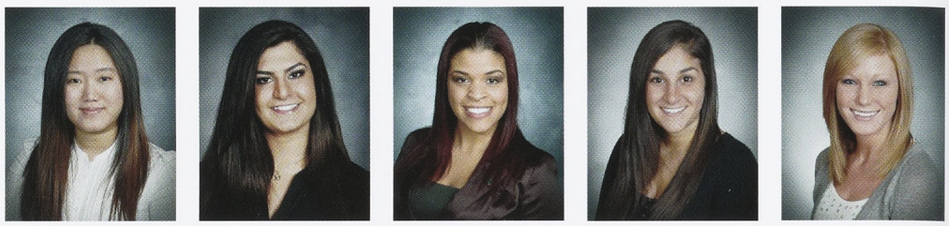
-Christian Ross, senior



Lindsey Anne Schwartz
Noelle Rose Sciarini
Luke Patrick Sciberras
Sarah Sears
Eric James Sebranek



Heather Lynn Sedwick
William Delance Seeger
Lee Bronson Server
Andrew John Sesniak
Kathryn Marie Sezniak



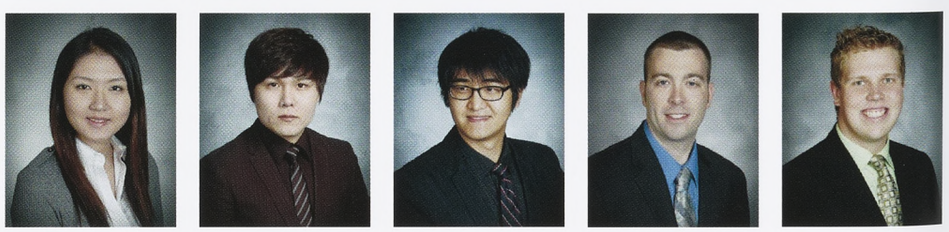
Ahra Shall
Monica Eva Shamass
Ilycia Shaw
Deanna M Shaya
Ashleigh R Shea



Margaret Alice Shea
Kara Christin Shemanski
Dan Shen
Fangyi Shen
Xing Sheng



Zichen Sheng
Erica Jean Shepard
Jiachen Shi
Jiyuan Shi
Lin Shi



Ah Young Shin
Chang-Heon Shin
Sung-Ki Shin
Daniel Paul Shipman
Joshua David Sholler



Stephen James Short
Sarah Shortt
Brittnee Shows
Thomas Shui
Nicolas Jake Shuler



Kirstie Catherine Sieloff
Lindsay Brooke Silber
Cai Yan Sim
Ariel Jocelyn Simon
Alexis Simpson



Amber Simpson
Kristin Elaine Skaggs
Sheila Maureen Skinner
Henriette Cordelia Josephin Slater
Tara Lynn Sliwinski



Jessica Anne Slone
Cameron David Small
Randi Krause Small
John Michael Smallish
Garrett Abram Smeltzer



Melissa Lynn Smit
Aimee Joy Smith
Angela Smith
Ashley Ann Smith
Christopher Lawrence Smith



Dana Smith
James Ross Smith
Kelley Randall Smith
Lindsey Nichole Smith
Matthew D Snyder



Michael Leon Snyder
Zachary John Sobczak
April Marie Sobecki
Ashley Somers
Trey Vernon Sommers



Daniel Joseph Sommerville
Hea Eun Son
Hyewon Son
Hyun Woo Son
Ji Sun Son

"My senior year, in general, is awesome and my best year. I've been able to do a lot of writing and screenwriting through my classes. I love having that opportunity. I've gotten a lot of connections through those classes."

-Matt Corkins, senior







Juyeoun Son
Yun Hee Song
Miranda Sperry
Megan Marie Sprague
Zachariah Alan Sprinkle







Jasmine R Staley
Jason Richard Stark
Ellina Stein
Clinton Steketee
Andre Michael Stelczyk







Kaitlyn Layne Stephens
Hayley Elizabeth Stevenson
Marie Ruth Stevenson
Melissa Ann Stevenson
Kaelyn Rose Stevick







Jamie Leigh Stewart
Amanda Jean Stickler
Erika Nicole Stiles
Kamilah Ain Stinnett
Sarah Elizabeth Stiteler







Matthew Victor St.Louis
Emily Matter Storrer
Alexander William Strauch
Jenna Stretanski
Antonice Strickland







Breonna Renee Studer
Nancy Suarez-Long
Satya Subedi
Anitha Subramanian
Thomas Tadashi Sugawara







Shane Andrew Sugierski
Young Uk Suh
Hillary Lynne Sullins
Kan Sun
Ruizhe Sun







Shuangya Sun
Yueya Sun
Brittany Jill Sundheimer
Carolyn Michelle Sundquist
Courtney Marie Sunstrum







Maximillian Seth Suri
Kevin David Swahn
Debra Lynne Swalya
Michelle Ann Swanic
Katie Lynne Sweers







Deonte Phillip Swift
Elliot Tyler Swift
Alyssa Kay Swindlehurst
Katrice Danielle Swope
Sharifah Alawieyah Syedmortadza







Julie Marie Szeliga
Paul Joseph Szymanski
Joel Andrew Taggart
Rebecca Melissa Tan
Keita Tanaka







Tony Tang
Roujia Tao
Benjamin Chapman Tarsi
Athanasios G Taskas
Naja Tatum







Alex Douglas Taylor
Angelina Michelle Taylor
Marcia Taylor
Tenisha Taylor
Zachary Nathan Lee Taylor

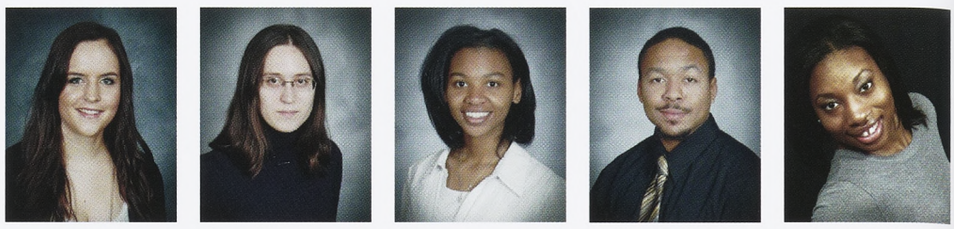






Samantha Antoinette Tazzia
Tegene Kirubel Tegene
James Elliot Teslow
Lindsay Thelen
Alanna Thiede

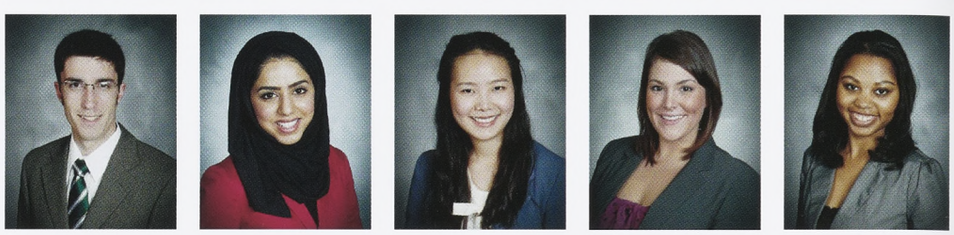
"Just let the Wells Hall preacher be."
-Anna Orsini, senior



Jennifer Thielen
April Justine Thomas
Briana Jillian Thomas
Aaron L Thompson
EuTeeka Thompson



Kristopher Donald Thompson
Rachel Palayda Thompson
Justin Martin Thorson
Stephanie Marie Thorstad
Megan Thurkettle



Zachary John Tigani
Elham Timas
Natphakan Tipakornsaowapak
April Joy Tisdale
Carla Tisdale



Carolyn Ruth Tobey
Ethan Grant Todd
Alexander Daniel Tollis
Randel Tomina
Kayla Marie Tompkins



Fangzhou Tong
Vladislav Vladimirovich Topolia
Christopher Tow
Crystal Monaye Townsend
Joseph Allen Townsend



Ngoc Tran
Daniel Paxton Tratt
Nallely Trejo
Jeffrey Michael Tremblay
Courtney Alexandrea Trimble



Genevieve Marie Trombly
Anastasia Alise Truesdell
Brittany Danielle Trull
Yi-Ting Tsai
Hsin Yi Cindy Tseng



Chieh Jen Tu
Brittany Lanae Tucker
Clarissa Louise Turton
Artina Tyus
Sarah Elizabeth Uglum



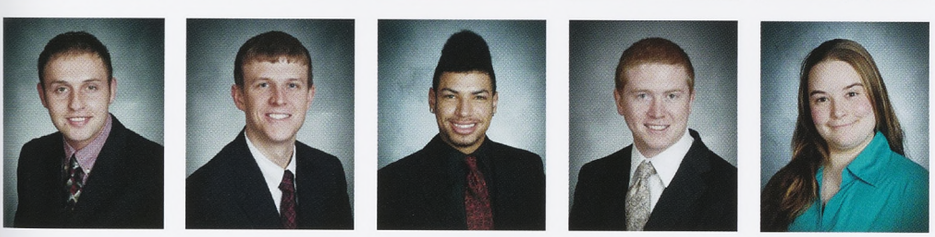
Tyler Edward Underwood
Nathaniel Robert Urban
Andrew Carl Uthoff
Anna Valdez
Vanya Astra Valencia



Kristin Leigh Vallade
Victoria Anne Vandegrift
Alicia Beth Vandenbussche
Lydia Vanderbilt
Thomas James Vanderschaaf



Stephanie Ann Vandoorn
Roshalle Jenae Vandorp
Danielle Jean Vandussen
Joe Vanfleteren Jr.
Shoua Khang Vang



Kendaleth Chadwick Vanlue
Douglas Michael Vanmeter
Christopher Matthew Van Nest
Benjamin James Vanos
Melissa Kay Van Overbeke



Patrick J Van Poppelen
Whitney Rae Vanzoeren
Christine Marie Varley
Matthew Nishan Vartanian
Danielle Vasko



Spencer Emerson Vaughan
Erin Allise Vavro
Aleah Christine Vecchio
Andrew Michael Vechinski
Jacqueline Nychole Velez

"The most memorable moment was on my dad's 50th and my roommate's birthday and we all went to the Wisconsin game when Kirk Cousins threw the Hail Mary pass in the final seconds. It was one of the best football games I've ever been to."

-Sam Novak, senior



Matthew Cody Venney
Sarah Catherine Ver Hey
Terrence Lavonne Vinson
Jonathan Henry Viswat
Erika Jane Vivyan



Margaret Ann Vogel
Jessica Lynn Volkmer
Vicari Alexis Vollmar
Alyssa Rose Vollmer
Natarat Vorachattarn



Kara Lyn Vossler
Jarrett Wade
Ryan Waldron
Whitney Lane Waldron
Jacob Charles Walker



Kelsey Dominique Walker
Troy Stephan Walker
Brittany Walsh
Lucrecia Denise Walter
Adrienne Faye Waltz



Benjamin Michael Walukonis
Zichao Wan
Mark Richard Wandzel
Bofei Wang
Chaojie Wang



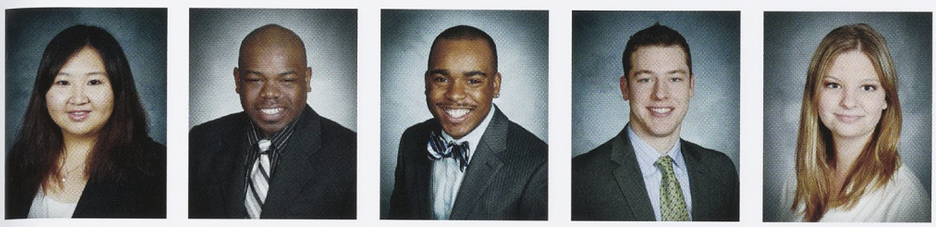
Chien Chung Wang
Hanlong Wang
Hsin-Chih Wang
Lin Wang
Lingyong Wang



Lulu Wang
Mengdi Wang
Mengzhen Wang
Shaoshi Wang
Shuofeng Wang



Yan Qiang Wang
Yidi Wang
Yiwei Wang
Yixin Wang
Yue Wang



Yue Wang
Spencer A Ward
Micqael Wardlaw-Hudnell
Robert Edward Wareck
Lauren Elizabeth Washburn



Sean Washington
Brien Michael Wasserman
Jessica Anne Watkins
Ryan Michael Watts
Allyson Kristine Way



Abbie Jean Wazny
Anthony Ameen Weatherspoon
Yanika Anne Weatherspoon
Nicholas Scott Weaver
Andrew Webb



Lauren Webb
Brittany Nicole Weber
Jacqueline Weber
Dorothy Weems
Shumeng Wei



Brandy Jean Weidenfeller
Michelle Lynn Weinfeld
Erica Germaine Weiss
Miriam Ellen Weiss
Jillian Camille Welker



Samantha Lynn Wengert
Jacqulinn Irene Wenzlick
Angela Marie West
Joshua Lawrence Westphal
Russell Aaron Weyer

"It feels great to have acquired four years of knowledge at a tier-one research university. Civic engagement courses, studio art classes, comics and the music of southern Appalachia are all classes that I truly loved."
-**Augusta Morrison, senior**







Raymond Joseph Whearley
Brent J Wheeler
Ricky Whidby
Alexandra White
Bradley Charles White







Charmaine White
Christine Mae Whitmer
Rachel Wilber
Benjamin Brenton Wilburn
Adam Steven Wilcox



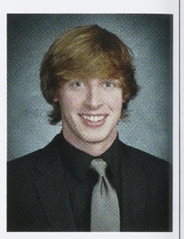




Alexandria Wilcox
Brittney Williams
Dorothy Lanice Williams
Jamison Lamar Williams
Jessica Williams







Layna Lee Williams
Sarquese Tiara Williams
Shawntel Williams
Rosemary Anne Williamson
Christopher Allen Willner







Lenae J Wills
Benjamin Clark Wilson
Courtney Lee Wilson
Cristyn Wilson
Lauren Christine Wilson







Tamara Latoya Wilson
Ragen Siobhan Wingate
Jillian Alyce Winiarski
Andrew William Wint
Marianne Elizabeth Winters







Victoria E Witherspoon
Hannah Josephine Witt
Angela Nicole Wojcik
Paige Violet Wojcik
Gregory Norman Wolak



Chelsie Marie Wolons
Tina Jeanette Wolverton
Gloria Wong
Veronica Wong
Min Kyun Woo



Sung Kyun Woo
John Nicholas Woodall
Deshawn Jameson Woods
Katherine Patricia Wright
Michael Vernon Wright



Kelsey Marie Wrinkle
Ai-Yun Wu
Kaiquan Wu
Lan Wu
Pingliang Wu



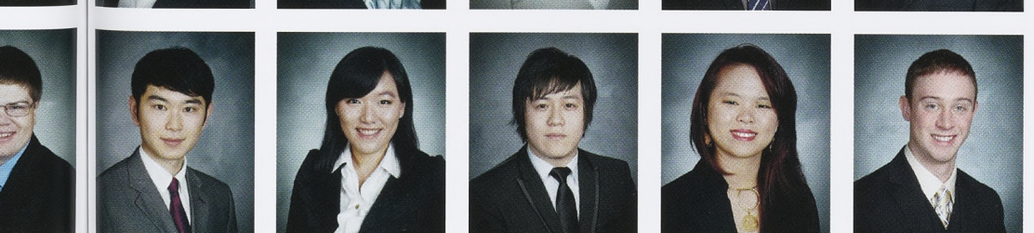
Ting Wu
Xue Wu
Yahui Wu
Yanni Wu
Kristen Josephine Wujcikowski



Yang Xiang
Junyi Xiao
Su Xiao
Danhui Xu
Jingjia Xue



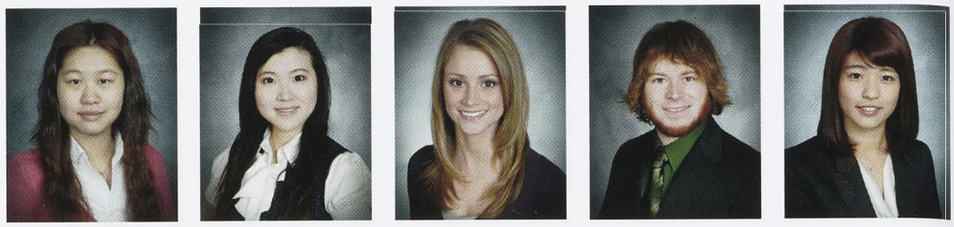
Xiaotong Xue
Ayesha Satyakameswari Yalamarthy
Jordan Nicole Yancey
Fan Yang
Guangnian Yang



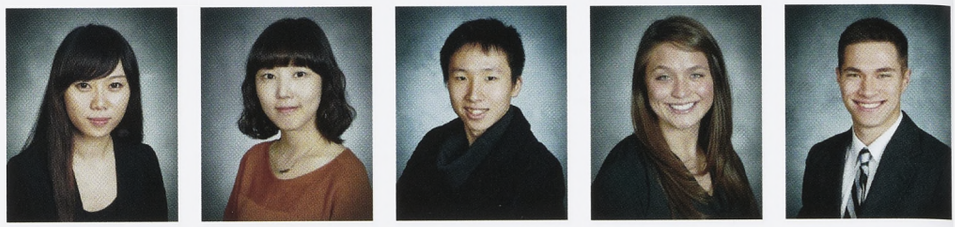
Junjie Yang
Si Yang
Yenan Yang
Sabrina Yin Leng Yap
Justin Yates

"I'll always remember the Grand River Avenue ramp because I hosted an art show on the top level of it and nobody kicked me off. I'll remember the Surplus Store for all the countless pieces of trash I've recovered. Bessey Hall is huge because the third floor men's bathroom has a couch in it."

-Ethan Tate, senior



Wenchen Ye
Wenqi Ye
Amanda Elise Yeihey
Ethan Michael Yerks
I Rang Yim



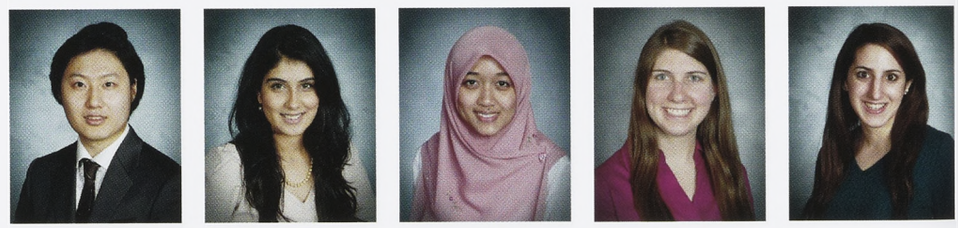
Feifei Yin
Hye Jin Yoo
Taewoong Yoo
Lauren Michelle Yoon
Ryan Joseph Yoon



Seung Hyun Yoon
Jasmine Young
Jessica Margaret Young
William Andrew Young
Fangbing Yu



Qingwen Yu
Xiaohang Yu
Aozhi Yuan
Cheng Lin Yuan
Miki Yuasa



Taemin Yun
Zuleikha Zadran
Nur Syuhada Zakaria
Kaitlyn Emerance Zarkis
Danielle Zazaian



Jacob Robert Zells
Shuai Zeng
Lauren Rosemary Zerilli
Gaohan Zhang
Gaojie Zhang



Kai Zhang
Mian Zhang
Mingyue Zhang
Pengfei Zhang
Shengya Zhang







Tianhang Zhang
Wanyu Zhang
Wenyun Zhang
Xiaoyu Zhang
Yi Zhang

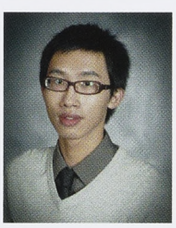






Yueting Zhang
Yutian Zhang
Can Zhao
Liang Zhao
Mengxiao Zhao




Xin Zhao
Xintong Zhao
Peiyu Zheng
Jiajun Zhou
Shanshan Zhou







Yimeng Zhou
Simin Zhu
Brian David Ziemba
Kristen S Zierau
Nathaniel William Zimmer







Nicholas Richard Zimmerman
Erik Lloyd Zinkel
Wang Ziwei
Zongliang Zou
Christian Mallory Zummer



Timothy Zylstra

"Coming out of the number one College of Education in the nation will be a bragging point for me for the rest of my life. What I have learned here will help me be the best teacher I can be for my students."

-Alaina Sanchez, senior


Vicari Vollmar


Hilary Higgins


Jennifer Garavaglia

EDITORIAL

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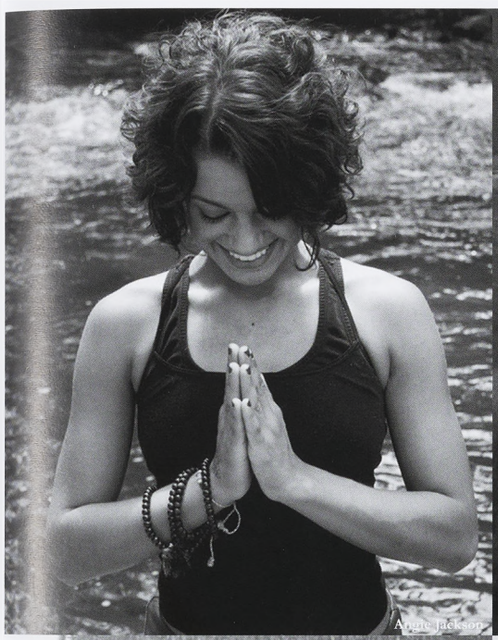
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Journalists | Cooper Franks, Holly Johnson, Jessica Pedersen, Matthew Revers, Noelle Sciarini, Merinda Valley
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Designers | Betsy Eber, Carly Patterson, Brendan Prost
Distributors | Matthew Fetters, Matthew Ladhoff, Dustin Parens

SPECIAL THANKS

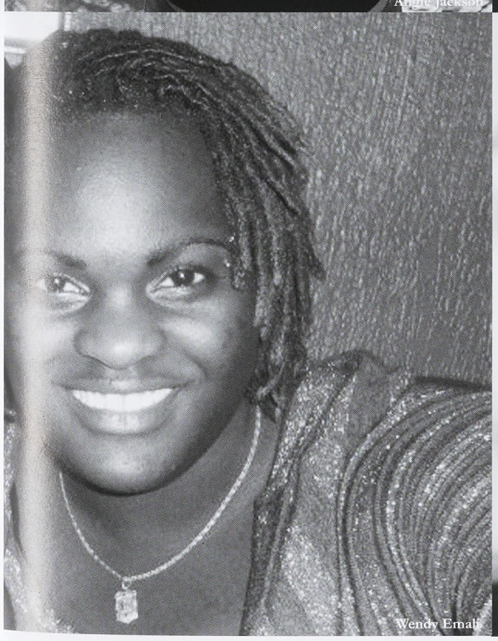
Jason Dovitz, Alexandra Ghaly, Allison Jarrell, Maggie Lancaster, Chris McClain, Marirose Sanborn, Anthony Thibodeau, Andrew White, Courtney Zott

2012 RED CEDAR LOG EDITORS


Angie Jackson


Carolyn Sundquist


Alanna Thiede


Wendy Ernale


Jessica Hallyard

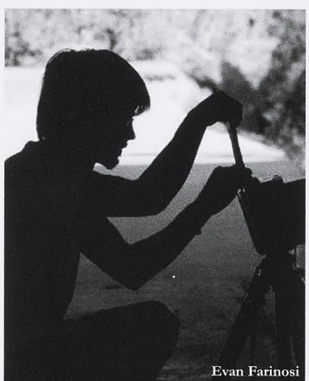
THE YEARBOOK

The Red Cedar Log is the official yearbook of Michigan State University. Publishing 12,000 copies in 2012, the Red Cedar Log yearbook is the largest printed and distributed yearbook in the nation. This award-winning, professional publication is produced and distributed solely by a staff of 26 students—students with passions rooted in writing, editing, design, photography and business. Combining their extraordinary talents, these students collaborate to create this 392-page book of history for fellow Spartans to cherish for a lifetime.

On a campus with such a diverse population of people, interests, ideas and goals, we chose to explore MSU culture and the individual culture to illuminate the differences in our native roots and emphasize our similarities having Spartan roots.

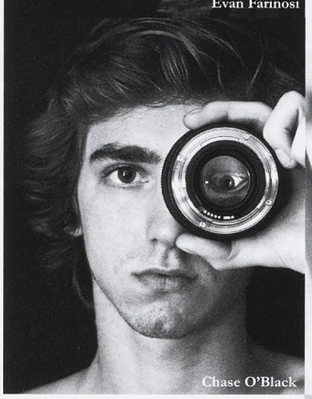
In the pages of this book, you'll find stories of individuals from their home countries, iconic landmarks and the groups, athletic teams, faculty members, Greek organizations and students that cultivate the academic and social culture at MSU.

Though we're unable to cover every event or organization on our expansive campus, we hope that this book offers a connection to and memories of your Spartan roots. May you always find familiarity, comfort and laughter between these pages.


Evan Farinosi

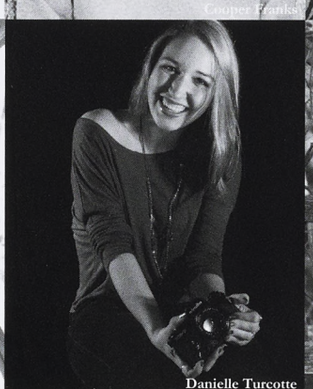

Cooper Franks


Merinda Valley


Chase O'Black


Lauren Gaboury


Natalie Kolb


Danielle Turcotte


Nathan Urban


Brendan Prost


Betsy Eber


Carly Patterson

2012 RED CEDAR LOG STAFF



COLOPHON

Design: The Red Cedar Log was produced entirely on Macintosh computers for page layouts, photo editing and word processing. All computers are networked with a LaCie server. Software used included Adobe CS5.5 Design Standard and Microsoft Office 2007.

Type: All headlines, secondary headlines and page numbers were set in Futura Std medium. Folios and the index were set using Futura Std light. All body copy and captions were set in Garamond.

Photography: The photography of the Red Cedar Log, with the exception of the senior portraits and unless credited otherwise, is wholly the original work of the photographers that produced this volume. The cameras and flash units used were from the Canon product line, with a combination of Canon and Sigma lenses.

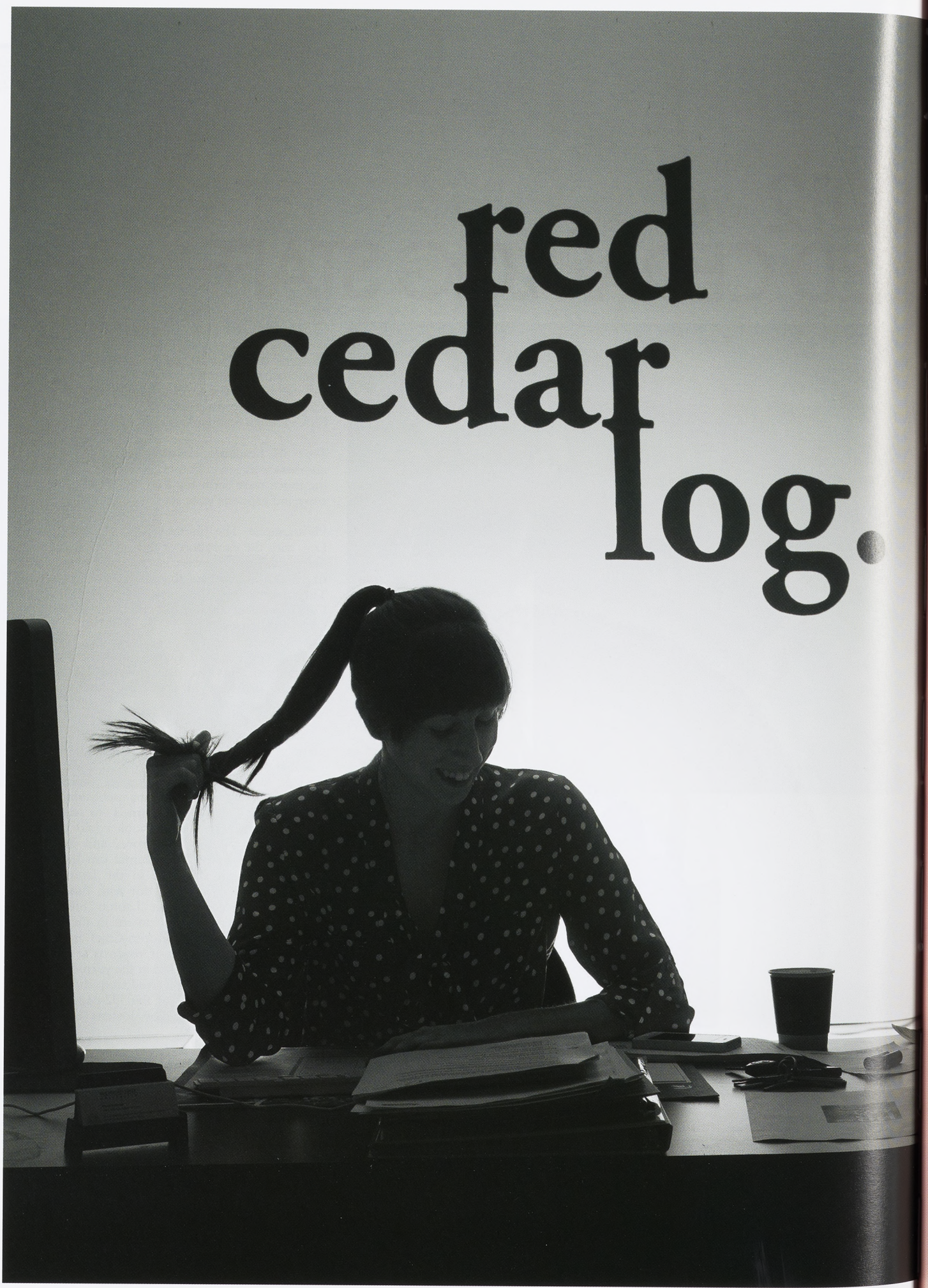
Advertising: The Red Cedar Log contracted with Educational Services, Inc. for advertising. The company provided 14 pages of black and white advertisements.

Finance and Operation: The Red Cedar Log is an entirely student-run publication. Each semester, ASMSU provided a set amount of revenue through student tax dollars, which equals about $3 per undergraduate student, for the publishing of the yearbook. As students returned to campus in August, the previous year's book could be picked up at various local book stores and in campus buildings. For a small fee, alumni can have books shipped to them anywhere in the United States. All expenditures were paid for with funds earned through partnerships with Lauren Studios and Educational Services, Inc.Content in the yearbook was determined by the Editor-in-Chief and editorial core with a consideration of requests from student organizations to be featured in the yearbook free of charge. No funds were received from the university. A total of 12,000 copies of the 392-page, full-color publication were printed by Jostens Inc. costing approximately $120,000.

Copyright: The 2012 Red Cedar Log is copyrighted by Vicari Vollmar, Editor-in-Chief. No part of this book may be reproduced without prior consent.

Acknowledgements: Thank you for all of your help. We couldn't have done this without you.

Mike Lafferty, Tim Ross, Rick Brooks, everyone from the Jostens plant, Paul Bilgore and Lauren Studios, Maryalice Chester, Brian Jeffries, Chris Schotten, Eric Endlich, Martin Mukasa, Kathy Waliczek, Kristina Covell, Jessie Spears and Helen Cannon.


red
cedar
log.

TO MY RCL CHILDREN:

In February 2011, I was hired as your editor-in-chief for a second year; a rare gift. This second term was my opportunity to unravel the kinks, implement change and continue raising expectation. I was excited by our momentum and confident it would continue through 2012.

After ending our 2011 with such a spectacular staff, I became uncomfortable with the idea of allowing new staff members a place within our close-knit family. I didn't believe it was possible to outshine the talent that came and went. After our first meeting, I pegged you as quiet, unmotivated and passive. I mistook your silence for intimidation. You were not the staff I wanted, and you were not the staff I expected.

I was stunned by how loudly your work spoke, while your words remained so timid. But I'd discovered your passion in the composition of your photographs, and the conviction in your words, and the innovation in your designs, and I knew you'd prove me wrong.

Using a more intimate approach to understanding each of you, we sat in a circle and read aloud our goals and our expectations and shared what we desired to learn. In that moment, the talking came. And who knew I hired so many teachers?

In the following weeks, I was astounded by the collaboration of co-workers within and between departments. Never had I witnessed such a hunger to acquire and share knowledge. Soon the dramatic difference in skill level faded, and each of you excelled in your craft, and displayed your own unique perspective. We'd finally settled in our way of doing things, together.

This staff has been the epitome of teamwork; you know how to communicate, coordinate and collaborate effectively, and as a result, your work has often left me speechless. I am honored to have had the opportunity to watch each of you grow, as individuals and as a staff, and I am blessed to have been a part of that growth. You've exceeded my every expectation and I am so proud of you.

Now, my collegiate days are finally coming to an end, and so too is my time with the Red Cedar Log yearbook. In the four incredible years I've worked with this publication, my greatest achievement has been teaching each of you. I can only hope that after I part from our cheery green office one last time, I will have left with you some profound revelation about yourselves and your work. I hope my impact was positive, powerful and everlasting. And I hope that any confidence you've gained during your time here grows more powerful every day.

This Red Cedar Log family has been all of my most outstanding college experiences, and after four years, no one can understand how it feels to surrender something so special.

With love,
V.

vicari vollmar **editor in chief**

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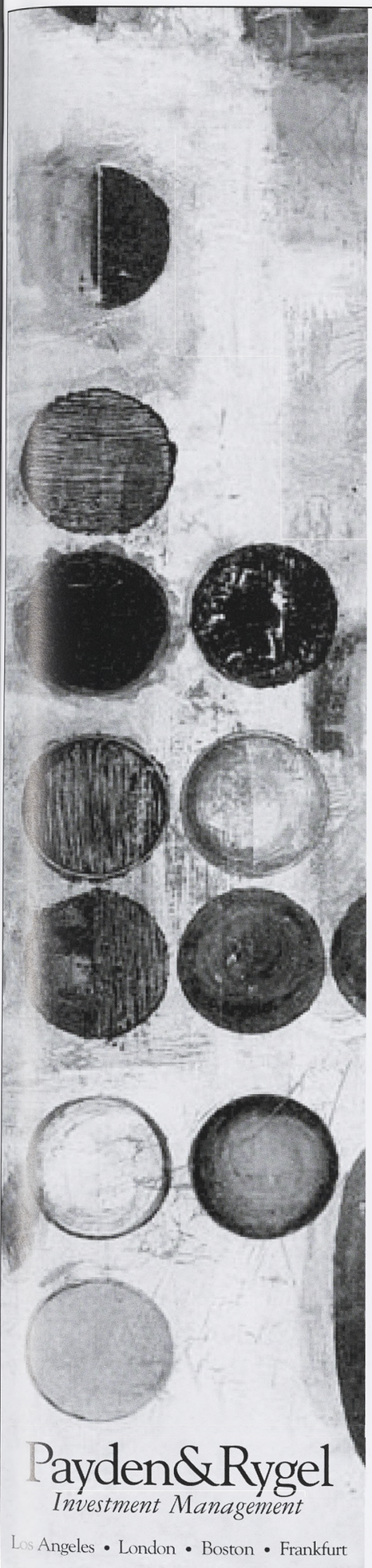


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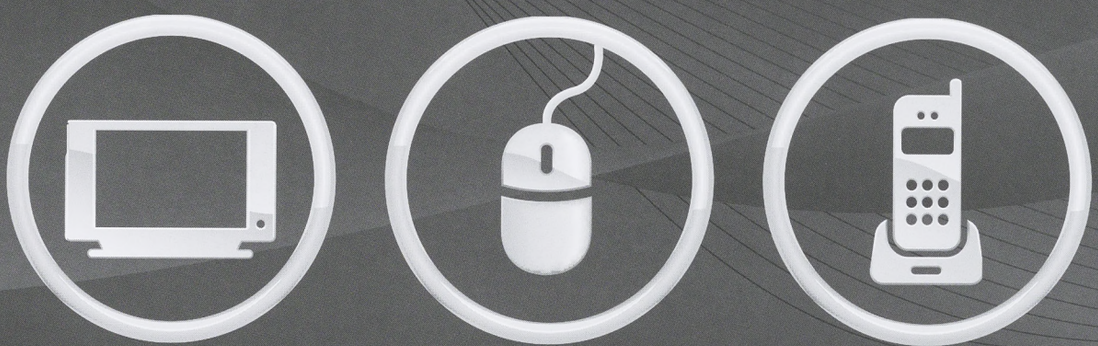
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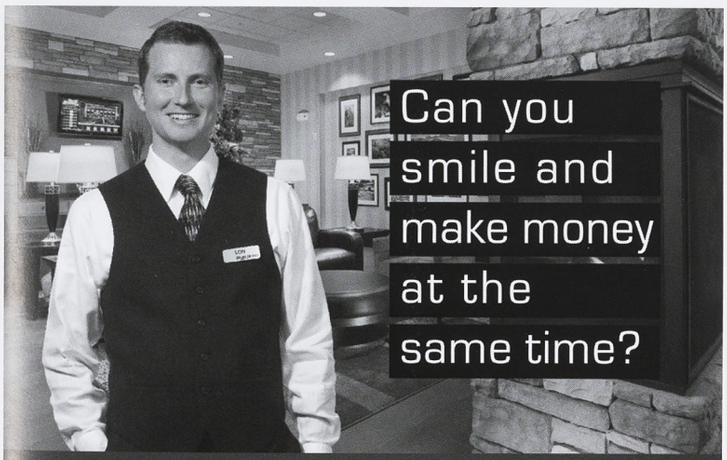
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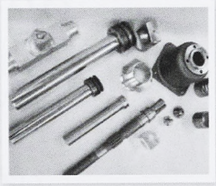


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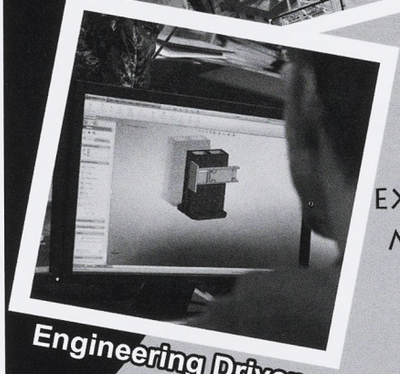
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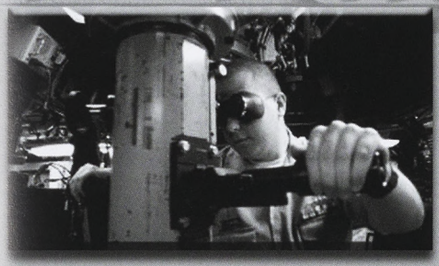
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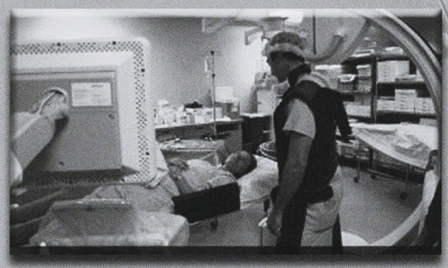
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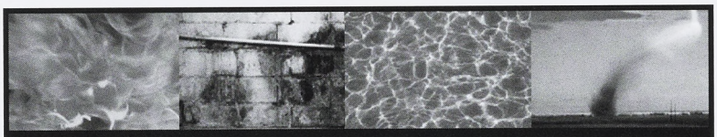
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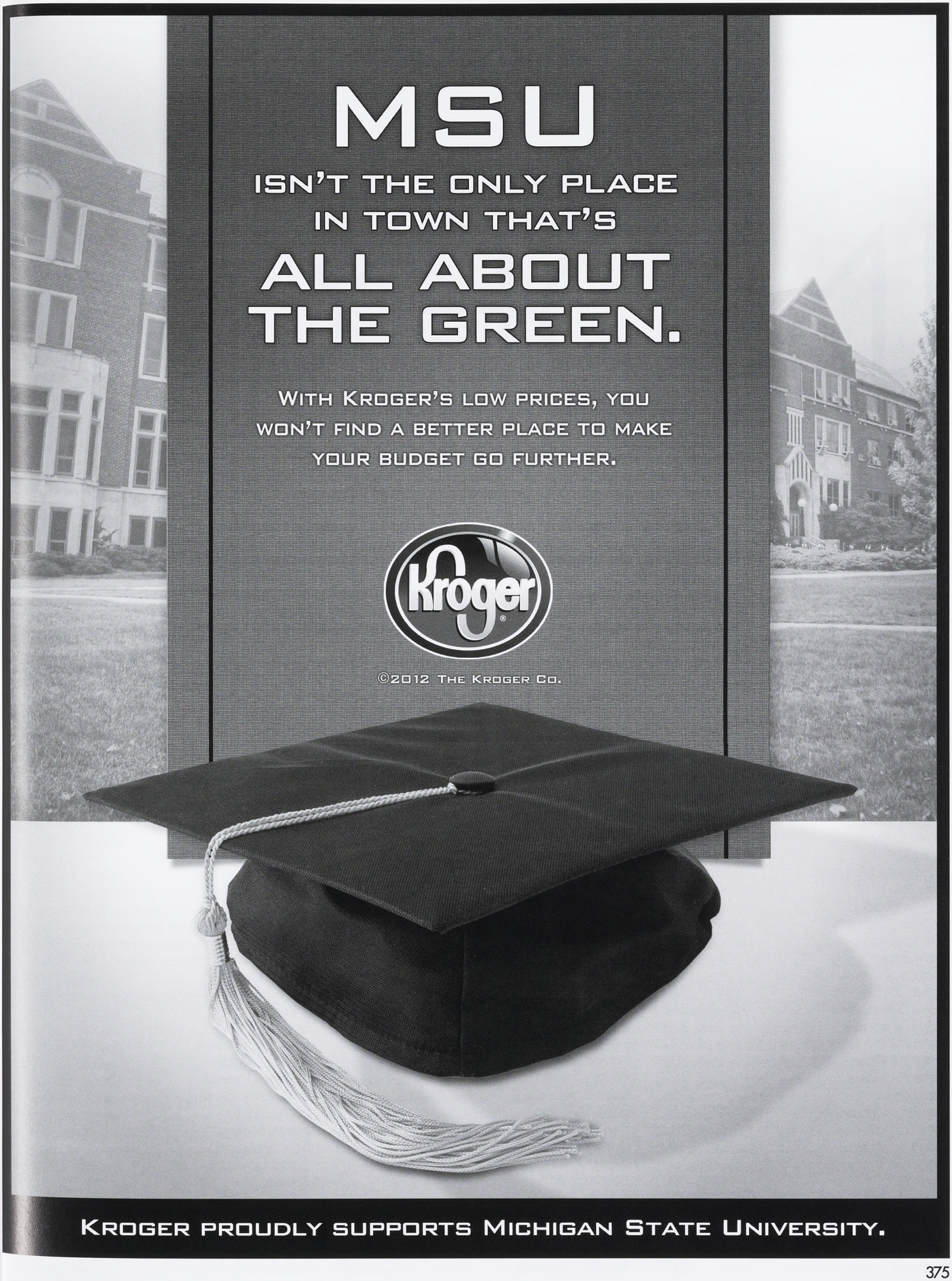
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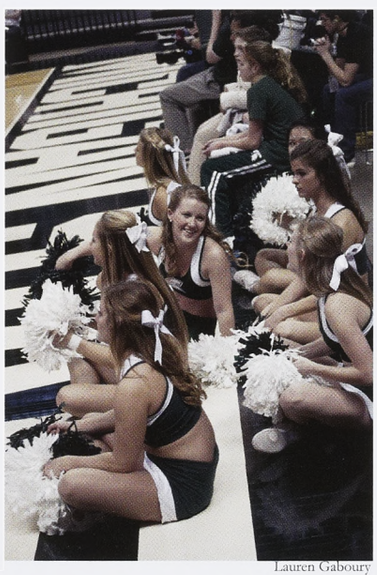
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Chase O'Black



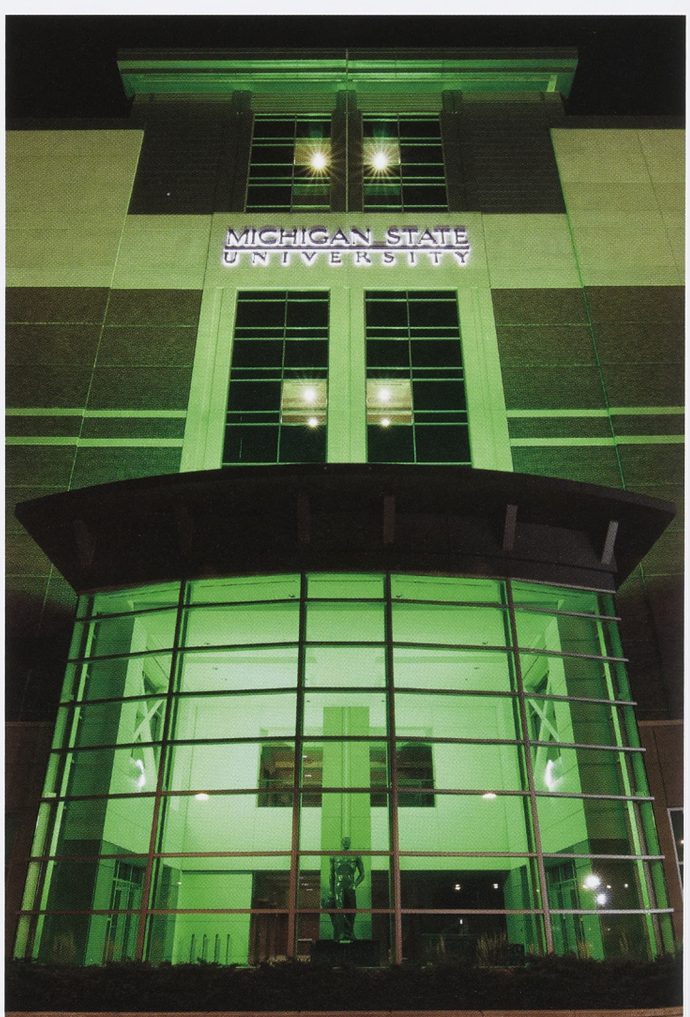
Lauren Gaboury



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TO THE CLASS OF 2012:

Congratulations on your graduation from Michigan State University! Earning this diploma marks a great accomplishment—an accomplishment that was made possible by what you might call a serendipitous combination of moments here on the banks of the Red Cedar. From your time in class discussing the world's biggest problems, to time with fellow students, faculty, and friends outside of the classroom, around East Lansing, and the world, building community and discovering solutions great and small to these problems—Together, these encounters culminate in making you a Spartan, one who is equipped with the knowledge and skills to make a continuing difference in lives of those around you as you move on to your next community, whether that be another university, a new job, or a cultural experience abroad. Your presence in the place of the MSU community brought you into contact with many people and experiences that have resulted in your unique view of Michigan State. And yet you share the experience of MSU with nearly 500,000 Spartans around the world who are all committed to proving what their MSU experience has taught them—that Spartans Will. Though our physical campus is an important location, Michigan State University is more importantly composed of people who spread our mission and values around the world. I am confident that just as each of you have left a mark on this place; you will also make similar marks that speak of your education at MSU wherever you go.

This year, MSU joins the nation in celebrating the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's signing of the Morrill Act. This act changed the our nation's perspective on higher education, from an opportunity offered only to the elite few, to an opportunity good enough for the proudest and yet still open to the poorest. This kind of education was meant to benefit both the individuals it was training directly and the local, national, and international communities it was impacting indirectly through its research and the knowledge it was investing in students who would then go out into those communities and transform them for the better. Thus we are especially mindful of our roots as a land-grant university this year as we continue to advance the common good in uncommon ways.

MSU is working to own the space around food, water, and energy by acting on the greatest problems of your generation as part of our mission as a land-grant institution. At home, we are responding to these needs in all research areas of this great university, from the new Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum which will incorporate a new annual residency program titled "The Land Grant: Art, Agriculture, Sustainability" for artists whose work addresses land use, food, and urban development with a focus on sustainability; to the grand opening of a new Molecular Plant and Soil Sciences Building that, acting as a physical and intellectual bridge between Plant Science and Plant and Soil Sciences buildings, will allow students and faculty to take their biochemical and genomic research from the lab to outlets world-wide for solving problems in food and energy; and finally to Michigan State providing answers to energy issues on its own campus by taking a bold step in passing its first Energy Transition Plan. Abroad, MSU is growing blueberries in South Korea and hosting conferences in places like Rwanda to ensure the safety and bounty of our food resources; Professors like Dr. Elena Litchman, MSU Associate Professor of Ecology, who is leading a team of researchers through a $2 million grant from the National Science Foundation's new Dimensions of Biodiversity program to study how Siberia's Lake Baikal, the largest freshwater lake in the world, is adapting to global climate change, are working to ensure the health of our water resources; Working to develop efficient and sustainable food production through projects like the AgBioResearch's $5 million grant to work on the milk and dairy industry , MSU is doing its part to preserve energy while improving food production. As these and many other examples show, Michigan State is proving itself to be a key player in the fields that matter most to the community, nation, and the world as part of its ongoing leadership as the nation's first land-grant institution.

As you look ahead to bright futures, it is also fitting to glance back at the accomplishments which have already distinguished your university as a premier institution of higher education. During your time here, Michigan State successfully initiated the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams or FRIB project, ensuring the continued preeminence of MSU's number one program in Nuclear Physics. Moreover, many of our other number one programs— Education, Supply Chain Management, and Psychology, to name a few—remain at the very top and serve as a testament to the exceptional work done by our students and faculty. This year we also recognize an outstanding number of Udall, Goldwater, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes and other scholars who are embracing land-grant values in their research. Our student athletes have also continued to help define MSU as a place of sportsmanlike competition and athletic excellence this year. Our football, men's basketball, and women's cross country teams all celebrated championships this year, and green and white were proudly worn at the inaugural Big Ten Championship football game. Our Spartan Men's Basketball Team also joined in the first-ever aircraft carrier game played on the U.S.S. Carl Vincent in recognition and celebration of the efforts our nation's troops make every day to protect our freedom. As a Spartan family, we are able to enjoy a collective pride in one another's accomplishments and have worked hard to be able to share some truly exciting moments both in the classroom and on the field.

Your generation will face some of the most pressing problems in history. As you explore these new horizons, have confidence in your ability to be a force which will shape the future, armed with the technical skills, youthful enthusiasm, and knowledge you have gained at MSU—one of the top 100 universities in the world. We are all counting on you to carry on Michigan State's tradition of being exceptional. As you prepare to leave the physical place of this campus, I urge you to reflect on the experiences you were able to have and the things you were able to learn because you were here—especially about what it means to be a Spartan. But I also want you to consider how you will make use of this strong heritage in the future. In seeking bold adventures, know that you have a solid foundation upon which to build new dreams, but that embracing change is also critical to advancing knowledge and transforming lives. On the banks of the Red Cedar, you have been part of a legacy of cutting-edge scholarship and committed citizenship, but now we send you forth from this place to create a new legacy for yourselves based on these values.

With congratulations from all of Team MSU, I wish you the best of luck for your continued success!

lou anna k. simon, ph.d. president

Ice clings to Beaumont Tower. During Homecoming week, green light bulbs replaced current bulbs to "glow green."



Chase O'Black





Evan Farinosi

A magnolia blooms near the MSU Chapel. Magnolia trees are abundant on MSU's campus.



Natalie Kolb

Junior Maranda Trombley watches "Where Soldiers Come From," a documentary made by Heather Courtney. "Where Soldiers Come From" is a look at a group of 20-year-old friends before, during and after their National Guard deployment to Afghanistan.

The sun sets leaving a vibrant sky over the East Lansing sykline. East Lansing is home to Michigan State University.



Chase O'Black



Evan Parinosi

A long exposure of Beaumont Tower shows the movement of night clouds. The tower chimes every half hour and each hour.



Cars and buses come and go in the midst of a Thursday night in the heart of downtown East Lansing.



Chase O'Black



Nathan Urban



Evan Farinost

The Earvin 'Magic' Johnson statue stands outside the Breslin Center. After two years in college, Johnson was drafted to the NBA in 1979.

Graffiti art covers the brick walls in this East Lansing ally located just off Grand River Avenue.



Evan Parnosi

2011/ 2012

WHO WE ARE
WHERE WE'VE BEEN
AND WHERE WE'RE GOING

WHO WE ARE
WHERE WE'VE BEEN &
WHERE WE'RE GOING

Though we all eventually branch off, we are forever intertwined with the spirit of **Michigan State University**