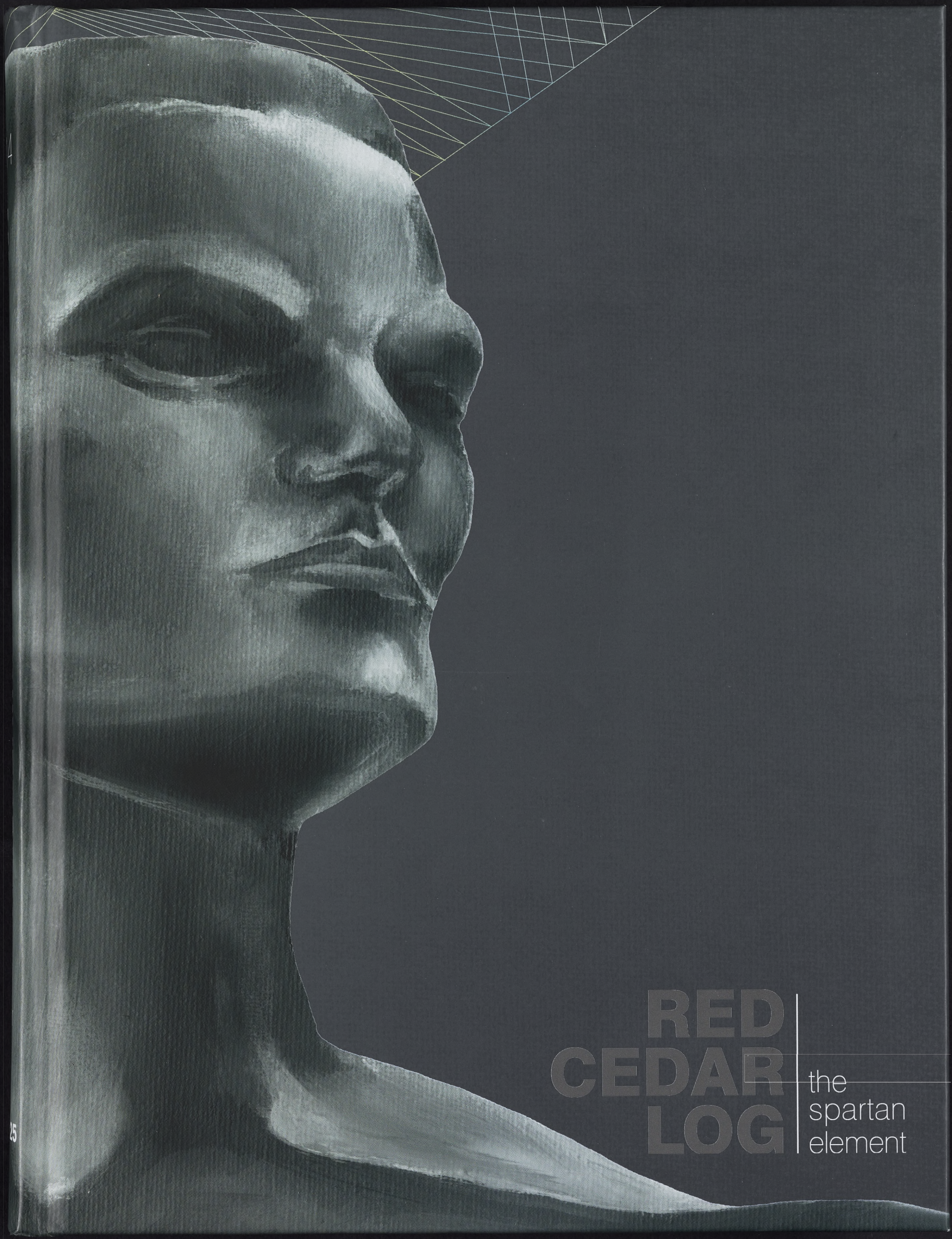

RED
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the
spartan
element

A. 2016-0090

Associated Students of
ASMSU
Michigan State University

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

volume 125
michigan state university
east lansing, mi 48825
enrollment: 37,278
www.msu.edu





We begin our Spartan existence as one small dot on the dog-eared campus map tucked in our back pockets.

Whether waiting in line for a scoop of Sesquicentennial Swirl or jostling through the crowded sidewalks on Farm Lane at noon, individuals collided — bonds formed.

We became a collective as we countered the skywritten taunts of our rivals with a positive purpose. From Harrison to Hagadorn, the student body created well-trodden paths, mastering the most efficient routes to class.

As the year progressed, the leaves changed and the Red Cedar iced over, but the Spartan spirit still coursed through our veins. It propelled us to Pasadena where it rained roses. The shower turned to confetti in Indianapolis, putting another title in the hands of Spartan Nation.

In arenas, studios and cafeterias, we developed. In laboratories and lecture halls, we discovered. As we journey between campus buildings and foreign countries, we forge a collective sense of identity from individual contributions.

This is the Spartan Element.



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MSU
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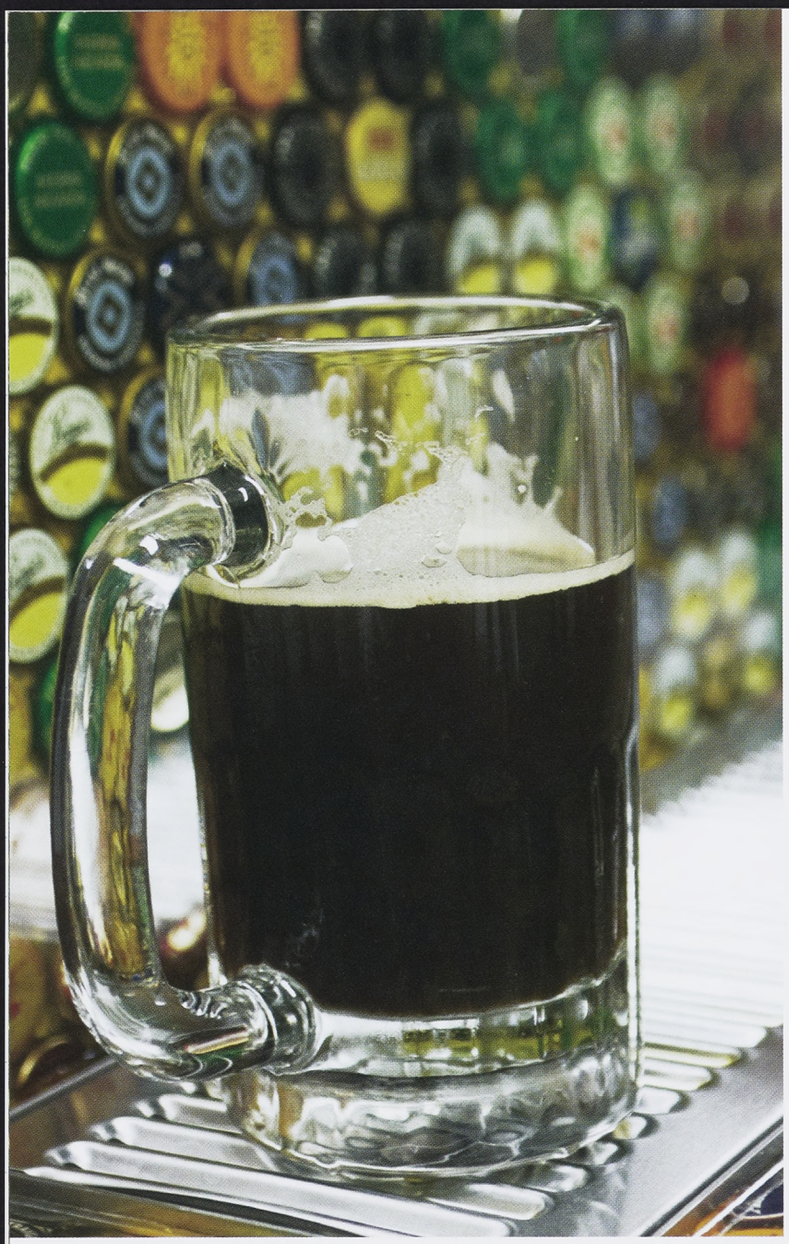

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Knocka















campus life

Some parts of campus are stubborn: brick buildings, sturdy metal railings and trees planted firmly in the soil. However, nothing escapes change. Just as our experiences are shaped by our environment, it is the student body breathing life into campus day after day that transforms this expanse of beauty, antiquity and innovation into a home.

We amble our way between classes on winding pathways and trampled grass, taking in the changing scenery. Fellow classmates lounging with books by the Red Cedar River. Club members vying for attention next to The Rock. Dedicated joggers trudging through rain, sleet and snow. An alumnus tossing crumbs to the ducks behind Hannah Administration Building with his son, a next generation Spartan.

From this vitality, we forge a common bond, a special and innate trait that makes us all Spartans. Combined, we create a wondrous world that embraces all types of student expression.

freedom rings at
beaumont t



TYPE CRYSTAL GAUSE
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

t tower



The bells inside Beaumont Tower ring aloud in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous speech, "I Have a Dream." The campus landmark has 49 bells that range in weight from 15 pounds to more than two tons.

50th anniversary of MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech commemorated at Beaumont Tower

Beaumont Tower is an icon of the university's landscape. Towering over north campus, it inspires lovers and musicians, and on Aug. 28, it stimulated a collective social consciousness.

High inside the tower, Ray McLellan, the university's official carillonneur, and his companion, Sally Harwood, prepared to display their expertise on the carillon. The pair shuffled their papers and chatted as they waited to play the instrumental bells in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Harwood sat down to perform first. At a height of roughly 5 feet 2 inches, she was at least three times smaller than the huge mechanism. As she began to play, her concentration became evident.

The carillon is played like a piano but requires the entire body, and Harwood flew over it. Starting with "Let the Merry Bells Ring Round," she played furiously for five minutes straight. After that, McLellan took over and ended the ceremony with "Free at Last."

> "We have come very far. However, we are not finshed — not by a long shot."

Combined, the carillonneurs had 25 years of playing experience.

"I was five in 1963, so I don't remember much," McLellan said in reference to King's famous speech, "but this is an honor."

Inside the belfry, the music could be felt from head to toe. To sophomore Cassandra Jones, the bells blended with the song of the birds and campus chatter to create a unique harmony. About 20 people lounged around and enjoyed the music; they included a family of five decked in green and white as well as a number of students who slowed to listen as they walked past.

"I walked all the way from west Holden Hall to be here. I think this is important," Jones said as she sat on a bench outside of the tower.

Though MSU admitted its first black student in 1899, it is unlikely that 50 years ago, when King first gave his address, a public institution would do anything of substantial caliber to honor an African American activist.

On a wall slightly hidden by shrubs, two elderly women sat together with the remains of their lunches around them. Sisters Pat and Sue Eisele, two alumnae, came to the gardens in front of Beaumont Tower to enjoy the event. Pat Eisele, a former history major, was 13 years old when King gave his famous speech. She noted the significance of the commemorative bell ringing.

"I think about where we've been and where we are," Pat Eisele said. "We have come very far. However, we are not finished — not by a long shot."

Since that summer day in 1963 when King stood at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and gave his speech, much has changed in the country. Whether the fight for civil rights ended in the past 50 years, or whether it is ongoing, the sounds of the carillon recognized King's goals. From the bells of Beaumont Tower, the refrain of "Let Freedom Ring" could be heard campuswide.



Sophomore Donovan Wilson tentatively strokes a snake after being reassured of his safety. The Herpetology Club displayed different species of snakes for students to interact with.



This bearded dragon perches upon junior Levi Storks' shoulder. The Herpetology Club displayed both reptiles and amphibians.

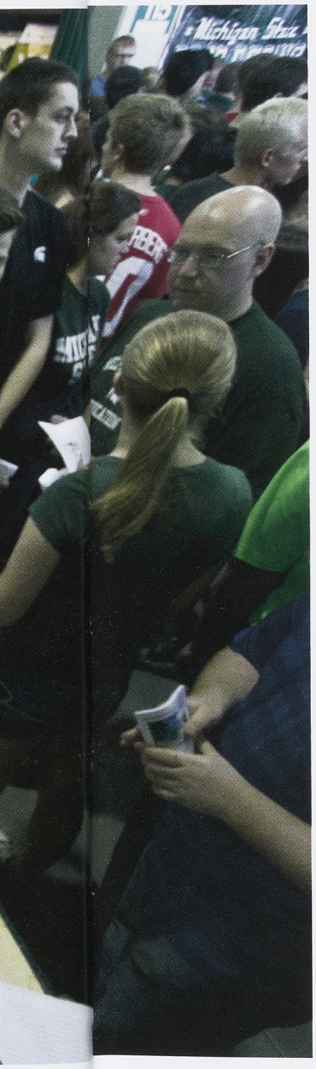


A model biodome constructed by the Student Greenhouse Project draws many curious onlookers. The biodome is intended to provide an opportunity for everyone to spend more time in nature while enjoying relaxing, restorative activites integrated with environmental education.

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

new nation, more participation

Sparticipation welcomes students to the extracurricular scene



No amount of free T-shirts, pens or food could satisfy the student body in the Breslin Center during Sparticipation, as students conglomerated and explored non-academic offerings for the upcoming school year. On the sweltering day of Aug. 27, students of every class flocked to wherever there was air-conditioning, signing club rosters along the way.

Floods of students, eager to advertise their respective clubs, rushed into the Breslin with arms full of posters, tri-fold display boards, exercise machines, reptiles, costumes, and even a mobile tiki bar. More than 300 clubs filled every nook and cranny of the arena, reaching as far as the basement of the facility. One such group was the Herpetology Club.

The slithering of the members' large snakes caught students' eyes as they shuffled around, making it difficult not to stop and inquire. The Herpetology Club pursues the preservation of reptiles and amphibians, as its members think they are important parts of the ecosystem. Animals such as iguanas and ball pythons were celebrities for the day as students came up to pet them.

"The reptiles generated more interest than they scared people," said zoology senior Hayley Sisson.

Other groups used different tactics to draw in passersby. Animosity, the MSU Anime Club, had representatives dressed in costumes as well as senior Katelyn Chambers holding a sign that read, "Gotta free them all."

"Most people would ask me 'Free what?' and 'What are you freeing?' I would say it was a reference to Pokémon and then explain that I was an officer for Animosity," Chambers said. "The sign seemed to garner interest."

> "Being a part of a club is being a part of something bigger than yourself."

It was not just the Anime Club that fought to be noticed. Members from the St. John Student Center held up a cardboard cutout of Pope Francis I, members of the Underwater Hockey Club held teammates on their shoulders and shouted for attention, and occasionally a simple announcement about free coffee mugs sent mobs of students in the direction of a particular booth.

MSU Smash, a club dedicated to the Nintendo hit "Super Smash Brothers," drew lots of students to its booth with two televisions blaring the game. Sophomore Eric Horlocker, the club's founder, said he participated in a lot of tournaments for MSU Smash and wanted other students to have an outlet to play the games.

"I'd love to see it branch out to a fighting club, and just to make a community," Horlocker said.

Many club representatives at Sparticipation expressed that participating in a club does more than boost a resume; it is avenue through which students can express themselves.

"Being a part of a club is being a part of something bigger than yourself," Chambers said. "It is where you can meet other people who have similar interests to your own and do related things with them."

When night fell, cloudy skies loomed overhead and drew Sparticipation, and the summer, to a close. Students slowly trickled out of the Breslin, leaving hundreds of food wrappers, club flyers and informational brochures on the ground. Clubs packed up their belongings — the task of welcoming new classmates to the student life scene on campus was complete.



Salads are a classic healthy food option. Loaded with fresh fruits and vegetables, they are a staple in campus cafeterias.

With help from Culinary Services' newer, healthier options, the freshman class can make their bodies happy and healthy and keep off the dreaded freshman 15.

TYPE: NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO: STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN: PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

teaching frosh to eat fresh

Students and staff weigh in on how to avoid the "freshman 15"



As soon as school was back in session, lost freshmen were all over campus, flooding the cafeterias with their unlimited meal plans. Treating each meal as Thanksgiving, new students discovered the beauty of the cafeteria — more commonly known as "the caf." However, if freshmen aren't mindful of what they eat, they could gain that fearful 15 pounds as easily as they swipe their IDs at the door of a dining hall.

Although Gina Keilen, registered dietitian and culinary coordinator for MSU Culinary Services, said weight gain for freshmen is not guaranteed, she admits it is common and can be caused by a cornucopia of culprits.

> "I am human. I will eat pizza and other food that is bad for you..."

"You're coming into an environment that is a really different schedule," Keilen explained. "Students are used to specific meal times for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Now they have higher stress, less sleep and exercise, more drinking and, ultimately, more eating."

From that perspective, gaining weight sounds inevitable, especially when dessert stations are constantly replenished with fresh-out-of-the-oven chocolate chip cookies. Despite the treats, Keilen affirmed that all of the cafeterias on campus provide nutritious but tasty options, such as chicken oscar with roasted asparagus, béarnaise sauce and wild whole grain rice that will help keep students fit.

"We cook as fresh as we can, as local as we can, and provide a variety of foods that aren't typical," Keilen said. "This is a good chance for students to go out on a limb and try something new and experiment with different tastes that they might not be used to."

However, students can't just be open-minded with regard to recipes. Sophomore Todd Tarian explained that health is not just about what students eat — it is also about what they do. Tarian acts as a personal trainer for his friends, helping them reach fitness goals with a proper nutrition and exercise plan. He urges people to take advantage of campus and live an active lifestyle in addition to making smart eating choices.

"This is college; typically people are going to drink more and people forget that alcohol has calories too," Tarain said. "If you drink four nights a week, you gain a lot of things that don't go to any benefit nutrition-wise and can turn into the freshman 15 very quickly."

Sophomore Anna Lu, a frequent caf-goer, suggested that the problem students have with putting on pounds is not the booze or the food, but that the cafeterias are too satisfying. Lu reminisced about her first time walking into The Gallery, her home away from home, and joked that it was like going to heaven.

"All of the cafeterias are clean, the food is well prepared and the space in general is beautiful," Lu said. "It doesn't feel like a cafeteria, which is dangerous because it is such a nice atmosphere that people want to go more often."

Lu's friends tease her for being a "caf rat," a student who practically lives in and refuses to leave the cafeteria. In self-defense, Lu explained that she uses the cafeteria as a place to study and meet new people. Lu added that for the most part, she tries to eat healthy.

"I am human. I will eat pizza and other food that is bad for you," Lu stated, "but at the same time I remind myself that it is important to eat right. I think that is where freshmen go wrong."

Even students like Lu, who like to spend more time inside the cafeteria than out of it, know that there is a sizeable difference between being a caf rat and a plain old pig.

waste to wonders

Anaerobic digester and renewable energy programs set university apart

Daily, thousands of trays filled with every food scrap imaginable careen down conveyor belts in campus cafeterias. That waste never goes to the garbage but rather into a 450,000-gallon tank on the university's dairy farm. Thanks to an anaerobic digester, a vacuum tank that takes scraps and turns them into renewable energy, waste is used not only to produce environmental fuels but also bring a whole new meaning to the mantra "Go Green!"

Located behind the Dairy Teaching and Research Center, the new anaerobic digester is the largest on any college campus in the nation — it has the capacity to convert 17,000 tons of waste per year. The university has exclusive use of one digester for energy purposes and another for research, a lab and the Anaerobic Digestion Research and Education Center (ADREC).

> "The digester is the initial step with our food waste and manure."

"It puts us in a unique area because we have the ability to have complete access from benchtop to commercial research," said Dana Kirk, a specialist in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering and manager of the digester project.

Once filled with food scraps from across campus, the digester tank is heated to 100 degrees and produces a biogas after a month-long simmer. The gas is captured and used to fuel several south campus buildings. The digester will be able to generate 2.8 million kilowatt-hours of electricity each year, and one kilowatt-hour is equivalent to a 100-watt light bulb burning for 10 hours.

A group of six to seven students, including graduate student Louis Faivor, maintain the digester.

"There are several daily operations necessary to operate the digester. These include visual inspections of all equipment, maintenance, receiving deliveries of feedstock and record keeping. However, the most critical is the feeding of the digester," Faivor said.

Food scraps and manure make up the digester's meals.

The average amount of scraps taken to the digester is 57,000 pounds per month. From July 2012 to July 2013, Brody Square sent about 211,362 pounds of leftovers to the digester — more than any other cafeteria.

"There are so many programs, policies and procedures that combined, make Culinary Services quite a green operation. The food waste program is an excellent example," said Culinary Services Sustainability Officer Caitlin Thompson. "We also feature local and regional products daily, and we also buy napkins made from recycled materials."

Through the use of torrefaction, which removes oxygen from typically non-recyclable materials, project manager Benjamin Darling said the university continues to make leaps in green technology.

"The digester is the initial step with our food waste and manure," Darling said. "We're also expanding by sending wood shavings to power plants as biofuels."

There is no foreseeable end to the research done in agricultural and environmental sciences. Students and staff continue to innovate with recycling to change these fields, and the ability to use top-notch resources allows for collaboration of ideas and experiences to make campus greener.



Located south of campus, the anaerobic digester converts food scraps and waste into sustainable energy. The digester's processes are complex, but efficient and cost-effective.

ANAEROBIC DIGESTER

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



The co-op community unites after fire in Phoenix house

In the wee morning hours of Sept. 4, sophomore Sarah Fentin was in her room on the top floor of the Phoenix cooperative house when she heard people shouting, "Fire!"

"I saw smoke coming from the roof and I called 911," Fentin said.

"We got the hell out," said senior and Phoenix resident Devin Culham.

Culham said she and her housemates waited across the street from 3 to 5 a.m., watching firefighters douse the flames that scorched the top parts of the house. In total, eight bedrooms were ruined, mostly by water from the fire hoses.

> "I lost everything."

The students then dispersed to friends' homes and other cooperatives with the help of Red Cross workers, who brought warmth to their cold stares as they watched the fire department dampen their evening further.

"I lost everything," said Fentin, who could see the sky through her bedroom ceiling. "My guitar's okay…but I lost my computer, record player, my records, my clothes, a bed and textbooks."

Five days after the fire, there were still belongings strewn about the house. Rooms were completely devoted to storage while construction went on in the parts of the house that were ravaged by fire and water. Workers repaired a square hole in the roof several yards wide to ensure the house would soon be habitable.

Culham said that although the event was terrifying, it had a silver lining for Phoenix house and the entire cooperative community. As the fire tore down parts of the house, it also lit a flame inside the community, prompting love and support from everyone.

"Everyone's been asking, 'How are you?'" Culham said. "It really means a lot."

Cambria Sobolewski, senior and MSU Student Housing Cooperative public relations consultant, said the other co-ops let displaced Phoenix students use their kitchens and even bought them pizza. Sobolewski herself housed several members in her co-op, Orion. Sobolewski said the SHC Board of Directors worked hard to make sure the students had places to sleep. Senior Charli Bradley, Phoenix president, said the community was there for them every step of the way.

"I feel like it has made us a lot closer," Bradley said.

Members say the entire cooperative housing organization is very close and gives individuals the opportunity to meet a wide array of people.

"Rarely do I walk around Grand River or campus and not see somebody that lives in a co-op or that I've met through a friend that lives in a co-op," said Sobolewski.

Living cooperatively is a great experience, according to Sobolewski, and is different from other housing situations.

"You are living cooperatively with between 4 and 28 other people — often strangers at first — where you take steps to maximize efficiency and minimize costs. To do this, we all do chores to make sure the house stays clean and in high quality," Sobolewski said.

Living cooperatively after a fire was nothing short of a challenge for the residents of Phoenix. This was especially true for 15 of the 29 people who moved into the co-op just one week before the incident.

"Once you live through a fire with someone, there's a bond that forms," Culham said.

As flames burned down the house, students wondered what would happen to their home at 239 Oakhill Ave. As the ashes settled, friendship became visible through the dust. Like the mythical creature itself, Phoenix rose from the ashes — the students were ready to rebuild.



A burnt pair of jeans lies among the ash in the Phoenix house. Many residents lost a majority of their personal belongings to the fire.



Members of Phoenix cooperative house recount their stories of the fire. Senior Devin Culham, sophomore Sarah Fentin and junior Charli Bradley were roused from sleep when the fire alarm rang.

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

brought together by fire



Members of the Student Housing Cooperative's maintenance team mend a hole in the roof left by the early morning fire. According to East Lansing Fire Inspector Dan Carter, fireworks caused the blaze.



Photo courtesy of RHA

Aziz Ansari steps onstage to begin his monologue. This was Ansari's first visit to the university.

Fans fill their seats in the Cobb Great Hall in preparation for the show. Ansari is most commonly known for his stand up comedy and television roles.

AZIZ ANSARI

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

fancy a **what?**



Aziz Ansari fans come and go near the entrance of the Wharton Center following Ansari's show. Fans packed the venue to see the stand-up comedian's performance.

Comedian Aziz Ansari performs at Wharton

Though he is known for hanging out with rap stars like Kanye West and being Ciroc's Smoothest Man of the Year, Aziz Ansari visited the Wharton Center on Sept. 6 to share some laughs with students. Little did the audience members of the sold-out show know, they would be the main punch line of the night.

Longtime fans in the audience, like junior Sameer Sethi, were prepared for Ansari's vulgar and honest style of comedy, but were clueless as to what the content would be.

"An old joke of his that always cracks me up is about Ansari's experience with texting girls," Sethi said. "He was texting this girl back and forth for a while, but when he finally asks her out for pizza she doesn't even respond. That exact experience happened to me the day I listened to his stand-up, so I knew I liked him from that point on."

As anticipated, Ansari did not hold back on profanity. Before the opening act from comedian Josh Rabinowitz, Ansari reminded the audience over the loudspeaker to shut their [insert bad word here] mouths during the show — to which everyone clapped ecstatically.

For some students, like sophomore Sara Schumar, Ansari's immediate vulgar diction came as a surprise.

"I watch the show he is in, 'Parks and Recreation,' all of the time and the humor on that is pretty clean, so I actually didn't expect his stand up to be like this," Schumar revealed. "I was never offended by it though, it was totally appropriate for the audience, which is full of college students."

After Rabinowitz warmed the crowd, Ansari took the stage and dove right into the theme of the evening: college relationships.

> "His view on relationships and love were very true, although I wish some of them weren't."

Ansari said he is "super appreciative" when colleges bring him out, but did not hesitate to poke fun at students' concept of dating.

Overall, Ansari's performance functioned as an incredibly funny forum for love. He kept the audience actively engaged by prompting them to raise their hands to questions he posed. At one point Ansari even took a fan's cell phone to mock his text messages to a woman he recently met.

Ansari asked the audience if they would prefer a dating culture like France's where people directly ask each other if they would "fancy a [insert bad word here]," or the one students like sophomore Sarah Belcher are accustomed to today — meet at a party, have meaningless conversations via text message and, if lucky, eventually meet again.

"His views on relationships and love were very true, although I wish some of them weren't. It just shows how much we rely on social media rather than communicating personally," Belcher said, though she also admitted that she prefers the American dating culture to France's. "I think you should say more than three words to someone if you really want to get to know them on a personal level."

With about 48,800 students on campus, finding a significant other should be like shooting fish in a barrel. However, it seems a more fitting analogy would be shooting minnows in the Red Cedar River.

"It is hard at times because college students have that reputation of partying and having random hook-ups," Belcher suggested. "There are people who don't prefer that lifestyle, which makes it difficult because people will assume because you are in college that you don't want anything meaningful."

Despite serving as the butt of his jokes, students gave Ansari a standing ovation. The audience dispersed and students continued their Friday night festivities — possibly taking Ansari's advice to return to an era when romance and dating were still coupled.

Students influence innovations through research

Every year, thousands of students from all disciplines contribute to research programs. They earned the university not only a spot in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings as one of the top 100 universities by reputation, but also a 14th place ranking among all research universities in the United States, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

These undergraduate researchers are the oil that keeps the innovation machine running. They sweep labs, transcribe interviews and feed fish, all in the name of discovery. Through hard, often unglamorous work, they influence impactful breakthroughs.

Megan Shannahan, assistant director of the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) program, has been with the program for three years and recognizes advantages in undergraduate research.

"Undergraduate research can be a really valuable experience for students, as it allows them to deepen their academic engagement by connecting classroom learning to a hands-on experience."

Janessa Esquible, a zoology senior, discovered the combination of experience and academia in the Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory on campus. On a daily basis, she is responsible for testing fish for bacterial kidney disease.

"Undergraduate research helped me realize what I want to do for a career," said Esquible, who desires to go to the coast and assist in marine mammal rehabilitation. "Research in every field is important."

Opportunities in undergraduate research are not just limited to biological science. Sophomore Michelle Perkowski, who conducted undergraduate research for three semesters, used her double major in social relations and policy and linguistics to assist a professor in a sociolinguistics lab. The team tracked the evolution of the Philadelphia accent through a long-term case study.

"It's not just a job, but it's advancing my education in its own right," said Perkowski. "It has helped me make a lot of outside class connections and has helped me bridge two disciplines."

> "Undergraduate research helped me realize what I want to do for a career."

Some students, like sophomore Joseph Sprow, were part of extended research groups. Sprow worked with Social and Psychological Approaches to Research on Technology and Interactive Environments (SPARTIE), which his freshman telecommunications professor introduced him to. He and his teammates eventually conducted surveys and researched interactive media, focusing on how video games impact immediate behavior.

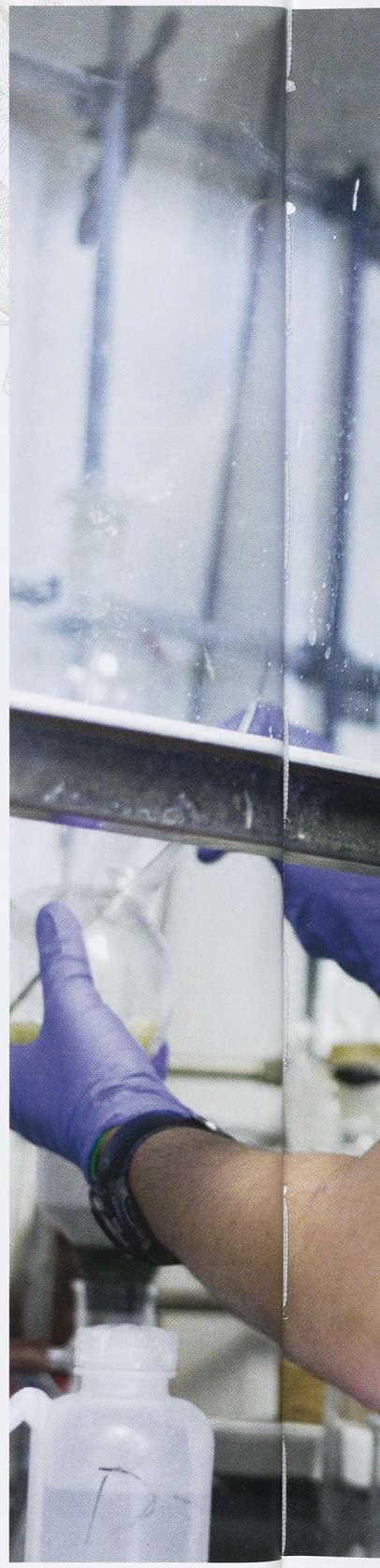
"I can't reveal too much, but we've found a lot of interesting things," Sprow said covertly.

Other special groups on campus provide students with undergraduate research opportunities as well. The Lyman Briggs College aims to offer students valuable learning experiences in a variety of scientific disciplines. Because of his outstanding scholarship and the resources provided by Lyman Briggs, junior Devin Carter was offered a position as a professorial assistant in a microbiology and molecular genetics lab. Although his responsibilities were those of routine lab maintenance and upkeep, in return he was able to learn new techniques and research skills in cloning.

"The undergraduate research program here at MSU has given me the opportunity to explore real-life application of the things I am studying. It's a big reason I came to MSU," said Carter, a New York native. "It makes me all the more passionate about my future job in research."

The university recognizes the efforts of these young minds by providing the opportunity to participate in the annual Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) held on campus. The entry categories vary from graphic design to natural science, and the forum is open to all class levels. The student researchers present their findings in an attempt to claim one of three monetary prizes. However, some students say the real reward may be more significant than a contest accolade.

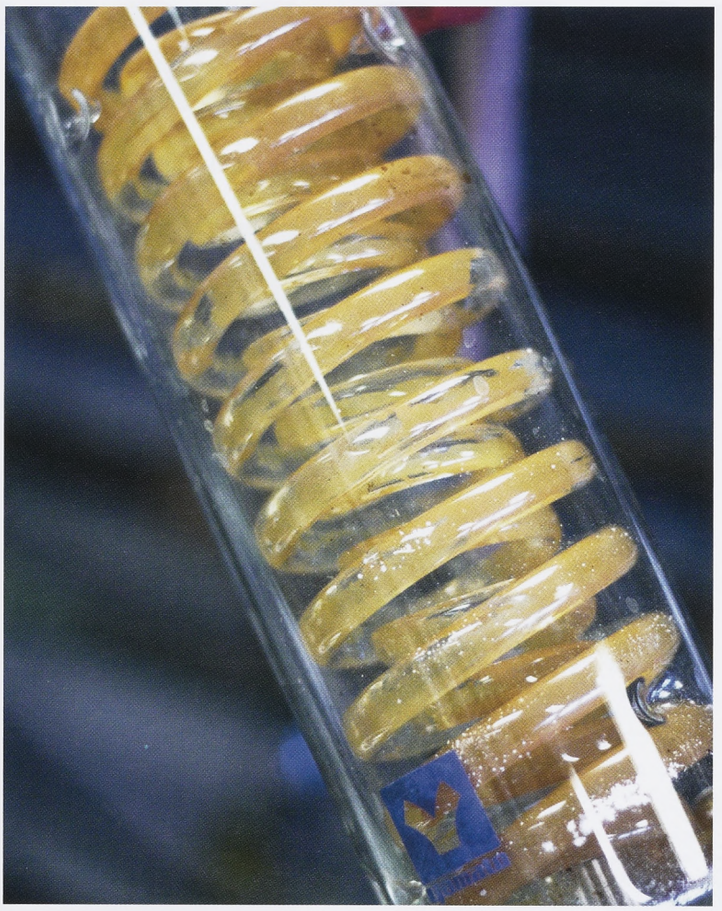
"On a campus this size," Shannahan said, "there is no limit to what can be done."

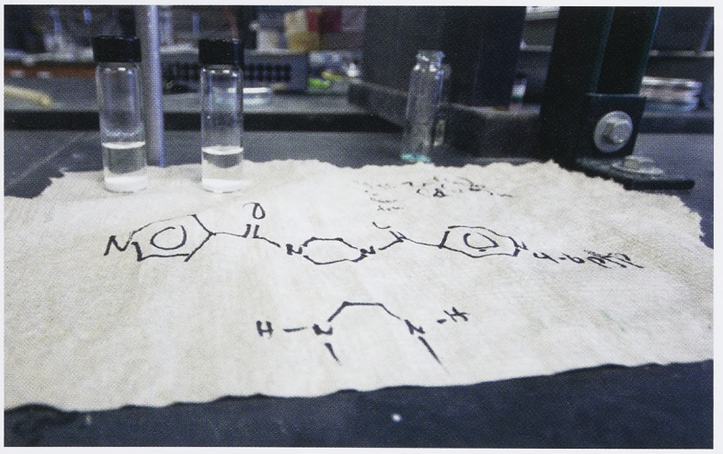


TYPE CRYSTAL GAUSE
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

fueling discoveries







Nate Murray, a sophomore in Lyman Briggs, conducts research in the Chemistry Building. Murray and other undergraduate students had a chance to conduct research in the afternoons between classes.

A glass cooling tube is one of many elements crucial to the chemistry labs. The labs are open for students to work on research when not in use.

Undergraduate chemistry students brainstorm on scrap paper. Lyman Briggs student researchers meet throughout the year to work on their own projects.

elementary peacemakers

Educator John Hunter explains innovative teaching philosophy



John Hunter explains his World Peace Game to students in the RCAH Theater Sept. 11. The game is a hands-on simulation that asks students to solve political, environmental and economic problems that occur in today's world.

JOHN HUNTER

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

Members of one country's presidential cabinet met regarding a peace settlement with rival territories. A treaty was signed and freedom reigned across the land. The combined efforts of many bright minds overcame contemporary socio-economic dilemmas and achieved the impossible — world peace. But for these policymakers, the greatest mark of success was a little gold star on their achievement boards.

These young world ambassadors were members of John Hunter's fourth-grade class.

On Sept. 11, Hunter joined students from the Residential College of Arts and Humanities (RCAH) to discuss the creation and implementation of his strategic teaching tool, the World Peace Game. The exercise divides students into groups as representatives of various countries and throws them into military, environmental, social and economic debacles that are seen in today's world. The students are free to declare war, create alliances and even launch nuclear attacks in order to obtain greater wealth for their nation. Meanwhile, they are faced with water rights issues, terrorist threats, climate change, poverty and famine.

Though the childrens' solution to the current state of international affairs is mere simulation, the majority of global conflicts they were challenged with exist in the real world. Many attendees of Hunter's talk, including RCAH junior Jillian Coy, were surprised with some of his comments in regards to such issues.

"What I came away with was that he genuinely apologized to us for the state of the world that his generation has left us with, and that was really powerful for me," Coy said. "The fact that this elementary teacher was apologizing to us was just incredible. He really thinks that kids can change the world."

As a child, Hunter experienced firsthand the potential of students to redefine the status quo.

"He came to one of our classes the next day and talked about how he was one of six black students who integrated to his school in Virginia," said RCAH junior Sarah Shaw. You hear of these stories, but really hearing from someone was incredible."

> "It was a great reminder of not underestimating people because of one factor, and in this case, age."

The national and global recognition of Hunter's work is vast. The documentary revealing his classroom experiments, "World Peace and other Fourth Grade Achievements," has been viewed around the world. The public attention earned Hunter and one of his fourth-grade classes a trip to the Pentagon in 2012 to pass on their wisdom to the real players of the world peace game. After students told government officials how they dealt with various conflicts, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta awarded the class commemorative coins, following military tradition, to honor them for their insight into contemporary issues.

As Hunter's recognition grows, he continues to inspire generations young and old.

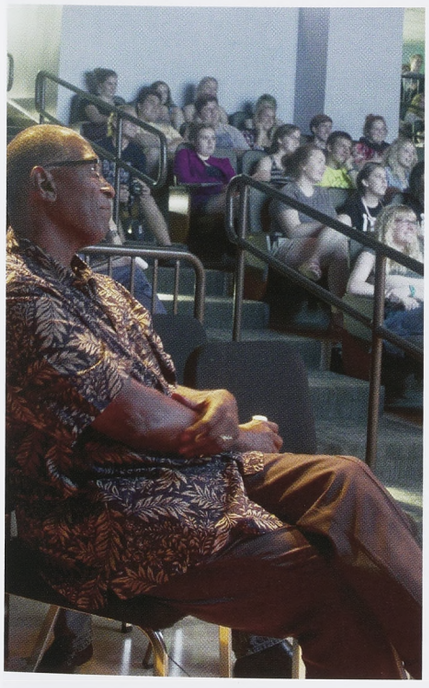
"I'm thinking about doing Teach for America because of him," said Coy. "I really want to be involved with kids and just to see the impact that a good teacher can have on kids is incredible, and I don't think we have enough."

Junior Faith Perrenoud was also impressed.

"It was a great reminder of not underestimating people because of one factor, and in this case, age," said Perrenoud. "John was so humble talking about his work with the kids and focused more on kids than himself."

For John Hunter's fourth-graders, their ability to collaborate and overcome the game's obstacles proved that a triumph can be accomplished by anyone, of any age.

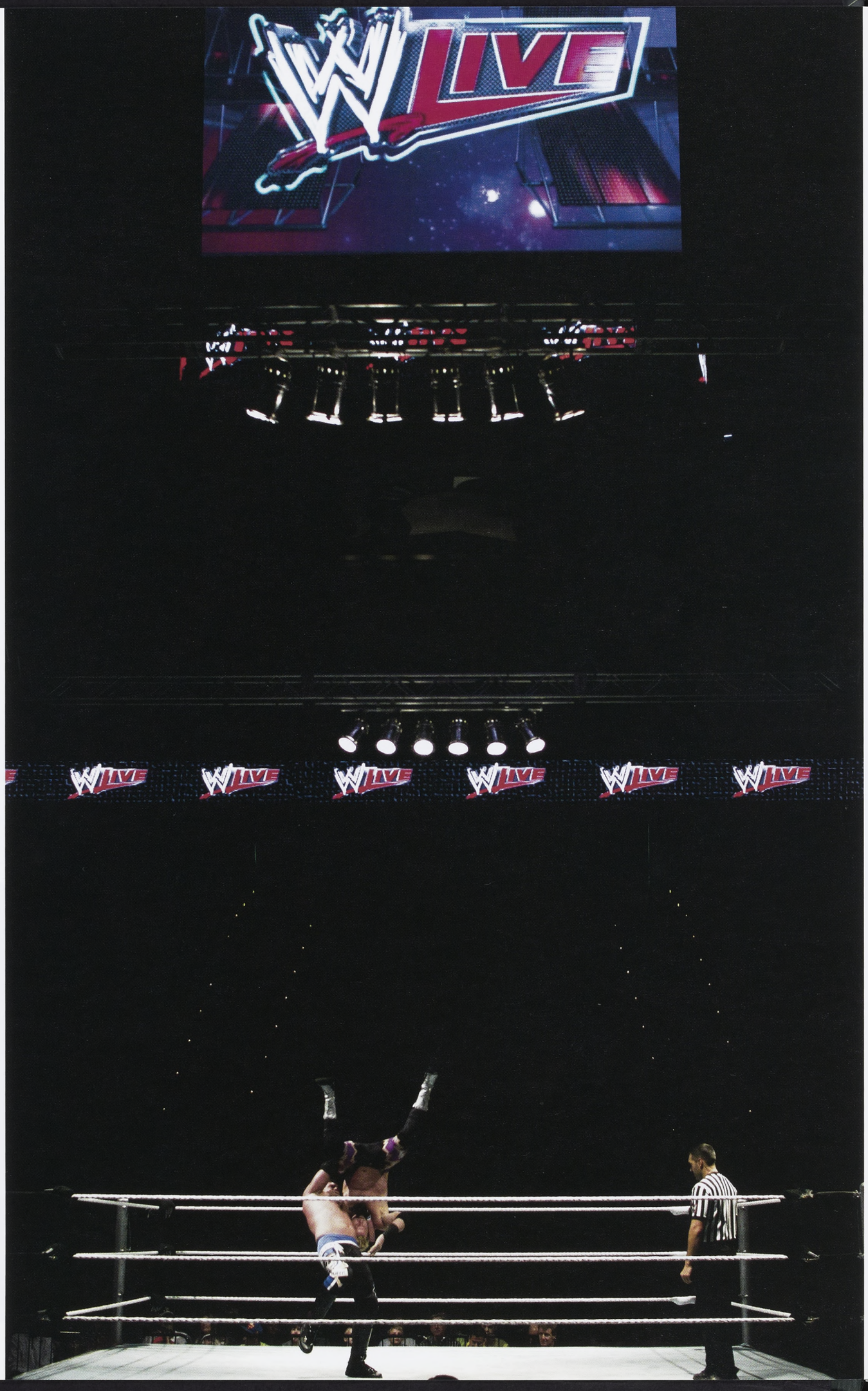
"When I look at things like the game and what happened with these kids, just one of you is in position to leverage something good for the world," Hunter said. "That can make all the difference, and if you've picked up a tool from this game, a thinking tool, a critical thinking skill that helps you do that, you may save us all."





John Hunter relives his students' accomplishments as he watches a clip from a documentary about them. Hunter and his fourth grade class were invited to the Pentagon to meet Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta.

Freshmen Mykayla Smith, Maggie Chesbrough and Rachel Gibbard listen to John Hunter describe his World Peace Game. The RCAH Theater was packed when Hunter gave his speech.



WWE superstar Curtis Axel forcefully throws Jack Swagger to the ground. The fighters wrestled for the chance to become WWE Champion.

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

big bang at the breslin

WWE fighters meet at Breslin for the ultimate showdown

"And in this cornerrrr..." were the words that echoed through the Breslin Center on Sept. 13 where hundreds of people spent their Friday night getting hyped while watching wrestlers get pinned, choked and thrown to the mat at WWE Live. Even four-year-old Michael Turnolt, dressed up in a wrestling mask and tight wrestling spandex pants, said it was awesome to see his favorite WWE wrestlers fight it out.

However, before some of the WWE legends such as John Cena and Rob Van Dam took the stage, one of the university's very own legends, Mr. Tom Izzo, stepped into the ring where he was presented with the WWE Championship Award. Izzo did what Izzo does best and pumped up the crowd to new heights.

The fight at the Breslin was open for students and individuals from all over to bask in the glory of wrestling superstars.

"Kane is definitely my favorite fighter," said 13-year-old Josh Mallet. "His chokeslam is the coolest thing you'll see out there in the ring."

Mallet became ecstatic as Kane came through the bleachers to take on Darren Young for the first fight of the evening. Various cheers from the crowd accompanied the many punches, tosses, body slams and flips that ensued.

The excitement was exemplified by juniors Travis and Dylan Morrison, who boasted that the WWE fight at the Breslin was the seventh fight they'd been to. Although they admitted to liking the classic undercut to the face, they said there is "nothing better than seeing a wrestler get clotheslined by the other guys."

The night continued with numerous blows to the face, headlocks and body-slams, with

"His chokeslam is the coolest thing you'll see out there in the ring."

the crowd getting louder and more enthusiastic as the event went on. However, even in all of the madness, it was apparent that there was etiquette involved in attending a WWE fight. One must know whom to boo and whom to cheer, and which chants to utter when different wrestlers step into the ring.

When wrestler Daniel Bryan entered, the crowd was divided with two different mantras: "Yes!" and "No!" Fans of Bryan were the leaders of the "Yes!" chant, an affectionate reference to Bryan's signature move the "Yes! Lock." With the move, Bryan lays the opposing wrestler on his stomach, forces their arm behind his back and subsequently pulls back on the wrestler's head. Bryan claimed ownership of the "Yes!" chant when he shouted the term repeatedly on his way to the ring and after defeating his opponent in the 2010 WWE World Championships.

Some exhibited less admiration for Bryan. Kang Jackson, a 19-year-old from Sterling Heights mocked Bryan's signature move by flashing a sign with the infamous Grumpy Cat and a giant "NO!" at the bottom.

"We can't let his head get too big," Jackson said.

As the yelling between wrestlers got louder, so too did the crowd's screams of excitement. Every time a wrestler's body hit the ground, whether it was in the ring or outside of it, a new wave of an electric-like feel reverberated through the crowd. Although it was a bit more unconventional than most sporting events held at the Breslin, the crown jewel MSU sports arena came through and accommodated yet another enthusiastic crowd in traditional, big time fashion.

the mystic turtle



Senior John Dindia started an at-home beer brewery called "The Mystic Turtle" as a hobby. IPAs and stouts are among the types of beer that Dindia enjoys to brew.

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI





Taking inspiration from other microbreweries in the state, The Mystic Turtle crafts a range of brews that differ from the average can at the corner store.

Brewing equipment costs up to thousands of dollars, and the proper use of ingredients and materials is crucial for a high-quality turn out.

Student creates craft home brews from scratch

Since 9500 B.C. during the Neolithic era, beer has been a staple of society. No one can argue that the spirit indeed raises spirits while also increasing human interaction. For example, it makes it easier to devour a Menna's dub or flirt with a guy across the room who is probably out of your league.

Today, the beer industry is massive, serving people from around the world who are looking to loosen up and have a good time. Locally, beer is sold in nearly every grocery and convenience store. However, for many poor college students, raising the money to buy a six-pack of cold ones has become a chore.

> "To me, brewing beer is the perfect combination of science and beer."

This is where innovators like senior John Dindia step in. Creating beer in his East Lansing house for more than three years, Dindia has always had a passion for the art of brewing. From the time he concocted his first batch of amber ale to the oatmeal stouts he now creates at his self-made Mystic Turtle brewery, Dindia has enjoyed bringing his friends and family together for a good time.

By skimming books and searching Internet resources, Dindia learned how to brew.

"I started brewing beer because I started getting a major appreciation for really good beer," he said. "It's too expensive to just buy beer now, though."

Dindia said part of his inspiration was a desire to create things from scratch.

"I'm really into being self-sufficient. I cook my food and make my own cheese," he said.

However, not all batches went smoothly for Dindia. When brewing his first beer from his brother-in-law's starter kit on his mom's stove, the batch overflowed all over the kitchen, sending his mother into a fit of rage.

"She said I would never brew beer again," he recalled.

That did not deter Dindia, who now brews beer almost weekly in 10-gallon quantities, allowing the cost of beer to drop to 50 cents.

"He would rather have people drink his beer than going out and buying cheap beer," said Dindia's friend, junior Mitch Taplin.

Having grown too large for his mother's stove, Dindia moved into the basement of his house on Virgina Avenue, where he engineers brews of all kinds. Through his own recipes, Dindia creates an array of India Pale Ales (IPAs), stouts, ales and lagers.

"To me, brewing beer is the perfect combination of science and beer," Dindia said.

Senior Kristy Morell said she helped Dindia brew on two occasions, and she discovered the ins-and-outs of the brewing process as well as Dindia's delicious beer menu.

"He's very tedious and very detailed with his work," Morell said.

Dindia's signature beer, a smooth oatmeal stout, is a favorite of Taplin's.

"It's up there with some very good craft beers," Taplin said. "It's a full flavor. It's different, and I've never tasted a beer like it before."

One of Dindia's favorite parts of drinking beer is the sense of community and responsibility that it inspires. Nearly every time a friend comes over, he shares one of his creations with them.

Like a true artist, Dindia is inspired by other microbreweries that have evolved in the state of Michigan.

"I really like Shorts Brewing Company and Founders Brewing Company. Shorts really pushes the envelope when it comes to recipes," Dindia said.

For many students, drinking cheap beer and having a fun time at football games is what constitutes a great weekend. For Dindia, using the knowledge from thousands of years of recipes to craft his own beers, weekends are the time to kick back and sip on his new creation, and smell the aromas of his hard work.



Junior Shaylyn Adams, an Arts and Humanities student, chalks a poem as people rush past on their way to class. On Sept. 18, students from the Residential College of Arts and Humanities Center for Poetry chalked poems on the River Trail to celebrate fall.

TYPE CRYSTAL GAUSE
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

literary graffiti

RCAH Center for Poetry brings awareness with chalking



On the banks of the Red Cedar, just before the chill of fall settled over campus, the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH) Center for Poetry passed out sidewalk chalk to passing students. Filling the cement cracks with poetic pastels, they left their literary mark on the pavement, letting people know what the center is all about.

Founded in 2007, two years after the college itself, RCAH Center for Poetry strives to spread poetry awareness campuswide. Through a series of annual events, they provide a creative space for any student with a passion for writing.

"Our goal here is to make poetry accessible to the MSU community and to have fun with it," said Assistant Director Linnea Jimison. "We want people to have poetry in their daily lives."

> "Poetry is important to everyday life regardless of your background."

One of the center's most attended events is the Festival of Listening, an opportunity for anyone to share their poetry in any language they desire. Last year some even shared poetry in American Sign Language.

"It's a great way to bring people together on one level," said RCAH sophomore Kelsey Block. "Sharing your own experiences through poetry looks different, feels different and sounds different."

The center also holds an annual poetry contest open to any student in the university, with the opportunity to claim a $500 grand prize. Their outreach program encourages Michigan high schoolers to share poetry with younger students.

The RCAH Center for Poetry is made possible by the dedication of student volunteers like Block. Common responsibilities include event arrangements, office hours and website updates. There are six volunteers and two directors on staff who coordinate the different events. These dedicated individuals make it their duty to inspire and create a literary safe space on campus.

Laurie Hollinger, an RCAH senior who has been with the program since 2010, values the art of poetry for a number of reasons.

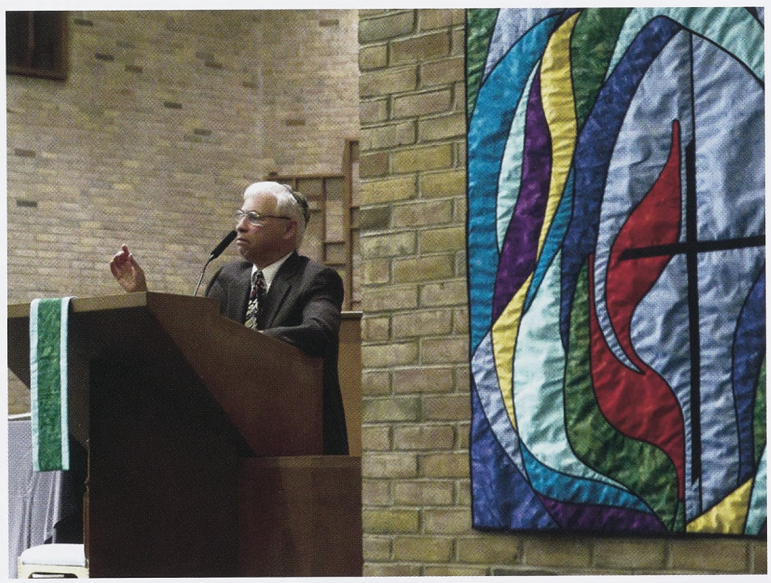
"Poetry is important to everyday life regardless of your background," said Hollinger. "The reading of it helps make sense of what may be going on in your head while the writing of it is a release of emotions. It is both unique and personal. There are no boundaries with what you can do."

In addition to colorful stanzas decorating the River Trail, the RCAH Center for Poetry is working to gain visibility with the Poetry in Motion movement, a national initiative used to bring poetry to public transportation systems. The center organized the first program in Michigan. Displayed in select CATA buses in the greater Lansing area, their placards with poetic verse help to expose all citizens to poetry on an everyday basis. By including prose amongst ordinary bus ads, the program subtly adds depth to a rider's commute.

Though headquartered in Snyder Hall, the center continues to expand into the East Lansing community, encouraging all students to explore the art of poetry. With inspiration right outside one's window, why not create?

a bird's-eye view

Interfaith celebration offers look into the meaning of peace



Michael Zimmerman shares the Jewish perspective of peace. Speakers from six different faiths also spoke at the event.

An audience member carefully places his paper crane with others at the front of the church. Toward the end of the event, all of the paper cranes were displayed, representing each faith's commitment to work together for peace.



Senior Dakota Riehl stood in the front of the United Methodist Church and addressed the crowd gathered for the annual Interfaith Celebration of the International Day of Peace. She told the story of a little girl who, after the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima, was hospitalized due to radiation poisoning. After weeks of being in the hospital, the girl was told that if she folded 1,000 paper cranes, she would be granted one wish. Upon completing the task,

> "When we, together, oppose injustice and violence, we become leaders of peace."

rather than wishing to feel better or be released from the hospital, she wished for world peace.

Throughout the night on Sept. 19, members of the audience folded symbolic paper cranes while six speakers from different religions presented their views



TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

on peace — what it means, how it's transforming, and how to improve society overall. The main objective of the annual gathering was to showcase the power of global unity.

"When we, together, oppose injustice and violence, we become leaders of peace," wrote university President Lou Anna K. Simon in a letter presented at the beginning of the event.

Junior Carolyn White was the first speaker to take the stage. She recounted her adoption of the Buddhist ideology. Focusing on the importance of finding a positive light in every thought, White concluded that all humans have a stream of consciousness that influences behavior.

"I really liked what Ms. White said about the stream of thoughts," said Marie Winkley, "and it especially applies to college students. It's so quick to judge, but if we take a second and pay attention to the stream of thoughts going through our head, we can transform the way we think about things."

International Student and Scholar Advisor Hersh Sisodia, who presented the Hindu ideology, mentioned a similar concept. He noted that peace is more of an internal conflict; it not only promotes non-injury and non-violence to others, but to personal thoughts as well.

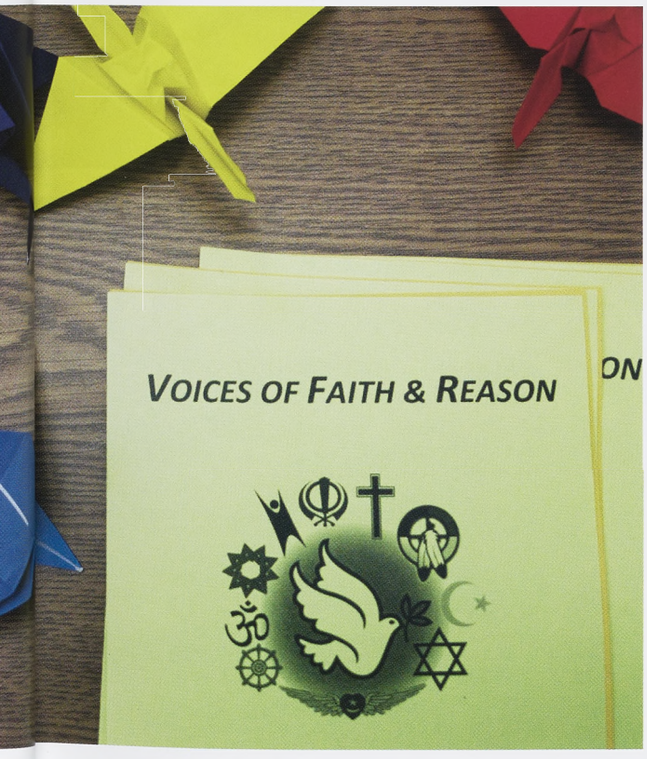
"The idea of non-injury to thought really intrigued me," said Mark Reight. "How can we expect to be peaceful toward others if we aren't peaceful to ourselves? It is definitely something to think about."

As the rest of the speakers relayed their views of peace, members of the audience moved to the front of the church to place their colorful paper cranes on a large, round wire cloud. The bare wire orb was transformed during the night. It began as an empty carcass of wire and eventually turned into a nest for the vibrant, colorful cranes of peace.

The last of the speakers, Jew Michael Zimmerman, told a parable from his own life. One morning as he stepped outside his house, he noticed water dripping from a gutter onto a rock. He made the same observation day after day. After a while, he noticed that the rock was beginning to change shape because of the water droplets.

"As I was thinking about this, I suddenly realized something very important to me," said Zimmerman. "Much like the rock, drop by drop, person by person, generation by generation, the world is being transformed."

With numerous allegories and anecdotes, the event's presenters encouraged individuals of all different faiths and backgrounds to have an open mind. As they finished folding the last of their paper cranes, some attendees realized that it may be easier to see a clear path to world peace from a bird's-eye view.



Programs and paper cranes sit on tables near the entrance of the United Methodist Church where the event was held. The church provided origami supplies and instructions to attendees upon arrival.

defending t



Beech maples make up a large portion of the woodlot. The smaller trees lie largely dormant until a hole opens up in the canopy, at which point they grow rapidly to reach the sunlight.

Pokeweed, a native Michigan plant, is one of the many types of foliage in Baker Woodlot. Although it looks appealing, pokeweed is a poisonous plant.

Naturalist Peter Carrington divulges his knowledge to the group. Students Winston Carr and Ginger Thurston both enjoy the natural spaces on campus and appreciated learning more about their contents.



TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

the indigenous

Students discover the benefits of natural spaces on campus







Spartans constantly see and hear the phrase "Go Green!" However, aside from walking along the Red Cedar River to class, few actually take the time to explore the green, natural spaces on campus. On Sept. 20, a group of students, adults and even a few little tikes made time in their day to take an hour-long tour of the Baker Woodlot — one of the university's largest natural spaces.

Removed from students' typical routes to class and home, the Baker Woodlot is located off Service Road between Bogue Street and Farm Lane. It covers an area of 78 acres and is considered a Class I Natural Area, meaning it is managed at the highest level of protection and the lowest level of usage.

> "There were so many plants that I didn't even know existed."

The space remains a hidden gem to some, like third-year graduate student Winston Carr who works nearby. Carr uses the area as an escape from the intensity of his job and other distractions in his life.

"I really enjoy hiking and activities like that, and I love to walk through here," said Carr. "When my girlfriend told me there was going to be a tour going on, I thought it'd be cool to have someone explain to me some of the things I've been looking at on my walks."

Peter Carrington, edible and toxic plant specialist and assistant curator of the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden, led the tour of the woodlot. Carrington apologized to his group in advance for not remembering their names, joking that he was no name expert — except in terms of plants, of course. After everyone dutifully and generously applied bug spray, Carrington led the group through the forest.

On the surface, the tour helped people identify toxic plants, like pokeweed and baneberries, and provided historical facts about native plants, animals and insects. However, Carrington hoped that his audience would take away more than just fun facts and what-not-to-eat knowledge.

"Natural spaces allow people a place to go when they need to reconvene their own selves," explained Carrington. "You can go stand in a fairly majestic place where the only audio is the sound of the birds and trees, unless you bring your iPod, but there is something beautiful about being able to self-reflect in such a peaceful and natural area."

Despite the constant swatting of mosquitoes, enthused adventurers accepted Carrington's offer to extend the tour an extra 30 minutes. They ventured deeper in the woods, taking in the sparkle of wildflowers, the majesty of towering trees and the symphony of trickling springs and chirping birds.

"There were so many plants that I didn't even know existed," said senior plant biology and entomology major Ginger Thurston. "Learning about the natural spaces around us is something really cool that a lot of people take for granted. I discovered a lot just in a short amount of walking."

Once everyone had enough of the pesky bugs, Carrington led the way back to the entrance of the woodland. Thurston and Carr teased that though they needed a big beer after the tour to chase away the itchy bug bites, they would still recommend it, especially to those who don't know what the Baker Woodlot is.

"I hope the existence of these places and the awareness continue to grow," said Carrington. "There are always going to be relentless people who don't see any value in them and push to turn these spaces into something economic. It is important for people to know about places like the Baker Woodlot. Natural spaces need their defenders."



A disposed Verve can sits on the deck during a Club Verve meeting. Verve ParTea is a non-carbonated energy drink made by Vemma that has a fruit tea flavor and 40 milligrams of natural caffeine.

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

swerve on verve?

Students debate legitimacy of the fast-growing Club Verve

Notorious for buying Ramen noodles in bulk, scrounging couches for loose quarters to do laundry and attending events strictly for free meals, college students are the epitome of frugality. Or at least they were, until Club Verve came to campus and swept students away with the opportunity to make some fast, fat cash.

Verve is a product promoted by the company Vemma as a healthy energy drink infused with 12 full-spectrum vitamins and over 65 major plant-sourced minerals. The company's advertising strategy for its products is network marketing; they devote money to the people who choose to advocate for and sell their products rather than traditional forms of promotion.

While some stray away from joining Veema in the fear of it being a scam, others like junior Luke Hessler see it as an alternative to school — a way to use ingenuity to make big bucks.

Hessler is the founder and president of MSU's Club Verve, established in December 2011. Prior to Vemma, Hessler was a James Madison College student studying international relations. After joining, he reduced his course load to dedicate more time to Vemma. While enrolled in wine tasting and golf, Hessler made an estimate of $24,000 each month as a byproduct of the income he receives from the 97 other students he convinced to sign up.

"I want to get my degree at some point, but there is just no rush," commented Hessler. "If I get it in four years or if I get it in six, it is still the same degree. If I could pick a perfect job, it'd be to be my own boss, work when I want, have a sense of purpose and be able to travel around the world, and that is really what Vemma has given me the opportunity to do."

With Club Verve's membership exceeding 200 and continually growing, the debate to join the organization continues to divide students. While some side with Hessler, others like junior Dan Bowers view the club as a pyramid scheme that students should avoid.

"I think people in Verve go overboard with it. People get led astray by the fancy cars that a few kids drive around that say 'Verve' on it, and they think they are going to make it big if they join," explained Bowers. "What it comes down to is that you need a backup plan. If Vemma suddenly dives and you don't have an education, what are you going to do? You need something to fall back on other than your high school diploma."

"In network marketing, if a person is savvy and has the passion to build a network, they can easily ourperform people, work their way to the top, and be successful."

To add another perspective to the ongoing discussion, Forrest Carter, the Eli Broad College of Business faculty director for marketing, weighed in on how to distinguish a business scam from a real opportunity.

"Network marketing is a very legitimate approach for a company to distribute a good or service. It differs greatly from pyramid schemes, which are illegal, and generally have no way for someone at the bottom to outperform or precede someone above them," stated Carter. "In network marketing, if a person is savvy and has the passion to build a network, they can easily outperform people, work their way to the top, and be successful."

What should students believe? If Hessler is right, Club Verve might be the answer for college students' widely common post-grad debt. However, if Bowers is correct in his view of Vemma as a scheme, students might as well be throwing their money right into the garbage — for a small fee, of course.

a whole **new world**

Meet-and-greet connects student veterans with campus resources

From waking up at the crack of dawn to train in the blazing heat of a foreign country to starting college, it's a monumental leap. Every year, student veterans attempt this feat, trading in their combat uniforms for textbooks and North Face backpacks.

In addition to starting off at a new place with unfamiliar people, seeking help is one of the biggest challenges for student veterans. The Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities aims to help them overcome such an obstacle.

On Sept. 24, the group hosted a welcoming event in Bessey Hall to help student veterans and their families with the sudden adjustment to college life.

"The point really is to celebrate them, thank them for being here at MSU and for their service to our country — that's the main goal tonight," Psychiatric Disabilities Specialist John Pedraza explained.

Numerous organizations like the Office of Financial Aid, the Office of the Registrar, MSU Counseling Center, MSU Safe Place, Michigan Works and the Student Organization for Veterans offered a warm welcome to students and families. A giant cake was smothered in sugary frosting and adorned with a patriotic red, white and blue flag. Members of the Navy, Air Force and Army picked up plates and chatted with one another. Occasionally, a chant of "hoorah" bounced off the walls.

President Lou Anna K. Simon addressed the crowd of veterans and their families about their sacrifice and commitment.

"You have great passion and determination," Simon said with a smile. "And we know that you want to feel more a part of Michigan State University in a variety of ways."

In order to integrate student veterans into the university community, student speakers and various groups spoke with veterans about the plethora of campus resources available to them. Local businesses donated two basketballs signed by Tom Izzo and gift certificates to a nearby shooting range in gratitude of the veterans' services.

"The point really is to celebrate them, thank them for being here at MSU and for their service to our country — that's the main goal tonight."

Aside from winning items from the raffle and learning about organizations for student veterans, the event enabled attendees like senior Darcy Sheppard to regain contact with fellow servicemen and women. Sheppard, an education senior who served in the Army for five years in both Germany and North Carolina, came back to her home state to become a teacher. Upon completing her term, she considered only one university for her special education studies.

"My blood has been green my whole life. I knew I wanted to come back here, but I didn't know what I wanted to study right away. It turns out they have a really good education program," Sheppard said.

With a college degree in hand, Sheppard hopes to return to the U.S. military for a fulfilling future.

"My long-term vision is to work for the Department of Defense by teaching at schools on military bases overseas," Sheppard beamed. "I want to support the military but in a different capacity."

Freshman Mary Lincoln explained that veterans comfort their military comrades, especially in unfamiliar environments.

"I moved here from Washington D.C., and sometimes I feel out of place, but then I have to remember that there are a lot of other kids here from military backgrounds, and they're people that I can connect with," Lincoln said. "And if you're a military kid, you really have that special bond that not many people really have."

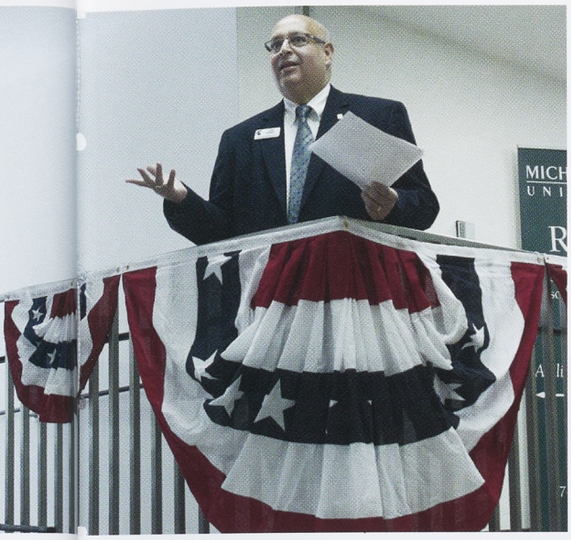
With support from their peers and the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities, student veterans had tools to prepare them for the years of learning that lay ahead. These Spartans, though already vastly traveled, had a new and challenging path to walk down.





STUDENT VETERANS

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



John Pedraza, a psychiatric specialist, welcomes student veterans and their families. Others also spoke at the event, including President Lou Anna K. Simon.



A veteran's family member cuts a cake that reads, "Thank You Veterans and Servicemen." Supporters and honorees mingled while enjoying food provided at the event.



A group of friends congregate in the lobby of Bessey Hall. Student veterans invited friends and classmates to celebrate alongside them at the welcome event.



Lights illuminate the Union during U-Fest. The festival included activities, booths and games for students.

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



treasure trove

33rd annual U-Fest brings out the inner child in students

The energy at the Union on Sept. 26 surged as students scurried about the building with one goal in mind: complete the map. A treasure trove of gifts and prizes awaited them, bringing endless smiles and fruitful hunting.

The scavenger hunt was one of the many activities at UAB's 33rd annual U-Fest extravaganza. Through the hunt, participants were guided past the booths of numerous companies, restaurants and other institutions from all over East Lansing that distributed and promoted their various products. Vendors thought free goods might attract college students. And they were right.

One of the first stops on the map was the Insomnia Cookies booth, where visitors could taste test their delectable treats.

"I was passing by the Union on my way back from class and decided to stop in and check it out," said sophomore Calvin Manitowabi, waiting in line for free Insomnia Cookies. "I'm definitely glad I did. I don't even have to worry about dinner tonight."

Another stop on the map was loaded with colorful pouches to store all their free goods. Several cutouts of major movie characters, such as Mike and Sully from "Monsters Inc." or the animated stars of "Wreck It Ralph," were available for photo ops. Students uploaded their clever or funny picture with the cutouts to Instagram, and the picture with the most likes or comments won additional prizes.

The third point on the map seemed to be the participants' favorite. Amid a sea of onlookers, a giant inflatable island of playgrounds stood waiting to test student's agility. Students paired up and rushed through the various obstacle courses, raced down the giant slides and stuck their bodies to the huge Velcro wall. For ultimate convenience, free massages were offered in the same room as the lively inflatables, in case students strained a muscle on the Velcro wall.

> "It's like trick-or-treating for adults."

"This right here," said junior Josh Downey, pointing around the room, "this is proof that I attend the best school in the nation."

Scavenger hunt destinations were not confined to the inside of the Union. Various drink companies including Monster, Sparkling Ice and Marley's Mellow Mood set up stations outside to attract the attention of those walking by.

"It's like trick-or-treating for adults," said freshman Megan Tanner. "You just go to different tables and they give you tons of cool free stuff. It's awesome."

The last stop on the map was a Union landmark: Spartan Lanes. The bowling lanes filled with students who rolled balls with the same intense focus that they employ while studying for final exams. Cheers and shouts sporadically erupted from different lanes.

For freshmen still new to Spartan culture, the festival served as an introduction to one major perk of campus life: free swag. Sometimes, with bags bloated by giveaways and promotional paraphernalia, walking away from an event like U-Fest resembles the aftermath of gift opening on Christmas morning.

a community game

On





An audience member snaps a photo with celebrity guest Morris Chestnut. Fans were given multiple opportunities to meet the special guests during Hoop for Hope.

Audio equipment pumps out songs from half court. DJ Butcher provided music during the opening ceremonies, warm-up and timeouts.

The celebrity team charges the hoop as the audience cheers them on. During the event, a team of celebrity guests played against a team made up of members of MSU Greek life.



TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

On the Rise Entertainment premieres with charity basketball game





The air in IM West, stale and stuffy, made foreheads glisten. It was not the temperature of the room that warmed everyone's spirits but rather the charity work being done in the gym.

On Sept. 28, On the Rise Entertainment, a first-year club that promotes social gatherings and community service, hosted a celebrity charity basketball game, Hoop for Hope. All proceeds from ticket sales and concessions benefited the Make-a-Wish and Adopt-a-Family programs, which provide meals, necessities and gifts for the less fortunate during the holiday season.

The game pitted MSU and NBA basketball players against members of different university fraternities, which made up the MSU Greek All-Star team. Spectators clapped, shouted and snapped pictures upon seeing celebrity guests Morris Chestnut, Jay Ellis, Pooch Hall, Claudia Jordan and Lamman Rucker who sat on the sidelines, cheering for players as if they were part of the student audience themselves.

In the abundance of fame, the coordinators and volunteers of the event were easily overlooked. However, their contributions were essential to the evening's success. Workers were in every corner of the gym ensuring that concessions were available and audience members were enthralled in the game. Security personnel manned their designated spots and worked to make celebrity guests comfortable. For senior Lauren McGrier, event and press coordinator, the operation of the occasion was just as important as the turnout.

"We just wanted everything to go well. Since we didn't have any past reference as to how things go, this was all new to us," said McGrier. "We really had to pay attention to everything that happened the day of, and we wanted people to enjoy themselves."

> "Being in college is not about our own self, it's really about what can you do for others."

On the Rise Entertainment member and freshman Kabine Diane shared similar sentiments about the group's first fundraiser.

"A whole lot of work has gone into this event. This has been thought about since the spring and put together this fall," Diane said. "I'm excited to see the game play out and to see the families during the holidays."

Event coordinator junior Egypt Eaddy was involved in other student-led service projects such as Taking it to the Streets, a volunteer effort to spruce up the Lansing area. Eaddy expressed the importance of student involvement on campus and in the community.

"Being in college is not about our own self, it's really about what can you do for others, how can you network, how can you provide something that somebody else might not be able to have."

Although the goods were not delivered to families until December 2013, attendees and workers celebrated as if the holiday season had already begun. During halftime, crowds began dancing to current hits and even broke out in competition and displayed their finest moves. With the culmination of energy, the game became even more riveting. When the clock finally ran out, the celebrities beat the All-Star Greek team 66-50.

As many spectators flocked towards the center of the court to take one last photo with the celebrities, the coordinators smiled. Those who attended the event had a knack for getting down and loved the sound of a swoosh, but ultimately they came out to support others in need.

"That is a Spartan," said Eaddy, "that person who is there for everyone and not just worried about their own gain."

from textbooks to fingertips

Msu.seum app reveals hidden campus history

Unbearable heat, aching feet and one enthusiastic guide spewing out information faster than the brain can retain it are all typical of a visitor's first campus tour. After acclimating to the size of campus, prospective freshmen may pinpoint the cafeteria with the tastiest food. They may determine the distance from their future residential hall to Spartan Stadium. What many students don't realize is that there are remains of historical buildings, dating back to the mid-nineteenth century, beneath their feet.

Released to the Apple App Store July 25, the msu.seum app is a way for Spartans to explore campus heritage with a simple touch. The app was developed by members from several on-campus organizations including the Cultural Heritage Informatics (CHI) Fieldschool, a five-week summer program in which students interested in anthropology and humanities focus on integrating technology with collegiate history. The theme of the 2011 fieldschool, the year the app was developed, was "Mobile, Locative, and Geospatial." The Campus Archeology Field School, another summer initiative, focused on the excavation of sites suggested by the CHI Fieldschool. In addition, MATRIX, the Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences, helped design and program the app.

> "This is a way for them to discover as well as get a sort of deeper sense of where they are."

With informational snippets from the excavation sites in historic north campus, the app divides these locations into different time periods ranging from 1855 to 1955. Factoids include what students recovered from the dig, the original use of the buildings and even antique photographs of a particular site. Locations such as Saints' Rest, a former dormitory, and Morrill Hall, an academic building demolished in spring 2013, are featured in the application.

For professor Ethan Watrall, msu.seum is not just another mobile map — it is the gateway to exploring the heritage of what it means to be a Spartan.

"Faculty, students and alumni are walking around campus on a daily basis and they have no idea the heritage and archeology that's literally below their feet," Watrall said. "This is a way for them to discover as well as get a sort of deeper sense of where they are."

Professor Lynne Goldstein, instructor for the Campus Archeology Field School, added that the app might encourage students to reflect upon the historical significance of campus landmarks that is often overlooked.

"Most people walk around campus and have a view for campus and say, 'Oh how pretty,' and their impressions are very surficial," Goldstein said. "The students who come here really identify with the place and they know their experiences and what is important to them, so we're really trying to get people to understand these previous ties to campus that some students may have had."

Although no specific group or department on campus uses the application, there are high aspirations for msu.seum. Doctoral anthropology student Katy Meyers believes that this app has potential to be used as promotional material for college admissions.

"I think it would be great for freshmen especially," said Meyers. "It would be a fabulous introduction into MSU and give them the chance to tour and understand campus at their own pace."

The days of walking around, tilting and turning a paper map every which way to navigate through campus may soon be over. With msu.esum, students can access not only a map of the campus landscape, but also a historical record of the landscape which previous Spartan generations traversed and cherished.





ANTHROPOLOGY APP

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Facing Michigan Avenue, a cyan sculpture looks down upon Campbell Hall's courtyard. Constructed in 1939, Campbell Hall houses roughly 300 students.



The sun casts shadows in the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden on a fall day. The gardens were originally founded by Professor William James Beal in 1873 as a place to test various species of common clovers and grasses.



Professor Ethan Watrall researches the hidden history of university anthropology. Watrall was one of the many professors who created the msu.seum app.

Glassblowing facility engineers new tools for researchers

In the mysteriously quiet basement of the Chemistry Building, Scott Bankroff works under the gaze of students who happen to peer inside Room 39's five-by-five window. Dusty glass bottles filled with spiraling glass tubing and bulbous vials line the wall of shelves, their research purposes unknown. Inside Bankroff's workspace — also known as the chemistry department's glassblowing facility — lies a crowded table filled with intricate glassware, molded into a multitude of shapes and sizes. They are products of the unique sketches that professors, graduate students and researchers deposit to Bankroff. His

"You can't create research without creating new tools."

craftsmanship brings the works of art to life.

Bankroff, who has blown glass for the university for 30 years, works and lives by a simple philosophy, "If plan A doesn't work, go to plan B. If plan B doesn't work, go to plan C and keep going until you get a solution."

This ability to endlessly re-craft comes from the properties of the materials Bankroff uses. Glass is pliable, capable of contorting, melting and transforming. As a supercooled liquid, it becomes a moldable liquid when heated to around 1,000 degrees Celsius.

As a resource for student researchers, the glassblowing facility provides original scientific instruments. Researchers specify what materials they require, and Bankroff makes the two-dimensional abstract ideas into solid objects. Bankroff, one of about 600 scientific glassblowers in the nation, provides a skill that is just as rare as the instruments he sculpts.

"Bankroff made a custom flow reactor tube for heterogeneous catalysis measurements, multiple different solid state reaction sample holders that are unavailable for purchase, as well as three-foot long fused silica reaction tubes with custom joints which allowed me to do reactions at high temperatures without worrying about the tube melting," graduate student Colin Blakely recalled a time when he used the facility for research. "Scott is one of the few absolutely necessary people required to keep the chemistry department operating."

And necessary he is. Bankroff, who has practiced scientific glassblowing for more than thirty years, is a part of a dying breed.

Beyond a wall tacked with family photos and plaques from the American Scientific Glassblowers Society, for which Bankroff once served as president, is an acid bath where glass is washed in ammonium bifluoride before being molded and contorted. Past the acid bath is an annealing oven, which relaxes the glass while it is heated to high temperatures, and a drill press for putting holes in glass. The walls are lined with strings of belts inlaid with tiny diamond fragments. A fine layer of white powder covered everything in sight, from machines to glassware and even people.

Doctoral student Adam Brown has worked side by side with Bankroff in making sculpted glass research tools for several years. He values Bankroff for his appreciation of both the scientific and aesthetic. After becoming an artist, Brown decided he wanted to work in the realm of science. He found a way to combine his love of intrinsically artistic pieces and science through his graduate research.

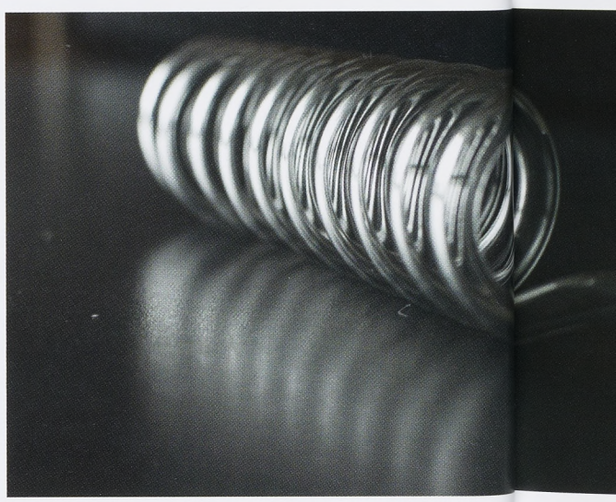
"Scott and I have worked together to build an alchemical bioreactor," Brown reminisced. "He's also made some glass pieces that create conditions that create a primordial earth, which is another self-contained reactor. These are beautiful glass structures that search for things like the origin of life."

Brown created a project in 2010 titled "The Great Work of the Metal Lover." Using bulbous vials created by Bankroff and a bioreactor, he transformed metal-loving bacteria into 24-karat gold. The project earned him several awards of distinction from the scientific community. Brown appreciatively recognizes Bankroff for his contribution to the discovery.

"You can't create research without creating new tools," Brown emphasized.

Glass, a highly moldable and versatile material, is in many ways like the people who shape it — capable of endlessly combining and changing without becoming worn down or unusable.





TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

making the curve



Glassblower Scott Bankroff demonstrates how he shapes glass. Bankroff is a certified glassblower who creates all sorts of tools and instruments for the chemistry department.





One of Bankroff's finished products rests in a research lab. A tool such as this could be used to cool liquids.

A glass beaker is heated and molded in Bankroff's workspace. Bankroff is the university's sole glassblower.



Not long after the party started, students were feeling lively enough to dance in the backyard. To the delight of many, several students showcased their moves in a dance off.

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

nachofest: the return

Legendary party fills students with alcohol and nachos

The backyard of 235 Stoddard Ave. was a sea of students stumbling, dancing and moving like waves. The human ocean swelled into a massive tidal wave, cascading over the DJ and consuming boatloads of nachos and alcohol. Hard lemonade sloshed out of cups, inebriating the lawn. Nacho cheese dribbled from chips and the faces of partygoers as they chomped busily.

> "We're all super seniors here, and we wanted to go out with a bang."

Oct. 5 was the reincarnation of a legendary party that combines piles of golden nachos and gallons of drinks — Nachofest.

"People love nachos. People know Nachofest. It's not very often you find a party with alcohol and food," said senior Cody Aiken.

In 2011, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that made it more difficult for college students to purchase and use kegs for parties. This sent Nachofest into near extinction, as the party was originally based on drinking cheap brews and enjoying the weather from a student's backyard.

In 2013, Nachofest was brought back from the dead, ironically in the same backyard. However, instead of kegs, the hosts used a gigantic storage tub to hold preposterous amounts of hard lemonade made from rum, vodka and lemonade.

"Nachofest is a legendary party," said host and fifth year senior Ben Thomas. "We're all super seniors here, and we wanted to go out with a bang."

Out with a bang was an understatement. Around 600 people came to Thomas' backyard, walking in with the sound of rap hits and even the occasional Jimmy Buffet song echoing from the DJ's rooftop setup.

"I got to hang out with awesome people, eat food and drink delicious alcohol," said junior Joe Grassi, who attended the revived party.

Despite the legion of people and the lively environment, senior Yusuf Naser, decked out in his old Nachofest attire, said it wasn't quite like the former Nachofest.

"It's not as big or as good as the original," he said, recalling the many kegs that lined the backyard just waiting to quench students' thirst.

Thomas disagreed with Naser about the impressiveness of the party. He described it as a "totally wild experience."

"There were no fights, no one was pissed off. No cops, no noise violations, no rain. It was perfect," he said.

By 8 p.m., students had demolished nearly 200 pounds of chips, 120 pounds of cheese and 40 gallons of alcohol. To cover the high costs of these goods, the hosts sold wristbands to parched and starving students and made enough money to buy more alcohol and food to keep the celebration going.

Residents of the entertaining house said the party cleanup was easy. They offered money to one East Lansing local to tidy the backyard that night. Thomas was surprised to wake up during the middle of the night and hear a leaf blower being used to move the trash. By the morning, garbage bags lined the spotless backyard.

The sun rose on Stoddard Avenue to greet hungover students and poured into their glazed eyes. It illuminated the backyard that Nachofest previously inhabited, which sported torn up grass and the imprint of lively dance competitions during the night's antics. Although the sun set on the original Nachofest, a new era was on the horizon.



The line for nachos remained constant throughout the party. The hosts tirelessly worked all day to warm cheese and serve mixed drinks.



Melted cheese is ladled over nacho chips that are waiting to be devoured. Students were able to eat and drink as much as they wanted with the purchase of a wristband.

lights out

Campus welcomes Aoki in first electronic music concert of its kind



STEVE AOKI

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Fans raise their hands with Aoki as he drops a beat and busts a signature move. Aoki is known for his wild behavior during shows and his affinity for throwing objects like rafts and cakes at his crowds.

Waiting impatiently, a rainbow cloud of neon and tie-dye-clad students hovered around Gate B of the Breslin Center. Girls dressed in patterned leggings and vibrant micro skirts, eyes dribbled with glitter, resembled peacocks flaunting their luminescent feathers. A few male students wore reflective shades although the sun was setting and they would soon be inside a pitch black mosh pit for the rest of the night.

Grappled by the the mid-semester haze, students took a break from sweatpants and study groups on a Thursday night to listen to the blaring electronic music of Steve Aoki and special guests DJ Rehab and Gareth Emery. The Oct. 9 concert was special, not only as an excuse to dress up (or down), but also as the first concert at the Breslin Center with an open dance pit.

And oh, a pit it was.

Freshmen Martyna Cieslak and Mariena Jones waited in the crowd outside of Gate B, both glittered and glitzed up for the electronic rave.

"I actually love electronic music," said Cieslak enthusiastically. "I've been in the underground Detroit scene for like the last three years."

As soon as security allowed entrance, the crowd quickly piled through the doors and filtered down through the famous Izzone. On this night, a new use was added to the Breslin Center's list. Its court, where a multitude of Spartans graduate and basketball teams face triumph and defeat, became a dance floor for pumping fists along with Aoki.

Pairs of legs could be seen sticking upright in the air above the crowd. A few electronic lovers awkwardly glided atop hands, like fluorescent worms crowdsurfing on an ocean of dancing adrenaline junkies.

Freshman Taojun Wanyan grinned from ear to ear after the opening performances as he stood outside the arena with his friend Wence Zhao.

"We decided to go because it's the homecoming concert," Wanyan remarked. "We've seen a lot of people dressed in crazy costumes like it's Halloween."

After DJ Rehab and Gareth Emery finished their acts, the lights dimmed. Low music played while the stage crew prepared for the honored guest's immensely anticipated arrival. The crowd, like one magnificent body, chanted "A-O-KI" while waiting for the musician's appearance. Every time a stage crewman, draped in the darkness of the atmosphere, came on stage, the crowd prematurely cheered. After several false starts, a low booming voice finally announced, "Are you ready?"

The buzzing crowd responded with a roar. Yes, yes they were.

The long-haired musician appeared, about 15 feet above the crowd below. He raised his arms along with the beat like a puppet master, and the strung students followed his motions. They were hypnotized. Aoki continued to command the crowd along to the rhythm, his trademark long black hair flying as he moved with the audience. The crowd was alive, writhing and shaking like an electric eel to the beat.

> "It's amazing! We just like to dance in the back, you've got much more space. Rage!"

Freshman Marius Anuzis danced down in the pit, far enough away from the crowd to shake and jive freely without interruption.

"We're in the pit," Anuzis bellowed in excitement. "It's amazing! We just like to dance in the back, you've got much more space. Rage!" Anuzis danced away, half jumping, half skipping back to the center of the arena.

The rainbow cloud of students filtered out of the Breslin Center as the night came to a close. Even with the glitter wiped off, the confetti brushed out of hair and the ticket stubs taped up on dorm room walls, the vivid memories of Aoki's legendary concert lived on, ready to be passed down to future generations.



Parking Services employee and senior Patrick Polan documents a license plate. Polan says he also recieves parking tickets, but conducts his work proudly nonetheless.

traffic tensions

Student versus police personnel views on campus parking

Patiently waiting in the dimly lit, overcrowded Secretary of State's office and listening as clerks casually called off numbers was an agonizing experience for many students in their teenage years. With one sub-par photograph and signatures on a few pieces of paper, the liberties of operating a vehicle were granted. The freedom of staying out late and driving to school independently made any suffering worthwhile.

As Spartans continue to embrace this phase of adulthood, they face inevitable responsibilities such as paying for insurance and of course, those heartbreaking white slips of paper denoting a parking violation.

For some students, campus parking has become as difficult as doing laundry. Just as dorm washing machines rarely open to reveal a tub that's ready for a new load, vacant parking spots are scarce around campus. Even once a spot is secured, parking tickets may bind to a car's windshield just as lint clings to dry clothes.

In charge of issuing those tickets are employees of Parking Services, a component of the Michigan State Police, who regularly patrol lots on campus to ensure that automobiles are following local ordinances and not parked in expired metered spots. Junior Rachel Egeland knows this reality all too well as she received a multitude of tickets simply because of timing slip-ups.

"I think they have this sixth sense and they just know when your parking meter is up," Egeland said. "They get you right when your last minute is up."

As a freshman, Egeland received parking privileges because of her involvement with the dressage team. Over the years, she acquired more than $300 in parking fines, most of which were issued for parking in the Akers Hall lot. Sometimes she used a 24-hour guest pass, and when she arrived at her car the next day shortly after her meter expired, a ticket would be there to greet her.

Egeland expressed that Parking Services are the "bad guys" — a view that parking monitors feel is misconstrued. In fact, the same officers who write students tickets also jump-start dead batteries and provide a few free gallons of gas to those who are stranded on campus without fuel.

> "I think they have this sixth sense and they just know when your parking meter is up."

"We do provide a community service and we are enforcement as well," said Dawn Mazur, parking appeals coordinator. "We have to be here or there would be nothing available to those with permitted vehicles or handicap individuals that have to be assisted to their buildings."

Parking Services Lead Supervisor Patrick Polan understands why students view parking as an obstacle on campus, but knows officers have to give citations.

"As an enforcer out on the job, I've heard complaints and even myself as a student, I have to abide by the rules and regulations like the rest of the students. It is difficult and I do understand parking can be frustrating, but ordinances are in place so spots for faculty and staff members can be allotted," Polan said.

Keeping track of lots during campus concerts and athletic events is not something that Parking Services does independently, though. The department works with student organizations on campus including the Special Events staff, which assumes many of the regular Parking Services duties.

"The Special Events staff takes over and since it's a controlled special event, we want the people to come out, we want the people to enjoy, and so we're not out writing tickets to everyone. We let Special Events control campus and if we have to, we'll go out on complaints only," Mazur added.

Athletic event or not, there is a ceaseless zoom of cars around campus. A tension between students and authority builds up with every ticket issued. Some begrudgingly send in a check to cover their fines, and that money may go toward filling a fellow student's tank. Nonetheless, most hope with every fiber of their being that they won't see a white piece of paper on their windshield when they return from class.



TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO NATE REYARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER





A ticket awaits a driver at the Main Library. Tickets are issued daily across campus to illegally parked vehicles.

A ticket is processed for a vehicle parked in an illegal zone. Tickets cost car owners a minimum of $25.





The Riverboat gives students opportunities to break up their week with music and dancing. A collection of flashing lights, games and food liven up the slow cruise down the river.

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO NATE REYARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

isn't it grand?

Riverboat offers College Night cruise down Grand River

In the middle of the quiet wilderness, the movement of a three-stories-tall boat draped in lights perturbs the calm and peaceful waters of the Grand River.

On Oct. 16 at the stroke of midnight, the horizon still glowed a dark misty orange against the blackness of the evening, and the Michigan Princess pulled up its anchors and glided majestically along the water, her voyagers blissfully ignorant of the boat's motion.

It was the first time the cabin of the Michigan Princess opened to free-spirited students for a techno-themed College Night organized by The Riverboat charter service. For a $10 ticket, guests were welcomed to black light shenanigans that would, under more sober circumstances, give them memories to last a lifetime.

> "We've had about 400 people tonight, and our capacity is 500."

Nursing senior Rachel Nelson saw the opportunity to cruise on the boat as a way to relieve the stress of school.

"It's a nice break from the usual studies," Nelson said. "I don't have class tomorrow so I have an opportunity to get out and have fun."

With three stories — speakers, bartenders and beer pong on each — both first-timers and regular visitors were likely mesmerized by the beauty and functionality the Michigan Princess offered. Having hosted a total of 600,000 passengers since 1991, the boat had been around long enough to see over two decades of everything under the kitchen sink.

Upon walking inside the Michigan Princess, guests sauntered into a ballroom filled with the throbbing beat of a DJ and a dance floor outlined with dusky shadows of students dancing with friends and strangers. Lining the walls and banisters were sheets of paper with nicknames, expletives, squiggly designs and nonsensical graffiti written in luminescent Sharpie pen.

Bartender Brent Deloos, amidst a swarm of students waving cash at him for drinks, was amazed by the large turnout.

"We usually don't have a techno theme or black lights at our events," Deloos said while pouring drinks. "We've had about 400 people tonight, and our capacity is 500."

Along the boat's banisters, students gathered in clumps, slowly sipping their beer or mixed drinks while huddling together to combat the chilly October air. Their warm, moist exhales made visible clouds even against the dark background.

A few College Night attendees feared that the boat could sink or capsize and become a catastrophic emergency. To quell this trepidation, rafts of pale orange life preservers hung above the ceiling of the second floor, enough for the crew and guests of the Michigan Princess with plenty more to spare. Senior Florian Cherdron disregarded the thought of capsizing and preferred to think of the night as an adventure.

"What could be better?" Cherdron asked. "First there's going to the bar, then going to crazy clubs, heck, The Riverboat is like number three!"

After two hours of floating along, the boat pulled back up to the dock. Slowly but surely, the tired laughter rang off the balcony and escaped the boat. Partygoers stumbled in their stilt-like stilettos across the gravely pavement, where their taxicab carriages waited to take them back to the safe harbors of the MSU campus.



A variety of DJs entertain during the cruise each week. Mashup songs and house music are commonly played.



The Riverboat charter service in Lansing hosts College Night each Wednesday with a different party theme. Socializing and dancing are the primary activities on the boat.

food freedom

Women's Resource Center sparks discussions about health and body image

A Hershey's Kiss is a delectable bite-sized chocolate treat made without the use of molds. Its hourglass shape and chocolate hips diverge from the uniform chocolate bar structure, yet people still crave the savory little teardrop.

On Oct. 17, the Women's Resource Center dedicated their new event, Chocolate and Conversations, to the notion of loving one's body because, like Hershey's Kisses, the human body is not required to fit in a specific mold.

Held at the Union just one day after national Love Your Body Day, the event involved all that its name suggested. As women filed in for the discussion, they were invited to indulge in a spread of decadent red velvet cupcakes, flavored cheesecakes, delicate mini-brownies and assorted candy bars.

Ronda Bokram, a nutritionist at Olin Health Center, led the intimate conversation about health and weight, first discussing the pressure to be thin. Bokram highlighted that the dieting industry spends approximately $70 million on propaganda that misrepresent what it means to be healthy.

"The part that people forget is that there is no direct causation between weight and health," explained Bokram. "There is no research that supports that because you have a higher weight, you will have more health problems. It is more genetics and lifestyle than simply weight. Things can correlate, but they don't necessarily cause one another."

As some ladies hesitated to grab from the plethora of treats, Bokram reminded them not to feel guilty about eating and suggested they give into their cravings for comfort food.

"A co-worker of mine asked me if it was OK to be an emotional eater, because we are 'not supposed to.' But we are born emotional eaters," said Bokram. "Babies are so emotionally connected with the holding, the eye-to-eye and the touching. It is an innate thing. We all want comfort in some way. It only becomes a problem when that is our only way to cope with a situation."

> "But I still remember being 12 years old and feeling like I should cut out certain foods and eat a certain way."

The aroma of the rich chocolate brownies and sweet hints of cream cheese frosting filled the room as assistant professor Marcie Ray jumped into the discussion by referencing the famous episode of "The Twilight Zone" that suggests beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

"We are in a culture where it is all motivated by the idea that you need to be young and you need to be beautiful. Our conceptions of what beautiful is have changed over time," said Ray. "In the Renaissance, if you were Rubenesque that meant you were wealthy. Now, the thinner you are and the more respected you are."

As the group considered what causes women to feel insecure, senior Sarah Tomlinson reminisced about her childhood struggles with body image.

"My mother brought me up, and she read that you should never talk about your own personal weight as a mother in front of your children," Tomlinson said. "But I still remember being 12 years old and feeling like I should cut out certain foods and eat a certain way. I don't think that feeling came from my home, it was all from media that told me that I had to diet."

The compulsion to lose weight haunts people every day, but it does not have to. The Chocolate and Conversations event urged women to free themselves of the burden to be thin. Embrace the curves. Embrace the diversity of the human body that makes each person unique. Embrace the satisfaction and release the guilt that comes with eating foods that make the mouth water and the soul smile with delight.



Assist
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CHOCOLATE AND CONVERSATIONS

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Nutritionist Ronda Bokram talks to students about loving one's body. Bokram works at Olin Health Center and came to Chocolate and Conversations to encourage women to indulge in their cravings without guilt.



Assistant professor of historical musicology Marcie Ray writes about why she needs feminism. The topic was one element of Chocolate and Conversations that urged women to accept themselves.

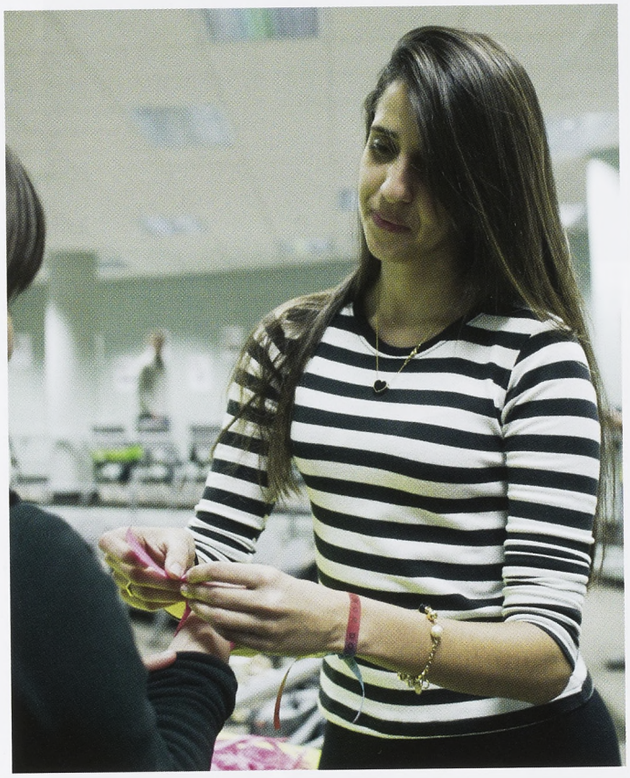


Bowls of chocolate were dispersed around the Women's Resource Center for Chocolate and Conversations. Students and staff gathered in the center to discuss issues related to female body image.

saudades

Brazilians share their love of country with campus community





Brazilian students offered a piece of their consumable culture for students to try. Cocadinha da Bahia is a popular brownie-like treat in Brazil traditionally flavored with either coconut or banana.

Senior Clarisse Gomes distributes a Bon Fim bracelet. The bracelets are worn until they break, with each of the three binding knots representing a wish that will come true upon the break.

For the night of Oct. 25, the Wonders Kiva was a shrine to Brazilian culture. A timeline of historical events decorated the walls of the kiva and photos of rushing rivers, caves garnished with stalagmites and gorgeous ravines provided glimpses of Brazil's natural beauty. Representations of Portuguese explorer Pedro Álvares Cabral's arrival to the current protests in the streets of São Paulo constructed a vivid image of Brazilian life.

The evening's Brazilian Festival was part of a weeklong celebration of Brazilian culture on campus. Eight Brazilian students residing at the university for the fall semester hoped to spread awareness and appreciation of their South American country through organized activities such as movie screenings and banquets with authentic cuisine. The students were part of an exchange program called FIPSE-CAPES, which provides undergraduates from the Universidade Federal do Pará and Universidade Federal da Bahia in Brazil the opportunity to study in both American and Brazilian universities.

"It's an intense experience," said senior Clarisse Gomes of her time at MSU. "I really like the big campus, we don't have campuses back in Brazil."

Upon entering the kiva for Brazilian Festival, visitors received a silk bracelet that read, "Lembrança do Senhor do Bonfim da Bahia," or "In remembrance of the savior of Bahia." As the good luck symbols were tied around their wrists, participants made a wish for each of the three knots; per Brazilian tradition, these wishes come true when the ribbon falls off.

In another part of the room, pans of salty, deep-fried pastries known as "pastels" tempted passersby. Filled with succulent ground beef and beans, the flaky morsels gave students a taste of the cuisine found on the vendor-lined streets of Brazil.

After eating, Gomes and senior Marina Santos instructed the group in some Brazilian dances, including the classic samba. Santos' demonstration of the samba was mesmerizing. There was a bounce in her feet as they went right, right, left, left in quick succession. Her graceful arm motions made the sultry moves look effortless compared to the beginners, who plodded along rigidly like penguins on the ice.

"The samba is a typical Brazilian dance," said Santos. "It is the most important popular cultural manifestation in Brazil. The dance represents a lot of our culture and history."

Captivating dances, succulent food and diverse topography are just some of the beautiful aspects of the country. Even with all its splendor, however, Brazil is not free from political, economic and social struggles.

"Our country is very rich, but we're spending a lot of money on the World Cup," said senior Antonio Furtado. "We don't have a very good health or education system."

"It's an intense experience. I really like the big campus, we don't have any campuses back in Brazil."

Mass protests against the government of Brazil in recent history were a result of high bus fares and an inefficient transportation system. Since then, the country's choice to host the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016 has further upset many citizens concerned with the large sums of money devoted to the events' preparation costs. Santos related a Portuguese term to the citizens' awareness of and action on these issues — "O Gigante Acordou," which translates to, "the giant awoke."

"What bothers us is that Brazil just built huge stadiums and structures for the Olympics and the World Cup and they cannot solve our basic problems," said Santos.

"Saudade" is a Portuguese word with no direct English translation. The abstract meaning captures nostalgia — the love possessed for something after it is gone. Although the Brazilian students were away from their native country for the semester, their adoration for its beauty did not fade. Instead, it was spread to the hearts of American students as they were exposed to the sights, tastes and sounds of a vibrant and proud culture.

BRAZILIAN FESTIVAL

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Senior Mariana Santos demonstrates the samba, a Brazilian dance. The samba is recognized worldwide as an icon of Brazilian national identity.

#technological tide

Students, staff and inextricable links to new communication tools



Senior Olivia Hill frames an Instagram photo. Hill chose to share a shot of the iconic graffiti-covered bridge on Farm Lane with her social media followers.

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN KATIE FOLEY

During the past decade, the way the world communicates and operates has completely changed. While newspapers and print material still have value, the majority of people have gone digital with smartphones, tablets and other devices with internet access — keys that unlock the door to whatever a person wishes to search for. And social media, specifically Facebook and Twitter, founded in 2004 and 2006, respectively, are not merely sites for socialization. They've made constant connection to the Internet a new social norm. But some argue people are too connected to social media, and that these sites tear humans away from real interactions while spewing a constant stream of useless information out onto the web. Nonetheless, social media is a tool that can be employed for a range of objectives, as exemplified in 2014 by several Spartans.

Heather Swain, vice president of Communications and Brand Strategy at MSU, knows there are people reluctant to join the world of social media. However, she said there is no reversing the technological tide.

"I think there is a change of what people expect from brands and institutions," said Swain. "What they expect is to be able to interact, and they expect accounts to have an intellect and to be able to engage. They don't expect for communication to be one way. Social media has both driven that expectation and also has given a way for that expectation to be exercised."

Almost every student organization on campus has an online presence, whether it be a website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or a LinkedIn account. Impressively, each college at MSU also has social media accounts they use to promote events and engage students.

This new standard of communication comes with a surplus of parody MSU social media accounts like MSU Crushes, MSU Party Stories and Spartan Humor. These produce occasionally vulgar, but wildly popular, content that is shared with the student community. There is even a President Lou Anna K. Simon parody account with more than 1,000 followers, which cautiously toes the line between playful and disrespectful.

"Those types of accounts exist for every university, everywhere," said Swain. "You're going to get people who want to associate with your name. It's natural, and it's going to happen. It's something that we are certainly aware of and monitor. When it becomes something that really crosses the line and there is something we could take action on, then we follow up on that."

However, professor Derek Mehraban, co-creator of the ADV 420: New Media Drivers License course, views the accounts a little differently.

"As a student, social media really allows for people to express their creativity and also keep their friends in the loop with what is happening," said Mehraban. "They are modern day expressions of creativity and art that are just so easy but also useful. It is a very powerful way for people to bond and communicate without always being together."

After reaching more than 12,000 followers in January, juniors Cameron Inniss, Mani Herring and Takudzwa Kubvoruno, the Spartan Humor Twitter account's managers, were amazed by how quickly their page grabbed students' attention in just a year. The page started out as a mockery account titled the MSU Naked Professor, quickly acquiring 1,000 followers after a scandal with a faculty member in 2013. From there, the men changed the name to MSU Humor, which evolved to Spartan Humor. They continued to post about current events and memes that students can relate to.

The men attributed the account's popularity to Spartans' domination in sports during the year, which gave them potent material to stultify rivals with satirical tweets.

"I know that Spartans love their sports and we all get so involved. If there is a basketball game, you know most of campus is watching that game. If something funny happens during it, we try to tweet about it," said Herring.

While Swain suggested that accounts like Spartan Humor are merely students trying to capitalize on the university's successful branding, the students said their intentions for the account are not meant to disrespect the university. Instead, they hope to unite the community and show their pride.

"You just have to have the truest passion for Spartan Nation, and I feel like that is what we have and that is what we convey with our Twitter," said Herring.

While accounts like Spartan Humor make acquiring new followers seem like an effortless task, those who manage social media accounts for smaller organizations know how challenging it can be to build a following of interested people.

"Be authentic. Be as transparent as you can. Be quick to respond but think before you post. And always take the high road," advised Scott Westerman, the vice president for Alumni Relations and executive director of the MSU Alumni Association. "The social media accounts I like best give you a feel for the person behind them. Getting an honest sense of an individual's humanity is compelling. It makes you want to know more."

Westerman is considered an expert on social media and says that there is no such thing as being "too connected" to smart devices. Instead of blaming sites like Twitter and Facebook for derailing student's communication skills, Westerman demonstrated in the fall how social media can actually be used to ignite meaningful change.

After the University of Michigan's Athletic Department paid $3,000 to have a skywriter draw "Go Blue" over Spartan Stadium on a game day, Westerman posted a message to his Spartan friends and family on his website and personal social media accounts. He challenged students and alumni to raise $3,000 to the Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance in response to U of M's line in the sky. He effectively changed the conversation from negative slurs toward Wolverine fans to a story of rivals coming together for a greater good — all through the use of free social media platforms. Spartans donated about $27,000 thanks to Westerman, but he remained humble and advised other people who have powerful and popular accounts to use them the same way.

"I always remember Edward R. Murrow's wisdom about scale, 'Just because your voice now reaches from one end of the world to the other doesn't mean what you have to say is any more important than when it reached from one end of the bar to the other.' Good content ultimately has legs," said Westerman. "In time, we outgrow the superfluous."



Daily tours of the Recycling Center were offered during Campus Sustainability Week. The tour allowed students and visitors to see the processes that foster efficiency on campus.

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

sustainable scope

University dedicates week to showcase campus' eco-friendly changes

The smokestacks of the T.B. Simon Power Plant serve as an East Lansing landmark to new Spartans and generate enough energy to meet the demand of more than 48,800 students. The stacks also represent nonrenewable energy sources, sparking a paradox in the well-known and almost relentless MSU campaign to "Be Spartan Green." To validate and pique students' interest in furthering the cause of environmental awareness, the university declared the week of Oct. 20 as Campus Sustainability Week (CSW).

"MSU has one of the largest coal plants in the United States for a college campus," said Bradley Rowe, professor in the Department of Horticulture. "I wouldn't call that sustainable, but at least we are looking at ways to change campus and make it more environmentally friendly."

> "We try to reach students no matter where they are. There are students who are really engaged in climate change, and then there are students who don't even recycle."

Though its primary source of energy is coal, the university is actually one of the world's top research universities and one of the nation's most sustainable campuses. The MSU Energy Transition plan launched in 2012 aims to develop the university into an environment powered by 100 percent renewable energy. CSW worked to highlight the recent changes made to campus and also future renovations.

"MSU recognizes the need to accommodate the urgency to become more sustainable over time to maintain the reputation as a higher education institution," said Ann Erhardt, assistant director of CSW. "It is definitely a continual process of growing the campaign and awareness. Sustainability is much deeper than just energy. Water is becoming a bigger issue to MSU and to our state, as well as green purchasing and our food systems."

Throughout the week, the university offered public events for students and faculty to discover the earth-friendly changes made to campus and view the world through a sustainable scope. Tours of the Student Organic Farm, the Plant and Soil Sciences Building green roof, the Recycling Center, and a tree appreciation walk were among the surplus of educational forums aimed to provide students with a new perspective.

"We try to reach students no matter where they are. There are students who are really engaged in energy and climate change, and then there are students who don't even recycle," said Erhardt. "It is challenging because we have so many incoming freshmen each year that we still have to maintain an entry point of information. There will always have to be that first level, but we will continue to evolve."

The continuous green transformation is evident in every corner of campus, with programs like the Anaerobic Digester Research and Education Center and new installations of photovoltaic solar panel systems on several buildings. Even the T.B. Simon Power Plant switched to burning biofuels in 2008, highlighting the university's dedication to eco-friendly change.

These campus renovations encouraged students like senior Jackie Dumbleton, a design intern for MSU Sustainability, to join the movement to protect the environment.

"I wouldn't say students resist sustainable practices, but I don't think they see the incentive in changing their behavior. It's just easier to throw something away than try to figure out which recycling bin it goes in, and I get that," said Dumbleton. "What we're out to do though, especially through Campus Sustainability Week, is show students how easy it is to recycle, or conserve water, or reduce energy use and that when they do these things that they're not only helping the university be green, but they're also bettering the environment that they live, work and go to school in."

ignorance shutdown

Students educate themselves on new federal health care law

For students who prefer watching Miley Cyrus on SNL over traditional news outlets, the U.S. government shutdown looked like one big, raunchy joke that depicted Republicans wanting to twerk instead of work. While such satire can be entertaining, MSU students recognized the necessity to educate people on the issues that prompted the government to come to a halt. On Oct. 29, James Madison College hosted an Affordable Care Act panel discussion to help students understand the confusing and controversial legislation.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a U.S. federal statute signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 2, 2012 and effective Oct. 1, 2013. Although the ACA aims to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, several Republicans oppose elements of the law and fear that it will harm the economy.

"People who aren't directly engaged in this issue just shrug it off," said senior Laila Makled, social relations and policy chair for James Madison. "They just see on the media, 'Oh, the Republicans are fighting with the Democrats again. Shocker, they can't agree,' so it is no wonder they sweep it under the rug. It is annoying and it is tedious. As far as where to access this information that is valuable other than mainstream media sources, people just don't know about it."

Makled helped the James Madison College Student Senate construct a panel of healthcare specialists to correct students' misconceptions about the ACA. More than 40 students attended, eager to ask panelists how the new federal health care law would influence them.

The panel featured experts on the legislation, such as John Freeman, Michigan state director of Know Your Care, along with Ryan Burtka, legislative director to Sen. Jim Marleau. Joining them were Dr. Thomas Platt of Cherry Street Health Care Clinic and Lawrence Martin, an MSU economics professor.

"People who aren't directly engaged in this issue just shrug it off, they just see on the media, 'Oh, the Republicans are fighting with the Democrats again."

The four described how the law will stop discrimination by insurance companies, help middle class families afford insurance, create a competitive insurance marketplace and enable small businesses to provide healthcare to their employees. Freeman also emphasized how the new policy allows for young adults to stay on their parents' insurance policy until they are 26 years old.

"Young people can now chase their passions and chase their dreams," said Freeman. "Under the old system, there were so many people that stayed with their employer because they provided health care. A lot of people may have hated their jobs and wanted to do something different, but they were stuck."

However, not everyone agreed with Freeman's outlook. Junior Michael Stobak is a political science major strongly opposed to the ACA.

"It is convenient in the sake that a lot of kids aren't getting employed, but at the same time it creates a lack of initiative," said Stobak. "If I'm a kid who can sit there on my parents' insurance until I'm 26, where's my initiative to get up? And then when you are thrown out at age 27, all of a sudden you have to pay an arm and a leg for Obamacare."

Junior Sharon Trotter weighed in with a personal story about her past and present struggles with health insurance, revealing that the old system almost caused her to declare bankruptcy due to medical bills.

"My question is, why don't you want to benefit the young people who have been negatively affected by the health care system that has been in place? Why don't you want to help benefit the middle class families who have been working hard to just get by?" asked Trotter. "You have to rethink what being American is when people have such a strong opposition for helping the people in their own country."

Politics might not be everyone's forte, but the fate of America's healthcare system is an issue that impacts everyone, particularly young adults. By providing the facts about the legislation, the panel provided students with information they could use to break away from preconceived notions and popular media portrayals, and determine what the ACA means to them.



James Madison students pose questions to the panel. Attendees were primarily students of a political predisposition who offered retort to panel members.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



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Senior Amber Hemke, an employee at a local boutique, folds clothes in the supply room. Her friend, senior Olivia Hill, filmed various parts of Hemke's day to document the daily life of a Spartan.



Emmy Awards line a windowsill in Olds Hall. Professor Jim Peck explained that the office won more than 10 Emmys since he began working for the university.



Students gather around professor and Director of University Photography and Videography, Jim Peck. During the class period students viewed and discussed each other's work.

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER





real world: msu

360.24 offers a glimpse into the lives of Spartans across the globe

A little corner office is tucked away on the third floor of Olds Hall, hidden from the wandering eyes of students and faculty. Computers, desks, comfy chairs, coffee tables and Emmy awards are strewn about the space. Every Friday morning, eight students make their way up the stairs to the miniscule office, cameras and recording equipment in hand. The reason: to create a documentary celebrating Spartans on campus and across the globe.

On Nov. 6, alumni and current students participated in Spartan 360.24, a project compiling photos and videos to capture their typical day into a documentary produced by the university's Communication and Brand Strategy office (CABS). The film is intended to show what it is like to be a Spartan. The project was an extra assignment given to the group of talented students who gathered around the desk of Jim Peck, director of University Photography and Videography. As he lectured about how to incorporate natural sound into their video footage, not a single cell phone found its way out of a pocket. The students had thoughtful, concentrated looks on their faces, listening intently to everything Peck was saying.

"I need them to produce solid, quality content," Peck explained, "and if I didn't think they were up to it, I wouldn't have put them into action for the 24 project."

Under the instruction of Professor Troy Hale, each of the eight students took a reality television production course, which allowed them to work as a real production company. Because of the great work they produced in class, they were given the opportunity to work with Peck to shoot video for the project.

Each student worked on footage for the 360.24 film by documenting the day in the life of Spartans in areas such as Grand Rapids and Detroit. Their video work will appear alongside shots sent in by MSU students and alumni. After gathering clips, the students were also involved in the editing process, working to complete the documentary before its scheduled January release.

> "It's been a way for me to really hone in on the skills I've been learning over the past four years."

Senior Kelsey Strickler felt that working on the project was an opportunity to prepare for her career.

"It's been a way for me to really hone in on the skills I've been learning over the past four years here while getting to know people in other parts of the university that I wouldn't have gotten to know otherwise," Strickler said.

Her footage for the 360.24 project came from Grand Rapids, where she documented two different groups of Spartan alumni. The first part of her day started at the Secchia Center, the location of MSU's College of Human Medicine. Strickler learned about the daily happenings of students and researchers at the center and was given the opportunity to tour the lab where the Parkinson's research team conducts its studies.

"While most of it went over my head, I got to film lab tests and analyses as they explained to me how they are searching for a way to dramatically slow or eliminate the effects of Parkinson's disease," she said.

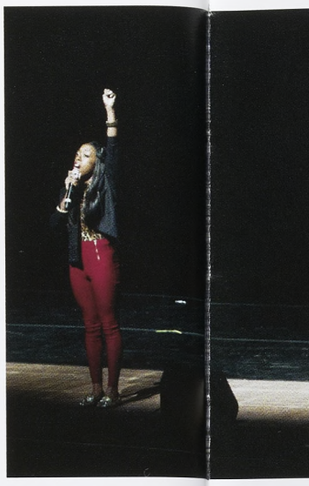
Strickler also traveled to the Kent County Sheriff's department, where she went on duty with an alumnus. After filming a few minor incidents, she was able to capture startling footage of a drug bust during which officers uncovered two duplexes filled with marijuana plants.

"Although I wasn't able to film any of the undercover cops as they were working, I was able to get some footage of the grow rooms that were being cleared out," Strickler said. "It was intense."

As these young film students acquire new skills from their work on the project, so too will viewers of the finished Spartan 360.24 documentary gain insight into the life of fellow Spartans through the wide-angled lenses of their cameras.

with hands held high

Black Power Rally stirs students in the name of education and social justice



In the bottom portion of the 2,420 seats of the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, people bustled and buzzed. Whispers passed back and forth about what to expect from the performers, musicians and keynote speaker Dr. Michael Eric Dyson. At the very least, the message would be motivating. At the very most, it could change lives.

Alumna Leslie Aririguzo, shrouded in black, stood silent as she reached for the microphone. Her frame looked miniscule in the blazing spotlight. But when she opened her mouth to speak, her words filled the stage, spilling into the cavernous auditorium.

"The weight of the world can never overwhelm your shoulders because the world is in the palm of your hand," Aririguzo said, her powerful gaze scanning the audience.

The 41st Black Power Rally on Nov. 13 took place 55,106 days after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and 16,087 days after the end of official segregation in schools. However, according to the speakers onstage who professed their daily experiences with racial injustices, there are still improvements to be made. Freshman Conrad Ohenzuwa felt a deep connection with speakers' narratives about growing up black in America.

"It is challenging; it's like wherever you go there's a preconceived notion of who you are and how you act," Ohenzuwa explained.

Three months into his college experience, Ohenzuwa encountered uncomfortable situations on campus.

"One of the speakers said he feels threatened on campus because there's a target on his back. I don't even like walking around campus with my hood on or running on campus, because I feel like I'll be wrongly approached if I do either of those things," Ohenzuwa said.

Speaker Dyson, an ordained Baptist preacher and sociology professor at Georgetown University, grew up in Detroit and was named one of the 150 most powerful African Americans by Ebony magazine.

> "The weight of the world can never overwhelm your shoulders because the world is in the palm of your hand."

His message was very simple: Stand your ground.

Brittni Ward drove from U of M Dearborn just to hear Dyson deliver his speech.

"It's empowering to see people of color coming together to discuss an important cause," Ward said. "It's encouraging to remind people that this is still going on, because it's something easy to forget in our generation."

Perhaps, though, the most pervasive message of the rally was the value of education. Dyson declared that education is not only a tool for personal growth, but also a weapon against ignorance and future social injustice.

"There is a significant difference between schooling and learning," Dyson said. "Learning is a lifelong journey. It's not just the simple absorption of knowledge."

Junior Janelle Moulding attended the Black Power Rally for a second year in a row. As a mentor in My Brother's Keeper, a program through which young black males from Detroit academies are mentored by MSU students, she found Dyson's messages of educational empowerment especially pertinent.

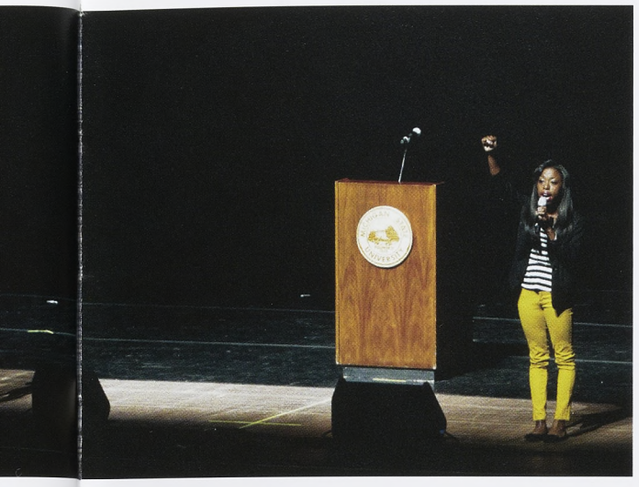
"My Brother's Keeper is meant to be a social intervention for boys who might be headed down the wrong path," Moulding said. "Many of the boys need an educational intervention, which is where we bring in a curriculum and work with them a couple of times a month. But they also need a social intervention as well."

Such action was the basis of the Black Power Rally — to further education and nurture social ambitions. The audience was encouraged to take the ideas in Dyson's remarks and incorporate them into their own lives. And as the speaker's voice filled the room, a few members of the crowd raised their arms straight in the air, hands clasped in a fist of solidarity.



BLACK POWER RALLY

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



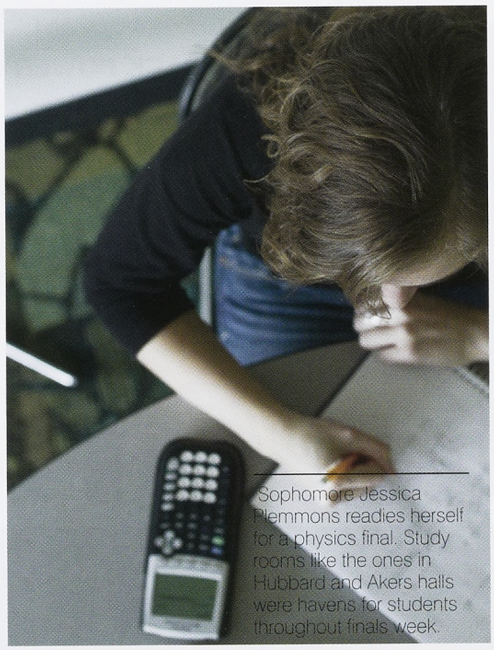


Juniors Sierra and Shannon Huling perform a duet as one of the acts in the rally. The Black Student Alliance, which hosted the event, focuses on creating a strong, positive community that supports students in their collegiate endeavors.

Senior Ashley Robinson emphasizes the importance of education in the fight against inequality. Robinson was one of more than a dozen presenters; others included dancing, singing and video presentation.



The Black Student Alliance held the 41st annual Black Power Rally in the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall. The rally featured keynote speaker Dr. Michael Eric Dyson and a variety of student performances.



Sophomore Jessica Plemmons readies herself for a physics final. Study rooms like the ones in Hubbard and Akers halls were havens for students throughout finals week.



The Main Library normally has many students studying and partaking in research, but during exam week it is exceptionally packed. At the end of the semester, the library has extended hours.



Freshman Alexandra Buraconak concentrates on her studies in the library. The stacks served as a resource as well as a quiet study space for students of all majors.

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

one final truth

A look into how students coped with finals week

As the rising sun heated the campus tundra, glancing at the harsh fluorescent lights sent shivers of fear and exhaustion down spines. Realizing they'd studied all night, students brewed coffee in an attempt to function and mask the rank smell clinging to their comfiest pair of sweats. Is this portrayal of finals week, with its baggy-eyed, fatigued all-nighters, closer to fact or fiction?

During the week of Dec. 9, Spartans underwent the standard five days of final examinations for their fall semester classes. Holed up in their rooms or tucked into the library's nooks and crannies, some students scaled mountains of flashcards and buried noses in notes and textbooks. When they finally emerged, were they covered in eraser shavings and dripping with highlighter liquid?

For freshman Alexandra Ballor, the notion that most students pull all-nighters before exams became a reality.

"I was forced to pull all-nighters for lack of better studying early on in the semester. But personally, going through the information before the exam helps me retain the information," Ballor said. "To get through them, I had double shots of espresso for one exam, and the second I had two energy drinks and some tea."

For some, studying independently proved beneficial, as the solitude decreased distractions. However, for those in a residential college, being surrounded by like-minded students with similar classes was often constructive. Lyman Briggs sophomore Jessica Plemmons said being in a living-learning program helped her not just during exam week but also throughout the semester.

"Most of the people in my hall are in the same classes as I am, so searching for help or a study group is really easy," Plemmons said. "It also helps my motivation to study stay intact when I have a group of friends who are also dedicated to their studies as I am."

> "Even though my midnight scream may have been quieter than most, I couldn't resist this tradition."

But at the stroke of midnight, students ditched their books and gathered outside or opened their windows, letting out a mighty shriek in a form of stress management known as the "midnight scream." Although the origins of the tradition are unknown, Plemmons said it's a ritual worth practicing.

"Even though my midnight scream may have been quieter than most, I couldn't resist this tradition," she said.

The midnight scream was not the only method of stress relief available to students. Freshman and Akers Hall Government representative Hannah Hull explained that therapy puppies and other hands-on activities like henna and cookie decorating helped pull students, including her, away from their studies for a much needed reprieve.

"I would study for a few hours and then take a break to do something for myself," Hull said. "I found it really important to do things completely unrelated to my classes because if I didn't, I would become stressed out very easily."

Plemmons found relief in the form of a soothing massage, which released the tension from her neck built up from hours of craning over textbooks.

"It's these type of events that help me realize that MSU does care about the studying and stress we put ourselves through," Plemmons said.

While massages relaxed the bodies of some, a quick dip in the icy Red Cedar River jolted the nerves of others. Students like sophomore Kevin McCoy took part in the frigid custom of an outdoor swim the weekend before finals. For McCoy, briefly redirecting his attention from notes to enjoying a carefree celebration allowed him to appreciate the last week of the semester.

"I would do it again as a tradition," McCoy added. "It helped me realize that you could still enjoy yourself even during stressful moments."

Jewish pennants with the traditional Hebrew greeting "shalom" hang inside the Hillel House. Decorations garnished the house throughout the holiday season.



An indoor Christmas tree decorated with various ornaments glows during the night. Many students found ways to bring holiday traditions to their dorms and houses at school.



A group of VSA and CSC members enjoy a Lunar New Year celebration banquet at the Hannah Community Center. The banquet included traditional food, music and entertainment.



TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI/JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

candlelit celebrations

An exploration into holidays the student body celebrates

As snowflakes gently cascade to the ground, a chilling breeze glides through the cracked window, weaving its way through the dimly lit rooms of an elegantly decorated home. Candles are the only source of light, carefully displayed on the menorah or colored red, green and black, showcasing the colors of the Pan-African flag. Upon the tables lay many gilt coins, chocolate tokens given to children during the celebration of Hanukkah. The scents of either traditional Jewish food, such as matzah ball soup and gefilte fish, or Kwanzaa dishes like Cajun catfish and groundnut stew waft through the air, teasing taste buds.

Although differing from the popular tree decorating and cookie baking to which a majority of MSU students are accustomed, this holiday scene was commonplace for a number of students celebrating Hanukkah and Kwanzaa during winter break. With a student population diverse in culture and religion, senior Mikole Levran, president of the Jewish Student Union, explained why it is important for people to be educated about all religions.

"I think it's important to explain to my roommates what Hanukkah means. Most people don't know, and because it falls so close to Christmas, they have mixed interpretations about the meaning of the holiday, because it is not all about presents and lighting candles," said Levran.

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day celebration honoring the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The holiday is celebrated by lighting the menorah, which has one branch and candle for every day of the commemoration.

The Jewish Student Union participates in many activities across campus to promote general knowledge about Judaism. At the beginning of Hanukkah, a few days before leaving for Thanksgiving break, the Jewish Student Union gathered at the Hillel House for a small Hanukkah dinner. While eating delicious challah and knishes, students crafted menorahs and dreidels to the tune of Jewish songs. During the first week of December, the Hillel House announced that there would be a celebratory menorah lighting at the house every night for the rest of the holiday.

> "Exploring the world's religions can also lead to self-discovery and deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, one's own heritage and experience."

Practicing Jew and sophomore Max Cullen couldn't help but notice the public display of the large menorah structure at The Rock, standing tall for all to see.

"It was nice to see the menorah over on Farm Lane. I like how they added a light each night and found it to be welcoming," said Cullen.

Another prominent holiday that occurs in December is Kwanzaa, a weeklong celebration of African heritage that takes place from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. The holiday features one core principle per day throughout the week and different ways to celebrate each principle.

Third year grad student El-Ra Radney discussed different celebrations of Kwanzaa that take place on campus annually.

"The African Studies Center puts on an event called the Kwanzaa Intellectual Fest, where we have a guest speaker talk to the students while having dinner and celebrating Kwanzaa in various ways throughout the night," said Radney. "We combine the libations and the rituals of Kwanzaa while acknowledging our ancestors and all they have given us."

Radney also noted that Kwanzaa, a traditional African-American holiday, is spreading not just across campus but also around the world.

"There are people throughout the world finding Kwanzaa relevant to their lives," said Radney. "We found that a surprising number of people in India are now celebrating Kwanzaa, along with many white Americans."

Although some religions may be lesser known in American society, many believe that it is important that we understand the basics of all cultures. Religious studies professor Dr. Gretel Van Wieren emphasized the importance of educating students about all religions.

"It contributes to the formation of global, cultural knowledge," said Van Wieren. "In order to understand global history and culture, one needs to know something about religion. Exploring the world's religions can also lead to self-discovery and deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, one's own heritage and experience."



Icy crystals weave together to form a beautiful glaze over the Red Cedar River. Campus was covered in frozen textures during the winter months.



Junior Madison Stinebaugh pats together the perfect snowball before pelting them at her friends. Although temperatures were at record-breaking lows, many students enjoyed their days off by romping around in the snow.

Students celebrate 6th and 7th snow days in university history

On a list of 100 ways to spend your snow day released by Washtenaw Community College, 79 out of the 100 activities take place indoors. As riveting as "36. Find out if cats really do land on their feet," or "81. Microwave things labeled 'not microwave safe,'" sound, students found even more creative ways to spend their time in the frigid Michigan air.

Headlines of newspapers all over the state deemed this blast of cold air the Polar Vortex. Weather alerts warned that being outside for more than 15 minutes could pose a high risk for frostbite, with wind chills at minus 38 degrees. Bringing record-low temperatures to cities all around Michigan, the Polar Vortex caused a university shutdown for two consecutive days, delaying the start of the spring semester. With a mere five instances of cancelled classes in MSU's history, two snow days in the same week was a cause for celebration all across campus.

Some students refused to let the frostbite-threatening wind chills confine them to their rooms. Their inner child unraveled upon the endless mounds of snow. With dozens of snowmen, choirs of snow angels and groups posing for photos with the ice-covered Sparty statue, Spartans celebrated the days off with as much enthusiasm as elementary students rejoicing over their first snow day.

Taking a more imaginative approach to playing in the snow flurry, senior Alyssa Haney described the snow structure she and her roommates built in their front yard.

"We saw an Instagram video of someone freezing their shirt, so we decided to build a whole garden of frozen shirts," explained Haney. "We basically just built mounds of snow and placed various State apparel on them, showcasing them in our front yard."

In the frigid landscape of Brody neighborhood, a group of students made a different use of the sizeable snowdrifts. Students gathered outside a second story dorm window in Bailey Hall observed the true meaning of reckless behavior — standing in the open window frame was a male student who let out a roar and jumped into a welcoming but freezing pile of snow.

"At first we were kind of worried that he was going to land wrong and break something," said freshman Danielle Stieve. "But as soon as he stood up and laughed, everyone started cheering. He was definitely the life of the party, if you could call it that."

Although not as courageous as jumping out of buildings, students were able to celebrate their love for the winter weather in other ways. Some took to carving up the ice of the Red Cedar River. The ice wasn't as Zamboni-smooth as it is in Munn Arena, so skaters accepted the challenge of navigating the uneven terrain. There were also sightings of students cross-country skiing around campus.

> "We saw an Instagram video of someone freezing their shirt, so we decided to build a whole garden of frozen shirts."

Freshman Kaileigh Hafke used the freshly laid winter wonderland as her personal canvas.

"My friend and I wanted to go outside and play in the snow but wanted to show our school spirit at the same time, so we drew 'MSU' in very large letters in a vacant field close to West Circle. It was cold, but worth it!" said Hafke.

Even with a comfy pair of sweatpants, hours of Netflix entertainment and a cup of sweet hot cocoa beckoning students to stay inside on frigid days, adventurous souls preferred to take the road less traveled — without a snowplow.

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

polar vortex



Students share laughs as they celebrate the creation of their snow couch and icicle garden. Students across campus reveled in the historic back-to-back snow days.

How milk is transformed into MSU Dairy Store ice cream

Many Spartans had their first licks of Sesquicentennial Swirl or Capital City Sundae ice cream at the ivy-covered Anthony Hall during elementary school field trips to MSU. Surrounded by the smiling faces of the MSU Dairy Store student employees, it was a glorious day for any eight-year-old to make the life-altering decision between Blue Moon or Cookies and Cream. Meanwhile, parents eyed the rows of chocolate cheese stacked in the fridge.

But very few have ever taken the journey behind the stockroom door to the dairy facility where the magic happens.

"At the Michigan State dairy facility, we handle our milk from the very beginning, so me or one of the other employees will drive our tanker truck to the farm itself to pick up milk from Michigan State cows," Dairy Production Technician Joshua Hall said, weaving through the "raw room" past stainless steel pipes and containers. The raw room housed unpasteurized milk and cleaned it before sending it to the main floor.

In the raw room, a silver vault with five pipelines lines the walls, the ceiling, and leads out of the room. Milk from the MSU dairy farms at the south end of campus is used in cheese production but not for ice cream. The reason, Hall explained, is that creamer is used to produce ice cream, which would require a machine called a separator.

"We get our cream from the Michigan Milk Producers Association, so it still comes from Michigan cows and Michigan dairy," Hall explained.

Hall rested his hand against the 2,000-gallon, eight-foot-high silvery holding tank, taking in the raw room from floor to ceiling as if it were the first time he had seen the place.

Once ready to be pasteurized, the milk goes through a machine called a high temperature short time plate heat exchange.

"If you want to clean your hands, you grab some soap and rinse — you can't do that with milk." Hall explained. "So we heat it. What the plate heat exchange allows us to do is rapidly increase the temperature of the milk from its stored temperature of roughly 34 degrees Fahrenheit to a temperature of 163 degrees and holds it there for just under 20 seconds, and then it cools it back down again."

The process kills off potential pathogens that may be lurking in milk straight from the cows.

"One of the beautiful things about the dairy farms on campus is that the amount of bacteria and cell counts in the milk were six times smaller than the legal limit, which is a very difficult task to accomplish," Hall explained.

Combining quality milk with a quality process is one of the reasons why the final products, both ice cream and cheese, turn out as amazing as they do.

The first step of making ice cream involves a giant blender mixes cream, 50-pound bags of sugar and stabilizers. After being stored in batch tanks and then pasteurized, the mix is pumped out to the rest of the facility. The facility blends 100-gallon batches, creating about four different flavors of ice cream a day.

Exiting the raw room are five tubes called a valve cluster that carry the newly purified milk through to the rest of the facility.

Hall followed the five tubes to the main floor, where the ceiling was at least 40 feet high. The crack between the door and the floor blew out air. Hall explained the room is positively pressurized, preventing any airborne pathogens from contaminating the food products inside.

Looking down from above, the walls were lined with machinery and equipment that had long names. The floor was wet with an ammonium sanitizer that disinfected any contaminated shoes brought into the facility.

Two 300-gallon steel vats that could comfortably fit four grown men stood alone in the middle of the facility floor. They house all of the ingredients for cheese preparation: pasteurized milk, bacteria cultures to give the cheese definition, and an enzyme called rennet. The combination of bacteria cultures and the enzyme mimics what happens to milk in the human stomach, where milk is turned into a more solid, cheese-like product in the digestive system. When creating cheese, there is only a 10 percent yield from the products that are put in. Creating 100 pounds of cheese would require 1,000 pounds of materials because products like whey, the liquid part of the milk, are drained out. After compression to condense the curds, the cheese is sliced, neatly vacuum-sealed in plastic packaging, and shelved for months until it is ready for the Dairy Store refrigerators.

Hall had been given the unofficial title "Cheese Master of the Universe" by Dairy Food Complex Manager John Engstrom, in honor of the award-winning cheese Hall manages daily.

Milk, being such a versatile liquid, can be used in the form of cream to make sweet treats such as ice cream. The dairy mix, which is stored in 500-gallon holding tanks, has a portion taken out when a batch of ice cream is ready to be flavored. Flavors like vanilla, strawberry or pistachio are added into the dairy mix.

The 34 flavors of ice cream were each designed in part by Dairy Food Complex Manager John Engstrom.

"Coming up with a new flavor always starts with an idea or craving," Engstrom explained. "It is a team effort to come up with all these different flavors. Then I see if I can get the ingredients together to make it happen."

If the ice cream is a flavor like Raspberry Chocolate Chunk or Final Four Fudge Dribble, chocolate chunks or malt balls are added into the mixture with a machine called an ingredient feeder. A thick, gooey ribbon of fudge or caramel for ice cream flavors like Frozen Four Slap Shot is added with a variegator, which adds, as Hall put it, "a nice swirl."

The mixture is added to a machine called a scrape surface heat exchange, where it extracts the warmth from the mixture. The mixture at this point has a creamy and rich texture, more synonymous with the texture of finished ice cream, though it is still slightly soft. The flavored concoction is poured out of a long tube into the brown, barrel-shaped containers seen under the fluorescent bulbs of dairy store freezers. A supervisor makes sure that each container is capped at the right volume.

One of the most essential parts of the ice cream-making process is taking the temperature that the ice cream freezes at, about 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and dropping temperature as quickly as possible to negative 25 degrees Fahrenheit.

After the temperature of the ice cream is dropped, it is placed in a college dorm-size freezer. As it is packed to the brim with cartons upon cartons of the packaged frozen treat, any true ice cream lover worth their dairy creamer would fall in love with the ten-foot-wide freezer.

After an agonizing wait, the glorious day comes for one lucky carton of ice cream when it will be brought into the Dairy Store for consumption; each dribble of ice cream to be scooped out of the container and perched on a student's waffle cone, or drizzled with rainbow sprinkles or whipped cream.

Flavors like the famous Sesquicentennial Swirl came into being through collaboration of minds. Engstrom received a request for a flavor in honor of the university's 150th anniversary. President Lou Anna K. Simon helped to take the idea from a dairy pipe dream to a sweet reality.

"We wanted activities and physical objects to engage the community and remembrance for the 150 birthday," President Simon explained. "We wanted a bigger university event and the idea of an ice cream social emerged. The Dairy Store made an ice cream with green icing and birthday cake, all mixed together."

Simon already has an idea for the next flavor creation commemorating the bicentennial celebration.

"We'll leave it to the Dairy Store to come up with something, but I'd have chocolate and vanilla in addition to cake," Simon surmised.

Twelve years later, those elementary students return as Spartans. Graduated from a kid's cup of vanilla to a double scoop of Buckeye Blitz, they find that after all those years, the taste is just as sweet as they remembered.

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO CHASE O'BLACK
DESIGN KATIE FOLEY



from cow to cone

Junior Bonnie Hardin enjoys two scoops of Final Four Fudge Dribble at the Dairy Store. 14,000 square feet of land houses the university's state-of-the-art dairy processing systems.

youthful **synergy**

Jackson Zone takes over iconic East Lansing space

After Barnes and Noble vacated 333 East Grand River Ave. in December 2011, the building stood mostly bare for nearly two years. During the hiatus, the remains of the former bookseller stayed in the building, visible from the street. But the vacant bookshelves that created a spine for the infamous building are now gone, replaced by the Jackson Zone. Where books, CDs and coffee were once sold, now a collage of desks and computers, as well as the youthful spirit and energy of some of MSU's most enthusiastic undergraduates, has transformed the space into an incredible working atmosphere.

The new residents are members of Jackson National Life Insurance Company, also known as Jackson. Their website claims they are one of the nation's biggest insurances companies and a leader in variable and fixed annuity sales. Offering retirement solutions to a large number of clients, the firm has offices in Lansing and several cities in the country, such as Chicago and Denver.

The new Jackson Zone in East Lansing currently employs around 170 workers on their staff, most of which are students, according to Danielle Robinson, corporate social responsibility manager at Jackson. Robinson said the students are hired as strategic support associates (SSA's), and they do the overflow work from specific departments of the Lansing branch.

"We value these employees so much. There's nothing the leadership wouldn't do for them," said Jes Melton, manager of the Jackson Zone. "On a daily basis we try to show them they're valuable and that they're professionals."

Melton and Robinson both spoke about the long-term benefits to hiring young, energetic college students. The company aims to keep students after they graduate and hire them into full-time positions.

"We want to see someone as an SSA, then get an internship, then come back and work full-time with the company after they graduate," stated Melton.

Melton said the youthful spirits work quickly and furiously to get their work done, and she said it has revolutionized the program.

Sophomore Celestina Reyes, an SSA, has enjoyed her time with the company and would even consider working for Jackson after she graduates because of how well they treat her and her fellow employees.

"The people you work next to become almost kind of like a family," she said. "It's very friendly and a no judgment zone."

Reyes' coworker, sophomore Michael Hua, shared a similar enthusiasm for his employer, saying that he too wants to stay with the company long-term.

"Not only has Jackson given me leadership opportunities, but it has allowed me to grow as a person, student and professional worker. In a way, I feel like I will never be able to repay Jackson for what they've provided me," Hua said.

> "On a daily basis we try to show them they're valuable and that they're professionals."

Before transferring to the East Lansing location, Hua worked for another branch in Lansing.

"I am a witness of the tremendous growth the SSA program, as well as Jackson as a whole, has had in less than two years," said Hua. "The amount of people who have been hired and know about Jackson is growing. Jackson has created thousands of jobs across Michigan and has aided in the fluctuating economy."

Jackson wanted to move to East Lansing to get in touch with the community and create some economic upturn in the area.

"One thing in particular we want to work on is economic development," said Robinson. "We want to keep students over the summer with the jobs here so they can spend money in East Lansing."

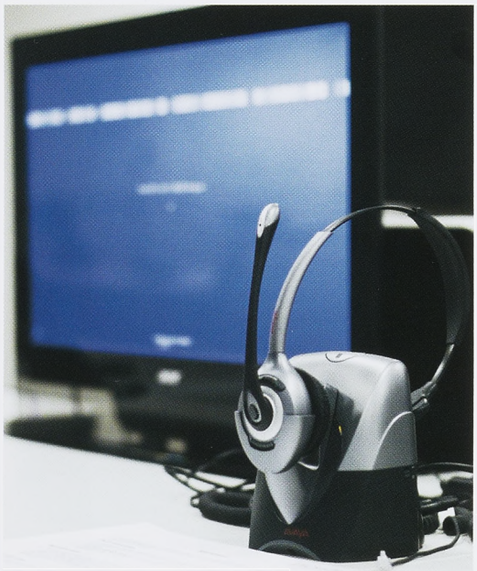
After standing nearly vacant for two years, the new Jackson Zone provides life and energy to the downtown area of East Lansing. The students are the motherboard of the company, doing the essential work with energy, speed and precision that mirror the humming computers they work on.



JACKSON ZONE

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR





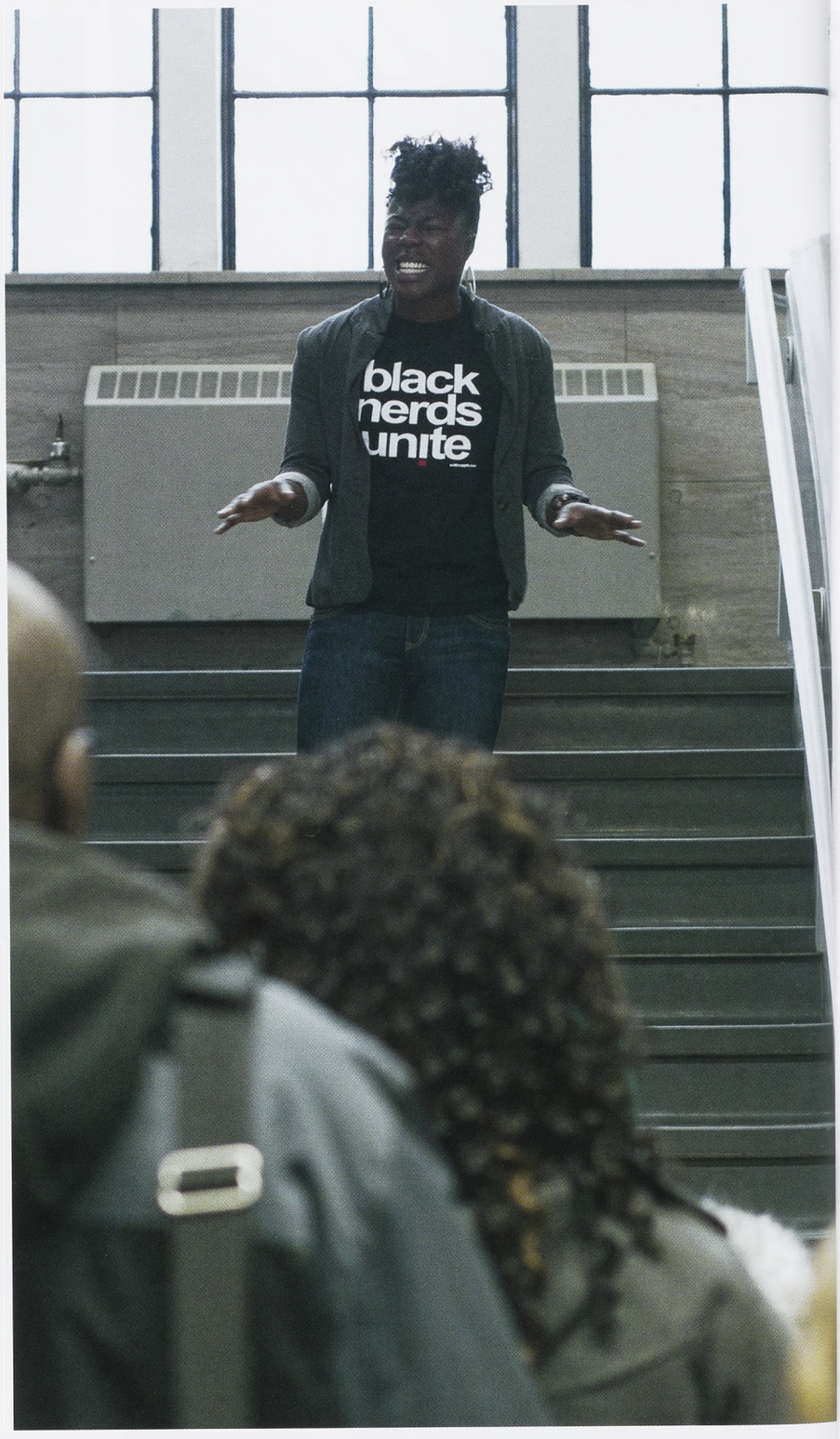
Freshman Taylor Doty works on his computer in the office. Like Doty, many students appreciate Jackson Zone's relaxed working environment.

The training room in the basement of the Jackson Zone holds flat screen televisions, rows of computers and telephones for employees. Following suit with the rest of the building, the training room provides employees with a comfortable, modern workspace.

The newly remodeled building that used to house a Barnes & Noble now serves as an office for the Jackson Zone. The company gives students an opportunity to work flexible hours while in school.



At one event students made bracelets for children in local hospitals. Students were given the opportunity to sign up for 110 hours of community service in honor of the 60th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.



Alumna Leslie Aririguzo recites a poem during the opening of a commemorative exhibit at the MSU Museum. The exhibit featured Ruby Bridges, the first black child to be integrated into an all-white elementary school in New Orleans in 1960.

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



A small group plays a game that determines their educational outcome based on race and sex. The game showed how people's lives are affected by socioeconomic factors.

constructive conversation

Project 60/50 facilitates yearlong discussion of civil and human rights

In a spacious ballroom, tables and trifold boards displayed volunteer information while students gathered outside in the Union's second floor lounge. The lobby of the MSU Museum filled with visitors as walls whispered to them tales of the past and hopes for the future. These scenes from Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2014 are connected by one thing: a discussion of inclusion.

The annual day of remembrance held particular significance this year as it marked two special anniversaries: 60 years since the decision of the Brown vs. Board of Education case that ended school segregation, and 50 years since the Civil Rights Act was signed. To honor the milestones, the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives launched Project 60/50.

The initiative associated numerous events and activities hosted by university organizations throughout 2014, highlighting the historical connection between MSU and the civil rights movement and creating a platform for conversations. Audrey Bentley, Project 60/50 coordinator, has hopes of building a stronger university community and thinks discussions will lead to change.

"It's an opportunity for people. Even when we have differences of opinions and different ideas, we can still demonstrate that we can come together and have conversations about those issues that are important to us and leave enlightened," said Bentley.

One of the first events of the day was "What's Your 110?" Held in the Union, this Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement (CSLCE) event encouraged students to sign up for 110 hours of service and connected community partners like the Greater Lansing Food Bank and Community Mental Health Center with interested students. The idea of giving back encompasses part of the vision behind Project 60/50.

> "I hope that everyone not only sees the images but actually hears the stories that the walls have to tell."

"Instead of just basing around MLK Day as one service day, they've really tried to put it more full circle, get people to be able to volunteer more throughout the year," said sophomore Austin Dickerson, president of Into The Streets, a student organization focused on local volunteerism.

Two exhibits in the MSU Museum that drew on the project's themes also opened on MLK Day. The Ruby Bridges exhibit featured photos of the African Americans who were among the first to attend all-white schools along with a map of Lansing depicting areas related to the civil rights movement. In the Ahmed "Kathy" Kathrada exhibit there were panels of letters and photos as well as a replica of the jail cell in which the South African activist met Nelson Mandela.

To celebrate the opening of both exhibits, the museum held a reception for Spartans and community members. The reception included performances by two poets, each hoping their words would give life to the images on the walls.

"I use my art to help people grow in an uncomfortable way because often I think we're too censored in public speech, so I try to say things that people may or may not be offended by to create that dialogue," poet and recent MSU graduate Leslie Aririguzo said. "Because that's how change starts — by talking about it instead of pushing it away like it didn't happen."

Kenya Abbott Jr., a senior who worked on the exhibits, believed the poems would add a higher emotional level to the experience.

"I hope that everyone not only sees the images but actually hears the stories that the walls have to tell," said Abbott.

This form of "art fighting oppression," as Abbott put it, is one of the ways Project 60/50 is aiming to tackle issues of intolerance and inequality that still afflict the country today. In the eyes of Project 60/50 organizers, engaging in honest dialogue about such topics can put individuals on a path that leads to solutions.

flights of fantasy

Repertory Dance team interprets musical narratives

Campus underwent plenty of construction throughout the 2013-14 school year. Along with tearing down the oldest hall on campus, the Department of Theater's home, the Fairchild Theatre in the Auditorium, was renovated. With changes including improved acoustics, a 47-seat orchestra pit and a fresh, flexible performing space, the theatre has gone through a metamorphosis unlike ever before. Emerging from a well-worn cocoon, the theatre's transformation was commemorated by the MSU Repertory Dance Team's performance Flights of Fantasy: Brought Into Being.

Paired with Orchesis, a student organization that works closely with dance and theater faculty, Flights of Fantasy was a show that transported its audience on an emotional journey. The diverse dance numbers focused on various social situations, such as communication between women, fighting for true ambitions and meanings behind past experiences. These situations were expressed through a plethora of movements and emotional facial demeanors. Throughout the evening, six moving pieces showed the dancers going through their own changes, culminating in self-actualization. Performer and junior Hannah Dewald discussed the choreographic process behind each interpretation.

"There are so many styles of dance, such as ballet, where you are told exactly what to do. You come in, learn different specific and technical steps, and that's what the whole performance is based off of," said Dewald. "Repertory dance is different. Our choreographers give us the freedom to move how we want and portray whatever emotions we're feeling, and that's why I love this style of dance so much."

The different dances throughout Flights of Fantasy featured scores of artistic elements, ranging from the vibrant, decorative dresses worn in the introductory dance called "Into Her Own,"

> "The coexistence of movement and music in a dance is essential to producing an inspiring performance."

to the bright, flashing lights featured in "Push." Performers of commedia dell'arte inspired the ending dance, called "Cirque Noir." Captivated by the endless possibilities of a balloon at rest, the entertainers danced with balloons throughout the entire performance. Describing the floating balloons in the performance, choreographer Kristi Faulkner said they remain an "elusive phenomenon...always just out of reach."

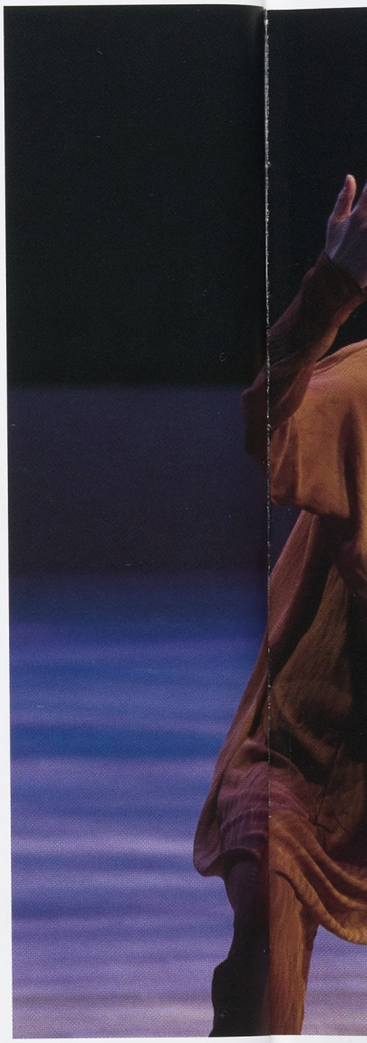
Showcasing the talent of those in the Department of Theater, the performance featured three student choreographers: senior Michelle Feghali, senior Thomas Bond and junior Caryn Parvin. In a post-performance discussion, an audience member referred to one of the dances as "the one with the crazy awesome music." The choreographer of this piece, Michelle Feghali, discussed the importance of selecting a good song behind each dance.

"My dance featured the song 'Memorial' by Explosions in the Sky. I told my dancers to listen to it and directed them to find a way to reveal their stressors in life using movement and intertwine them in the music. The coexistence of movement and music in a dance is essential to producing an inspiring performance," said Feghali.

Heather Vaughan-Southard, artistic director, was among the many people working behind the scenes. As a guest artist of the performance, Vaughan-Southard pursued her passion for the versatility of repertory dance.

"Repertory dance brings a specific awareness to the body that you can't get with other types of dance. The depth of dynamics within each piece is necessary, and it's what makes repertory dance so rich with artistic freedom," Vaughan-Southard said.

The reconstruction of the Fairchild Auditorium was the perfect starting point for the emotional reawakening that the performers invoked in the audience. Each dance, packed with lively instrumental music, a wealth of leaps and plenty of twists and turns, showcased the dancers' emotional journeys that helped them evolve. The artistic freedom to move as desired is what sets repertory dance apart from other forms of expression. It is the driving force behind bringing modern dance into being.



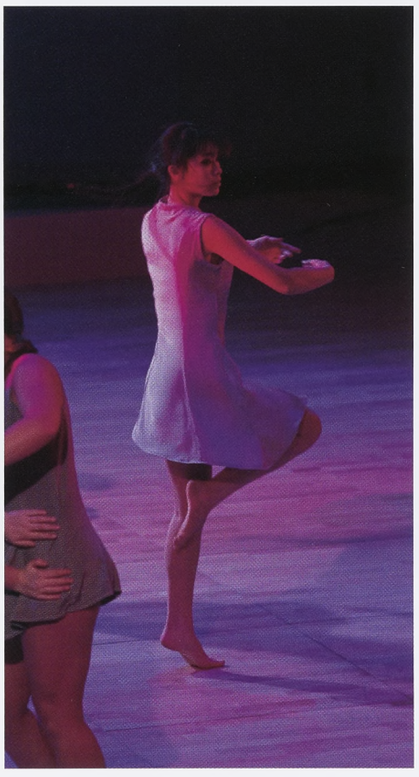


BROUGHT INTO BEING DANCE CONCERT

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO LAUREN GABOURY
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



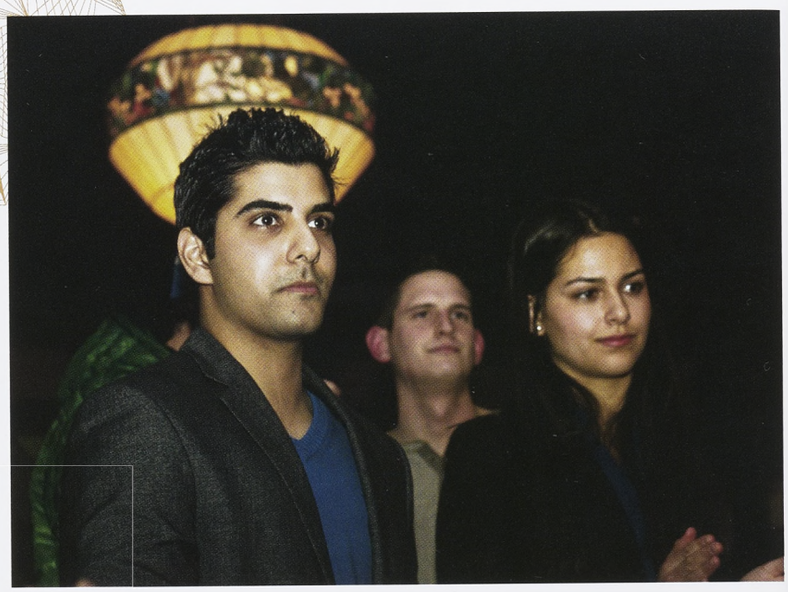




Junior Lauren Compton and seniors Amanda Jones and Janisse Martinez lean into the gesture of their performance. Orchesis works closely with dance and theatre faculty to expand the presence of dance on campus.

Senior Meredith Milarch reaches into her pose. Three of the works featured contemporary dance pieces choreographed by students.

Freshman Sophia Mai spins amid the flurry of movement across the stage. The performance was staged five times, including two discussion sessions with the choreographers for audience members who were interested in the show's creation.



Seniors Shay Manawar and Jenna Grezlik listen to feedback on their presentation from the judges panel. Win or lose, the judges encouraged presenters to continue pursuing their entrepreneurial dreams.



The crowd applauds a student presentation during a monthly Wednesday night competition at Beggar's Banquet. After all the presentations were completed, a crowd favorite award was given to one business by polling the audience.

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

cracking open an idea

Potential businesses pitch their ideas for a shot at start-up funds



Hatch team member Jeff Smith announces the winning business proposal. In addition to the $1,000 cash prize, the winner earned the opportunity to win $10,000.

In the dimly lit dining room of Beggar's Banquet, bloody marys and plates of chorizo nachos circled around as two students straightened their blazers and mentally rehearsed their lines. Big money was on the line — money that could give their start-up business some momentum.

The Hatching is an event hosted once a month by the city of Lansing and Spartan Innovations. Each entrepreneur is given five minutes to pitch their business idea and sell it to a group of judges from MSU Technologies and businesses across Lansing. After being scored on criteria of presentation, concept and plan of implementation, the judges grant $1,000 to the best idea. The only stipulation: the business has to be created in the Lansing area.

> "This is the very beginning of everything. Let this be your first step in doing something important."

Spartan Innovations, one of the MSU entities that helped organize The Hatching, provides marketing and financial advice for new businesses. Executive Assistant Lori Fischer explained that Spartan Innovations' projects could be found all over campus, such as the award-winning Temple Run app they assisted in marketing.

"We help MSU technologies that are professor and student-based," Fischer explained. "We're behind any inventions that could be spotted on campus. We supply everything from marketing, financials and social connections in the community to get them along."

Some of the entrepreneurs present at The Hatching were marketing senior Jenna Grezlik and her business partner, MSU alumnus Shay Manawar. Grezlik and Manawar decided to create an app that would turn a snapshot of handwriting into text on a computer screen using a technology called intelligence character recognition. The app, named PicPad, would be one of the first of its kind.

"Sometimes when I'm taking notes and another classmate wants it, it would be nice to kind of put it into digital format and send it off," Grezlik explained. "It's not as much for campus use, but calendars where you can digitize (the information) and send it to your Gmail calendar are also in the works."

As Manawar began his pitch, he showed no signs of stage fright, talking confidently about his business venture.

"Our goals are to establish PicPad as a technology business in Lansing," Manawar explained, "and second, to create IT jobs."

After three other business ventures gave their pitches, judges deliberated about which would receive the $1,000 check. A social media business, McCormick fiber products, and a bicycle delivery service called Go Green Trikes were PicPad's contenders. As the judges returned to center stage the crowd quieted to a buzz. They decided to give the reward to Go Green Trikes, a venture that had already garnered the attention of the Lansing City Market with its proposal to transport up to 600 pounds of food on the back of a bicycle.

"This is the very beginning of everything," Director Jeff Smith of Lansing Economic Area Partnership said. "Let this be your first step in doing something important."

Manawar and Grezlik weren't disheartened by the decision at The Hatching. Grezlik explained that their next steps would be to push the app even further, eventually expanding once their fledgling business takes off from the nest.

"We're looking to partner with a company based in France, so that's what is in the talks right now," Grezlik explained.

With codes written, designs made and social media marketing underway, The Hatching was only one possible step towards expansion for these Spartans. Though the cash prize was a catalyst towards a business taking off, it didn't decisively determine the fate of any business venture.



Chris Bota plays a solo riff during a show at The Loft. Bota is one of five members in the band Desmond Jones, and described their music as rock, funk and jazz fusion jam band.

for the **love** of **music**

Student artists showcase their passion for music production

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN KATIE FOLEY

It was the reason a record-setting audience overcome with Beatlemania crowded onto the grounds of Shea Stadium to watch Paul McCartney and the gang perform the highlight of their 1965 tour. It was the sudden awakening of 40,000 people on the grounds of White Lake, N.Y. on Aug. 18, 1969 upon Jimi Hendrix's soul-clenching rendition of the Star Spangled Banner at Woodstock. It was the jaw-dropping fascination as Michael Jackson glided across the stage of Motown 25 on Mar. 15, 1983, introducing the iconic moonwalk.

So, what is "it"? The answer is simple: music.

Although waving lighters in the air has transformed into waving cell phone flashlights, the excitement and lively atmosphere on the floor of venues has not changed since those historic events.

When attending a live performance, music fans are crammed shoulder to shoulder with other sweaty bodies, squirming as close to the stage as possible. As the lights dim, the crowd erupts with screams of anticipation. Bodies strut onto the stage, spotlights begin to shine, and the moment finally arrives. As the sound of the drums, vocals, bass and lead guitar fill the room, goose bumps spread across one's skin, and a smile across the face.

However, audience members aren't the only ones who experience pre-show jitters. Musicians awaiting their time onstage often experience mixed emotions of anticipation and happiness. Freshman and musician Alex Passanesi is all too familiar with them.

"I get so nervous before going on stage. Butterflies overtake me. I freak out thinking 'Man, I haven't done this in a while.' But as soon as I start playing, I'm instantly at ease," said Passanesi, strumming away on his black Yamaha acoustic guitar.

Passanesi is a musician whose talent could match that of an entire band. With the ability to play acoustic and electric guitar, harmonica, ukulele, drums and percussion as well as impressive vocal talents, Passanesi is no stranger to music and music theory. He even had the creativity and ingenuity to assemble his own instrument. By placing one of his shoes on top of a tambourine and securing it with rubber bands, Passanesi is able to play the guitar, keep the beat with his foot on the tambourine, secure the harmonica to his headpiece around his neck and sing — a true embodiment of a one-man band.

"I like to play just for me," said Passanesi. "Some days I'll take my guitar and go sit under the Farm Lane bridge and just play for hours on end. The acoustics are great, and it just gives me the greatest peace of mind."

The notion of playing for the pure love of music is held in high regard by professor and lifetime musician Steven McCornack, Ph.D. McCornack teaches COM 225, an introductory interpersonal communication class. While covering a variety of topics such as emotions, love and relationships, McCornack has perfected the art of intertwining music into his lectures. He mentions lyrics from popular bands and even sends out e-mails after class with various YouTube links to songs that correlate with the lessons learned that day. Keeping the hope of future generations of music alive, McCornack discusses the purpose behind many newly formed bands.

"There is a purity of motive that comes with the relinquishing idea of making it," said McCornack. "Instead of seeing the number of bands go down because of the low chance of becoming famous, we're seeing the exact opposite."

Many East Lansing musicians come together to do what they love by playing music as a group. In between classes, work, and studying, these musicians find a way to spend time cleansing the mind by strumming, singing or keeping the beat. Much like McCornack suggests, it is evident that many of these burgeoning bands have different reasons for playing music than aspiring for fame and fortune.

"I think the motive for playing has shifted. There are fewer and fewer amounts of artists who are playing with the instrumental goal of, 'We're gonna be famous,'" said McCornack. "Mostly, I think people now are starting up with the idea that, 'We're gonna do this because we love it.'"

However, some bands have been successfully recognized at local bars and venues. After a long day of classes, local band Desmond Jones performed at The Loft on Nov. 13, opening for popular Midwest band Jimkata. Comprised of all MSU students, Desmond Jones has been together for a year and a half, playing shows all around the state. With a style best described as a mixture of rock n' roll, blues, jazz and folk, Desmond Jones is a distinctive, five-member band with an eclectic repertoire.

"One of my favorite things about our band is all the different musical inspirations and influences we bring to the group as individuals. We all have different music tastes, but we all agree on many too," said junior and drummer John Nowak.

Members of Desmond Jones include bassist John Loria, guitarist Chris Bota, drummer John Nowak, lead vocalist and guitarist Isaac Berkowitz and saxophonist George Falk. The band provides their audience with jazzy saxophone solos, funky bass runs and lead guitar solos on par with any famous classic rock band, all overlapped with pressing yet beautiful lyrics.

The joyous emotions felt by the members of the band oozed off of the stage and seeped onto the dance floor as they played. The bobbing of heads along with energetic, lively dance moves throughout various parts of the set were as boisterous as the kick drum keeping the beat alive. Together, sharing high-fives and across-stage head-nods, they showcased the passion they have for what they do.

"The best part about being in a band is the ability to express myself through music, with my best friends," said Nowak, wiping the sweat from his forehead after a long night of jamming. "Half the reason I love being in Desmond Jones so much is because they are four of my best friends, and we get to travel around the state playing music for people. It's the best hobby in the world and has given me a lot of opportunities and adventures I will never forget."

As exemplified by McCornack, one's ardor for music can never die. Inspiration is key to anyone who aspires to create. Whether it's an individual musician like Passanesi or a group like Desmond Jones, having the desire to play music is life-changing. Much like McCartney, Hendrix and Jackson realized years ago, music and inspiration go hand in hand (or sparkly glove), and transcend time. For those who have been enlightened, the reason that pushes them on is the chance to play purely for the love of music.

Simulation frames local housing plight

Junior Christopher Symons interviews a fellow student about housing arrangements. Students engaged in a simulation, which was designed to highlight challenges that homeless individuals face.

Junior Courtney Sweeney writes a housewarming card. Students also put together care packages for the homeless that included socks, cleaning supplies, toiletries and other items.





With the weather below freezing nearly every day during the winter months, students covered up in their living places, skipped class and even had a couple snowdays. But what happens to the people without a home, those living day-to-day in homeless shelters or on the streets? To educate the student community, homelessness moved into the McDonel Kiva on Jan. 30 for the Leadership Institute event Movin' On In.

The Leadership Institute, a new club on campus formed in 2012, aims to harness and foster the leadership qualities of Spartans. The club teamed up with Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps Program for an evening of homelessness awareness.

"Teaching homelessness is super important because we need to change perceptions about homelessness. Many students have a skewed and limited scope of it," said Michelle Adams, volunteer coordinator for AmeriCorps.

"A lot of students believe that homelessness is their fault. Most believe they're drug addicts, substance abusers or alcoholics."

In order to debunk these myths, a homelessness simulation brought 20 passionate students together to experience the struggles of the homeless firsthand. Each participant was given a gender, age and a story. Their goal was to find a place to sleep in one of the several shelters, apartments and even a local real estate agency. The students were allotted four simulated days, which lasted ten minutes each. Students wandered around the kiva and waited in long lines, all while sharing their stories as they applied for housing in homeless shelters and apartments.

One of the many waiting in line for a place to stay was junior Steven McConnel. McConnel played the role of an 18-year-old married male with a GED education. He was working as a mechanic to support his new, pregnant wife.

"I was rejected by three places, shelter was full or too expensive" said McConnel. He said the prime fact of life he learned was how often the homeless deal with rejection. "With what we're given, this is a great way to get our foot in the door."

One of the organizers rejecting participants like McConnel was AmeriCorp member Stephanie Onderchanin.

"It really helps with seeing that homelessness isn't a one-dimensional issue, and the causes for it are varied," said Onderchanin.

On the first day, the AmeriCorp member turned away everyone because the facilities were full. Like many on the streets who have faced rejection, no one came back to ask for shelter.

"A lot of students believe that homelessness is their fault. Most believe they're drug addicts, substance abusers or alcoholics."

"A lot of people have been told 'no' by so many places, agencies and people in their life before that they just expect that it's not worth it to come back," Onderchanin said.

The night finished with the students building baskets and writing cards for families seeking shelter at Lansing's Haven House, an emergency shelter in Lansing offering support and promoting self-sufficiency. The baskets consisted of necessities like toilet paper, trash bags, sponges and cold medicine. The cards were decorated with greetings in warm, vibrant colors like, "Glad you're here" and "Welcome home."

For one night the McDonel Kiva became the streets. The simulation gave students a look at what the life of a homeless person can be like. It opened students' eyes for a new appreciation of the little things, like warm clothes and a place to call home, while also helping them realize that trudging through inches of snow at 9 a.m. on a Friday really isn't that bad.

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

seeking refuge



Students laugh about a comment made by Senior Montazar Alessa. At the end of the simulation, participants gathered to discuss the trials and tribulations they encountered as they searched for shelter.

Rumi Club invites students to indulge in Turkish coffee and tradition

Freshly roasted coffee beans are ground into a fine powder. They slowly brew on the stove, transforming the powder into a dark, rich liquid. Delicate foam erupts from the bottom of the pot, inviting the drinker in for a creamy sip of what could only be a cup of Turkish coffee. But this coffee is more than just an elaborately delicious way to consume caffeine, as students learned at Rumi Club's Turkish Coffee Night in the International Center on Jan. 28.

"In one sense, it means nothing, no different than American coffee," said international graduate student Serafettin Gedik, a member of Rumi Club. "But it's also my culture, part of who I am. It is different than any other coffee through the way we prepare and offer it to our guests. You can see part of our identity through Turkish coffee."

Founded five years ago, the MSU Rumi Club takes its name from 13th century Persian poet Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi. Best known for a poem that opens with "Come, come, whoever you are," Rumi conveys the notion that people of all cultures are always welcome.

Rumi Club's mantra appeared to be at work among the crowd of about 70 people who attended the event, ranging from club members and students to professors and whole families. A spread of Turkish appetizers greeted guests as they arrived, including a dessert called asure, or Noah's pudding, which contains wheat, rice, beans, chickpeas, sugar, dried fruits and nuts.

"This is a cultural group of ingredients that you do not expect to create a dessert," said fifth year Ph.D. student Ibrahim Delen, the club's vice president. "This mixture symbolizes the dialogue for us. Serving this dessert was to show that if we come together and look for the similarities, we can create a better society."

As everyone munched on refreshments, assistant professor Muhammed Emin Kutay played a quick video to introduce the importance of coffee to Turkish culture. It explained that an invitation to have a cup of coffee with someone is an unspoken offer of friendship. It is both an honor and a privilege, but also a way to signify how one feels about another depending on how well they made the coffee. Kutay joked that a cup of coffee is remembered for 40 years, stressing how significant the custom is.

After the video, Kutay moved on with his own presentation on the history of Turkish music and information about unique instruments. As the guests listened, club members brought them the highly anticipated coffee in elegant, tiny cups on matching saucer plates. Those new to the beverage were warned to only drink about 70 percent of what was in the cup to avoid the thick layer of coffee grounds at the bottom.

"In a sense, drinking a cup of Turkish coffee has the same impact of a study abroad, just on a very limited basis," said club advisor Hakan Yildiz. "Rumi Club brings the culture to the campus. Not everyone is able to go study abroad, and even if you do, you still don't see all of the culture in the world."

"Serving this dessert was to show that if we come together and look for the similarities, we can create a better society."

After finishing a serving of Turkish coffee, the cup is turned over on its saucer. The pattern of streaks on the side represent the different paths a person can take in life. The remaining coffee grounds that cling to the bottom of the cup contain figures that can be interpreted as a variety of symbols. An angel, for example, suggests that good news and happiness are approaching.

With their fortunes told, guests gradually filed out of the room to return to their personal coffee-streaked paths. As life can take people in all sorts of unpredictable directions, it's important to savor the moments when everyone can come together to enjoy the simple pleasures in life — like a cup of joe with new friends.



A freshly brewed cup of Turkish coffee cools before it is tasted. Guests discussed Turkish coffee, music and clothing while enjoying traditional food.

TURKISH COFFEE NIGHT

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

the 40-year-old **cup of coffee**





Leftover coffee grounds drip off of a saucer. If read correctly, Turkish coffee dregs are believed to reveal the drinker's fortune.

Professor Muhammed Emin Kutay describes facets of Turkish culture. Kutay also performed with traditional Turkish instruments.





President Barack Obama addresses the ways in which the Farm Bill will positively affect the economy. Obama also met with Michigan farmers to discuss the provisions of the legislation.

President Obama visits MSU to sign 2014 Farm Bill

The Mary Anne McPhail Equine Performance Center was guarded like a vault. Burly security men in primly pressed suits, U.S. government pins and earpieces were dispersed throughout the interior and perimeter of the building. Only the press and those with exclusive tickets to the event were allowed a glimpse at MSU's visiting V.I.P. — Commander in Chief of the United States and 44th President Barack Obama.

Around 2 p.m., Obama took his place at the podium before a backdrop of a John Deere tractor, crates of fresh produce and a giant banner of stars and stripes. A massive smile snuck across the president's face as he was met with a standing ovation from the crowd.

> "You're helping farmers grow crops that are healthier and more resistant to disease. Some students are even raising piglets on an organic farm."

"Go green," he said into the microphone.

"Go white!" the crowd echoed back excitedly.

However, the center of attention was not the Spartan nation, but the 2014 Farm Bill, passed through the U.S. Congress after three years of work by MSU alumnua and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, head of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The nearly 1000-page document dedicates about $1 trillion dollars over the next 10 years to expand crop insurance for farmers when prices fall. The bill also reduces subsidies paid to farmers directly by the government. At the other end of the spectrum, $8 billion will be cut from the federal food stamp programs over 10 years.

Economics professor Charles Ballard said the legislation will affect the state in many ways.

"Agriculture in Michigan is unusually diverse. We have a lot of specialty crops, such as cherries and blueberries. The new bill extends crop insurance to some growers of fruits and vegetables who were not previously eligible for crop insurance," said Ballard.

Ballard also said the bill and Obama's visit will have positive repercussions on the state and university.

"The national attention will not radically transform our economy, but it certainly is welcome," said Ballard. "Also, MSU's agricultural research programs stand to gain from some of the research money included in the bill."

Sophomore Liz Brajevich was able to participate in the original drafts of the bill as an intern for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in Washington, D.C. She was responsible for analyzing how different drafts of the bill impacted conservation efforts by the NFWF. Some of her work involved reviewing procedures like planting buffer zones between crop fields and rivers to prevent excessive fertilizer runoff. Brajevich was impressed by the score of the bill's impact.

"It was amazing to see how many things were encompassed by the Farm Bill," she said. "It provides food for a lot of hungry Americans."

Obama assured the crowd of Spartans that their university is important to the nation as the first land-grant institution in the United States and a front-runner in agricultural research.

"Here at Michigan State, by the way, you are helping us to do even more," President Obama said. "You're helping farmers grow crops that are healthier and more resistant to disease. Some students are even raising their own piglets on an organic farm. When I was in college, I lived in a pigsty, I didn't work in one. Your hygiene gets better as you get older."

The president's reference was to the Pastured Pig Project created by MSU professor Laurie Thorp in 2010. The project allows adult female pigs to run loose on the Student Organic Farm with the goal of achieving natural births as well as farmland prep through laying manure and treading the soil with their wrinkled snouts.

"A lot of consumers are eating food without knowing where it comes from," said junior Alexis Hinson, a student manager of the project. "The pigs are able to live their full life on the farm and are able to be a part of the farm and food system."

Cameras flashed as President Obama sat down at the table with a few pages of the document. He signed the letter "B" and changed pens. He continued with the letter "a," changing pens with every letter until all 11 at his disposal were used. The historic significance of the Farm Bill and Obama's trip to MSU will be solidified in these pens as a historical artifact from one of his most comprehensive bills.

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

land-grant legislation





President Obama signs the Farm Bill in front of members of Michigan Legislature. The Farm Bill implements financial security for farmers, ensuring consistent accessibility to the proper tools.

President Obama greets the audience with a grin during his speech prior to signing the Farm Bill. The event was held at the Mary Anne McPhail Equine Performance Center, marking the president's second appearance on campus.



Newly elected ASMSU president, junior Kiran Samra, poses in her office. On election night, Samra explained that her experiences as the chief of staff prepared her to successfully fulfill her duties as ASMSU president.

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

the student voice

ASMSU elects new student body president

The Student Services conference room, complete with a whiteboard and circle of tables, held the entirety of the General Assembly. While the sight was not unusual for a Thursday night, this particular meeting held great significance: this was the night a new president for the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) would be elected.

ASMSU, though a familiar acronym to many from newspaper headlines, is not often recognized for the resources and services it provides to students. These include free blue books, newspapers and yearbooks, as well as free legal consultation and campus events. Recognition of the group's importance drew some to it, like freshman Leslie Seery, who hopes to run for a spot on the General Assembly.

"I heard so many bad things that I want to join it and help to fix it or at least learn more about it," Seery said.

As representatives of the student body, electing qualified leaders is of great importance to the group. Normally, the elections for ASMSU president take place in April. In 2013, however, the previous president graduated early, leaving the position unoccupied for the second half of the school year. Thus, the 38 members of the General Assembly, representing each college on campus, gathered on Feb. 6 with the task of filling the open presidential seat on the agenda.

Three candidates were contending for the two-month presidential term. One was junior Kiran Samra, then ASMSU chief of staff. Samra, an ASMSU staff member since her freshman year, thought that familiarity with projects and plans already in motion was crucial to successfully assuming leadership mid-semester.

> "I am looking forward to representing the student voice and taking ASMSU to new heights."

"I think it's really important for there to be a president in there who knows what's going on," Samra said.

Another veteran of ASMSU, senior Chris McClain, also ran for office. Like Samra, McClain believed he could encourage a better connection with the student body.

"One of the biggest things I think we need to do is strengthen our engagement with the community," said McClain, who proposed holding more public meetings and giving out free meal passes to draw in off-campus students.

However, prior involvement with the group is not a prerequisite for the position. In fact, any ASMSU tax-paying students can apply within 10 days of the election's announcement. Senior Jordan Zammit did just that.

"Frankly, I'm an outsider," said Zammit. "I don't really have any previous ties, and I think I'm the only person who will do what's necessary to fix it and make it so students are better represented."

After a closed session, the General Assembly called the candidates in one at a time, giving each five minutes to explain their qualifications and why they wanted the position. After a brief question-and-answer session, the representatives went back into closed session to discuss further and cast their secret ballots. At the end of the night, Samra became president of ASMSU.

"I am very excited and honored to be given this opportunity to serve as the ASMSU president," Samra said. "I am looking forward to representing the student voice and taking ASMSU to new heights."

With a litany of negative publicity and only a few short months in office before the end of the semester, Samra said ASMSU will continue to foster dialogue between students and their representatives. Whether by bringing musical acts to campus or keeping students enrolled through short-term loans, Samra and her fellow representatives were committed to putting the "S" back in ASMSU.

4-H Children's Garden cultivates imaginations

A bus full of overly-energetic first graders departed its school. If evading a cramped classroom smelling of Elmer's Glue by attending outdoor recess was a treat, being able to leave the school on a field trip to MSU's Dairy Store and the 4-H Children's Garden was as sweet as a cone of Buckeye Blitz. Now, at their respective colleges, students have faint memories of animal sculptures, butterflies and curvy sidewalks. Although this playground was for six-year-olds, creativity and innovation have no age limit.

Opened in 1993, the 4-H Children's Garden, located behind the Plant and Soil Sciences Building, was introduced to the community as the nation's first public garden dedicated to integrating the arts and sciences for children. Founding curator Jane Taylor, who worked for the Michigan 4-H Foundation, wanted to create a space where kids could expand their imagination and environmental awareness. She was so passionate about her project that she created 62 different themed areas within the gardens, including the pizza and cereal bowl gardens. These areas feature edibles like tomatoes, wheat and grain that are the main ingredients of these kid-approved dishes.

The 4-H part of the garden's name represents the youth component of MSU Extension, an organization dedicated to public outreach programs that benefit human and environmental needs within the state. 4-H, which stands for head, heart, hands and health, works to instill skills in youth to better themselves and their community through experiential learning activities focusing on agriculture, engineering and citizenship. These goals coincide with MSU's legacy as a land-grant institution.

The Children's Garden has become an influential place not just for youth but for the college students who inspire them. Art education junior Tiffany Shay has worked as an educator and assistant since she came to campus. Shay is one of the few employees without a background in horticulture. Instead, she educates elementary students on how to incorporate science and nature into art.

"This past summer, I taught a three-day summer program at the gardens called Camp Monet," Shay said. "One of the projects I had the kids do was flower painting. They took flowers, rubbed the petals on paper which leaves the dye on the paper. It's a simple and low-cost activity which these kids were able to do at home."

While working with the camp, Shay obtained valuable skills for her future career regarding communication with children, the creation of effective lesson plans and providing engaging material that kids can apply in and out of the classroom.

"I'm hoping she'll be able to add horticultural aspects in her lessons once she's a teacher," Children's Garden Education Coordinator Jess Wright said. "While working camps here, she's been able to practice teaching while expanding her own knowledge of different plants in our environment."

Wright, like Shay, spent her time at MSU in the Children's Garden. Beginning in 2004 as an intern, she studied horticulture. When she graduated, she was offered a position as educational coordinator. Wright teaches in the Curiosity Classroom, where students learn about the life cycle and anatomy of different plants and even animals.

"They receive a foundation education here in the classroom, then they'll apply what they know out in the gardens," Wright said. "We want to provide them with an opportunity and experience that they wouldn't get back in their own school. By going to the garden, they're exposed to the real examples of plants and animals that they've learned in the classroom."

Both Shay and Wright welcome upwards of 125,000 visitors to the garden each year and lead over 10,000 students in structured lessons. In order to accommodate these visitors, Wright would like to see more student involvement, but realizes that timing is an issue for most volunteers.

"While we have students that help transplant, plant, weed and teach in the gardens, we don't see as many docents leading school groups," Wright said. "It is difficult as these college students have class during the day which is when all the field trips occur."

Despite those limitations, the garden is a year-round operation. While the outdoor facilities are dormant during the winter and early spring months, a smaller, indoor children's garden accompanied by an butterfly exhibit are open to the public. Students help maintain those areas and prepare for the outdoor seasons by ordering seeds and updating educational material for visitors in the spring.

Along with organizing lesson plans, the gardens are upgrading their outdoor oases with technology. Current curator Norm Lownds, Ph.D said that QR codes have been added on different areas around the outdoor gardens for visitors to use with their smartphones. Along with the codes, a website called Wonder Wall, which was created by former students from the College of Communication Arts and Sciences, helps develop and survey the gardens according to younger students' input on what they learned on their field trip.

"With the help from some of my former graduate students, we interviewed kids and adults as to what part of the garden was their favorite so we have an idea of what we need to improve on," Lownds said. "Wonder Wall looks at what kind of questions kids ask about plants and gardening, how they change over time and w hether or not integrating the technologies we're using affects their learning."

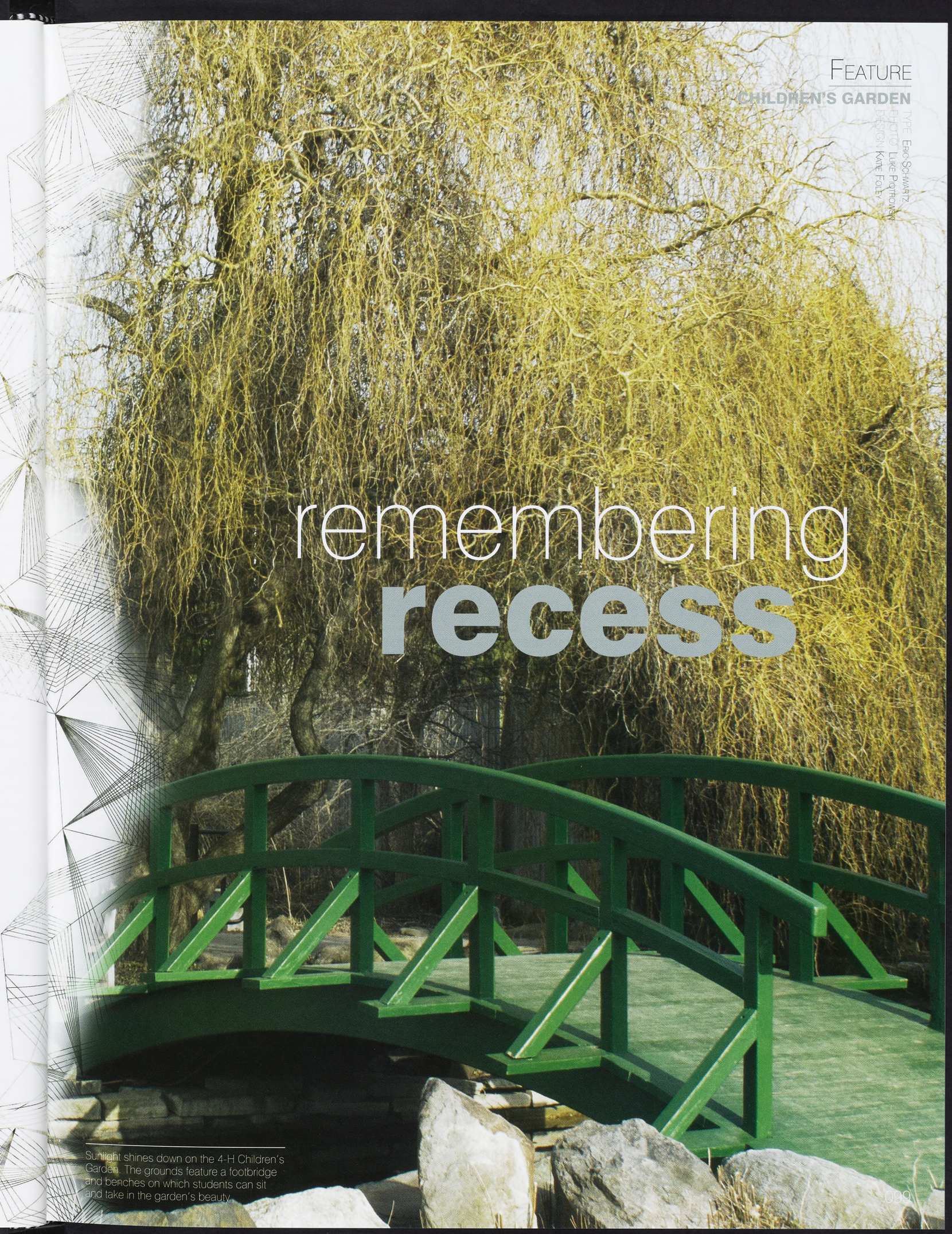
Lownds turned not only to students but also Michigan-based artisans to help design and make the garden more interactive. For months, a dragon sculpture made of willow branches has been one of the larger featured artworks completed by a local artist. Although sculptures like the dragon are temporary, some like the Monet Bridge have been a staple attraction for the gardens.

"It is a replica from the actual bridge in Giverny, France," Wright said. "In fact, it is the exact paint color as well, because we digitally matched the color from a small paint chip from the actual bridge."

Weaving through the 4-foot hedges of the Alice in Wonderland maze or skipping along the sides of the magic bubble fountains, innocent joy tempted young children visiting the gardens. While college students use the grounds as a study sanctuary, it is still a place where their imagination and wonder is free to thrive. Spartans may be pleased to learn that such a playground exists in their own backyard.

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN KATIE FOLEY

remembering recess



Sunlight shines down on the 4-H Children's Garden. The grounds feature a footbridge and benches on which students can sit and take in the garden's beauty.

MORRILL PLAZA



Morrill Plaza is named after Justin Morrill, a senator who introduced the concept of the land-grant university. Architecture students designed the layout and landscaping of the plaza.

The new Morrill Plaza was built on the ground where Morrill Hall stood for more than 100 years. The building, which housed several departments, was demolished in summer 2013.



Faculty members June Pierce Youatt, Dianne Byrum, Sue Carter and President Lou Anna K. Simon spoke during the opening ceremony. The new kiosk and plaza honor the Morrill Land-Grant College Act of 1862, which established the university's agricultural focus.

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO NATE REYARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

cementing history

Morrill Plaza commemorates university's land-grant legacy

Passersby walking through north campus during summer 2013 witnessed the disruption of a tranquil backdrop of early 1900s architecture. Bulldozers plowed through the brick facade of Morrill Hall, which was condemned due to asbestos and irreparable damage. The demolition left a gaping wound in building's side, its dusty plumage gushing with history.

On Feb. 11, the parcel of land once occupied by Morrill Hall was unveiled as a plaza garnished with trees and wide open spaces. It commemorated the women who lived and studied in the building, nicknamed "The Coop" by male classmates. Justin Morrill, a senator from Vermont, passed the Morrill Land-Grant College Act in 1862, which eventually lead to the creation of MSU, known then as State Agricultural College. At the time, federally funded universities that encouraged the teaching of agricultural practices were practically unheard of.

Five of Justin Morrill's descendants visited the Morrill Plaza opening ceremony, including Tom Irrer, whose wife is a fourth cousin of Justin Morrill, three generations removed. Irrer recognized that his ancestor's impact on the university is something that needs to be remembered and taught.

"Justin Morrill took education and instead of teaching about the ancient philosophers and their ideas, he took it to agriculture," Irrer explained. "How can we do a better job of growing our food? How can we make machines to help us? He realized that the basis of a good civilization is a strong base in agriculture."

Morrill's family was joined by camera crews and journalists awaiting the ceremony's presenters. MSU Board of Trustees member Dianne Byrum addressed the crowd.

"The design was conceptualized by a team of MSU landscape architecture students in 2011 and refined by MSU Engineering and Architectural Services," said Byrum of the plaza. "The center plaza design reflects the building's circular window pattern. The narrow concrete jointing emulates the Morrill Hall front porch steps that once stood, and delightful stone rosettes, which once stood on the southeast side of the building, now can be seen from Circle Drive."

> "Michigan State was designed to be the best. That's what makes this place special."

Among the students involved in the designing process was senior and landscape architecture major Bridget Safferman. Safferman and a team of four other architects created a proposal for the plaza's layout, and elements of their design were used to create the final project.

"I really like the way they incorporated the original bricks and elements of the building, which you wouldn't normally have seen, like how the main pathway cuts through what used to be Morrill's main hallway," Safferman said.

Two kiosks built from bricks that were once a part of Morrill Hall were equipped with built-in touch screen monitors. The monitors allow students and guests to access information about legendary MSU faculty members like chemist Barnett Rosenberg, activist Mary Mayo, economist Walter Adams and chemistry professor Robert Kedzie. All of these influential alumni once had offices in Morrill Hall.

President Lou Anna K. Simon stood in front of a small crowd gathered for the plaza's unveiling. Simon said it is a place designed to encourage reflection, rest, new energy and learning about the pioneering faculty.

"Imagine the idea that you could have a place that could draw broadly from across the socioeconomic class, at the same time demand a curriculum demanding as much work as the most prestigious universities of the time," Simon described, referring to the birth of the university after the passing of the Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act. "Michigan State was designed to be the best. That's what makes this place special."

more than a pid

MSU Students United protests high tuition



Sophomore Connor Meston and freshman Jessa Stegall protest outside of the Wharton Center. Meston and Stegall braved the cold winter air to grab the attention of President Simon and the general public.

According to the Office of Controller Student Accounts, tuition at MSU has increased by 1,750 percent since 1979, sending many students into a spiral of debt from student loans. In a society where a college degree is a typical job requirement yet inordinately expensive to earn, students are stuck in a situation that almost smells like a scam. And some students are tired of the stench.

On Feb. 11, MSU Students United assembled outside of the Wharton Center to protest tuition hikes as President Lou Anna K. Simon delivered the annual State of the University Address inside.

MSU Students United is an unregistered, grassroots student group. Formed in 2013, members aim to represent the student body and take action to secure students' rights to affordable, high-quality education. The group strategically organized the rally during the State of the University address to offset the picture-perfect situation they anticipated Simon would project with her speech.

"The most realistic positive outcome would either be massive media attention leading to a lot of student interest and mobilization, or President Simon contacting us and saying that she wants to sit down and talk about what we can do about this problem of privatizing our education," said senior Noah Saperstein, who helped organize the event. "That being said, I don't see President Simon leaving the fourth floor of the administration office to come talk to us petty students."

> "We give money to a huge institution and that's that, without really thinking about where the money is."

More than 20 students met at the entrance to the Wharton Center parking ramp at 3 p.m., armed with signs and banners with phrases like "I am more than my PID" to grab the attention of those driving to Simon's speech. At 3:30 p.m., the group moved toward the Wharton Center. In the crowd

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

was junior Megan Wesner, who was not a member of MSU Students United but wanted to become involved.

"The whole idea of college itself is just something that we are supposed to do. We give money to a huge institution and that's that, without really thinking about where the money is going or how our voices are going to be heard," said Wesner. "It's an institution that is supposed to be serving us."

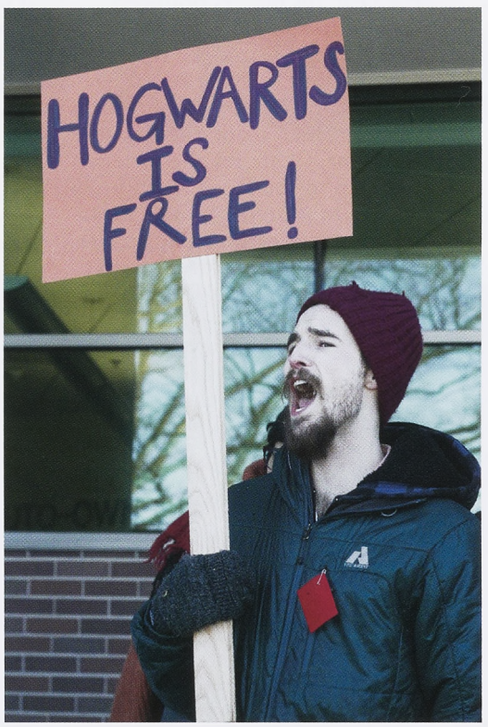
The demonstration caught many people's attention, including the MSU Police Department's. An officer approached the group and explained that as long as the protest did not disrupt normal operations, students were welcome to voice their opinions. Still, police vehicles were stationed nearby as a precaution.

Rally organizer and sophomore Connor Meston said that although they were opposed to the tuition increases, the group wanted to encourage students to join their chants rather than intimidate bystanders.

"If more people don't get involved at some point, tuition is going to continue to go up. Plus, if we don't start putting pressure on the university now, we won't be able to slow the tuition increases even if tuition does continue to go up." Meston grinned as he turned to watch fellow students cry out, "Go Green! Go White! Join the high tuition fight!"— a radical twist on the traditional Spartan mantra.

Though the cost of tuition does not necessarily seal a student's financial fate, the rally incited a sense of urgency in students. Although MSU Students United's protest attempted to counteract Simon's speech, the group embodied the concept with which she ended her address.

"There are big goals and big dreams, but dreams are made for people like Spartans who share a sense of purpose and a special bond," said Simon. "To be a Spartan is to be a part of something big. Spartans are determined and passionate about our mission. Beyond resilient if we should fall, we strive to rebound an even higher plane."



Senior Spencer Perrenoud holds a satirical sign critiquing the high cost of tuition. Perrenoud and others assembled in order to shed light on issues that impact students.

Students rally outside of the Wharton Center parking ramp during President Simon's State of the University Address. The group was mainly concerned with the trend of increasing student debt.



After defeating the University of Michigan on Nov. 2, a video was leaked of coach Mark Dantonio dancing to the Rich Homie Quan song "Type of Way" in the middle of his team. As he jumped up and down to the beat, his players bounced around in a circle, capturing on film the rare Dantonio smile. Fast forward to New Year's Day — the song went viral and Rich Homie Quan made the trip to Pasadena, Calif., for the Spartans' first trip to the Rose Bowl in 25 years. On March 11, the Atlanta-based rapper made a pilgrimage to the MSU Auditorium to get students once again feeling some type of way.

Rich Homie Quan, born Dequantes Lamar, was relatively unknown before being unleashed on Spartan Nation. Now his single "Type of Way" can be heard on the radio, booming from car stereos and propelling the head bobs of students listening to music while navigating sidewalk mazes on campus.

Throughout his concert, opened by the Los Angeles-based Kid Ink, Rich Homie Quan pledged his allegiance to MSU. "Go green, go White!" were the first words out of the rapper's mouth as he walked into the auditorium with an MSU hoodie. The wardrobe choice was the frosting on the cake for the evening, which celebrated the football team and the university as a whole.

"I love how unified all of the Spartans felt in the venue, remembering the Rose Bowl win and just having a good time with thousands of other Spartans," said senior Dan Eby. "Rich Homie Quan means so much more to the university than a song to dance to after a win. He shows that you can bridge a gap between any two groups through music, and he definitely showed the team that if you push through something, it will get better in the end."

The rapper exploded straight out of the gate with "Type of Way." Dantonio appeared from the side of the stage to drop the top of his whip with Sparty, dancing for the crowd as the football team cheered from their mezzanine seats.

This liveliness and enthusiasm was exactly what student attendees anticipated from the concert.

"He shows that you can bridge a gap between any two groups through music, and he definitely showed the team that if you push through something, it will get better in the end."

"I don't know much about Rich Homie Quan and his music. All I know is he gets me feeling some type of way," said freshman Chris Powers. "I liked that he never really stopped. It was always engaging and energetic."

It was the explosiveness of Rich homie Quan's hit single that enticed freshman Casey Bloom to purchase tickets.

"He served as a motivational figure because of the campus-wide census on the song, "Some Type Of Way,'" he said. "It opened my eyes to his music that I now listen to quite often. I really like him."

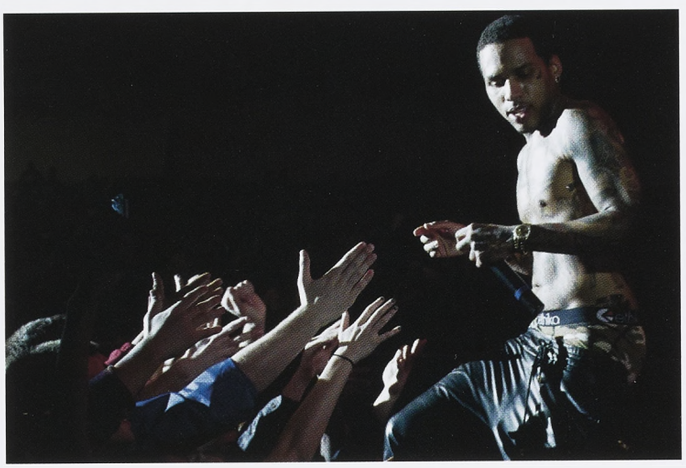
Rich Homie Quan bounded around the stage, bombastically reciting his lyrics. Most of the concert was spent slapping hands, twisting in place and bobbing rhythmically with a spit-covered microphone. The artist started nearly every song with an acapella rendition of the first verse before breaking into the actual beats as his DJ delivered the song to the dancing crowd through the speakers.

As the concert progressed, football players slowly made their way onto the stage. Junior Travis Jackson, known for the "Yes" chant, awkwardly moved his limbs to the music as Dantonio kept his feet in order by not moving. Men's basketball player and sophomore Denzel Valentine even made a guest appearance, twisting and contorting his body with his hands out in front in a rendition of The Dougie.

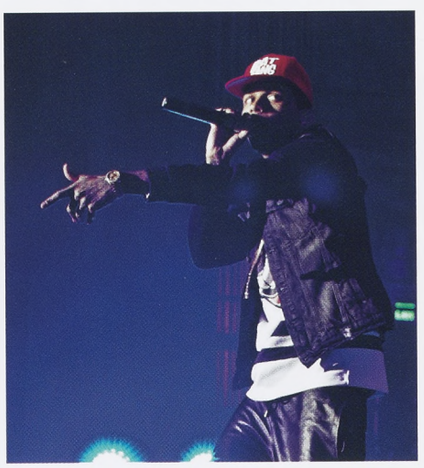
"I'm a Spartan for life," Quan shouted. The crowd responded with an anthem of "Go green, go White."

With this same enthusiasm and pride, Rich Homie Quan's hit was transformed into a battle cry, leading Spartan warriors onto the front lines to face their combatants helmet-to-helmet.

Every lyric, every individual battle won on the gridiron, celebrated the hard work that goes into producing both a successful football program and a perfect track. Certainly no Spartan could ever forget feeling some type of way on New Year's Day of 2014.



The crowd reaches out as Kid Ink sweeps through the front row signing purses, iPhones, and hats. Kid Ink, born Brian Collins, has been making music since 2009.



Kid Ink opens the concert for Rich Homie Quan at Fairchild Auditorium. Kid Ink, known for songs such as "Show Me" and "I Just Want it All," traveled from Los Angeles for the performance.

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

hustlin' for roses

Rapper Rich Homie Quan celebrates Rose Bowl victory with MSU community



Rich Homie Quan performs at The Fairchild Auditorium in a Rose Bowl celebration concert. Quan's song "Type of Way" was the football team's anthem throughout their 13-1 season.







"What You Don't See" by The Story So Far spins on a Crosley portable record player. Records can be released in a variety of colors, including white records, which are heavier and different from the standard black.

Student record collections range from contemporary music to the classics like Bruce Springsteen. Students search high and low for classic LPs at local record stores, an activity referred to as "crate digging."

Graduate student Eian Kantor holds The Strokes' album, "This Is It." Kantor remembers falling in love with The Strokes after hearing his camp counselors blasting it.

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

turning back time

Records help Spartans live in another decade

Everything was a muted shade of orange in a new pair of aviator sunglasses. Pant legs waved in a warm summer night breeze — a sensation as comfortable as a fringe-carpeted Volkswagen bus. There was nothing more suspenseful than the seconds of pure silence between placing a needle delicately on a record and hearing the sounds of John, Paul, Ringo and George echoing in an empty room. Those were the days of peace signs and protests, but is the past really history, or are current trends transporting students to a more nostalgic time?

Though the days of tracking The Beatles' tour dates and record releases are over, there has been an increase in record and record player popularity among today's music-loving youth. Despite the advancements in technology that allow albums to be downloaded in a matter of seconds and music to be mobile with iPods, more students are flashing back by investing in record players. For freshman Carly Nylander, spinning vinyl connects her with artists on another level.

"Buying records forces me to listen to an entire album," Nylander said. "I feel like the artists are trying to tell a story that they can only explain when I listen to their full work and not just by picking and choosing certain songs. It makes listening to music a more intimate experience."

Graduate student Eian Kantor shared similar sentiments, as memories of his undergraduate experiences in New York can be traced back to certain records. He said that while living in a house in the Big Apple, many bands came through performing house shows and creating record labels with their friends forming a "do it yourself, do it together" community.

> "When I hear the scratching of a needle on vinyl and watching a record rotate, I feel like I've transported to a different time period."

"Records from artists I met are tangible items that symbolize the memories and experiences with the people that I spent time with in that house," Kantor said. "I've been to a couple of house shows in the greater Lansing area, and I've noticed that many artists are also making and selling cassette tapes along with their records because you can start a conversation with others when they see you holding a physical copy of a band's work."

Heather Frarey, owner of The Record Lounge located on Division Street, commented that the recent growth of record popularity has come full-circle since she was in high school. Frarey worked at a record store in Lansing called WhereHouse Records and saw music transform into various forms, such as cassettes and CDs.

"Since opening The Record Lounge six years ago, I've only seen a higher demand in records. I read an article that the record is the only medium of music that is bringing in any revenue right now," Frarey said.

Nylander agreed that despite the immediate gratification of digitally downloading tunes, purchasing and listening to physical copies of music will continue to increase in popularity.

"People who truly love music will always find different ways to listen to it, and artists won't deprive their fans of that no matter if the demand is digital or in forms like CDs or records," said Frarey. "However, when I hear the scratching of a needle on vinyl and watching a record rotate, I feel like I've transported to a different time period, and what other medium has that effect?"

Carved from millions of years of history, the rocks in the Red Cedar River have all experienced different paths to get where they are today. The running water has sculpted them into their own unique shapes. Some are meant to create mushroom-cloud splashes while others are destined to skip across the water like children playing hopscotch. Likewise, each Spartan has their own story. With so many characteristics to consider, even something as fundamental as what is eaten, or in this case what is not, can differentiate students.

The exact number of Spartan vegetarians is difficult to ascertain. There is no indication to let the whole world know they aren't going to eat a steak at their next meal. They are made even more difficult to identify by dietary variety in the vegetarian spectrum.

Whether personal, religious, or health related, each vegetarian has their own reasons for making the switch. For sophomore Allie Granzo, it was a combination of these factors that turned her away from meat.

"I was reading my Bible. I was reading the very beginning of Genesis when God created Earth. It was talking about how the plants were made to provide for the animals and for the humans," said sophomore Allie Granzo.

Her decision to cut out meat was supplemented by a documentary in her biology class about a woman who raised chickens. She said the chickens were never allowed outside to see the sunlight, fed steroids and treated inhumanely. All of these factors altered Granzo's perception of meat consumption.

"I want to make it a lifestyle forever," said Granzo, a month-long vegetarian. "When I have my own house and family, I want to live off the land."

Similarly, senior Mary Kearny, a self-proclaimed animal lover, said that she views animals as friends, and that the thought of eating one became unpleasant to her. Kearney said that her transition was made difficult in part because she was not aided by her family.

"My parents didn't treat me special at all or make special food for me, so it was hard at first figuring out what to eat," said Kearney. "I mostly ate meat substitutes like veggie patties, but I've learned to cook other options and eat a broad range of foods."

The inability to eat many common and convenient foods in the fast-paced consumer culture of the 21st century can be a challenge. Without McDonalds hamburgers or many simple microwave dinners, it is often hard to imagine what a vegetarian can eat on a daily basis, especially one in college.

When it comes to eating out, it's sometimes hard to find places that are vegetarian friendly. Sophomore Julianne Lake recommends several places near campus. She said Sindhu's Indian Cuisine in the Frandor Shopping Center is a great place, because the Indian culture has a large vegetarian sub-section. She also recommended many of the Mediterranean options at Woody's Oasis that are vegetarian.

On campus, the cafeterias play an integral role in a vegetarian student's existence. Gina Keilen, registered dietician with Culinary Services, said the cafeterias try to provide enough food options for every diet choice.

"We have so many people on this campus of every allergen, different dietary needs, religious restriction, athletes and non-athletes," said Keilen. "Because of that, we try to give the biggest variety that we can. That's why a lot of our venues are going to a build-your-own mentality."

Keilen said the cafeterias provide a wide assortment of options for vegetarians, although many aren't displayed in the public eye. For example, the burger stations have vegetarian patties that students can request. In addition, stations such as Garden Wok and Veg Out provide alternative proteins and a wide array of vegetarian options.

Due to this flexibility, Lake said she has never had a problem going to the dining halls for a meal.

"I never have to go to the cafeteria and think about, 'Oh, what am I going to eat.' There's always a lot of different options, whether I want comfort food or I'm trying to eat healthy and have a salad," she said.

Without the option of eating meat and the proteins and vitamins that come almost exclusively in it, Dr. Katherine Alaimo of the Food Science and Human Nutrition department said it's important for vegetarians to watch their diets to make sure they get everything their body needs. She said switching to a vegetarian diet provides several challenges, like obtaining sufficient Vitamin B12, zinc and calcium.

Despite a loss of some important nutrients, there are also some positive personal and environmental effects associated with choosing a meat-free diet.

"There are loads of studies that vegetarians are healthier in the prevention of diseases," said Alaimo. "It costs a lot more energy and resources like water to produce the meat, dairy and eggs than it does to produce the equivalent amount of calories in food plants."

After some initial blunders with eating meals low in proper nutrients and high in sugars and fats, Lake recognizes what it means to be a healthy vegetarian.

"When I first became a vegetarian, I didn't eat right. I gained a lot of weight. Over the years, I've noticed that I feel a lot more energetic," said Lake. "After I eat a meal, I don't feel weighed down the way you would if you had a heavy meal with red meat."

With a number of other vegetarians on campus, common interests can help in building understanding and respect. However, Kearney said that she does turn a couple heads and occasionally is on the receiving end of stale jokes when she reveals to people that she is a vegetarian.

"The first response is usually, 'Oh really! What can you eat?' And I usually just respond with saying, 'Anything that's not meat, because vegetarianism doesn't cause me to starve.' Then people usually make stupid and annoying jokes about eating meat," said Kearney. "My friends typically aren't the ones to make the jokes; they don't care about my eating habits. It's more family, particularly male relatives, that make the comments."

Not all vegetarians face criticism or jokes about what they eat or don't eat. In fact, Lake said she has met many other vegetarians since coming to college and encourages others to follow their example.

"I think everybody should try it at least once in their life. A lot of people should be more open to it and just give it a shot to see if you like it," Lake said.

A vegetarian is defined by the Merriam-Webster online dictionary as, "One who does not eat meat." However, dispersed in this simplistic classification is a vast range of motives and styles of vegetarianism, each as distinct as the individuals who practice them.



TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN KATIE FOLEY

Sophomore Julianne Lake holds a Granny Smith apple in the palms of her hands. Vegetarian diets are usually associated with fruits and vegetables, but they also include grains, legumes and proteins.

eat your greens

Students face challenges and rewards from vegetarian lifestyle



education = (Motivation)(Curiosity)^2

Second annual Science Festival inspires budding scientists

A gaggle of elementary school children peered up at a 4-foot-long black rat snake dangling above their heads. A markedly human expression of curiosity lingered on its scaly face. It seemed both human and animal were fascinated by one other.

With more than 80 events on Saturday, the weeklong science festival opened to the public to inspire inquisitive minds, both young and old, to engage in science. Coordinator Renee Leone spent the better part of a year planning and perfecting every detail down to the last banner of the event, which spanned from April 1-6.

> "It was a good opportunity to get them to expand their horizons and see stuff they're already interested in."

"It does require quite a lot of work," Leone admitted. "But I have myself and two part-time members of the planning team who are just fantastic, and we work together to contact presenters across the campus. We also work with deans and chairs and faculty members from different concentrations."

Over the weekend, booths were set up from Benefactors Plaza to the Chemistry Building, housing demonstrations and speakers on topics from zoology and human medicine to physics and engineering. Exploring the latter of these topics were Carla Kelley's three children who played on a mechanical-powered bicycle that could generate lightning.

"It was a good opportunity to get them to expand their horizons and see stuff they're already interested in," said Kelley of the festival. "I have one who's really interested in engineering, another who likes chemistry type of stuff and another who likes anything that's hands on."

Senior Misty Harden, a student volunteer, stood next to a tri-fold poster board embroidered with large letters exclaiming, "Extract your own DNA!" Harden explained that the purpose of their exhibit was to teach participants how abundant DNA is and mention some of the amazing things genetics can do.

As a science major involved in challenging courses, Harden believed getting kids interested in science at a younger age would help prepare them for the future.

"Being in a science career is definitely one of the more difficult fields to go into academically. Getting them started at a young age can help them strive to get into a good school and be ready for the type of rigor it takes to go through it," Harden explained. "You don't want to be one of those students that comes in and not be ready for what it takes."

Medical students also had a chance to get in on the science festival action. Kids could send in their teddy bears, and students in the College of Osteopathic Medicine would perform x-rays and stitch up any of the stuffed animal's wounds. In another tent, young scientists and their parents performed surgery of a different kind. Wielding screwdrivers, they dissected hard drives and other computer parts, sprawling them out on a long white table like cadavers.

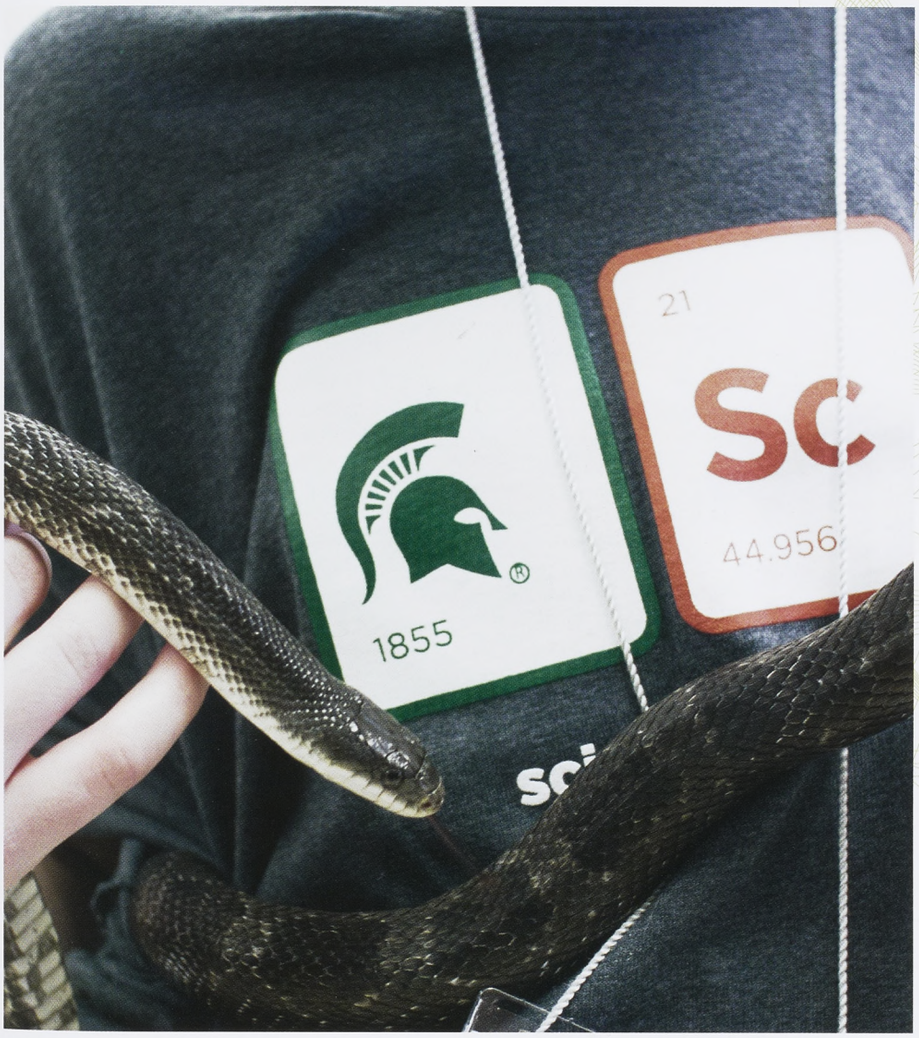
Inside a nearby trailer, the Department of Forestry displayed a large tree stump, teaching passersby how to determine a tree's age by counting each of the rings. Bark samples from different trees of Michigan hung on the walls along with colorful posters on forest ecology. Under a large white tent next to the Natural Science Building, a group of eager children watched a fish tank in awe as a battery-powered, remotely-operated vehicle swam around in circles, following the push-button commands of a commandeering, wiley-eyed eight year old.

As kids meandered through tents, jaws continued to drop at the discoveries that awaited around every corner. Student volunteers smiled as they realized they had been successful in passing on a passion for science long ago instilled in them by that very first baking soda volcano explosion.

SCIENCE FESTIVAL

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR







With topics ranging from plant biology to physiology, students show visitors how interesting science can be. The festival brought families and individuals of all ages to campus.

The Science Festival floods campus with booths of different displays supervised by student volunteers. Exhibits and demonstrations drew in many young students.

Senior Joseph Uebler and junior Lauren Selewski explain photosynthesis to visitors. Many of the event's displays were set up in Benefactors Plaza.

mutual attraction

MSU couples meet on the banks of the Red Cedar and beyond

Thousands of people navigate the crosswalks and corridors of MSU every day. Coarse silence fills most of the halls as students exchange gawky nods or quick, sheepish smiles. Through the many shoulder brushes, awkward interactions and small talk exchanges, a spark can ignite attraction.

This burning ember can grow into a full-fledged Spartan relationship as was the case with senior Rachel Nurenberg and junior Clinton Korneffel. The two met while on an alternative spring break in Jonestown, Miss. through their church, St. John's Church and Student Center.

In the spring of 2012, the couple worked alongside 12 other volunteers to build a handicap accessible house in Coahoma County, Miss., where the median income is less than two thirds of the state average.

The manual labor, as well as long evenings of discussion, provided a platform for the couple to get acquainted.

"There were a few nights we stayed up until 5 a.m. talking because we had so much in common," said Nurenberg. "He talked about being a doctor, and we talked about deep stuff — like faith and why we went on the trip."

Nurenberg currently interns at St. John's Church and Student Center, mentoring adults who want to be Catholic. She said that faith is a huge part of the couple's relationship.

Every Sunday, the two can be be found at mass, reinforcing the bond that helps hold the couple together. During the week, they can be found running around campus or playing tennis, watching Breaking Bad or eating at Case Hall. Wherever the couple is, they are always laughing and smiling together.

In the basement of IM Circle, foils flash as senior Meg Green and graduate student Jason Blevins parry and riposte one another in a fencing bout. Back in August 2010, Green joined the Fencing Club during her first days on campus. At the same time, Blevins, a recent law school graduate and former club member, attended a meeting to hang out with his old comrades.

"There were a few nights we stayed up until 5 a.m. talking because we had so much in common."

After trying to convince Green to switch fencing styles, which she rejected, Blevins settled for playing video games together at his place. This was the beginning of their relationship, and it became a way of kindling their fire in later years. As Blevins worked three hours away as a lawyer, he and Green used technology in order to stay connected. Halo, League of Legends and Mario Kart served as dates, reserving special events for in-person rendezvous.

"We go to anime-cons together, we go to fencing meets together and we check out the Kresge exhibits," Green explained. "Don't get in a pattern. Getting in patterns is so easy and it's the way things get boring."

While some couples connect virtually from a distance, others have the pleasure of daily face-to- face interaction.

Introduced in Holmes Hall through the LGBTQ★ caucus, SPECTRUM, juniors Levi Storks and Kevin George never expected to be living with one another, let alone dating. While Storks and George sometimes face curious looks from bystanders, they find solace in one another.

"Our public relationship is a bit touch-and-go compared to most straight couples' experiences," said George. "While in general Levi and I feel comfortable doing what feels natural to us in public, there are often times that one of us feels uncomfortable with public displays of affection."

Whether brought together by a common faith or student interest group, these couple's relationships have been shaped by their collective Spartan experiences. While many students don't come to campus expecting to find a lasting relationship, a brief smile and a timid greeting may be all that's needed to forge a mutual attraction.



TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Senior Rachel Nurenberg and junior Clinton Korneffel walk in front of Beaumont Tower after their class together. The couple often takes walks, gets Dairy Store ice cream, and plays tennis on campus.



Senior Young Yi shows his Spartan strength after being diagnosed with cancer during his junior year. Yi defeated the disease, and he is enrolled in classes and on the verge of attaining his degree in psychology.

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

the healing process

Young Yi navigates chemotherapy and campus

Senior Young Yi is notorious for being filled with laughter. The 22-year-old was comfortable in his own skin, chatting with strangers as if he had known them for years rather than a few short minutes. His amiable personality perfectly suited his career ambitions: a pastor and marriage counselor. In a lighthearted conversation with Yi, there was no way to tell he'd been battling his own body seven months prior.

After taking a nap one day in May, Yi awoke to a stubborn pain in his hip. He shrugged off the discomfort until it spread to both legs and all the way down to his knees. After two weeks of persistent pain and bruises without a cause, Yi suspected something more serious.

Yi's grandmother finally coerced him into going to the hospital. He agreed to a round of bloodwork and a urine test to determine what could be the source of his afflictions, then he returned home to await the results.

"That night, at 2 a.m., we heard a huge knock on our door. I looked out the window ,and there's the Northville Fire Department, the police and an ambulance in front of my house!" Yi exclaimed.

The Northville police had come to pick up Yi to take him to the ER. His doctor, who had seen that Yi's platelet counts were nearly 10 times below what they should be called paramedics to pick Yi up.

"He was worried that if I fell from my bed or if I bumped my head, then a blood vessel could pop and then... just like that," Yi's voice trailed off.

Yi's parents sent the police and ambulances away, deciding to drive Yi to the emergency room themselves. Once at the hospital, doctors and nurses raced to figure out what was causing his symptoms. The young man's thoughts swirled with possibilities, mentally preparing for the worst, while his parents wrung their hands for an explanation.

Early the next morning, Yi's doctors had come to a conclusion: b-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a cancer that causes bone marrow to produce only malignant white blood cells which then spread to other parts of the body.

"It's such a long name!" Yi laughed. "I just know one of my white blood cells went rogue and decided, 'Hey, let's have a party!' and started duplicating really fast. And then the other cells were joining in and duplicating."

After staying home for seven months of rigorous in-patient chemotherapy treatments, Yi could not return to school because his immune system was compromised. He lost his hair and eyebrows, and his favorite foods, like rice and fish, no longer tasted the same.

Yi also faced fears of death while being diagnosed and treated with chemotherapy.

"(My fear) is more connected to my parents, like what are they going to say, what are they going to do," Yi explained. "I have a younger sister. She could potentially lose an older brother."

However, Yi was not alone through the process. While in the hospital for nearly a month during a particularly tenacious round of chemotherapy, Yi said 15 to 20 of his friends showed up every day to encourage him.

With a platelet count of 124,000, Yi returned to school for the spring semester essentially cancer-free. Although he requires eight stages of chemotherapy to eliminate the risk of the cancer cropping up again, Yi is grateful for now to be back reading textbooks in study carrels and playing video games rather than hooked up to machines and bags of fluids. In the last seven months, Yi has gone from lying in a hospital bed for weeks to jauntily strolling down the campus sidewalks — a swing in his step and high hopes for his health and education.



Junior Josh York shows off hats that he creates and sells through his company, York Apparel. York incorporated benevolence into his business practices by donating clothing to shelters and homeless individuals.

JOSH YORK

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO CHASE O'BLACK
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

tip of the hat

Entrepreneur donates items from clothing line to area homeless

They may look plain at first, but the hats junior Josh York makes for his company, York Apparel, are anything but. They come in a plethora of different colors, including blue, gray and even a neon orange, all trimmed with a tiny sewn-on crest that simply says, "York." The emblem may be small, but the impact it makes is much bigger.

While York was a student at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Mich., he decided he needed a way to kill some extra time. So in December 2012, the student founded his own clothing company, starting with hats.

"I worked at ACO Hardware, and all of the customers who went there were all elderly. I saw these hats that weren't ever selling, and I said that kids my age wear these kinds of things," explained York. "So I bought one and silk-screened my last name on an old t-shirt and sewed it onto the hat and wore it. And a bunch of people wanted them."

York first sold apparel at concerts for his pop-punk band, Yours Truly. York sold out the entire supply he brought to the first two shows. He then decided to donate his first hat, taking inspiration from the Toms "one-for-one" model, which gives one pair of shoes to an impoverished child for each pair sold.

"The first hat I ever donated was at a dumpster in Cedar Village. Some guy was digging in the dumpster and he said, 'Do you have any money or anything?'" recalled York. "I said no because I honestly didn't, but I offered him the hat off my head."

By February 2014, York donated 1,000 articles of clothing to homeless individuals all over the country, bringing apparel with him to give away at shelters or personally on the street. He even made sales internationally, including some in England, Australia and Malaysia.

Facilitating all of his orders through a self-produced website, York runs the business from his Cedar Village apartment and ships out hats from the local post office. Surprisingly, the space isn't littered with all of his products, which now include socks, shirts and bowties. His clothing items are stored in a blue tote, boxes and his car.

As well as being a full-time student, York is also a brother in Phi Delta Theta and plays drums in his band. Although he has a lot on his plate, the accomplished young adult has a great support system. Back in Livonia, his mom, Lynn York, is cheering for her son every step of the way. She helps out York in many of his endeavors and has sewn the York Apparel emblem on hundreds of hats.

"I'm the quality control. I don't want hats with his name on them going out without being perfect," she said.

York has also teamed up with an incubator for MSU students called the Hatch, which provides office space, connections and advice for young entrepreneurs. York frequently worked with Paul Jaques, director of student and community engagement, who was impressed by York's philanthropic business venture.

"I think his idea has both the traction of making money down the road for him," Jaques said. "For a young college student to be in a low-income situation and to have the heart to be handing out free clothing to the homeless is what I find inspiring."

Compared to illustrious fashion icons like Calvin Klein or Coco Chanel, York's goals are modest.

"I would love to open up an office in Detroit. I would love for the office to be upstairs and the factory downstairs employing homeless people," York said.

When not making dumpster-side donations, York attended his classes in the Business College Complex, acquiring the knowledge necessary to expand his venture. From lecture halls to the local community and destinations across the globe, this student proves that innovation has no bounds. York Apparel has made 1,000 donations and counting — and that is only the beginning.



As a social relations and policy major in James Madison College, Megan Havern used her previous political experience to ease her transition into the Washington internship. Her major focuses on the politics of intergroup relations.

MEGAN HAVERN

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

on the move

Student's strong interest in politics carries her to the White House

A Spartan's journey has no boundaries. Traditionally it begins in East Lansing, but the path to graduation may take unexpected turns that lead far beyond campus. For junior Megan Havern, her course was routed through Washington, D.C.

Havern is a James Madison student studying social relations and public policy. Since her freshman year, she has not lived in the same place for more than four months. From working as a field organizer in Ohio for the Obama for America campaign to interning at the Michigan House of Representatives and Organizing for Action in Chicago, and then working in the Office of Presidential Correspondence at the White House, Havern is not one to shy away from opportunities.

"I don't feel the need to be in any particular place, and that is really freeing," explained Havern. "You really wouldn't meet the same people. I take pride in the fact that I can name somebody from all 50 states that I know."

While Havern's prior internships prepared her for Washington D.C., she revealed she couldn't have succeeded without the help of James Madison Professor Rashida Harrison. She said Harrison helped deconstruct her naive views on politics and transformed her into a more critical thinker.

"She just soaks everything in and she is curious," said Harrison of Havern. "Curiosity tends to be underrated. It provokes people to ask questions that they would never ask. She also has the audacity to ask the bold questions and the openness to continue challenging the person that she is."

Inspired by her work with the Obama for America campaign, Havern applied for the White House Internship Program for fall 2013 to further assist the administration. The program helps build leadership skills, train students for careers in public service, and strengthen their understanding of the Executive Office. Havern was placed in the greetings department of the Office of Presidential Correspondence where she helped write responses to letters sent to the president.

"My biggest takeaway was just to keep coming up with bigger dreams," said Havern. "I've been wanting to intern at the White House for a couple years, so it's just funny now that I've done that I'm like, 'Well, now what?'"

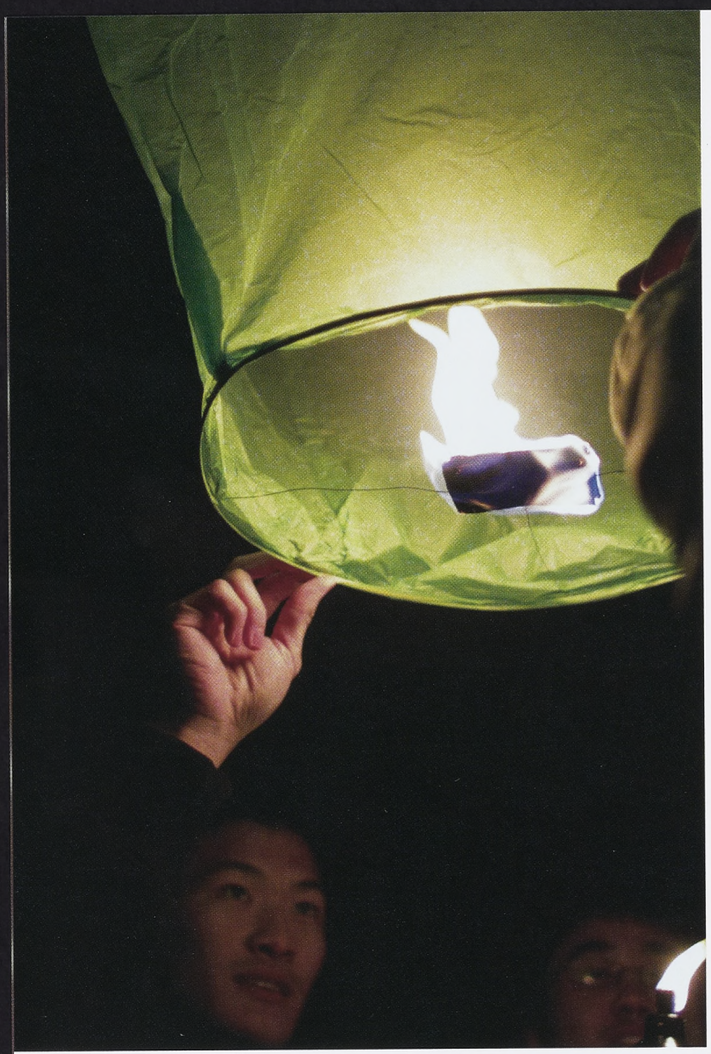
Havern was not the only Spartan in the White House. Senior Vikram Mandelia also interned through the program. Although the two worked in different departments, they met doing community service.

"Megan is awesome," said Mandelia. "The intern group is a good size group but still small enough so we can connect with each other. It was really cool to know there was a fellow Spartan to share this experience with."

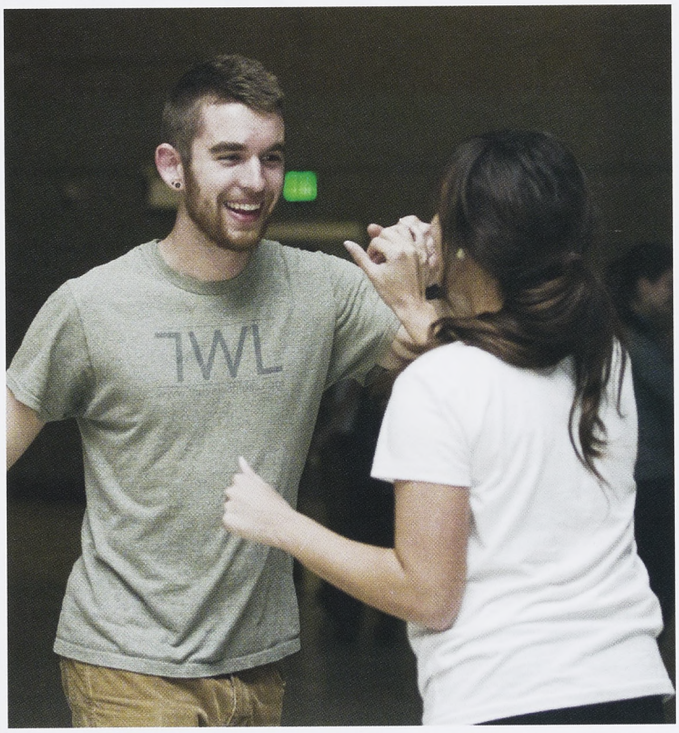
Both Havern and Mandelia described their internships as surreal. Havern reflected on hugging the first lady, admitting she lingered a bit longer than socially acceptable. She fondly remembered watching 5,000 kids on the south lawn trick-or-treat, witnessing the government shutdown, and going through White House security every day.

"Initially when I came back, I felt like I was just wasting time and being a little idle only being in class," said Havern. "But that was very short lived, and I realized that the tools that I'm learning will really help me. I think college in general is a really selfish time where you get to just increase your knowledge base, and it feels good to be back," she said.

Spartans are quick to call East Lansing home. But for Havern, the concept of home is constantly evolving and expanding. Despite all of the tedious packing and moving to bustling cities across the country, she is never out of her element. Wherever she goes, she carries with her a piece of where she has been.












chili's
BEYOND
VICTORY







student orgs

From promoting agricultural education to exploring the marvels of cinematography, club activities engage individuals and their innumerable interests. They bring students together to form the beating heart of Spartan Nation.

On the chalk-covered concrete near Wells Hall and the International Center, bright arrows and exclamation points guide inquisitive students to group meetings on every day of the week, in every corner of campus. Upon arrival, one discovers an open environment within a vibrant and active organization.

Whether singing the highest of notes or scoring a goal with an expertly tossed water polo ball, clubs allow astute minds to step away from textbooks and gather expertise from an intimate community with similar interests.

Through a spate of flyers and Facebook event invites, more than 650 student groups call out to Spartans. When students answer, each group welcomes new members to their world within the vast MSU universe.



the ultimate



Freshman Ricardo Juarez and sophomore Brian Thomas reach for the Frisbee as their teammate, senior Croix Jastrow, approaches. The Frisbee teams held the tournament as part of their recruiting process.

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO NATE REVARD | LAUREN GABOURY
DESIGN PATTY SZOZEPANSKI

satisfaction

Ultimate Frisbee tournament introduces new teammates to a familiar game

The last strands of summer sun gleamed over the still-green grass, and the crackle of the first dead leaves could be heard as Ultimate Frisbee players took to the field. White discs glided to the ground like plate-sized snowflakes as the players flicked them, so effortless in their motions it almost came across as careless. Some Frisbees floated slowly while others cut through the air with tremendous speed.

Senior Eric Hinton prepared to step onto the Service Road field Aug. 29 for his first time playing with teammates he had never met. Despite being slightly nervous, Hinton was excited for the lighthearted games.

"The big tournaments you get nervous about, but events like this are more fun and a more relaxed atmosphere," Hinton stated before meeting with his team. "This match was more of a warm-up for the upcoming fall season."

Senior Michelle Rizor, captain of the women's Ultimate Frisbee team, Infamous, said the event raised $200 to benefit her team, which would struggle without external assistance. With six teams of 15 players, each player had to donate $3 to the Infamous team's cause.

"We are a club sport, which means that the university gives us zero money," Rizor explained. "Every tournament we go to costs $300 just to get in, so the more money we can get through fundraising means the less money that comes out of our girls' pockets," said Rizor.

This was the second year that Infamous held a competitive fundraiser. The women view it as a way to introduce new people to the sport of Ultimate Frisbee, meet other players and enjoy the last days of summer.

After the groups huddled together, introductions were passed around, and then the teams immediately started discussing strategy. Before the matches set into motion, choruses of male and female voices echoed across the field. After one quick team chant to get the blood pumping, the games began.

Seven to eight players from each team stood on the marked Ultimate fields at one time. The rest of the team stayed on the sidelines to cheer on and sometimes yell hints at their comrades. Despite the tournament being held as a casual game, the players took each match very seriously from every elating moment of victory to every disheartening defeat.

During the game, Ultimate players can throw a Frisbee by doing the normal "backhand," but the most common way of throwing in Ultimate is called a "flick." The flick consists of placing the index finger and the middle finger under the Frisbee and flicking it forward. One of the more unknown throws, called the "chicken wing" for the uncomfortable position it forces the player to throw in, is another effective way to get the Frisbee to a teammate. A standard throw flies through the air vertically in a movement known to Ultimate players as the "hammer throw."

Sophomore Courtney Kren took a break during the rest period of an exhausting match.

"This is my first time playing Ultimate," Kren explained.

After several rounds of running and playing defense against a tough opponent, however, Kren was quickly catching on to the fast-paced rhythm of an Ultimate game.

As the sun began to fade into evening, the three successive matches finished. Opposing teams, by then transformed into friends of the game, shook hands and returned to their teammates. After one final dance and a chorus of victory yells, the newly bonded teammates departed, all the more prepared for the matches ahead.





A disc lies in the grass, momentarily stationary. The Ultimate Frisbee event lasted several hours, and three different games were played at once.

Sophomore Brittney Urich passes the disc. The women's team, Infamous, hosted the tournament at the Service Road fields.



Freshman Leslie Welch comments during the discussion as senior Mike Bebee listens in. COMPASS aims to facilitate conversations about sexism and stereotypes, as well as other social issues.

"Easy A," starring Emma Stone, is a quirky coming-of-age comedy. Despite its humor, the film satirizes and critiques many prominent societal boundaries.

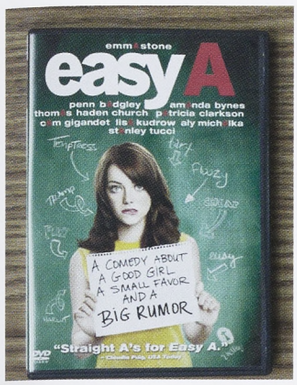


COMPASS members snuggle up in Snyder-Phillips Hall for a viewing of "Easy A." Afterward, students shared their opinions and personal experiences in a group discussion.

COMPASS

TYPE CRYSTAL GAUSE
PHOTO LAUREN GABOURY
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

dissecting "easy a"





COMPASS points away from gender roles

The word "feminist" is almost always associated with the word "feminine." Often, it is pigeonholed into a stereotypical image of bra-burning, men-hating women. Many feel that idea is outdated and incorrect.

The Collaboration of Male Peer Educators Against Sexual Assault and Stereotypes (COMPASS) views feminism as the fight for gender equality, and it aims to bring men into that battlefield.

Founded in 2011 by a group of male students from the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH), COMPASS attempts to ignite the discussion of gender and culture with a male audience. They focus on the role of men in the feminist movement and host screenings, discussions and collaborative events with the Women's Alliance.

According to their mission statement, COMPASS believes that, "when men are told it isn't okay to cry and women are told it isn't their place to be strong, it is a culture we must all confront and change — even those who are comfortable with who they are."

On Sept. 5, COMPASS held a film discussion of "Easy A," a modern interpretation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter." In the movie, the female protagonist, Olive, pretends to have sexual experiences with various members of her high school for monetary reward, effectively bolstering the boys' social standing. Along the way, her reputation isolates her from her friends and earns her the title of "school tramp." However, the conversation after the film revealed that many viewers still considered it to have a happy ending.

Sophomore Veronica Walrad illustrated the conclusion by saying that although Olive acted promiscuously, that wasn't the reality.

In a Catch-22 of sorts, Olive was both sexually liberated and limited by gender roles. She was allowed to say a number of things she did imaginatively with men, but she gave only a modest kiss to her main love interest.

COMPASS dissected the many motifs of the film, one of which was how individuals' sexual relations are viewed differently.

"Women have to struggle with sex issues because of their gender," commented RCAH freshman Anna Garwood. A woman sleeping with a man gets a way different reaction than a man sleeping with a woman," Garwood said.

In addition to Garwood, many other students shared their personal stories of how sex, or more correctly the idea of it, shaped their lives. Though some members of the group were sexually experienced while others had not yet had their first kiss, they all had something to say. From the game "Never Have I Ever" played at many parties to intimate discussions with partners, participants agreed that sex is a strong undertone in the life of a young adult; whether actually engaging in it seemed to be of little importance.

"We seek input from people from all parts of the gender spectrum to nurture a discussion on masculinity, femininity and the way our culture, as it stands today, drives sexism and oppression," reads the mission statement of COMPASS.

Almost every COMPASS member talked about how too much emphasis is placed on sex. College is a time to explore, not worry about someone else's opinion, they expressed.

As RCAH junior Andrew Jason, one of COMPASS' main members, put it, "Your booty, your business."



Sparty and College of Engineering advisor Carmellia Davis-King embrace. Heads of the college spoke to a gathering of students and faculty members at the event.

Women in Computing was one of the groups present at the networking event. The College of Engineering offers its students many opportunities to get involved outside of class.





Students in the College of Engineering dance alongside Sparty to the "Cupid Shuffle." Sparty participated in most of the night's activities.

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

meeting innovation

The largest class of female engineering students joins for night of networking



A group of students crowded in a near-capacity room as fast-paced music pulsed through speakers. Suddenly, things quieted down as Dean of the College of Engineering, Leo Kempel, took center stage. He spoke to the group of 18- and 19-year-old female engineering students standing before him, their faces bright with the pride of making up an elite percentage. Kempel smiled at the group of women who possessed so much promise and talent.

"We know that we need you," he said.

Kempel addressed the young women at Code Red, a networking event sponsored by the College of Engineering for female engineering students. They were representatives of the college's 2013 incoming class, which included the largest number of female students in the past 10 years. Kempel called the new students "the vanguard of change," as engineers shape innovations in technologies.

With only one in every six new MSU students entering the College of Engineering, the demand for new engineers in this changing age is not being met.

"Think of how much change your parents have seen," Kempel said. "It's gotten faster and communication is ubiquitous. The world you live in now is completely different. That took 30 years, and in 10 to 20 years there will be as much or more change. That's how fast innovation is occurring worldwide."

For most university students, walking into a class involves seeing a familiar face or two, with a relatively even gender distribution. But for female engineering students in a predominantly male environment, the classroom experience has a completely different feel, as does the workplace.

Ten female engineering professors addressed the group, giving insight from their experiences as engineers. For students, listening to their female professors gave them the ability to look into their own futures and speculate about what challenges and rewards they might encounter.

Freshman Rachel Moses had to contemplate the rigorous coursework and onslaught of math and science courses before officially declaring herself an electrical engineering major.

"I knew beforehand that I really like math, and after talking to people I knew in the engineering field, I seriously deliberated what I wanted to go into," Moses said.

The female presence in the College of Engineering, or lack thereof, can even be perceived when walking through the hallways and spacious library of the Engineering Building. Lists of famous alums as well as glossy oil portraits of the college's professors and presidents tell the story of the gender imbalance.

To thwart that disparity and grow her social connections, sophomore Abby Wulf became a part of Phi Sigma Rho, a sorority for women in engineering programs. Despite being involved in an engineering sorority and having positive experiences as a mechanical engineering major, Wulf would like to see some changes in the field.

"I think it's really important to have more female engineers because sometimes it can be very discouraging," Wulf said. "If you're having a bad day it's good to have that support system and get to know other women who are going through the same things...they're looking at things from the same perspective while guys might look at something else differently."

As Sparty danced across the room the night of the celebratory networking event, smiles and laughter were passed around and first-year engineering students became acquainted with one another. Soon, the entire engineering world may become acquainted with the group of women — one engineer and one advancement at a time.

training for the miles ahead

ROTC demonstrates military life for students

A sharp bang punctuated the air. The silence that followed was deafening. The mass of 50 people sitting in the arena-like stands of Demonstration Hall flinched simultaneously. Four ROTC students, dressed in camouflage and carrying weapons designed to look like AK-47 assault rifles, moved forward in a tight formation. The tactical movement, intended to show civilians how the Army infiltrates a building with an armed person inside, stimulated the attention and adrenaline of their audience.

Very few students have the opportunity to see military life beyond the scope of a television camera. However, on Sept. 11, the ROTC program offered students an extensive glimpse into how the training program prepares young cadets for conditions they will face in the field. On such a somber day of remembrance for the entire country, members of the ROTC showed fellow students their patriotism and dedication to the armed forces.

Lt. Col. Bill Parker grinned as he explained the rigors of ROTC life that his cadets are confronted with.

"The biggest impact is (for students) to gain an appreciation for the level of training, the amount of training, and the amount of development that our cadets go through as they go through this commissioning process," Parker explained. "They're a student, yet they're also a cadet. It involves more time, more effort, and their commitment to serve the Army when it's all said and done."

For the open house event, the ROTC cooperated with One Book, One Community, an East Lansing program that partners with the university in choosing one book to unite the incoming freshman class and the off-campus community. This year's book was "The Yellow Birds," which discusses author Kevin Powers' experiences in the Iraq war.

"(One Book, One Community) wanted to find a book that would be engaging to both the community and to MSU students, and we thought that after 10 years of war people would be curious and interested in the life of the soldiers and what it had been like for them," said Ginny Haas, director of community relations at MSU, as she explored the Gore-Tex sleeping bags and insulated tents that cadets set up for the evening's activities. "Lots of people had family and friends who were involved in the military and would like to know what it was like being a part of that world."

As part of one training demonstration, a carabiner and harness were set up between two trees, approximately 20 feet apart. The goal was to mimic a situation where one must navigate a river that impeded movement. Two cadets lifted junior Shabazz Chatman onto a black rope. After a few seconds of adjusting to the new height, Chatman timidly scooted from one pine tree to the next.

"It was harder than I thought it was going to be," Chatman said. "I saw people go before me, and it is definitely a lot harder than it looks."

To the left of Demonstration Hall, a medium-sized general purpose tent was pitched, identical to Army living quarters abroad. Behind the green canvas door was a spacious room with eight assembled cots. It's hard to imagine trading plush blankets and a soft mattress in the comfort of one's own home for the thin metal frames and rigid pieces of material that functioned as cots.

Quincy Suehr, a senior, entered the dark tent casually. For Suehr, the small cots were not so foreign — he spent several nights sleeping in similar conditions as part of his ROTC training.

Suehr said this event was a valuable chance to explain a familiar environment to students who had never seen the inside of a general purpose tent or held the 75-pound rucksack that every soldier must carry. Providing a glimpse of military life to civilians was a source of pride for ROTC members and an opportunity to foster understanding between the two groups.

SPARTAN BATTALION

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



An Army ROTC trailer is parked outside of Demonstration Hall during the ROTC's annual event. The ROTC program began in 1884 when the university was known as Michigan Agricultural College.



Two MSU ROTC soldiers compete in a sit-up contest. Army ROTC hosts this informational event at Demonstration Hall every year.



A group of ROTC soldiers man the zip line during the Spartan Battalion open house. The soldiers spent the day answering questions about MSU's Army ROTC through a variety of diplays and demonstrations.

making an **impact**

Award-winning student radio station unlocks doors for open house

Next to the secretary's desk, a ten-foot chalkboard wall greeted visitors at the Impact 89FM headquarters during its Sept. 17 open house. Scrawled across the wall in obtrusively large bubble letters was the witty phrase, "Welcome to Impact! Where your body is a wonderland!"

Tucked away in the basement of Holden Hall, the Impact 89FM student-run radio station is hidden from campus foot traffic. The station, stocked with sound and video equipment some journalism students would give away their six-pack of Red Bull for, opened its doors to give curious listeners and prospective student employees a look into its daily operations.

Before the event, station manager Sam Riddle walked into his office. A Vampire Weekend poster hung above a Mac desktop, and papers and sticky notes of every color littered the room. Posted on the wall was a piece of paper with the headline "Radio Station of the Decade" and a small story about how the station was named "College Station of the Year" 11 times between 1999 and 2011 by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. In order to earn this prestigious recognition, Impact demands a large amount of professionalism and creativity, especially because radio — like life — is largely unscripted.

"My weirdest moment on air was when I got a call during our pop music hour, and I can say with near 100 percent certainty that this caller was intoxicated," Riddle said, struggling to stifle a laugh. "He was complaining that pop music sucked, and he wanted us to play rock music all the time."

Once the open house commenced, journalism junior Gabriela Saldivia guided a gaggle of students through the radio station's crowded hallway. Peering into a room plastered from floor to ceiling with a variety of artists' posters including Modest Mouse, Gloss Drop and James Blake, Saldivia described how the station's music is chosen.

"We get about 30 CDs in a day, some from overseas," said Saldivia, gesturing over the ocean of CD cases and vinyl albums around her. "A team goes through and listens to the albums to decide which songs will be played on air."

Aside from airing music, Impact produces talk shows, live performances and even video with an alluring freedom to talk outside the box. For example, Exposure director Abigail Newton hosts a brazen, hour-long talk show called "Sexsposure" during which health experts, like physicians from Olin Health Center, answer phoned-in questions from listeners. The point of the talk show, Newton explained, was to increase sexual awareness and safety for students all over campus.

Freshman Eva Nienhouse took in the uninhibited originality strewn throughout the station's lobby. She eyed a poster that read, "No food or drinks in the studio or cats will eat your face." Below the words was a picture of a feral cat, expression frozen in a permanent snarl.

After scoping out the broadcast studio, Nienhouse decided that she was interested in becoming a part of the news team.

"The atmosphere is very professional and organized," Nienhouse said.

As the day drew to an end and the station once again closed its doors, students filtered out, arms filled with contact sheets, posters and free CDs. As they left, one last door was opened, which led to a seemingly plain room. Looking past the conference table and chairs, eyes settled upon a wall filled with the squiggly signatures of Impact alumni. For a few chosen from the passing crowd, their autographs may one day join them.





IMPACT

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JORDON GRIMMINS
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



A lifelike Kurt Cobain figurine perches on a ledge in a corner of the office. A large number of eclectic items have accumulated in studio since the station opened.

The Impact 89FM logo sticks to a file cabinet near part of the station's music collection. The logo was creatively displayed in many places throughout the studio.





Louis Bilotta and Alex Scharg, two sports directors at the station, chat with Eric Walters, a potential applicant. Impact 89FM invited interested students to mingle with current employees and learn about all aspects of production.

the rowdies

Fan group infuses soccer games with songs and spirit

A winning tradition combined with an insane fan following creates a proud Spartan Nation — a dominant force against any athletic opponent that sets foot on the banks of the Red Cedar River.

The support of the Spartan Nation lifts up nearly every university sport. For football games, students line up overnight during the chilly autumn months. Sometimes shirtless, most often dressed in green and white, these students dangle their keys or dance along with the Spartan Marching Band once in the stands. During basketball season, student spectators pump up players from the upper and lower bowls of the Breslin Center.

In 2011, a lively new fan group entered the scene — the Red Cedar Rowdies. Although much smaller than the Izzone and other student sections, the Red Cedar Rowdies are looking to make their footprint on campus by entertaining crowds and pushing the MSU men's soccer team toward glory in Big Ten play.

Founded by junior Luke Ferris with the help of his friends and floormates, the Rowdies managed to grow in size and gain recognition. Above all else, the Rowdies love the game of soccer, and it is their enthusiasm that binds the student section.

"It started with school spirit," Ferris said, "we came out for the passion for the game and for the team."

At the time of the Rowdies' inception, the group sought to emulate the famous crowds of soccer enthusiasts in Europe. From The Kop in Liverpool, England to the Yellow Wall in Dortmund, Germany, soccer fanatics are dedicated to livening up the game's atmosphere and defending the pride of their native lands.

Ferris described the Rowdies as an adult student section with the inclusion of more creative song and dance. At every game they provide loud, triumphant and often out-of-tune verses screamed at the top of the lungs. The thuds and booms of a bass drum accompany these chants and keep the heart of the section and soccer team beating.

"We have a lot of freedom when it comes to chants, and they can hear us all over the pitch," said sophomore Alex Byers.

The men's soccer team returns the love the Rowdies supply. Redshirt junior Ryan Keener said he appreciates the group because of the intimate setting and excitement they bring to each game.

"The Rowdies are a small reminder of all that we play for every time we put on the jersey. They represent the passion and spirit of the Spartan Nation," Keener said. "I feel lucky to have students that are passionate about MSU soccer, and I love the energy they bring to the atmosphere at DeMartin Stadium."

The rise of the Rowdies has coincided with a resurgence of interest in Spartan soccer. Keener said it makes DeMartin Stadium a more daunting destination for opponents.

MSU men's baseball head coach Jake Boss Jr. admired the Rowdies enough to pay for their bus trip to South Bend, Ind. for the NCAA tournament when MSU played top-ranked Notre Dame.

In return, the Rowdies took their talents to a men's baseball game to liven up the more traditional sporting atmosphere at the field. Their singing and chanting was something never seen at a baseball game on campus.

At the end of the day, the Rowdies may not number more than 50 or 60 students, but with tired lungs and happy hearts they fulfill their duties. After every match, win or lose, the Rowdies sing out their praises to the men's soccer team — a song which is followed by a round of jovial mingling and high fives from the team's sweaty, and often victorious, players.



The MSU Rowdies rally to support the varsity men's soccer team with chants and cheers at every game. The group was founded in 2011 and continues to be a driving force of the soccer fanbase.

MSU ROWDIES

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER





Freshman Dana Saunders demonstrates the proper way to show a sheep and explains that the handlers must also pay attention to their own appearance. The handler's presentation is almost as important as the animal's.

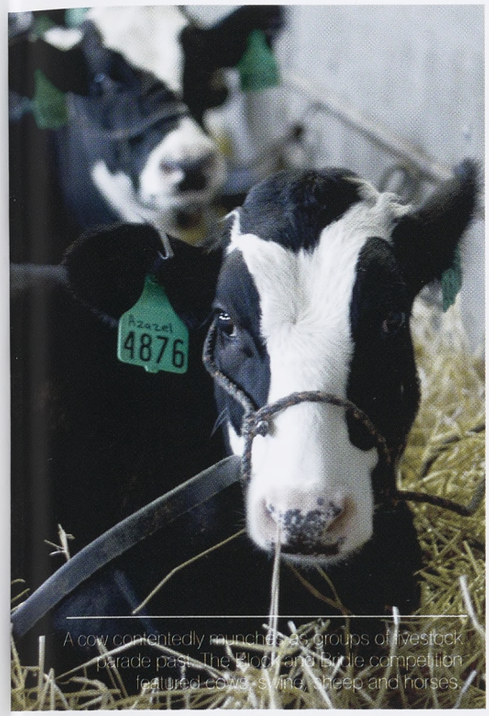


Sophomore Nicole Hagen leads her charge around the showing pen. The competitors were judged on their composure and their ability to follow the guidelines for showing livestock.

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO LAUREN GABOURY
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

best in show

Block & Bridle Club hosts the Little International Show



A cow contentedly munches as groups of livestock parade past. The Block and Bridle competition featured cows, swine, sheep and horses.



Avoiding mountains of manure was a miniscule concern for animal science, zoology and agricultural students participating in MSU's Little International Show on Sept. 22. As they hustled around the South Barn of the Pavilion, their primary focus was ensuring that their animals were ready to wow a panel of judges.

Hosted by the Block & Bridle Club, Little I, as the show is also known, allows students to interact with livestock and make connections with others in the livestock industry. After choosing swine, horse, sheep or cattle, students worked for a week to prepare their animal for a long day of showing. With their companion by their side, handlers strutted around the showing ring, eager to display their animal's obedience and clean appearance.

"The Little International Show is about really getting experience with animals for those who have never had the chance before," said zoology freshman Dana Saunders. "This is my first time showing and grooming animals, so this is a great chance for me."

Saunders worked with an eight-month-old Suffolk sheep named Cotton. The process to prepare her sheep for the show was intricate and time-consuming. Saunders explained that Cotton was filthy and difficult to tame. In order to change that, she used yellow dish soap to make Cotton's wool white. Then, Saunders used a special comb and a process called "carding," to fluff the wool and define Cotton's face. Attention to these details is suitable practice for Saunders, who looks forward to next year's Little I.

"It opened up a lot of doors. When I came to MSU, I didn't ever imagine I'd do anything like this. This is definitely way more out-of-the-classroom than I thought I'd get my first month," Saunders said.

Even for veterans of the show ring, the competition posed challenges. For Grand Champion and freshman Kelly Raterink, the portion of the event that required winners from each category to show their animals proved to be a test of her patience. Raterink's pig was out of control and ran around the showing ring, giving members of the audience a chuckle. Squealing and dashing, the pig ran into other competitors' swine and caused a jam of humans and animals.

"It probably did put on a good show for the people watching," Raterink said. "Especially after how today started with my pig, I didn't think I would win. I'm still surprised."

For the inexperienced, Little I is an opportunity to get acquainted with not only animals but student life on campus. For some, like freshman Danielle Andreen, Block & Bridle was a gateway to other animal agriculture clubs and courses.

"I'm actually going to be on the horse judging team and I will be taking a class called Introduction to Horse Judging where we'll judge the athleticism and muscle mass of a horse," Andreen said.

Once the grueling evaluations were complete and awards distributed, the sight of restless animals was replaced with a celebratory potluck of piping cheesy potatoes and roasted pulled pork. The Little International Show was a mark of a university steeped in agricultural tradition, and a new crop of students preparing to continue the trend.

auto-matic communities

MSU Racing Club is an outlet for car enthusiasts

It was love at first sight. She was blessed with beautiful shining curves, her physique unlike anything previously designed. She was a perfect blend of classic and contemporary; she was a cobalt Subaru Impreza. For members of the MSU Racing Club, cars are more than a form of transportation — they come to life as machines that quench a driver's thirst for adrenaline and high speeds.

"Being a car guy means that you rarely seem logical to your friends," said alumnus and former club president James Hewson. "Depending on who you ask, people will tell you that a car has its own personality, but most people just view it as a way to get from point A to point B. I view cars as a way to live my life."

Founded in 2002, the MSU Racing Club developed into a perfect niche for car lovers in the area to share their passion for driving. Specifically, members participate in autocross racing, a competition in which a single car drives through a cone-lined obstacle course. The driver with the fastest time is declared the winner.

It might seem reckless to some, but members agree that racing is a passion that also generates knowledge and useful skills.

"Racing forces you to think steps ahead of what you are actually doing," said Hewson. "That really applies to just driving on the street too. If you are just driving and you look three intersections ahead, you can spot anything that you might need to be aware of and not have to be as defensive of a driver."

But the group became more than a way to satisfy competitive desires or become a better driver. It created a community of friends, drawing in a diverse group of about 40 active members.

Freshman Lindsey Schnell is one of three female members of the club. Despite the slanted gender ratio, she said she immediately felt included. Schnell suspected that the reason for the disparity in membership is not that men enjoy cars more than women, but perhaps the intimidation of learning the auto lingo.

"Its almost like another foreign language with all the specific parts to the cars and the tiny details," said Schnell, "but its just like any other language. You just have to immerse yourself in it, and you start to catch on eventually."

Hewson explained that car groups typically communicate online only, which makes it hard to find a community that has real camaraderie, especially for those like Schnell who are new to racing. In contrast, MSU Racing Club meets face-to-face weekly to create a close team dynamic and answer any questions that members have.

The group also resolved to make its meetings more inclusive.

"We decided that it wasn't worth trying to keep people out who wanted to come just because they didn't go to MSU," said Hewson. "Just because they aren't a student doesn't mean they won't have anything to contribute to the group itself."

However, diving into the car community can be both an expensive and difficult task, especially for those who don't own a vehicle. Luckily, MSU Racing Club offers people without cars the chance to ride along with other members and get involved with the group. In addition, current president and recent graduate Dante Petrarca managed to snag Firestone as a club sponsor for the year, which will provide funds for new and existing members who struggle to cover fuel costs and other fees.

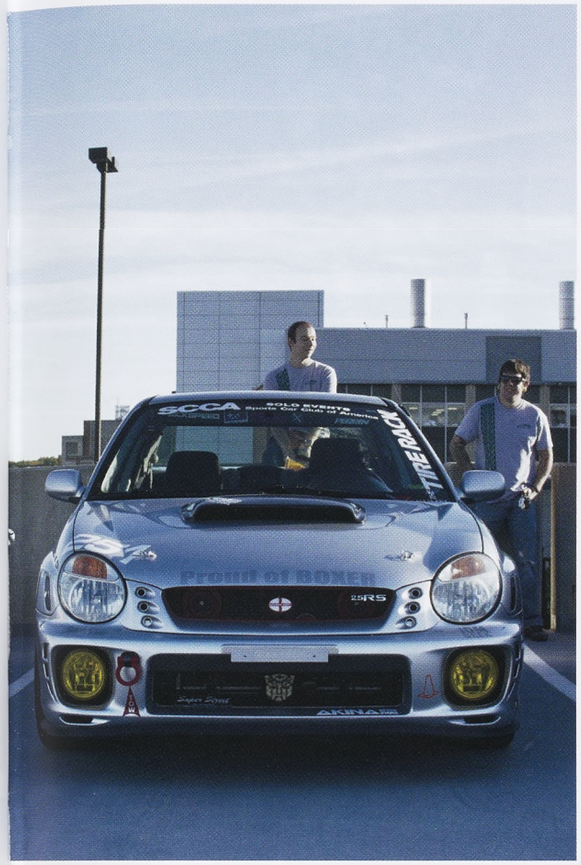
"It can be interesting working on a college budget," said Petrarca. "But with autocross racing, it comes more down to seat time than what kind of car you are driving. It doesn't matter what you drive, just get out there and race and have fun."





RACING CLUB

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR





Recent graduate Dante Petrarca and Junior Figgins sit on top of the Shaw parking ramp during a weekly club meeting. Along with meetings, the club attends regular "test and tune" events.

Consisting of car fanatics, the Racing Club gives students an opportunity to learn more about the automotive world. Members each bring their own sets of knowledge and skills to contribute to the club.



Second year law student Steve Harding cruises around campus with the MSU Racing Club. The club brings together car fanatics and gives them an opportunity to compete in autocross racing.



Freshman Payal Patel brings a fresh load of mulch to spread. CIUS members rejuvenated a large trail in the woods of Albert A. White Memorial Park.

CIUS

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



honoring gandhi

Students' community service pays homage to peaceful Indian leader

Mahatma Gandhi, the famous Indian leader, once said, "Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it."

Gandhi was a leader of nationalism in British-ruled India known for his nonviolent civil disobedience and protesting. The influential activist became one of the most remembered and celebrated leaders in Indian history, leaving a legacy of teachings that have lasted for decades and reached across the globe.

The Coalition of Indian Undergraduate Students (CIUS), a group devoted to preserving and participating in Indian culture on campus for more than 20 years, celebrated the life and accomplishments of Gandhi on Sept. 28.

CIUS representatives like president and senior Neelma Rao recognize the value and applicability of Gandhi's teachings in modern times.

"There is so much violence in today's culture and any person has an opinion," said Rao. "To a lot of students, Gandhi is thought to be a role model."

Sixty eager students gathered on the warm and breezy Saturday morning wearing flip flops, leggings and basketball shorts. Members divided into groups to complete simple yet impactful tasks with the hope of making a difference in the Lansing community. These included operating a car wash, mingling with patients at a hospice center, volunteering at a homeless shelter and maintaining two local parks.

"Back in India, Gandhi did so much for us," said Omkar Vale, junior and CIUS funding coordinator. "We thought the best thing we could do was community service around the area.

One group of the organization's volunteers went to the Albert A. White Memorial Park on Lake Lansing Road. Mosquitos filled the air and the smells of wet wood, moist soil and the occasional dead animal lingered in students' nostrils. Sweat dribbled down their faces as they labored away to beautify the park.

The students' task was to spread mulch onto weathered woodland trails. Skinny trees, vines, poison ivy and plants were scattered well into the distance. Beaten branches littered the ground, waiting for someone to uncover the hidden trail beneath them.

The students worked for several hours. Some stabbed mulch from trailers with pitchforks and others loaded it into wheelbarrows with a shovel. Another set of sweaty workers then hauled the mulch to the trail where raking was the final task.

Senior Nishi Gohel, CIUS logistics coordinator, was one of the students moving mulch from the truck to the wheelbarrow.

"It's nice to get out of East Lansing with friends to volunteer," she said. "I look forward to seeing what it looks like afterwards."

Though the altruistic actions of the CIUS may not be noticed across the globe, they may contribute to the betterment of the local community. As Gandhi said, "In a gentle way, you can shake the world."



The Queer People of Color Coalition welcomed John Trimble as motivational speaker for Qpocalypse. Members of QPOCC and the LGBT community joined in the Multicultural Center for the discussion.



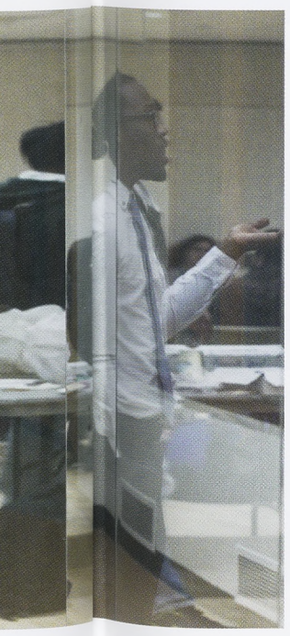
Trimble explains his hardships as a homosexual and a man of color. People from different backgrounds shared the obstacles they had to overcome being both queer and colored.

Trimble began QPOCC and now his brother, senior Antonio Clements, continues to advocate for homosexuality among colored people through the organization. On Oct. 8, members gathered to gain inspiration and discuss their experiences.



TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI





coming out

Queer people of color announce their presence on campus

A circle is a never-ending line in which all points lie equidistant from the center. A rectangle consists of two sets of parallel sides, their different lengths connected by right angles. Despite small variations, these are just basic shapes. Students are the same; like circles of different sizes or rectangles of diverse colors, they are still fundamentally similar. This is the stance the Queer People of Color Coalition (QPOCC) takes as they aim to shatter the stigmas surrounding their culture.

QPOCC, formerly known as Intersections, is a specialized student group that represents people of color within the LGBT community. The group believes in creating a safe environment for students who identify as a minority and queer to feel accepted and converse candidly.

"Students excel academically when they feel comfortable with their own skin," said senior Antonio Clements, LBGT Resource Center student advisor for the group. "We want to provide queer people of color with a space to empower them. Once we empower them, that's when we get together and progress this movement."

This principle served as the inspiration for Qpocalypse.

For the event, a circle of students gathered in a rectangular room composed of window-lined walls within the Union. They discussed the trials and tribulations of being a queer person of color. In honor of National Coming Out Day and homecoming week, the students assembled to discuss what it's like to be a minority LGBT student — how they broke out of their own rooms of windows and walls.

"The real success was the conversation," said Clements. "People were able to share their experiences and stories."

The features of the room symbolized the life events of the 20 or 30 students who sat in a circle of chairs. Three mirrored walls provided the students with a chance to see themselves for who they really were. One wall was completely glass and allowed people who walked by to look in without hearing any of the private conversations.

For Clements, the gathering served as an opportunity to showcase the new identity of the group.

"We wanted to have it during homecoming week because it's a week where students, faculty and staff come back to the great university of MSU."

The diverse students discussed a range of topics. Sophomore DaShayla Bradford spoke of the issues challenging members of the LGBT African American community.

"African Americans' focus isn't on marriage equality. They're trying to get on with necessities and trying to live a healthy life," said Bradford. "From our conversations, we were saying that African Americans are just trying to provide for ourselves."

Senior Luis Zarco, a Latino LGBT student, spoke of the struggles that Latinos face in America. For Zarco, immigration reform and job security for his friends and family is more important than the fight for sexual equality as a minority. Zarco said he does not feel the need to announce his sexuality every time he enters the room.

"It's awkward to bring up that you identify as LGBT," Zarco said. "I don't want to be treated differently. It's not that I'm trying to hide it."

Through the combination of shared stories and a secure space, complete strangers bonded together over similar life events. Although Qpocalypse subsided, the foundation of QPOCC remains strong, ready to welcome new students to reflect upon their identity.

culture clash

Vietnamese Student Association teaches heritage through competition

Three students raced toward a square marked with duct tape. Throwing caution to the wind, none of the girls slowed their velocity as they approached their target. The circle of teammates surrounding them watched with curious horror as the trio collided in what seemed like slow motion. In the moments that followed, one girl pushed the other two out, smiling and jumping in victory as she and her team cried out victoriously.

And to think, that was just a typical meeting for the Vietnamese Student Association.

The VSA hosted their version of the popular game show "Family Feud" on Oct. 8. A representative from each team ran to a marked square on the ground, and whoever reached it first had the opportunity to answer a question about Vietnamese culture. If correct, the team gained points. The game quickly turned from a mental competition to a physical struggle as well.

"That was so chaotic, all I could think was I hope no one gets hurt!" sophomore Kim Vongkhamchanh exclaimed as she watched her teammates battle it out.

Members of VSA like to think of their group meetings as family reunions. Despite being different ages, the members know everyone by name. The group is even welcoming to outsiders, who are greeted with a relaxed smile and friendly conversation. When it comes to gathering additional members, the goal is to woo them with unexpected activities.

"We talk to newcomers and try get a feel for what they're into because we have so many different members involved in different things that we're all bound to have similar interests," explained Jen Nguyen, senior and president of VSA. "We hang out in groups outside of VSA as well."

One striking feature of Holden Hall's Vincent Chin room, where VSA held their game show competition, was a large mural painted on a five-by-ten slab of wall. On it, a woman gazed out wistfully, passing her tranquility onto whoever looked at her. In the background of the mural sat a lake of still water, resembling the landscape of Vietnam. A buffalo looked up at the woman serenely. Advertising junior and secretary of VSA My Ha explained that the mural has deep connections with Vietnamese culture.

"The VSA mural represents Vietnamese culture with the lady wearing a traditional ao dai, which means 'dress,'" Ha explained. "The water and the buffalo goes back to our roots because Vietnamese people live near the ocean, and fish is the main source of food in this culture."

An affiliate of the Asian Pacific American Student Organization (APASO), VSA is made up of about 30 students interested in learning more about their culture. After winning the Organization of the Year award from APASO three consecutive years in a row, Nguyen says the club's officers know what they're doing.

"We made efforts to be creative and do different events in order to diversify our group of body members," Nguyen said. "Also, we make a huge effort in supporting other organizations."

Throughout the year, VSA coordinates social events, like Lunar New Year and Cultural Vogue, in conjunction with other Asian-American groups on campus. These events feature performances from traditional Asian to contemporary American dance styles along with feasts of ethnic foods for guests to enjoy during the show.

In the intimidating struggle for self-discovery, VSA became a collective for Vietnamese students to learn more about themselves and their history. For college students studying far away from home, the group provides creative opportunities to strengthen their understanding of heritage while finding friends that fill the missing family link.





VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR





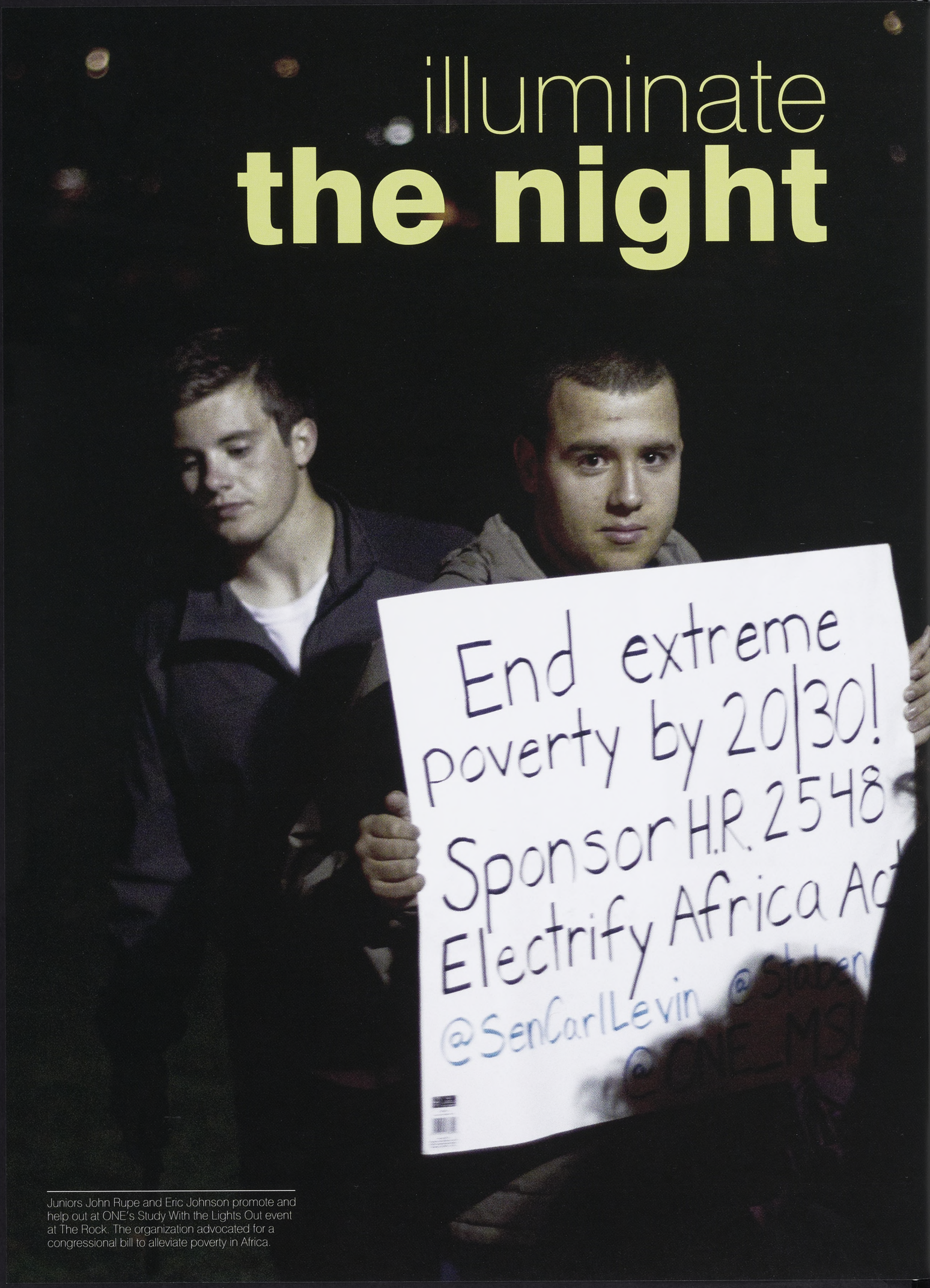
Senior Jen Nguyen explains to VSA members how the Family Feud game will work as Olivia Duong prepares to keep score. VSA hosted the game night in Holden Hall.



Both the Vietnamese Student Association and Chinese Student Coalition host events that celebrate Asian culture. VSA and CSC have murals in the basement of Holden Hall where they regularly meet.

Students gather in the Vincent Chin room to be quizzed on Vietnamese trivia. Through the interactive game, VSA members aimed to teach players about their culture and history.

illuminate **the night**



Juniors John Rupe and Eric Johnson promote and help out at ONE's Study With the Lights Out event at The Rock. The organization advocated for a congressional bill to alleviate poverty in Africa.

ONE

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

ONE organization raises awareness of electricity deficits in Africa

Photographs of the globe taken from space reveal which parts shine brightest at night. Cities such as Las Vegas, Tokyo and London are luminous parts of the map, twinkling as bright as the stars in the sky. Thousands of other cities also appear on such photos, but some areas are as dark as the night.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a spot on the globe that suffers from extreme poverty and rampant disease. Many efforts and charities exist for the sole purpose of eliminating poverty, specifically in Africa, for good. ONE is among those groups.

Hundreds of factions of the ONE organization, founded by Bono, have been created to spread awareness locally. ONE MSU is the campus offshoot of the organization, and its members are dedicated to informing fellow classmates about the hardships in sub-Saharan Africa.

Gathering at The Rock on Oct. 16, ONE members aimed to enlighten students about the lack of electricity in Africa. Students were encouraged to decorate a paper bag, place a candle inside, and align the bags by The Rock. Together, participants dimly illuminated the night around them.

"Any small contribution can make a huge impact," said junior Abhilasha Singh, as she joined fellow ONE members at the event.

Attendees were told that because of the lack of electricity, some students in Africa complete their studies solely by candlelight. While attempting to do calculus homework next to The Rock without lights, participants recognized the difficulty of performing daily tasks without basic resources — a reality that youth in many developing countries cope with.

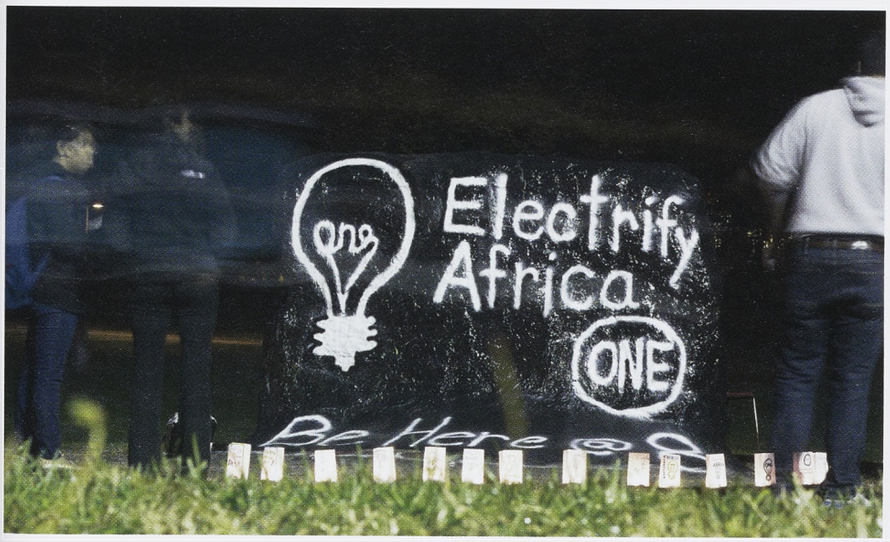
Students were also encouraged to write letters to Michigan senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, asking them to vote yes on the Electrify Africa Act. Introduced in June 2013, the initiative calls for U.S. involvement in Africa's energy sector. It would increase the continent's energy supply, provide access to electricity for at least 50 million people, and advocate for public resources that provide rural areas with electrical service.

"We're trying our best to encourage Congress to pass this bill because it's something that not everyone is aware of. Students in sub-Saharan Africa have to do their homework under a lone streetlight or by candlelight, and we aim to change that," said Allison Chan, senior and MSU ONE president.

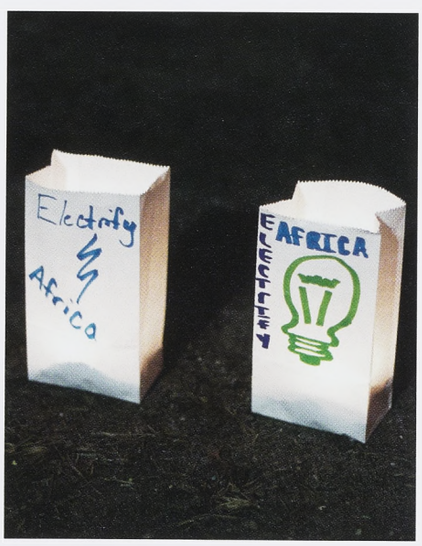
The student group also participates in the ONE Campus Challenge, in which they compete against other universities to educate and activate students with regards to poverty issues in Africa.

As Buddha once said, "Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of a candle will not be shortened." By taking action to light Africa, the students of ONE are the spark among many individuals — a spark that could spread across oceans to a multitude of children and families in need.

"There is a large gap that exists between countries, and we need to work our hardest to close it," said senior Sartaj Dhillon. "Education is important, and there shouldn't be a barrier between a student and their ability to educate themselves, especially if that barrier is a lack of light."



The student organization ONE lit lanterns and distributed free pizza at The Rock. ONE hoped to garner support for the Electrify Africa Act by spreading awareness about poverty in Africa.



Two homemade lanterns sit in front of The Rock on an autumn night. Passing students were asked to sign a petition for ONE's cause.

reigniting **family**



APASO members prepare lanterns for their journey into the night sky. The lantern release and preceding bonfire united members from many different cultural student organizations.

APASO

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

The Asian Pacific American Student Organization celebrates student heritage at cultural bonfire

On the chilly autumn night of Oct. 18, students gathered around a small fire and caught up on news while roasting hot dogs and marshmallows. The smell of burning wood filled the air as occasional sparks flew from the yellow flames. The cultural bonfire hosted by the Asian Pacific American Student Organization (APASO) brought students together for a night of racial, ethnic and ancestral awareness.

APASO, an umbrella organization for 10 other student organizations on campus, holds events to "promote cultural competence and awareness," said co-president and senior Widya Adidharma. APASO's other co-president, senior Yen Nguyen, said the organization aims to create a welcoming environment for students.

"We are a support group for people who are thrown into a new culture," said Nguyen. "We want to help them through it."

Many students came to the group's bonfire gathering, some newcomers and others veterans to the club. As the sound of warm greetings and laughter began to die down, APASO's vice president, junior Brenda Duong, called the group together. Fire-lit faces turned to offer attention as sounds of rustling leaves and the crackling fire took the place of conversation.

Students huddled around the bonfire, introducing themselves and the organizations to which they belonged. Duong explained that the event was meant to be "a night of cultural empowerment" where everyone could learn by sharing stories about struggles faced by individuals of diverse backgrounds.

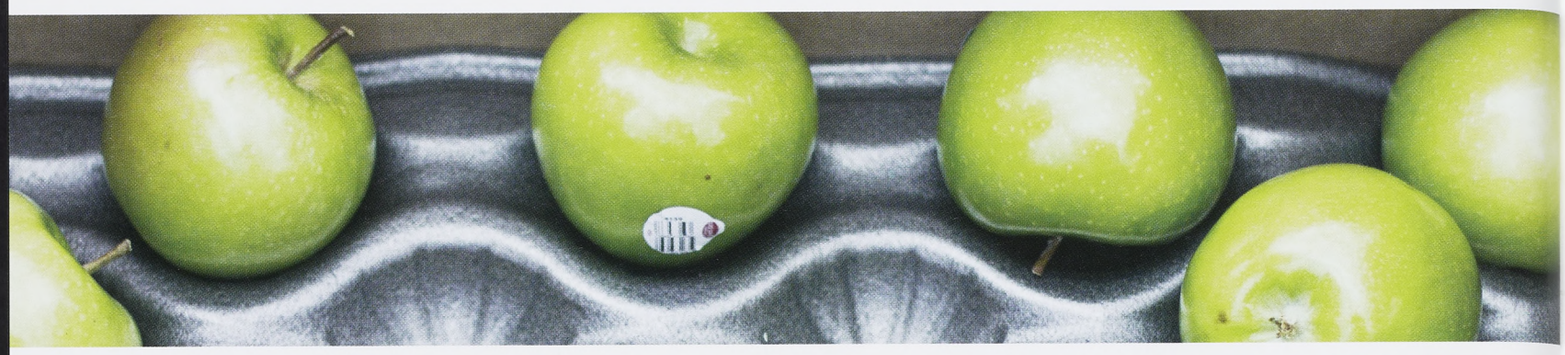
Although most students had just met, many shared intimate stories from their childhood and high school years. Tales ranged from misunderstandings about citizenship to racial identity. Discussions surrounding questions such as "Where are you from?" and "What kind of Asian are you?" were brought up by Jen Nguyen, senior and Vietnamese Student Association president.

"People ask me 'Where are you from?' and I always say 'I'm from Grand Rapids,'" Jen Nguyen said. "People are interested in what kind of Asian we are, but with our society, everyone's multiracial."

Other students joined the conversation, talking about their desire to share their heritage with others and not be judged by their appearance. Nods of agreement, words of encouragement and warm hugs were given after each contribution.

To continue the evening's theme of solidarity, the event ended with participants joining to release sky lanterns. Green, orange and yellow pillows of light quickly flew up into the night sky, leaving everyone on the ground to watch as they blended with the stars. The lanterns, which represented unity and peace, were a shining example of the camaraderie and understanding fostered during the night's dialogue.

According to the Office of International Students and Scholars, the number of international students studying at the university in fall 2013 reached 7,161, representing 131 countries. Myriad student organizations continue to create a more welcoming environment for newcomers to campus. As some international students struggle to get through their first weeks in a new country, they go through many of the same difficulties all freshmen have to endure. It's the shared challenges of learning about a new environment that brings members of the student body from different countries and cultures together under the banner of green and white.



food for **thought**

Ecological Food and Farm Stewardship Club promotes sustainable agriculture

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines food as "something that nourishes, sustains or supplies." So what does food become when it stops nourishing? The Ecological Food and Farm Stewardship (EFFS) Club — originally focused on teaching students how to tend home-grown food products — has taken on an integrative role in teaching students what nourishing food is.

The EFFS Club set up a station along Farm Lane on the blustery afternoon of Oct. 24 as part of the Real Food Challenge, a campaign that aims to shift $1 billion of university funding from junk food to quality local products. EFFS members joined student activists across the country who promote sustainable food practices.

"We want to continue to have a student voice that advocates for local, organic and socially just food, and it matters to a lot of students who come through here," said senior Charles Defever, EFFS president. "Some changes may not happen unless students have a voice."

Senior Amy Jacobs stood beneath the EFFS tent as it shook against the wind. Behind her, a handmade poster showed a wheel comprised of the economic, cultural and health benefits of sustainable food sources. Despite the fact that terms such as "organic" and "USDA certified" are thrown around daily, Jacobs argued that very few people are aware of their real meaning.

"Real food has four components according to the Real Food Challenge: ecologically sound, humane, fair trade and local or regionally purchased," Jacobs explained. "The dining halls on campus are already doing a really awesome job at having good food, but we're trying to make sure that it's as sustainable as possible, so that's what we're working towards."

Along with informational tidbits about ecologically sound food, the EFFS Club offered students free apples, freshly plucked from the orchard. As they reached for a tasty piece of fruit, passersby were urged to pose for a photo. On a dry erase board, students completed the statement, "Sustainable food is important to me because…" scrawled in black marker. Participants held their answers in front of the camera for submission to the Real Food Challenge.

Junior Emily Young and sophomore Anna Young were on their way to class when they walked by the EFFS Club's display. Intrigued, they agreed to have their photo taken together. The girls smiled with their apples and dry erase board sign that read, "Sustainable food is important to me because it's delicious and nutritious!" with a smiley face drawn at the end to accentuate their excitement about free food.

"They asked if we wanted an interview, but we couldn't pass up the apples," Emily Young laughed.

Other campus organizations like the MSU Dairy Club partnered with EFFS for the outreach event. Senior Andrea Meade said that most people don't know how sustainable the dairy industry is.

"Producers and farmers do a lot to make sure that they're actually protecting their farm and taking care of their animals well, because what good is it if they destroy their land and they have nothing to work their business on?" Meade said. "A lot of people don't realize that, and they don't realize how healthy milk really is for you; it's an incredibly nutrient-dense food."

Along with educating the student population, these clubs have been cooperating with the university to incorporate sustainable foods into the cafeteria. However, there is still much work to be done. Although the change is gradual, the long-term results may have global benefits, as populations are connected by the common necessity of continued sustenance.

"Everyone eats food or produces food around the world," said Defever. "If we can start with an equitable food system, then we have a better chance of having a more fair and equal life for everyone starting with food."

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Organic apples sit in a box, ready to be passed out to students. Among other foods, apples were given in exchange for a photo with a sign saying why real food is important to the student.

Event coordinators and juniors Jorhie Beadle and Madeline Valentine giggle as they share an apple. Apples were one organic food that members of the EFFS Club used to promote Food Day to students walking past their tent on the way to class.



Junior Morgan Hanks displays her reason for loving real food. Food Day is an event that celebrates the importance of eating locally grown, organic foods instead of the mass-produced calories that many people put into their bodies.

home for the eid

Students gather to celebrate the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha

The aroma of an enticing collection of Middle Eastern cuisine drifted through the McDonel dining hall, similar to the smell of a warm family gathering. Combined with the eye-popping colors and fashions of scarves, skirts and sashes, it brightened the room as students gathered on Oct. 24 to celebrate the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha.

Otherwise known as the Feast of Sacrifice, Eid al-Adha is a celebration recognizing Abraham's willingness to obey God's command and give up his first-born son before God offered him a lamb to sacrifice instead. Families who observe this Islamic holiday do so by gathering in a social setting and joining in prayer.

The dinner celebration at McDonel was organized collaboratively by various student organizations that represented countries from around the world, including Saudi Arabia, Libya, Somalia, Malaysia, Kazakhstan and Turkey.

"Our goal for tonight is to make the international students feel at home," said junior Ali Elrayes, vice president of the Libyan Student Association. "It's an opportunity to grow more and interact with other cultures, which is what I love about working with the student group."

Before finding a seat, attendees placed a pin on a map to indicate their country of origin. By the end of the night, the map was as shiny with pins as the skirts worn by the female performers.

Among the diverse stories of heritage was that of sophomore Symbat Payayeva. During the evening's festivities, Payayeva gave a traditional Kazakh performance by dancing, spinning and jumping, all while balancing a teacup on her head. "Events like this make me feel at home," Payayeva said. "I am surrounded by the culture of where I'm from, and I absolutely love it. Being a part of the International Student Organization helps a lot too — they're like my family."

Sophomore and vice president of the Saudi Student Association, Mariam Alamiri was happy with the turnout of the feast she helped coordinate.

"I am very pleased to announce that we have students, families and attendees representing over 50 countries here in this room tonight," said Alamiri.

The food spread, prepared by MSU Culinary Services, included Middle Eastern dishes such as spicy vegan pakoras, Somali rice pilaf and halal spicy lamb biryani awoke taste buds as guests ate their fill.

Taste testing the buffet of spicy dishes was Dr. Denise Maybank, vice president of Student Affairs. Presenting the event's closing statements, Maybank was asked to reflect on her experiences during the evening.

"Culture is what drives and shapes us," said Maybank. "Connections throughout cultures bind us together, and that is what has happened here tonight."

Although the pins on the map were spread far and wide, Spartans celebrating Eid al-Adha found similarities in their cultures, traditions and values. Despite being miles away from the kitchens of their loved ones, a feast of comfort food transported the students back for a home-away-from-home feeling, a sentiment with which Maybank chose to end the evening.

"We are one MSU. No matter how far you've come or how long you've been here, we are all Spartans," said Maybank. "And no matter where you are from, I am sure that when I say, 'Go Green!' you'll know exactly how to respond."



MUSLIM STUDENT GROUPS

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



A group of students perform a traditional dance. The Saudi Student Organization, Libyan Student Association and Somali Student Organization were among the seven different cultural groups represented at the Eid al-Adha celebration.

world wide web of creation

Students code together in first MSU Hackathon

According to Alexa, a web information company, Facebook is one of the most visited websites each day, second only to Google. With the constant updating of statuses, scrolling through news feeds and posting of pictures, the interactive media is an easy way to stay in touch with acquaintances online. Through hard work and determination, young minds like Zuckerberg and his co-entrepreneurs created one of the most successful web-based projects of all time.

Bearing such cyber heroes in mind, students and faculty gathered in the Main Library on Oct. 26 to work on a multitude of their own web-based projects. The rapid tapping of keyboards combined with the muffled tones of collaborative discussion characterized the MSU Hackathon — the university's first event dedicated solely to website coding and similar projects. As described on the event's website, "It's like recess for techies: one day, 50 people, lots and lots of coding."

Among the groups of Spartans hacking away was a set of computer science majors analyzing a scheme they felt would benefit most college students. Michael Nelson, Daniel Roman, David Kircos and Nick Rutowski were working on a system called Bookbrainer, which sends short quizzes to users via SMS to increase content retention. The quizzes have countless applications, such as studying for finals, testing out of a class or even remembering information that may be helpful during job training.

"The point of our project is to simply help people remember things," said Kircos.

While eagerly coding numerous pages of HTML, the men scribbled down side notes beside their laptops, concentrating like students preparing for a Calculus IV exam. Members bounced ideas back and forth about how to improve the project and make it more user-friendly.

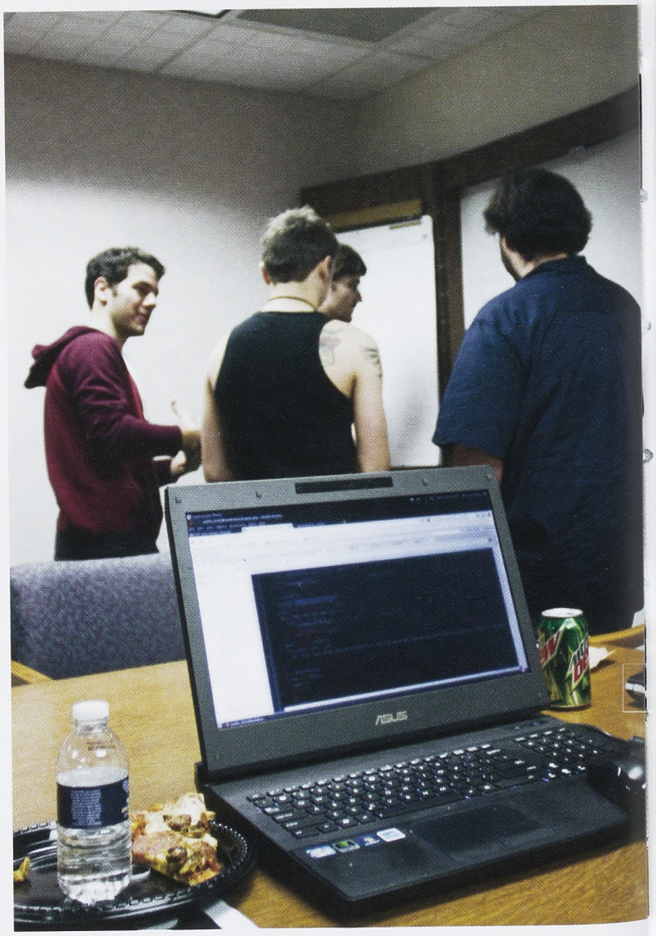
"What we're doing today is creating the individual Legos which will then be used to create the overall Lego structure," explained Rutowski with a simplistic metaphor.

All four coders, with years of professional computer science experience bolstering them, aimed to become software developers. The profession lures some technologically savvy young people for unexpected reasons.

"When thinking of computer science and software development, creativity isn't exactly the first thing that comes to mind for many people, but that's exactly what it is. Creating different software programs through computer science gives us the creative liberties to create the programs exactly how we want it, even down to the color of font we wish to use," said Roman.

The ability to innovate is a trait desired by many but expressed by few. Those who participated in the first MSU Hackathon embodied innovation. As they worked exhaustive hours to create the building blocks for online projects, their results may one day rank close to those of the eminent Zuckerberg.





Students break off from the group and work in separate area, using a whiteboard to develop new ideas. Groups of students aimed to create results from their web-based projects during the Hackathon.

University Information Technologist Troy Murray works as a coder with his teammates in the media library conference rooms. Coding and web developing were heavily focused on during the Hackathon.

HACKATHON

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Students configure different applications, including some relevant to the student body. The Hackathon gave students an opportunity to work collaboratively on computer operations.



Junior Kyle Kulesza and sophomore Emily Titus cross swords during practice. Preliminary steps before each duel are a crucial part of the fencing routine.

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

a thinking man's game

Fencing Club engages in intellectually and physically demanding sport

In the popular film "Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl," the messy Captain Jack Sparrow with chin-hair braids and well-groomed Will Turner face off in an epic sword battle. The camera pans around the barn as opponents take long, drawn out swings while taunting one another with witty banter. Sparrow and Turner run about, performing wild gymnastic maneuvers over various obstacles, even balancing precariously on a two-wheeled wagon as their shiny blades flail.

Fencing isn't quite like dramatic Hollywood sword fighting. The sport doesn't take hours to choreograph or involve flashy special effects. It is, however, an intricate dance between opponents, riddled with the dichotomy of premeditation and spontaneity. The two masked competitors look to catch each other off guard with quick flicks and stabs, attempting to foil the other's timing and focus to accumulate points.

"It's a thinking man's game," said senior Adam Wingate, president of the MSU Fencing Club. "The winner isn't the fastest, the tallest or the strongest. It's like playing chess in a real sport."

Passion for such an intellectually challenging sport spurred the establishment of the Fencing Club in 1997 after the athletic department dissolved the varsity fencing team. When they first joined, many club members were new to the sport and learned on their feet.

The light clanging of metal can be heard in the basement of IM West when the masked fencers elegantly dance, stab and swing at each other, preparing for fiery matchups with rival teams. The Fencing Club competes in about twelve tournaments during the year, facing ten Big Ten universities and several others in the Midwest region. The biggest tournament of the year for the club is the Club Fencing Championship, in which they compete against club teams across the country. In 2012, MSU hosted the event and finished second.

Fencing is divided into three different styles based upon the weapons used. One is foil, in which points can only be scored with the tip of the blade as it contacts the chest. Another is saber, which is characterized by slicing motions with the blade that can contact any point of the body. This is the fastest and quickest form of fencing, each bout lasting little more than 10 or 15 seconds.

"It's a modern day adaptation of sword fighting," said sophomore Alexandra Mackenzie. "The actions saberists do are something you would have seen in cavalry years ago."

The third type of fencing is called épée. It demands the most patience and generally takes the longest, since the dominant strategy is to wait for one's opponent to slip up. It is characterized by fancy footwork — fencers often hop in a rhythm as they wait for their challenger to make a move.

"Épée is similar to a duel where you would just try to draw blood from your opponent," said Mackenzie.

The popularity of football, basketball, soccer and baseball often overshadows less mainstream sports like fencing. However, members of the club cherish the sport for this divergence from the norm.

"The other sports are repetitive," said Mackenzie. "You fence so many different people, up to 27 people in one day."

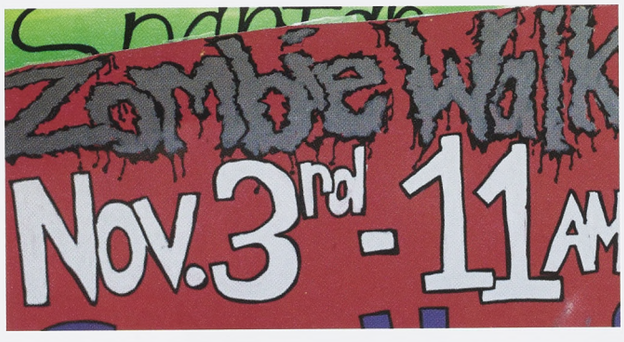
A love for the sport isn't the only reason members stay on the team. For junior Joe Latham, the community and camaraderie that exists between the fencers are valuable resources. During his freshman year, Latham discussed his roommate troubles with the club. He received a lot of support from his fellow members, despite the fact that he was new.

"The people in the Fencing Club are one-of-a-kind, said Latham. "They teach you how to work hard and to pass friendship forward."

The MSU Fencing Club doesn't kill people with their dull blades, but rather builds them up. Instead of a flesh wound, a cherished impact pierces like a sharp steel blade for anyone who faces off in a duel.



Former MSU basketball player and Spartan Spectrum spokesperson Anthony Ianni speaks to the zombified crowd about understanding autism. Ianni has spoken to more than 650 high school communities across the country about youth issues.



The Zombie Walk sign is vibrant within the sea of people huddled around the coffee station in the chilly weather. Spartan Spectrum members said the walk was successful in raising awareness about the group's cause.

As the sun rose on the morning of Nov. 3, some students were still in a deep slumber after a holiday weekend of jubilation and Wolverine domination. Likely, the only Spartans who were awake that morning moaned when the bed covers were removed, groaned when shoes were laced and shuffled across campus in a mental fog. These creatures, with eyes caked in green makeup and necks coated with dripping red dye, assembled around The Rock for Spartan Spectrum's inaugural event: Zombie Walk.

The new student organization Spartan Spectrum works to amplify the voices of individuals on the autism spectrum, a range of neurodevelopmental disorders used to categorize diagnosed individuals. The walk brought students, paraprofessionals, families, professors and even an honorary alumnus together to raise awareness and give those affected by autism a chance to speak.

Anthony Ianni, a former Spartan basketball player from 2010 to 2012, was invited to speak about how his personal ties with autism influenced his career on the court and personal life. Ianni was diagnosed at age 4 with a form of autism called pervasive developmental disorder, a condition found in children who have difficulties in playing, interacting and communicating with others. Doctors and specialists told Ianni that he'd never graduate high school, go on to college or even be an athlete. He did just the opposite.

"I always tell people that I'm proud of two things in my life," Ianni said. "The first is being the first known person with autism to play Big Ten basketball. Secondly, what I am most proud of is that on May 5, 2012, I graduated from this very university and got my degree in sociology."

After his speech, Ianni led the mob of living dead from The Rock to the Spartan Statue. Lining the path along the Red Cedar River were boards displaying facts about autism. These provided insightful statistics such as, autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, it affects boys four to five times more than girls, and 40 percent of those diagnosed are unable to speak. That limited means of communication is why Spartan Spectrum was created.

"The mission of our group is to amplify a voice — one that is powerful enough to be heard, bold enough to be seen and one that would be known," sophomore and president Holly Semma said.

Semma and other group officers including special education sophomore Bobby Schumacher planned the Zombie Walk for months. Schumacher admitted that at times planning the walk was frustrating but was proud of the effective collaboration of this new group.

"It's a team that we've developed here. Even though we've only met each other a couple of times, we've been working with each other through email and social networking sites, and we all know what it takes to be successful," Schumacher said. "This walk has been a big step for all of us."

It was also a stride in the development of autism awareness on campus.

"I am honored that I went to a university that's starting a great program," Ianni added. "The more and more they keep growing, the more people they're going to spread the word. I know that they're going to build and build and become even bigger on this campus."

During the walk a puzzled passerby looked with curiosity at each zombie and stared at the information panels along the river wondering how the sights were connected. Although the students temporarily transformed into the groaning undead, the message for autistic awareness became a living, breathing reality.

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

amplifying a voice

New student group holds zombie walk for autism awareness



Voted the two best dressed zombies at the walk, 6-year-old siblings Braydan and Ava Wortz show off their zombie poses to give the crowd the full effect.

The Film Collective analyzes the self through film

Gut-wrenched gasps and screams of horror echoed through B122 Wells Hall. The haunting shrieks of a tormented family left viewers deeply embedded in their seats, eyes glued to the unfolding violence and terror. On Nov. 7, the sadistic scenes and often harrowing sounds of Michael Haneke's 2007 reproduction of "Funny Games" left viewers bewildered from another weekly installment of the MSU Film Collective.

The MSU Film Collective is a group of students, faculty and East Lansing community members who love to watch and discuss film. The collective takes inspiration from the Cinémathèque Française, a film club which took a critical and comprehensive approach to cinema during the French New Wave era. The MSU group believes that good film writing, filmmaking and everyday living begins with film viewing.

The group's fall 2013 series highlighted the spectacle of mess.

"We're interested in films that explore messes, be they economic, ecological or political in nature, as well as films that are themselves messy, that aren't necessarily perfect," said Joshua Yumibe, director of film studies. "But through the imperfections of these works, we're interested in the aesthetic, political and cinematic strategies deployed to reflect and explode the cacophonous hum of the past century."

Every week a different professor picks the film for the Thursday evening viewing session. "Funny Games" was picked by art history professor Dr. Lily Woodruff. The film was an American-made shot-for-shot remake of the original 1997 Austrian film. The plot follows two psychotic men, who hold a family hostage all while torturing them using sadistic rules they created.

"I thought it would be interesting to show a movie that was messy at the same time that it was producing that mess through a very rigorous formalism and a very rigorous set of rules," explained Woodruff.

Woodruff said the film is unique in that it mirrors recent events in our culture.

"There's been a lot of violence in our country. Often times those people are cool and rationale," Woodruff said. "They're very well organized. They perceive their relationship to the violence as an abstract and oftentimes some sort of moralizing position."

Beneath the eloquent critics and related social underpinnings lies a deeply-rooted adoration for the complexity of cinematographic art, with its diverse interpretations and intrigue.

"I love the beauty of sitting in a dark room with other people and seeing something on a screen while also having different reactions to a film," said sophomore Kiran Webster. "It stimulates my brain, thinking about the script and the directors and everything. There's so many ways to interact with the world, and a film is a great way to do that."

Yumibe believes that films provide people with insight that answers many cultural questions and inquiries about personal identity.

"One could say that it reflects society remarkably well, though not necessarily in a realistic manner," said Yumibe. "Often films give us insight into the ways in which society wishes to see itself — how it wants things to be ideologically and aesthetically."

Without disclosing too much about "Funny Games," the evening was spent sometimes in terror, sometimes in awe and sometimes longing just to see bloodshed — a key talking point amongst the cinephiles after the film was finished. The sadistic and masochistic film left the audience perplexed as they pondered their own dark temptations and desires to see blood, torture or the gruesome death of even the most beloved protagonists.



TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

spartan cinephiles



The Film Collective meets on Thursday nights in Wells Hall to watch a variety of great movies. The meetings allow film aficionados to discuss the many aspects of creating high quality productions.



Students put their feet to work on the dance floor. Footwork is a key element in all forms of swing dancing.

Graduate student Scott Rice instructs attendees in basic swing dancing moves. The State Swing Society offers both beginner and intermediate dance lessons before every Sunday night open dance.



Kenneth Barrese and Allison Inword execute a spin during their dance. A strong partner connection is an important aspect in swing dancing and competitions.

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



showcasing **swing**

State Swing Society shares knowledge of a timeless dance

One's personal space is considered sacred in today's society, especially when it comes to interacting with strangers. The idea of mingling closely with unknown individuals may seem odd at first, but as various forms of dance demonstrate, that feeling can be overcome.

On Nov. 11, acquaintances connected to form a single body that moved throughout Demonstration Hall while members of the State Swing Society instructed beginners. The lively trill of the saxophone headed the melody of numerous jazz songs. Along with the synchronized tapping of dozens of feet, the rhythm gave way to a night of stepping and swinging.

During the club's weekly gatherings, beginners are welcome to take dance lessons from experienced members for the first half of the night. Open dance follows the lessons, and jazz and other swing music is played for all to dance along to.

State Swing Society member and graduate student Scott Rice reflected on the importance of this type of dance.

"Swing dance helps people connect — both to the music and to each other," said Rice. "It's definitely more of a friendly type of dance. It gives people the chance to connect non-verbally."

To learn the basics of swing, students were first separated into two groups: the leaders and the followers. The followers were asked to form one giant circle, and were eventually paired with a leader. After learning a move, leaders shifted one spot to their right, consequently getting matched up with someone new. Through this system, dancers learned swing steps such as the Jumpin' Joe, Texas Tommy and the Charleston.

One student grooving in the swing crowd was sophomore Katie Justice.

"I've been dancing for about six years now," said Justice, "but this is the only time I've had to dance with a complete stranger. At first I thought it might be weird, but then I realized that I'm a stranger to them too, so if we're both in the same situation then who cares?"

Spartans danced their way into the night, improving their skills with every step. Interspersed with the beginners were well-practiced individuals swinging their partners in the air and moving rapidly to the music without skipping a beat. Sweat seeped through the shirts of some men who led their dancing partners fearlessly across the floor and twirled them from side to side.

"After dancing swing for two years, I've incorporated it into my daily life," said senior Mary-Catherine Kwilos. "My friends make fun of me because I'll find myself subconsciously dancing swing at the bars. I just can't help it!"

Naturally, interacting with new people takes some out of their comfort zone. Dancing challenges that apprehension and pits individuals against their physical and mental boundaries. Music, complex footwork and unfamiliar faces are all part of the State Swing Society's formula of teaching dance. Through the steps of swing, students step on a few feet, interact with old friends, and create new ones.

posed to strike

Kung fu master takes Jewish Women's Forum under his wing

Lurking in the sweaty, typically testosterone-filled corridors of IM West, eight warriors emerged in yoga pants with matching shoes and track jackets. Confused as to their next move, they congregated until booming commands from the master echoed through the room, dispersing them around the space. The women were about to embark on a journey of physicality and technique.

On Nov. 11, the Jewish Women's Forum, an organization that exalts womanhood through the celebration and education of Judaism, held its first kung fu demonstration. Senior Leah Cardona, student instructor at the Lily Lau Eagle Claw Kung Fu School in Chicago, Ill., and her father Alvin Cardona, the school's master instructor, led the session.

Leah Cardona began practicing kung fu at the age of 5 and competed until she was 18. She said learning martial arts is not just a form of exercise but also a valuable tool.

"Kung fu is based off of self-defense," Leah Cardona said. "It's never about going to attack other people, it's always about protecting yourself, and you never know if a situation might happen, so it's good to know some form of self-defense."

Leah Cardona explained that kung fu, taekwondo and karate are all self-defense forms of martial arts, and the main difference between them is their country of origin — China, Korea and Japan, respectively.

"What makes the kung fu community unique is that there are different styles. We practice what is called 'Eagle Claw Kung Fu' because some of the movements we were performing are like that of an eagle," Leah Cardona said. "There are other styles too like tiger, crane and monkey style — all of which imitate the animal and how they defend themselves."

The members of the Jewish Women's Forum, some of whom had never engaged in martial arts, kicked down their walls of inhibition and clawed their way to improvement. Club leader and senior Elizabeth Kirsch, who previously took one year of karate, saw the demonstration as a way to develop emergency defense skills.

"I don't have lengthy experience in self-defense," Kirsch said. "You hear stories about college campuses where people are approached and attacked, so it's nice to know these self-defense skills to know how to react."

The women kicked, blocked and mimicked animal moves under the instruction of Alvin Cardona. He, like his daughter, started the sport at the age of 5 and eventually opened the Lily Lau Eagle Claw Kung Fu School in 1999. It is named after his instructor, the only female kung fu master in Chinese history. He teaches a wide spectrum of students, from beginners to intermediates and even black belt instructors, passing down a rich history of tradition.

Although he won gold medals in international competition, prestige is not Alvin Cardona's primary focus in his work as an instructor. He recognizes that women are often easy targets for attackers. Thus, he taught the group of women through simulation how to react to situations like purse and wallet snatchings, as well as various physical threats. In learning the valuable tools they need to defend themselves, the group became like a flock of eagles ready to protect themselves, and each other, from harm.

"It's a dangerous world," Alvin Cardona said. "It's not a matter of size, but knowing where to strike."





JEWISH WOMEN'S FORUM

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Kung fu instructor Alvin Cardona explains a self-defense move to senior Elizabeth Kirsch and junior Jordan Mostyn. Cardona taught a group of women the basics of the martial art in the turf arena at IM West.



Women practice their newly learned self-defense techniques. The Jewish Women's Forum organized the kung fu event to spread awareness about protecting oneself and arm participants with tactics to do so.



Ellisa Slonim and junior Jordan Mostyn practice blocking attacks and punches. The defense moves were among those Cardona taught that can be used to fight off unwanted attacks.

The Men's Glee Club concludes its performance and the school fight song by chanting the words, "Fight! Fight! Rah team fight!" Both the men's and women's glee clubs sang alongside local high schoolers during their performances.



Junior Capelle Gabriel leads a harmony among her peers in the Women's Glee Club during their performance. The women are enrolled in MUS 125, a one-credit singing class that meets biweekly.



Freshman Joel McElwee hums the chorus of a song during the Men's Glee Club performance at Fairchild Auditorium. The Men's Glee Club was known as "Singing Statesmen" in its earlier years as a student organization.



TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

a common voice

Men's and women's glee clubs host fall concert





The director placed his heavy foot on the podium and folders were at the ready as the men and women stood stiff as soldiers. With a feathery wave of his hands, a melodious stream of music rose from the base of the stage to the peak of the rafters. The audience was enthralled with every word the artists sang. The singers created a calmness in the auditorium as the booming of their voices coalesced in a single hum.

On Nov. 12, the men's and women's glee clubs performed in the newly renovated Fairchild Theater to show off not only the venue's reconstruction but also their fresh crop of singing talent.

Junior and Men's Glee Club President Zachary Lindquist commented that the renovation was a project long overdue.

"The theater was not useful. The sound would not carry and it just sounded like a dead room," Lindquist said. "The place was gutted. They took all but the exterior walls down, installed an orchestra pit, revised the seating for efficiency, and the walls now have acoustic resonating capabilities."

The renovation meant a lot to Lindquist as a performer. In his fifth semester of Men's Glee Club, the singer said that performing in Fairchild for the first time after renovations strengthened his relationship with music.

"Singing in Fairchild was comparable to that of smaller churches in Europe," Lindquist said. "Being able to hear yourself sing and really experience what the music you were singing felt like instead of just throwing your voice out there was incredible."

For those who are not as artistically connected, glee club is a way to express oneself without experiencing the pressures of auditions or music education. For senior Amanda Wiederoder, the operations of the club serve as an artistic oasis — an escape from her scientific studies.

"I love singing, and glee club was a great way to keep it up without taking too much away academically," Wiederoder said. "It's special when I'm able to get in touch with my artistic side."

However voracious, the members' passion for music will always fall second to their Spartan pride. Ending each practice by singing the alma mater and fight song has been a tradition since the Men's Glee Club began in 1880 — making it one of the oldest student organizations on campus. The men's group also sings these popular tunes on the mornings of football game days. Members will go around to different tailgates and sing the two pieces, often encouraging alumni to join in. Having connections with the music notes on the page and with alumni young and old, the glee clubs serve as catalysts in making a common love a community passion. For sophomore Harrison Jones, this ongoing practice of and shared love for singing has been a defining point in his college career so far.

"Being part of this long-standing tradition has truly made me appreciate that once a Spartan, always a Spartan," Jones said. "My experience has truly reminded me that through music, we can all share our love for this Spartan nation."

As the singing of the fight song came to a close with a faint hum, the resonating words "victory for MSU" echoed throughout the Fairchild Auditorium. What has been a time-honored tradition for more than 150 years continues to be a practice cherished by Spartans young and old, whether they wear a lab coat, fashionable frocks or anything in between.







Senior Jenna Dean gets messy to help Pangea Educational Development earn money for a summer volunteer trip. The group hoped to send members to work in impoverished areas of Uganda.

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

pie slingers

Pangea Educational Development fundraises for service work in Uganda

Two men sat outside the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity house on Michigan Avenue in the chilly November air. Both smiled and donned plastic ponchos as sticky whipped cream slowly melted and dripped onto their laps. Cars and bikes flew past the front lawn as a colorful cloth banner waved on the house's front porch. Nearby, a young woman in a makeshift garbage bag poncho jumped around, waving her arms in the air and yelling, "Come throw a pie at me!" Behind all this action was one goal: to help the people of Uganda.

The MSU chapter of Pangea Educational Development (PED) needed a plan to raise money for members of the organization wishing to travel to Uganda for a summer of volunteering. Co-president and junior Rachel Conklin found the answer in getting revenge for a poor term paper grade.

"I've always wanted to throw a pie at a professor," said Conklin. "So why not make an event of it?"

PED is a national organization that works with impoverished areas in both the United States and Uganda. Their main goal is to assist in the creation of sustainable schools and build up communities by doing so. The group has six university chapters, including three in Michigan.

Co-president Moira Custodio is among the members planning to go overseas this summer. She joined PED because of its commitment to helping disadvantaged areas and making sure the assistance provided will continue to have an effect even after volunteers head home.

"With our focus on sustainability, these projects really do influence the communities we work with," Custodio said. "We work together with the community to create a project specifically catered to what they say they need. These projects promote community involvement in the project and also ensure that they will continue after we leave."

To promote the group and its volunteer efforts, PED played videos in the background of the event. The footage highlighted past trips to Uganda with faces of smiling volunteers playing games outside with groups of school children and shots of laying brick on a dirt-covered construction site. Infographics depicted the prevalence of poverty in Uganda, which the United Nations has regarded as one of the least developed countries since 1971. The lack of funding for school systems that results from the country's situation makes it difficult to provide education for students in many of Uganda's rural communities.

One pie and $1 at a time, students had the opportunity to help change this fact as they smashed plates covered in whipped cream into the faces of volunteers. Members of the group, some professors and a physics teaching assistant were among the brave souls who stepped up to take a pie in the face for the team. Conklin and teaching assistant Luke Granlund sat in the chairs first, awaiting their tasty fate.

"I think I've made a huge mistake," Granlund laughed as he took his seat in the front of the room.

Later the group moved the event to the house's front lawn, with Granlund and teacher education professor Kyle Greenwalt on display and covered from forehead to chin in sticky, gooey drops.

"Help the children, or just get righteous vengeance!" Granlund yelled, hoping to catch the attention of students passing by.

With money generated by the event, the task of raising the remaining funds for the trip will be easier for PED members. Conklin, who went on the trip in summer 2013, is excited to return this year.

"I love traveling and had never been to Africa so I decided to go for it," Conklin reflected. "It was such an incredible experience and so rewarding that now I can't wait to go back!"

ain't no rest for the spartans

Students sacrifice sleep for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



Students read stories of children who were aided by their fundraising efforts. Combined, participants raised more than $28,000 for the St. Jude charity.

UP 'TIL DAWN

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR





Red Bull fuels students who volunteered to stay awake for the duration of the fundraiser. Along with energy drinks and abundant food, the Up 'Til Dawn committee prepared games to engage students throughout the night.

Sophomore Aretha Narayan sits upon junior Hinal Patel's shoulders to build their balloon structure. Participants competed to build the tallest freestanding tower using only balloons and tape.

Sacrificing sleep to cram for a huge exam or finish a paper is almost inevitable for college students. However, more than 100 students had a new cause to pull an all-nighter on Nov. 16 with the first ever St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's Up 'Til Dawn fundraiser at MSU.

11 p.m. — Students who reached the minimum fundraising goal of $100 checked-in at IM Circle for a caffeine-saturated night in honor of the patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and their families. As people walked through the gym doors, they were invited to have their picture taken while holding a poster that read, "I'm staying up for…," leaving a blank space for an individual to fill in their reason for attending.

12 a.m. — After fueling up with pizza, wings and pop, students huddled in the center of the gym to watch a mission video from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It introduced youth and teenagers' personal struggles with cancer, reminding students why they chose to stay awake until 6 a.m. instead of sleeping soundly at home in their cozy beds.

"I think everyone here has the same mentality as I do about staying up all night," said freshman Alyse Maksimoski. "It's for St. Jude. It's worth it. It's one Friday night out of our year, and these kids are fighting cancer every single day of the year. It's the least we can do for them."

1-3 a.m. — To keep the droopy-eyed students active, the event included quirky team challenges, such as building the highest structure out of balloons and tape. In addition, the Up 'Til Dawn e-board carved out an hour of entertainment that kept students energized with special performances from Spartan Sur, the MSU Ballroom Dance Team and MSU Dance Club.

"The kids that battle all of the different types of cancer at St. Jude go through a lot more than us," said sophomore Jannet Jones, publicity chair for Up 'Til Dawn. "Watching the performances reminded me how fortunate we are all to get the sleep that we get, have the food that we eat and just live normal lives."

4 a.m. — After all the games and performances, the real diversion of the morning arrived as two men had their heads completely buzzed, saying farewell to their precious locks. While the men were a tad reluctant at first, both sported smiles as clumps of their luscious hair dropped to the floor.

Junior Tori Balogh, executive director for Up 'Til Dawn MSU, thanked the men for volunteering, reminding them that their new bald heads will inspire children battling cancer to keep fighting.

"It was in Memphis where I really realized how hopeful St. Jude is," said Balogh as she reflected on her visit to the hospital. "I went there thinking that it would be sad because there were so many kids with cancer there. But as I was standing in the hallway, a little girl came skipping through. She had no hair and she had a little tube coming through her nose, but she was happy and skipping and was having so much fun because she knows what hope is. I want to keep providing the hope that kids like that have."

5 a.m. — When dawn finally arrived, students were offered a pancake breakfast to charge up for the last moments of the fundraiser. With full bellies, loud music and lively spirits, Spartans danced away the final hour, celebrating their fundraising total of $29,000 that will foster future research and hope for the smiling young faces at St. Jude.



Freshman D'vonteono Anderson and junior Fernando Vega exchange glances. These friends as well as other attendees had the opportunity to learn about the history and practices of Sikh culture.



Junior Rachel Lucas captures a self-portrait, or "selfie," while wearing a turban. Though Sikh tradition requires only men to wear turbans, many females at the event wore them as well.

SIKH STUDENT ASSOCIATION

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JORDON GRIMMINS
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Turbans line a table at the beginning of the event. Hosts explained that Sikh turbans can be tied with cloth of any color or pattern.

unwrapping stereotypes

Members of the Sikh Student Association celebrate Turban Day

In honor of its new campaign entitled "Make Love," the international clothing store Gap released an ad featuring South Asian actor Waris Ahluwalia who is Sikh and wearing a traditional turban. The ad went viral after vandalization on one of its street posters changed the word "love" to "bombs" and scrawled, "please stop driving taxis" in the corner.

Racial stereotyping of this sort has not gone unnoticed by students. Particularly for those who wear a turban, the cloth has become a symbol that pigeonholes individuals. These misguided classifications caused members of the Sikh Student Association to gather in the Business College Complex on Nov. 19 to celebrate Turban Day and debunk false beliefs.

Because followers of both the Muslim and Sikh religion wear turbans, it is not uncommon for the public to confuse followers of the two faiths, despite their numerous differences. Sikhism is an Indian religion, whereas Islam is of Abrahamic descent. Freshman Priya Jaswal said the differences between them should be recognized.

"It's important for us to protect people from being ignorant," said Jaswal. "We want them to be informed and know the correct information."

The Sikh religion is prevalent in the Punjab region, which encompasses northern India and parts of Pakistan. Guru Nanak Dev founded the monotheistic religion in 1469, and summed up the essence of Sikh teaching in these words:

"Realization of Truth is higher than all else. Higher still is truthful living." The Sikh religion focuses on meditation, living a wholesome life and acting charitably to the less fortunate.

During the time he taught, Guru Nanak standardized the Sikh image. Over 800 years later, the image that Nanak created remains nearly the same — long beards displayed by the men along with people of all ages and genders wearing turbans. Although not required to wear the cloth at all times, many Sikhs prefer to wear the turban as a symbol of strength and devotion to God.

After presenting this information, members of the Sikh Student Association helped fellow Spartans learn to tie the traditional headdress. Pieces of fabric eight to 10 feet in length were placed on the heads of participants, their colors ranging from jet blacks to bright pinks. Students sat for 15 minutes while having a turban placed upon them, carefully learning each twist and turn needed to tie it.

Although the turban is meant to be a sign of strength and religious endearment, it has developed negative connotations in post-9/11 society. Sophomore Ramneek Dhillon has been personally affected by these misconceptions.

"Stereotyping and racial profiling has gotten pretty bad. I've had family members stopped for an extra security scan at the airport just for wearing a turban," said Dhillon. "That's why I think that it's important to eliminate the negative image that some people associate with the turban by teaching people its true meaning."

Working to eliminate unfavorable religious overtones can be a challenge, but junior Joshua Singh, co-president of the Sikh Student Association, is determined.

"We're focusing on the turban, because it's the main thing that people see. We're trying really hard to eliminate the stereotype and give people more of an understanding of what our religion entails," said Singh.

A night filled with wrapping, twisting and tying was combined with the enlightenment of students about the Sikh religion. Members of the Sikh Student Association proudly taught others how to wrap what they consider a true token of devotion to God while simultaneously unwrapping stereotypes.

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Ski
and
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Matt Miller, a student at the University of Utah, nose presses a rail at the first annual campus Rail Jam. The Spartan Ski Club and the Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team hosted the Rail Jam at The Rock.

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

riding the rails

Ski Club and Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team rally to support Relay for Life



A sea of helmets and knit caps surrounded a gigantic snow-covered ramp, towering over students shivering behind The Rock. Snow and straw were strewn about the lawn, and the sound of skis gliding gracefully over the snow could be heard over the multitude of conversations. Snowboards slid down an icy rail as students looked on in awe at the twists and turns made by a snowboarder in midair. Loud smacks of boards against firmly packed snow signaled that Rail Jam 2013 was underway.

On Nov. 22, the Spartan Ski Club and the Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team worked together to provide campus with a winter spectacle. For club members, it was an opportunity to break in their gear before hitting the slopes at Crystal Mountain and Mount Brighton on the clubs' annual trips. Rail Jam also gave the rest of the student body a glimpse of what it's like to be part of groups dedicated to winter sports.

According to Sean Storey, senior and Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team president, the event was the first the group hosted in plain view of the university, and both clubs wanted it to be memorable. Free energy drinks were distributed, and there was a rail competition for the title of best trick.

"We really wanted to put on an event that advocated skiing," Storey said. "Nothing like this happens on campus. It's so unique and so cool."

Although the day was focused on enjoying the snow, the groups used the event to fundraise for both the Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team and Relay for Life. They raised money not only from entry fees but also by dropping members of both clubs into a frigid dunk tank.

Though both groups are made up of students who are passionate about skiing and snowboarding, a friendly rivalry exists between the organizations. The Spartan Ski Club, which consists of roughly 800 students and alumni, is a non-competitive group of individuals who want to hang with friends while enjoying winter sports. Secretary of the ski club and junior Vic Martin said she was drawn to the club by their openness and uniqueness, which she witnessed for the first time at Sparticipation.

"I see in the midst of all of these clubs this kid, strapped to his snowboard, and a bunch of other people in snow gear in the summer, with a ski club flag and all these banners and I think, 'What in God's name is this?'" Martin reflected. "Immediately I was hooked, honestly, by their personalities."

The Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team is a smaller and more selective organization. Unlike the ski club, the team competes regionally on behalf of the university, making six weekend trips to northern Michigan during the season.

Despite their differences, both of the winter sports groups wanted to share their passion with other Spartans through Rail Jam.

"We wanted people to just have a good time and bring ski and snowboarding to the university," said Spartan Ski Club officer and sophomore Charlie Nicoli. "We wanted to get a bit of visibility and give back to the community a little."

The groups' work did not go unnoticed. Throughout the afternoon, swarms of students flocked to The Rock to take part in the sports of the impending winter months. Though the snowy season can seem bleak and everlasting, Spartans can find solace by soaring high over the powdered expanse — or living vicariously through those who do.

Drummers sing to a steady beat. Each form of the round dance involves a stick man who controls the direction of each song and leads the singing.

Hand drums keep dancers in time with the song. Round dance music often incorporates quick tempos and spirited sounds created by repeatedly striking small single-headed drums.



TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



The dancers follow the rhythm and circle the drummers, performing the round dance. Variations on the round dance call for women to dance around the drummers clockwise, and men to proceed counterclockwise in a separate inner circle.

stepping back in time

NAISO organizes round dance to promote culture and individualism

For an evening, it was as if the dreams of science fiction fanatics came true and time travel was real. The audience was transported to a period when the Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi inhabited the Midwest and Canada. With the booming of drums, roaring of singers and the hypnotizing sight of feet criss-crossing in a circular formation, spectators became participants in a traditional ceremony.

However, members of the North American Indigenous Student Organization (NAISO) created this scene in the Kellogg Conference Center on Nov. 22 without the use of time travel as they arranged the first campus round dance in six years. A round dance is a traditional Native American celebration of ancestors that takes place after the first snowfall and features a myriad of events such as a pipe ceremony, food, singing, drumming and, of course, dancing.

For sophomore and NAISO co-chair Cassondra Church, the round dance became a project of self-discovery rather than just another campus culture event. Church, a member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, didn't learn much about her background growing up. After joining a student group within her tribe, she began attending more events like powwows and round dances. With NAISO's round dance, Church's enlightening journey came full circle.

"Coming to MSU really inspired me to learn more about my culture and myself," Church said. "When I came here, there was so much diversity around campus and I was able to learn about other people's experiences and cultures. However, I realized that I needed to learn more about myself."

Throughout the night, dozens of feet shuffled around a band of drummers and singers, including sixth-year student Katy Matson. Matson, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, has been immersed in her culture since childhood. She is proud to share her upbringing with others.

"I did not grow up on a reservation, but I was able to grow up in a family of commercial fishermen," Matson said. "We have never left the city of Munising, and I can trace my ancestry back hundreds of years there as we are fifth-generation fishermen."

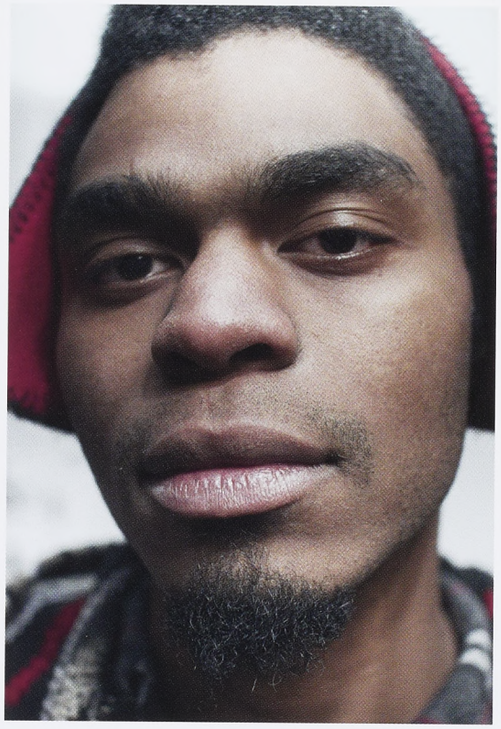
Although her family made a conscious effort to continue traditions for Matson, one detail of her tribe was not passed on — the spoken word.

"I grew up going to powwows and round dances, but the only aspect I didn't grow up with was the language," Matson said. "However, my tribe is starting a language revitalization program, so I'm trying to learn the language like many others."

Reconnecting with one's heritage is a group effort. This sense of community is something that junior Jessie Lucero has witnessed during her time in NAISO.

"Some students have gone to the Rose Bud Reservation in South Dakota and the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian in D.C. to find out more about themselves and their history," Lucero said. "It's interesting to know what other people's experiences have been like."

As there are steps in performing a round dance, there are steps in developing one's identity. At times, events in life cause someone to stop and reflect in order to continue down the path of self-discovery. Whether a lack of experience or a disconnect with one's familial ties, these roadblocks serve as motivational tools to discover what sets them apart from others. For Church, Matson and Lucero, immersing themselves in the practices of their cultures has brought them one step closer to realizing what makes them individuals. That step, much like those that compose the round dance, is one of many in the circle of life.







Freshman Brooke Colville and senior Emily Ledford become honorary beardsmen for the evening. The club encourages all students to attend their meetings and events regardless of the amount of hair on their face.



TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

face fuzz

Facial hair appreciation grows to new lengths



Seniors Colin Endres-Bercher and Mick Haley, sophomore Tyler Mathis and junior Eric Rodgers display their facial hair. All four Beardsmen members grew their beards for more than a year.

What do Abraham Lincoln, Billy Mays and Chuck Norris have in common? Whether etched into the fabric of the country, known for selling chintzy products with cheesy infomercials or counting to infinity twice, these men will go down in history for their famous facial hair-dos.

The art of the beard is not without its challenges. A couple of weeks spent self-consciously scratching must be endured before it blooms like a flower in the sun. In some cases, the garden could be overcome with patchy weeds, but it's the commitment that counts.

One club exists to admire these courageous attempts at growing a beard. Gracing campus with their vast styles of facial fashion, the Beardsmen meet to admire and talk about beards once a month at Harper's Restaurant and Brewpub. First year graduate student Mick Haley, a senior upon the group's inception, founded this group of hairy men in 2012.

"It was founded to just have fun with facial hair. We wanted to get together and just bond over our facial hair," said Haley, who sports a grand patch of hair sprouting out of his chin like a forest. "It's always met with a smile and a laugh. Then 'What the hell? You just grow facial hair?' Yes, that's what we do."

According to freshman and secretary Logan Raney, the club does not discriminate against a beard, even if it isn't quite ready for the runway.

"Any beard is a good beard," said Raney. "Just stick with growing it, and if you don't like your full beard, then shave the parts that are patchy or thin and grow a mustache, sideburns or a goatee."

The Beardsmen do more than just admire beards. Their Cele-Beard-Tion competition, held the week after No Shave November ends, crowns an alpha male of beards. Female attendees partake by admiring the wooly men or construct fake beards out of craft supplies for their own competition. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society for prostate cancer.

So why do men grow beards? Senior Kim Dietzel, a self-proclaimed beard enthusiast, said it comes down to three factors.

"I think guys grow beards either one, to prove they can, two, to keep their face warm, or three, if they plan on becoming a lumberjack," said Dietzel.

For others, like senior and vice president Colin Endres-Bercher, a beard is more than just some fuzz on the face. It's a best friend that is impossible to part with, similar to Scooby Doo and Shaggy.

"I've had a beard as long as I can remember. Even in high school I grew out my beard. I haven't clean shaven in four or five years," said Endres-Bercher. "If I were to shave my beard, people wouldn't recognize me."

Raney backed up his vice president's opinion on the look, but elaborated on reasons to grow bulky chin hair. It's the cheapest fashion option a man can possess that achieves the fashionable goal that many college students seek, he said.

"First I think it looks good on me," said Raney. "Second, now that it's cold, it serves a purpose. It keeps my face warm. Also, people notice it. They talk to me about it, even complete strangers. This happens anywhere and everywhere."

The requirements of the Beardsmen are simple. Admire or grow a furry little face-friend. The attraction of a beard has the power to pull in the eyes like opposite sides of a magnet. It's also a statement of sorts for the male, showing off the masculinity and ability to conjure up a ferocious face-mane.

Ribbon and lights sparkle and bring a Christmas glow to the banquet hall. Every December, Campus Crusade hosts a winter formal to give thanks for their blessings during the fall semester and kick off the holiday season.

The room is silent as seniors Molly Petersen and Mike Bertsch gently place ornaments on each side of a balancing wooden stick. In the game, two teams raced to see which could finish placing all of the ornaments first.





Campus Crusade celebrates end of semester with winter formal

Opalescent ball gowns from arylide yellow to carnation pink and sleek three-pieced onyx tuxedos crowded the quaint Lakeview Banquet and Event Center on the eve of finals week. Glinting lights and evergreen wreaths with scented pinecones embellished the ceiling, setting the holiday scene.

On Dec. 6, Campus Crusade hosted its 2013 Christmas Formal to celebrate the end of the semester and all the prosperity Jesus gave them. With tickets for the event sold out nearly a week beforehand, guests dusted off their finest attire for an eagerly anticipated respite from flashcards and study guides.

"Our Christmas formal is kind of a celebration of what God's done this semester and sharing Christ — how we've been able to share about him," junior Alexa Sheets explained.

On a counter laced with garland and red ribbons was a Sharpie and stacks of note cards on which guests wrote words of thanks and then pinned them up. The long string of praises thanked God for the support and company of family and friends, and safe passage through the semester.

Campus Crusade, which also goes by the more popular name MSU Real Life, strives to spread the words of the Bible to students, expand its message through Bible study and to connect with like-minded students, tying faith and friendship together.

Sheets, a three-year member of Campus Crusade, explained that watching her older sister join kickstarted her interest in the group.

"We believe Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us. We have Bible studies, one in every dorm, we meet once a week, we have a weekly meeting for all on campus called Real Life. We just like to spend time together. People who aren't involved at all will come to those meetings."

Campus Crusade, aside from hosting a winter formal and weekly Bible studies, puts on an annual root beer kegger at the beginning of every school year.

"We have what we call our three aspects of our 'DNA', a kind of faith-based genetic identity: we want to know Christ, surrender to Christ and share Christ," Sheets explained "and so what we do, is based on trying to accomplish those things."

Sophomore Jeff Parkinson stood in front of the lavishly dressed group of nearly 200, quieting the bubbling crowd for a more serious discussion after playing games like balancing ornaments and "Don't Forget the Lyrics" Christmas-song style. Parkinson began to explain the symbolism behind the candy cane that represents Jesus.

"Jesus refers to himself in the Bible as the good shepherd, and he does things like watching over us, like guiding sheep," Parkinson said. "The hardness of the candy reminds us that Christ is our cornerstone. Jesus is our promise, and the promises that he makes are solid."

Junior Kasey Pryg sings in the a cappella group called Branches. After getting started her freshman year with Real Life, the new friends she made influenced her to pursue an even further interest in both leading worship and exploring her own faith.

"I got involved with Branches because one of the seniors in my Bible study said 'You need to be in this'," Pryg explained. "We come together and we sing worship music and help other people get into worship and help them see the presence of the Lord."

In a sea of 40,000 students from all corners of the world, the challenge of finding 200 students with the same burning desire to actively pursue their faith can seem disheartening. Campus Crusade, while coming together to comb through the inner workings of their beliefs, joins new friendships and the quest for faith as harmoniously as the red and white ribbons of a candy cane.

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

party of **praise**



Interns Amanda Person and Lauren Kreischer clap after other Campus Crusade members perform a karaoke rendition of a Christmas song. Attendees had the chance to celebrate the holidays with other games, dancing and food.

Senior Jenny Imlay performs her showmanship pattern. The riders were assigned to horses that they had not previously ridden to demonstrate their comprehensive equine abilities.





Sophomore Mackinzie Whaley monitors her competition while awaiting her turn to ride. Her colorful garb is indicative of Western equitation, and all riders wore carefully detailed outfits to complement their riding.

Each participant brought a horse to the event that was then assigned to another rider. The competition was in the Western equitation style in which riders must use a stock seat saddle and hold the reins with only one hand.



TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

on the bit

MSU Horsemen's Association competes and increases equine competency

As hooves plodded across the dirt floor of the MSU Pavillion, a quiet murmur echoed throughout the room. Atop a majestic animal sat a rider, dressed in a beige shirt, floral vest and white cowboy hat. When she gently squeezed the middle of the horse's body with her legs, the brown and white mass picked up the pace. With a click of her tongue and the backward movement of her body, the rider eased the horse to a stop. This strong connection between human and beast was celebrated during the MSU Horsemen's Association (MSUHA) Weekend.

MSUHA is the umbrella organization for all of the equestrian groups on campus, including the Stock Seat Team, the Dressage Team and the Polo Team. The group intends to connect these individual organizations and bring together horse experts and students new to the world of saddles and spurs. Some, like sophomore Mackinzie Whaley of the Stock Seat Equestrian Team, have dedicated a lifetime to their passion for horse riding.

"It's pretty much affected every area of my life since I grew up with it," said Whaley. "I had to learn responsibility at a super young age taking care of my own horses, and I trained and took lessons three times a week so I didn't really have time for much else."

Whaley and her peers in MSUHA participated in the three-day event. From Jan. 10-12, equestrian enthusiasts and animal lovers alike could visit the Pavilion and take part in a weekend full of horse showmanship.

Throughout the weekend, anyone could bring in saddles and other equestrian equipment that they no longer used to sell at the tack sale. MSUHA also hosted a clinic in which trainers and judges watched riders and gave pointers to anyone wanting to perfect blue-ribbon-earning techniques.

On Sunday, the Stock Seat Equestrian Team faced off against nine other universities in a competition called reigning. Participants drew names from a bucket to pick their four-legged partner at the start of the event, and then each rider performed a prearranged pattern. It consisted of a combination of maneuvers like riding around the ring at a walk, trot or canter, changing direction and making the horse walk backward. All of this was particularly difficult due to the lack of familiarity with the horse and also the saddle. However, Whaley seemed unfazed by the task.

"If you can ride well, you can ride any horse," Whaley said confidently.

Team captain Jenny Imlay shares that interest in the complex activity.

"It's a very challenging thing, but it's really fun," said Imlay. "I was really bummed I couldn't show this year."

As a sixth year student, Imlay had exceeded the four-year eligibility of a team member. However, her comrades decided to bend the rules to make her their leader. With this title came the idea to re-form the alumni team? Imlay is now the regional alumni representative at MS, for the entire state of Michigan, for and six nearby states as well.

The dedication to the sport brings together all of the elements of a competitive sport while incorporating an enjoyable learning environment under the direction of Coach Leesa Massman.

"They all have a great time, it's a great experience. We do a lot more than just showing horses," said Massman.

Through the encouragement the team members offered one another throughout the event, a bond was made among them. The unique nature of the sport is built on the people who have devoted their lives to the animals they work with, and by extension, each other. Sometimes it takes members of another species to bring people closer together.



Clyde, a straw-colored fruit bat, peers out at the audience of zoology students. The representative from Bat Zone explained that this breed of fruit bat is native to Central Africa.

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

Michelle Maust, an employee of Bat Zone, introduces an Egyptian fruit bat. Bat Zone, an organization for bat conservation affiliated with Cranbrook Science Institute, was one of the Zoological Students Association's presenters for the spring semester.



A bat clings to the top of its cage. Four different breeds of bats were introduced at the ZSA informational gathering.



uncaging **curiosity**

Zoological Students Association brings conservation to the classroom

Fifty students crowded in Room 203C of the Natural Science Building, mouths agape and iPhone shutters clicking away. All attention was focused on one individual in the room — an exceptionally large and hairy female with pink toenails. Her name was Dobbie, and she was one of the largest Egyptian fruit bats her handler had ever seen.

Senior and president of the Zoological Students Association (ZSA) Katrina Camaiore invited Dobbie and her winged friends from Bat Zone to ZSA's bi-weekly meeting. Camaiore said she always attempts to make her meetings as interactive and educational as possible, appealing to every animal lover's niche, whether scaly, furry or feathered.

"We bring in speakers and take our students to zoos and try to get behind the scenes and learn about not only animal husbandry and welfare but also what zoos as well as other organizations are doing to conserve endangered species," Camaiore explained.

Michelle Maust, a director from the Cranbrook Institute of Science's Bat Zone, brought four species of bats, ranging from the size of a thumb to that of an entire hand. As Michelle walked around, she explained that nearly all bats, although considered dangerous or "bloodsucking" by the general populace, pose no threat to humans. In fact, bats in the United States are in danger of being wiped out by a deadly fungus, and they need human intervention.

In addition to a focus on conservation, ZSA offers members many perks including meeting zoologists in the field and learning about internships that could bolster a career in the zoological sciences. Senior and zoology major Cassie Gendernalik, a second-year member of ZSA, aspires to study wolves or work as a zookeeper after graduation. Gendernalik loved making friends with fellow animal-loving students and meeting alumni who are already working in their fields of study.

"One of the cool part about being in ZSA is meeting a lot of people at Michigan State going into the same program you are," Gendernalik said. "It brings a lot of personal fulfillment to see them grab their dreams."

After hours of sitting in lecture halls looking at PowerPoint slides, ZSA provides a source for hands-on learning that can often be hard to come by without being heavily involved in the professional world.

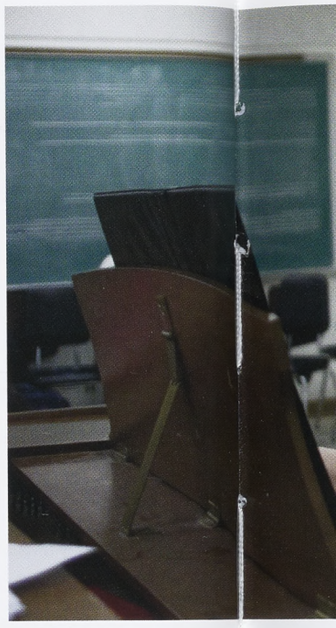
"I love it," animal science sophomore Shannon Ruland said as she gazed at a fuzzy straw-colored fruit bat hanging upside down in his cage. "This is how people learn the best, even about things like bats."

It was refreshing to see the worlds of education and conservation collide as students curiously inspected the 12-inch wingspan of megabats. Thanks to ZSA, students have an opportunity to get up close and personal with the delicate ecosystem around them, taking the first step in applying classroom learning to the world they care so much about.

shaking nerves, **hitting notes**

MSU ACDA chapter hosts auditions for second annual cabaret





Piano scales echoed through the corridors of the Music Building. Inching closer and reaching the sound's origins, the auditioning singers found their stage. A fury of fingers danced across ivory keys while the judges summoned their next entrant. Hearts pounding, minds racing, the singers looked up from their shaking legs, took a deep breath and heard a judge say, "Take it away."

On Jan. 14, MSU's student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) held auditions for its second annual cabaret fundraiser. In a flash back to simpler times, auditioners were asked to sing songs from their childhood. Popular choices included 90's chart-topping hits by the Spice Girls and other big name groups from that era.

One of those who made the program was freshman Bonnie Bairley, who auditioned for the cabaret by singing Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind." Bairley, a former ballet dancer, started singing in February 2013 and decided to audition with Joel's hit in honor of her trips to New York with her dance troupe. With only a year's worth of training, Bairley's first attempt showed her nerves: a shaky voice, swaying to and fro and closing her eyes when she recognized a mistake. Bairley said that with auditions she doesn't feel nervous until she begins singing, at which point she tries to just "get into the piece."

"I've realized that singing is just talking with chords," Bairley said. "Overcoming that barrier of adding musical notes to your words was a big step and has helped me become more comfortable with singing in front of others."

Just as the audition process assembled a cabaret program, ACDA unites vocal education students, supplying them with the tools necessary to become more effective music educators. The group hosts interest sessions taught by graduate students, focusing on subjects like how to build a choir from scratch, how to travel with choirs on tours and even how to conduct an elementary school chorus. Undergraduates in ACDA are able to delve into these practical topics, which are not normally taught in their scheduled music education classes.

"The interest sessions are powerful and even emotional, because the graduate students who are now in music classrooms reassure us in our want to teach music," said Lena Miles, junior and MSU ACDA vice president. "It's given me tools in terms of music that I've received and can teach and network with people who you share classes with and see all the time."

Miles added that it's not just at the university where students are given the opportunity to network, but also at conferences like last year's national gathering in Dallas. Miles said that members went to many workshops, concerts, and even a reception with music alumni from MSU.

For the association's social chair, junior Jess Glaser, going to Dallas was a culturally renewing experience, as is bringing together vocalists, jazz students and instrumentalists throughout the College of Music for the cabaret.

"As a vocalist, I'm not able to attend many performances from my counterparts," Glaser said. "This cabaret is a chance where we can come together as one and enjoy each other's talents."

Even in the tense moments of the audition process, such eagerness to listen and be heard helps to stabilize shaky knees. By supporting and admiring each other's musical talents, students may acquire those qualities and one day implement them in their own classrooms.



Junior Vanessa Caswell performs her audition accompanied by junior Marcus McGuire for ACDA cabaret auditions. The concert showcased music that was influential in each individual's childhood.

ACDA CABARET AUDITIONS

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO NATE REYARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



The cabaret was held for a second year in 2013 because of its success the previous year. The show served as a fundraiser for the MSU chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

Junior Marcus McGuire and sophomore Bonnie Bairley entertain themselves with different tunes before auditions begin. The tryouts were casual, including contenders who were active participants in the College of Music as well as non-music majors.





Faculty member Yaman Guclu reviews the previous game's moves with his opponent, senior Yakov Kochubievsky. The Chess Club eagerly discusses phases of the game after each match to progress members' skills.

kings of the battlefield

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Graduate student Nicholas Candido contemplates his next move. Each of the sixteen pieces on the chess board must be strategically maneuvered in order to win.

A bishop advances across the board. Each piece on the board has special rules that dictate its possible movements.

Chess Club battles it out in weekly tournaments

Standing on the front line of an army are eight courageous peasants, forced to fight for their king and queen. Also known as pawns, these pieces represent the utmost respect and honor in regards to guarding the royal family. Pawns are often overlooked in the game of chess because of their lack of mobility. However, great players know that every piece counts in an epic battle for the throne.

The loud shouts and epic blows caused by a gun on a battlefield contrast greatly with the silence in the classroom where the MSU Chess Club tournament took place. Though the club members were mostly silent, they exploded like bullets after finding the perfect move on the board. Timers battled each other, clicking on and off in a race against the clock to capture the royalty.

The Chess Club is composed of students varying in their ability to play the game. Players gather weekly in Wells Hall to hone their skills and strategies as they shuffle pieces around the board during periods of intense concentration. Games played with the club range from ten minute challenges to classic tournaments of timeless chess, requiring the most focus and concentration. One unique variety of chess is bughouse, a team-played version in which players have the opportunity to place opponents' captured pieces anywhere on the board. Graduate student Adam Scarchilli, president of the Chess Club, deems bughouse his favorite style of the game.

"While it's fun and convenient to play chess on your computer, I got tired of looking at the screen," said Scarchilli. "Bughouse allows you to be interactive with other people, while still having the individuality of the game."

Encouraged by his love for organizing tournaments, Scarchilli is currently in the process of planning a tournament against the University of Michigan's chess club.

"I like using the tournaments we play here as an exercise of building up our brainpower, especially if given the opportunity to play against the Wolverines," said Scarchilli.

Possession of brainpower is just one of the elements necessary to achieve greatness in chess. In addition, one needs to have the ability to think for hours on end without distractions.

In response to that sentiment, senior Yakov Kochubievsky said, "I love having the ability to manipulate people. That, along with the endless possibilities for self-improvement, make for a great game."

Different strategies such as various pawn structures, when to sacrifice a piece, and the movement of the knight piece are all taught at the Chess Club to help new players. One such player was freshman Michael Das, who decided to join the club at the beginning of spring semester.

"I used to play a lot when I was younger, but stopped for a few years," said Das. "I saw a flyer for the club and decided to give it another try. It's definitely a bit more of a challenge than I expected, but I enjoy the mental focus required for strategy games like chess. I see it as an opportunity to learn, and I can't wait to further advance my skills."

After hours of unwavering focus in a long match, there are only a few pieces left on the board dedicated to winning the battle. Thoughts of future maneuvers bounce around in players' heads as frequently as the pieces bounce around on the board. One wrong move and all of a player's efforts can go down the drain. Every decision made throughout the game all comes down to the final few moments. However, the draining concentration, planning and executing, and endless thoughts of alienating the opponent are all worth it as soon as the word "checkmate" is uttered.



Junior Anan Abubaker shares a laugh with seniors Emma Irwin and Ihab Rabah while they catch up. The reunion of ACS members brought a sense of camaraderie to those in attendance.

Senior Noor Aqel and Mohammed Itami take a quick break from their conversation to jokingly puff smoke at each other. Both men were ecstatic over ACS's reinstatement and were confident the hookah lounge would become a club hangout.



TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

clearing the air

Arab Cultural Society battles negative stereotypes with the help of new members

"You speak English very well for being Arab." Although the phrase is intended as a compliment, for several members of the MSU Arab Cultural Society (ACS), the words are layered with ignorance and contempt for the Arab community. On Jan. 23, students gathered at the Six Lounge hookah bar to experience Arab culture firsthand.

"A lot of the Arab-Americans I know were born here and were raised here. They are American. Being Arab-American isn't being two different identities. They are mixed and they are Spartans, just like other students," said senior and ACS president Aurora Walchak-Arndt.

While the club functions as an umbrella organization that unites Arab students from different areas, being Arab is not a membership qualification. Junior Omar Elsherif, a three-year member, happily noted a huge increase in 2014 in new members who weren't Arab.

"In previous years we didn't advertise the club as much, but now more people know about us, and it's starting to spread," said Elsherif. "It's nice because it diversifies the club more, and people get to learn about our culture just like we have learned about theirs."

Walchak-Arndt herself is Caucasian, along with sophomore Allison Tumas, the vice president. Both women became deeply involved with ACS because of their respect for the culture and desire to share it with other students.

"My entire goal in life is to diminish stereotypes and have people see the positive aspects of everything," said Tumas. "Regardless of what you have heard from the media, family or just basic assumptions, there are some really amazing aspects of every culture. The Arab culture is extremely giving and very family-oriented, and that is something that I want to strengthen here at MSU."

Walchak-Arndt described being president as a pleasant struggle, but definitely worth it as long as one student develops an appreciation for the culture. One by one, she hopes to debunk students' misconceptions and eliminate the hateful messages that come along with them.

"In some situations, like Global Festival, we've had people say very rude and racial slurs toward our table," revealed Walchak-Arndt. "In those cases you just have to politely reply with logic or actual facts about what's going on, especially when it comes to terrorism, because that is a huge stigma in the news. Even though this is just a hookah night, it still shows the fun and good side of the culture."

ACS is notorious for their annual hafla, or party, in February. But in addition to these social outings, the club also hosts educational events. This year, ACS promoted a two-day conference on Feb. 6 at the International Center called The Lebanese Civil Wars: History, Politics, Memory.

"Not that many people know about countries in the Middle East, what is going on there, and the struggles that a lot of Arabs have had to face," said Wilchak-Arndt. "We are just trying to represent what is actually going on in the world."

As the club's night of hookah came to an end, the smoke that hovered in the air began to subside, perhaps along with some clouded judgments surrounding Arab culture.



Rings of smoke engulf senior Emma Irwin as she skillfully shows her fellow ACS members how to blow smoke rings. Although many of the members of ACS chose not to smoke, the Six Lounge was a popular meeting place among them.



Senior Anthony Lacross paints a sealant on the solar car model. After applying the sealant the car will be primed to prepare the surface for the fiberglass mold.

Senior Daniel Howarth mixes a sealer that will be placed on the model. The sealer is added to the model to create a protective layer between the primer and the fiberboard.

Howarth sands the model of the solar car. The team will race the finished car at the 2014 American Solar Car Challenge in Austin, Texas.





TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

chasing the sun

The Solar Car Racing Team prepares to compete

All it takes is a spark: one project or experiment that prompts the passion for science. For some, it starts with a rocket launcher made with Coke and Mentos. For others, it was a paper mache volcano. Some, like the members of the Solar Car Racing Team, take this passion to the next level as they mature and pursue their future careers. Having outgrown Pinewood Derby cars, they develop sleek, aerodynamic machines that run on power from the sun.

The team, run primarily by students, competes in a circuit race every year and a cross country race every other year. In order to take part, team members work to design and build a car that runs completely on solar power. Their current project is named after the great Spartan warrior Leonidas.

At 20 members strong, the days of empty garages and cash-strapped accounts are a distant memory, according to senior Colin Monroe, the group's business manager. He joined the team three years ago and remembers when the outlook was not as bright.

"When I joined the team, it basically consisted of three members and had almost no direction," said Monroe. "Our team now consists of around 25-30 members, and our team's budget has quadrupled in size." Mirroring the efficiency of Henry Ford's assembly line, the team utilizes a division of labor. A key component is the body team manager, fifth year senior Dan Howarth, who is responsible for the design and construction of the vehicle's fiberglass shell. According to Howarth, this responsibility helps prepare the team members for life after college.

"I joined this team simply for experience to put on a resume, but it has led to much more," said Howarth. "Being a leader of this team has given me the opportunity to work with professionals in various automotive fields, tune my sales and marketing abilities, grow as a leader and develop important teamwork and communication skills."

For Monroe, the team immersed him in the automotive industry and prepared him for its future direction.

"Electric vehicles are going to be the next generation of automobiles, and the fact that all of us on the team get the chance to work with a fully automotive vehicle is invaluable," Monroe said.

The vehicle leading their charge into victory and sustainable prospects sits unfinished in a spacious garage, awaiting the day it sees battle. In July 2014, the group took Leonidas to Austin, Texas to compete in the 2014 American Solar Car Challenge. After a qualifier, the team raced from Austin, Texas to Minneapolis, Minnesota against many universities from the United States and around the world.

So just what goes into creating this machine? According to senior and former Electrical Captain Scott O'Connor, the propulsion mechanism has three components: the solar array, batteries and a motor. O'Connor said although many other teams simply buy a solar array, the crew builds their own along with the battery, which is the first lithium ion battery management system they've made. The motor of the vehicle can handle 3.5 kilowatts of power.

"When driving at 40 MPH the car should consume about 1KW of power," said O'Connor. "To put this in perspective, a hair dryer consumes about 1KW of power."

In addition to designing and building Leonidas, there is a prominent business side to the operation.

"Having a functioning business team has been one of the mechanisms for growth for our team, considering we now have group members that are solely spending their time on raising money and acquiring materials so that the technical divisions of our team can focus on design and fabrication," Monroe said.

Started back in 2012, the team continues to pour their hearts and souls into creating their automotive teammate. Doing what they do best, the innovation and teamwork required to make this project shine coincide with the type of work the students will be expected to do in the future if they join the automotive industry. Charging forward with Leonidas, these Spartans are blazing the trail to a bright, solar-powered future.



Sophomore Kayla Bryant leaps in sync with the rest of the team during a practice at the Hannah Community Center. Pompon routines often involve aerial maneuvers to meet the judging criteria of jumps, leaps and precision of motions.

The Pompon team holds a pose in unison. In 2014, the MSU Pompon team continued its dominance by earning a seventh straight High Kick Championship title.

The team forms a kick line during a performance at the Breslin Center. High kicks, fan kicks and low kicks are all incorporated into a kick line.



TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

Pompon team takes 2nd place at Division Championships

all eyes on us





In a stuffy overheated gym, the MSU Pompon team performed its routine over and over, three days before the Mid American Pompon Division Championships at the Breslin Center. All 25 women on the team needed to synchronize their moves down to the last fraction of a second if they hoped to emerge triumphant against teams from GVSU and U of M. Though the routine appeared uniform to the untrained eye, coaches and teammates noticed the slightly bent arms, mistimed toe-touches or unpointed feet while high kicking. They weren't going for what appeared to be unblemished — these women had their hearts set on perfection.

Junior Jillian Robertson, an assistant captain and third-year MSU Pompon member, explained that the three-minute routine of kicklines and synchronized dancing was choreographed outside of practice; then it was learned, sharpened and perfected during team workouts.

"We've been working on this routine since the beginning of December," Robertson said. "This week we're getting really fired up for competition this weekend. The way our team works is we focus on doing our personal best. It's not about placing a medal."

Dressed in matching black pants and shirts, 50 identical sneakers tapped, glided and stepped as a unified team during a practice in the Hannah Community Center's second floor gym. It was the team's final practice for the season, and for some it would be their last as MSU Pompon members.

Senior and captain Alex Brekke was part of a pompon team for the last eight years of her life, including four years in high school. Historically, the pompon team had a rule that freshmen were not allowed to try out, but when Brekke began her freshman year, that rule was revoked. In 2014, Brekke was one of five women to be on the team for four years.

"This is my last time performing with these girls," Brekke said earnestly. "I want it to be the best performance I've ever done, and that ties in with my team goal: I want every girl to walk on the floor and put everything out there."

Brekke insisted one of the greatest parts of her team was not only the coordination in the routines but the commitment they gave one another.

"One of our mottos our coach says is love the legacy," she said. "It doesn't mean championships, it doesn't mean winning — it means making the girls who wore the uniform before you proud."

Although the two-hour practice ran into the late hours of the evening, Brekke and her teammates did not go home until the last run-through. Program director and coach Linda Conradi stepped up on the gym stage to watch her team perform from a high vantage point. A pop song with a heavy beat came on over the speakers, with Lady Gaga's voice occasionally perforating the background with the words "all eyes on us." Twenty-five women took to the floor, smiles lighting up the dimly lit gym with genuine excitement despite their sweat-stained t-shirts and drained water bottles.

On Feb. 8, dressed in black uniforms emblazoned with the Spartan logo, hair slicked back and eyes glittering under the arena lights, the team walked together onto the court. With its goose-bump-inducing performance, the team earned second place just behind Metro Detroit's Atomic Pompon. They had fulfilled coach Conradi's advice from their final practice.

"It doesn't matter what the placement is," Conradi told the women a mere 72 hours before their pivotal performance. "If you can walk off the floor not knowing what place you've got and being content with your performance, you've already won."

depth and breadth

Women's Club Water Polo hosts the Sparty Invite

Shouts of encouragement and support filled the room like chlorine saturated the pool water. A yellow ball bounced from hand to hand as players treaded water in an attempt to get the ball into the opponent's net. Sweat dripped off foreheads and mingled with the water splashing around them. From Feb. 7 to Feb. 9 MSU Women's Club Water Polo welcomed student spectators and competitors to the annual Sparty Invite at IM West.

Although a number of tournaments take place at various universities, the Sparty Invite provides a home water advantage. Among the schools that participated in the competition were Notre Dame, UM, CMU, EMU and Grand Valley, each swimming for hours on end in hopes of claiming the number one spot.

Water polo is very similar to soccer or handball with the added challenge of staying afloat. Each player treads water for the duration of the game, swimming in what is called an "eggbeater kick," named after the circular motion of the swimmer's legs, which resembles that of the spinning kitchen utensil. There are six players on each team plus a goaltender, and a match is decided after four seven-minute periods.

Women's Club Water Polo consists of more than 30 players divided between two teams. The A team is comprised of advanced players. The B team has a range of players — those who are working their way up to the A team to those who have never played water polo before. Junior Lauren Morrison, a swimmer on the B team, describes the strengths of having such diverse teammates. "We have a lot of depth to the team: new talent coming in from the freshman class and our seniors have a lot of knowledge and skill. Together, we have a shot at making it to nationals this year," Morrison said.

The possibility of making it to nationals is not the only thing that the members are looking forward to. Over spring break, the club is heading out West for a week of extensive training in California. Sophomore Morgan Weber described why she is looking forward to her week practicing in the sun.

"Water polo is a really big sport out West, and all of the teams in California are really good," Weber said. "I think we'll definitely be able to learn a lot from those teams and gain experience from scrimmaging against them instead of scrimmaging against ourselves."

The effort to work as one is the driving force behind the team's hopes of beating U of M in the Big Ten and making it to nationals, senior and vice president Sarah Allaben explained.

"U of M has been known to rank first in this tournament, so that's who we've been setting our sights on. The size, depth, talent and determination of our team makes beating them a high possibility," said Allaben. "Our team has immense potential, and I am so excited to see just how far we can go together."

Echoes of her shouting teammates drowned out Allaben's poolside comments. Fending off the defensive player from the opposing team with all her might, Morrison grasped the ball, holding it high above the continuous waves. Scanning the pool for opportunities, she threw the ball to Weber, who was wide open. Weber caught the ball with ease and less than a second later hurled it yet again into the air. It traveled through the extended arms of defensive players, just past the goaltender's fingertips and into the back of the net, putting the Spartans in the lead — right where they hoped to stay for the remainder of the season.



WATER POLO

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Senior Michaela Betts lines up a throw to a teammate near the goal in an attempt to get a shot at the net. Although many of the games in the tournament were exciting, this match against University of Michigan proved to be one of the biggest nail-biters.



Neck and neck with an opponent, junior Lisa Crompton puts some speed into her stroke in a mad dash to get to the ball. Polo is known as one of the most physically intense sports.



Junior Angela Porta lines up a goal as she launches the ball over a U of M player's head. The team went 4-0 at the Big Ten Tournament held at Indiana University.

legislating **rape**

MSU College Democrats and Students for Choice examine new abortion law

In January 2014, a law was passed just three miles down Michigan Avenue in the iconic Michigan State Capitol. The law banned insurance plans from covering abortion and forced women to purchase separate insurance for such procedures, even in instances of rape. The "rape insurance" law, as it was dubbed by opponents, was originally vetoed by Governor Rick Snyder. However, the Right to Life Michigan anti-abortion group collected enough petition signatures to allow the bill to become law. Some students decided to take action against it.

The MSU College Democrats felt the law was unjust and decided the first step in addressing the issue was educating their peers. The student group works year-round to get Spartans involved in politics by holding educational nights and registering students to vote. They also take an active role in campaigns for local government elections. According to Sabrina Hirsch, freshman and co-communication director for the MSU College Democrats, the group was surprised and upset that the law passed, as they believe women should not have to prepare for a sexual assault.

"We're obviously not all women, but it affects everyone," said Hirsch. "So we wanted to do something to bring more awareness on campus."

On Feb. 12, the group teamed up with Students for Choice, an organization that focuses on reproductive health rights to host the event Rape Insurance, WTF? The event aimed to educate other students about the controversial issue.

"I think we have very similar views, and this is a very important event that I think applies to both groups," said freshman Alicia Geniac, social media coordinator for Students for Choice. "So in coming together we can get more people and outreach to a greater group of people for an important purpose."

One of the guest speakers invited to provide input on the issue was Senator Gretchen Whitmer. Whitmer gave a speech on the Senate floor when the bill passed about her personal connection to the issue.

"I did share at the last minute. It was not planned, and it was something I never wanted to talk about ever again, was the fact that I was raped when I was younger," Whitmer said. "I wanted my colleagues to see the face of a woman who never could have anticipated the fact that she would need abortion coverage."

Senator Whitmer made a personal sacrifice by sharing this intimate story — one she had not even told her own father — in front of the government body and members of the press. She was dismayed that it had little effect.

"I didn't change a single vote on the House floor that day," Whitmer said. "They just voted party line."

Whitmer cited the lack of female presence in Michigan's government as one reason why such legislation is adopted. Although there was a record-high number of women in the state Senate when she began her first term, 12 out of 38, now there are only four.

"At the beginning of this session, there were more men named 'John' in the Senate than women," Whitmer said. "I'll tell you that the reason we have such a misogynistic environment right now is because there are so few women down there."

Senator Whitmer hoped that many of the students in the lecture hall would venture those three miles down Michigan Avenue and run for office themselves, even while attending school. For Spartans, a short car ride, an attentive ear and a fervent passion could lead to shaping the future of politics.



College Democrats and MSU Students for Choice welcome Senator Gretchen Whitmer to answer questions. The controversial bill had many implications for women in Michigan.

COLLEGE DEMOCRATS

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



A curious student raises his hand to ask a question about a policy referred to as "rape insurance" by MSU College Democrats. Many students refused to stand by the legislature's mandate and attempted to change perceptions of the regulations on campus.

Students listen intently to learn about a law that forces women to purchase additional health insurance to cover sexual assault. Planned Parenthood Michigan also attended the event to answer questions.



paying it **forward**

Spartans travel to Atlanta to serve and build leaders

With a few clicks, hotel reservations and plane tickets to Florida were in the grasp of many Spartans' frozen fists. Students looked forward to warm sand between their toes and tropical drinks refreshing their sun-scorched skin. While student vacationers made mad dashes to the airport, student volunteers departed by bus from East Lansing to begin their nine-day trek to Atlanta on Feb. 28.

Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF) is a national student organization dedicated to shaping leaders through positive volunteer experiences. The MSU chapter of STLF has been around for five years, sending hundreds of students across the country on their annual Pay it Forward (PIF) Tour. Three buses, each crammed with 40 students, departed from Case Hall for Atlanta. Although their destination was the same, each bus took different routes along the East Coast and Appalachian Mountains, stopping at cities along the way to participate in community service projects.

"We specifically did a lot of landscaping work," junior and group officer Matt Adams said. "In Atlanta, we visited a non-profit called Trees Atlanta, where we planted trees and over 2,000 grass plants along Stockade Creek. Completing all of this planting would have taken the non-profit three to four weeks and thousands of dollars in hiring costs for commercial help, all for work that we did for free."

National group leaders occasionally assist chapters in contacting non-profits to help during the PIF Tour. Even though guidance from the national chapter is welcomed, the MSU chapter is entirely student-run. In that way, STLF distinguishes its trips from other alternative spring breaks run by advisors.

"As students, we do everything from calling and planning cities, projects and housing," senior and group officer Akhilesh Menawat said. "This has allowed us as students to build up our leadership skills since we're not just a service organization."

Their middle and high school chapters allow young students to grow as leaders before they even enter college. Some MSU STLF members, like Menawat, have served as mentors for those chapters.

"Last year, I led a high school group from St. Louis, and two kids came up to me towards the end of the trip and asked me, 'Hey Aki, we want to change the world — how can we do that?' To be able to inspire these kids to make a change was something I've never experienced before," Menawat reflected.

Janelle Briggs, junior and group officer, felt similar sentiments leading high school groups. She took charge of a project in St. Paul, Minnesota, which she said opened the students' eyes to diversity.

"They don't realize some of the struggles that other people have to go through, and by getting involved, they were not only able to help them out, but became aware of how other people live and work," Briggs said.

During the 2014 PIF tour, Spartans visited cities such as Chicago, Indianapolis, Washington, D.C., Louisville and Knoxville, aiding homeless shelters, writing letters to soldiers and preparing meals at food banks. As they departed each location, rather than tacky t-shirts or "Wish you Were Here" postcards, their memories served as souvenirs.

"There is this immediate gratification that you see in smiles not just on the faces from those in the non-profit, but from us student volunteers," Adams said. "It's more gratifying than a tropical vacation could have been."



STUDENTS TODAY LEADERS FOREVER

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Participants who rode the STLF bus stand in downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee after completing a community service project. Including the green bus, there were five buses total to facilitate the cross- country community service trip.

MSU Hammocking Club soaks up the sun around campus

The bud of a flower is the first sign that spring is around the corner. Once the snow melts and grass begins to turn a bright green, flowers wait to blossom. The buds may remain dormant for days, but once they're ready, they transform into beautiful flowers — spring has finally sprung.

With the promise of warmer days ahead, students in the MSU Hammocking Club were eager to bloom, unwrap their hammocks from their cases, and soak up the sun.

The Hammocking Club began as a spark of rebellion. An arborist banned two of the founding members, alumnus Justin Cykiert and junior Nate Schiefer, from hammocking on campus grounds. However, the two men did not believe their hammocks were causing any harm to the trees they were connected to, so they didn't let the warning stop their activities. Although the campus-wide anti-hammocking law is still in effect, members of the club rarely get scolded.

Hammockers experience the beauty of East Lansing in an uncommon way. The Hammocking Club's motto, "Hammocking above the ground, listening to MSU's sounds," embodies that experience. While gazing up at the trees towering above them, hammockers who settle next to the Red Cedar listen to the rush of the rapids, chatter of students strolling to class, and the chirping birds poised in branches. Some hammockers choose to simply lay and relax, others read and study while hanging.

Sophomore Maryssa Trupiano, vice president of the club, discussed her favorite place to post up.

"We have a spot called the 'Mother Tree' where we all love to go," said Trupiano. "It's right by the Beaumont Tower, and it's just the perfect place to pitch a hammock with friends and relax right near the heart of MSU."

Members of the club have a variety of different majors and interests, which contributes to the excitement of getting to know new people within the group. As it is a mere two years old, members are still molding the club's foundation to best fit their interests. They try to get other students involved by posting flyers in residence and lecture halls and using word-of-mouth promotion. Both methods increased group membership to 116 students.

Izak Gracy, club president and sophomore, captured the essence of what brings those 116 students together by creating a video of the club's trips around Michigan during the year. Viewers could see the smiling faces of nature-loving Spartans and the vibrant colors of their hammocks through the eyes of a club member as the group hiked through tall grass to find a suitable spot to hang.

"I just wanted to make a video to show what we're all about," said Gracy. "It shows the more outdoorsy part of the club: hiking, tree climbing and whatnot. We just love finding the perfect spot and enjoying nature in the best possible way."

Members of the club work together to plan off-campus trips to explore new areas and tap into their admiration for nature. In the past, members of the club have gone to parks in East Lansing including Patriarche Park as well as some in the Upper Peninsula and on



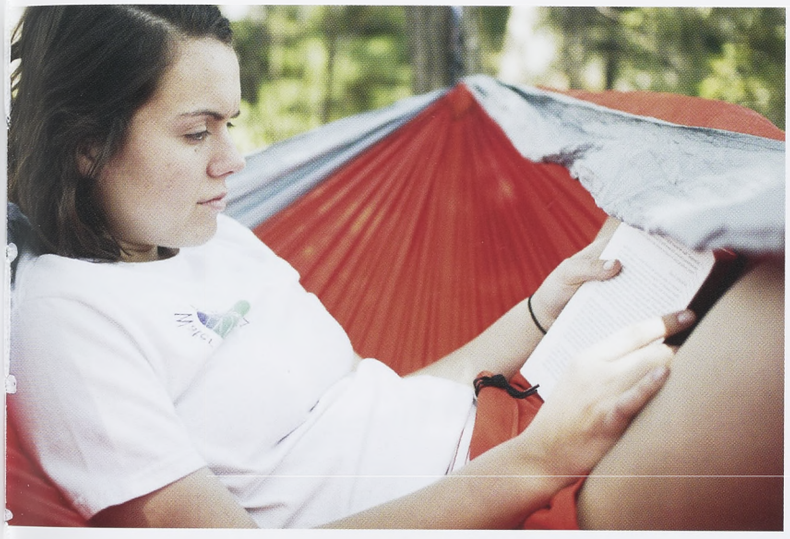
Two hammocks are stacked along the Red Cedar River. Stacking is a popular setup in group hammocking.

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

North Manitou Island. Hoping to expand its hammocking horizons, sophomore Matthew Ciolino discussed his aspirations for future club excursions.

"As much as we love hanging next to the Red Cedar, we like traveling and visiting new places," said Ciolino. "The club is planning some awesome trips in the near future that everyone is excited about."

As the bare branches began to flourish, hammockers took the first opportunity to tie up and lie down. Whether soaking up the sun in East Lansing or gazing at the stars on a weekend trip, members love being a part of a club that celebrates a distinct form of relaxation. Traveling from tree to tree, hammockers experience their surroundings from an unconventional perspective: a few inches above the ground.





Sophomore Rachel Davis is suspended in the air in her hammock. In the spring, hammocks pop up all over campus and provide bits of color in the dull aftermath of winter.

Sophomore Maryssa Trupiano and freshmen Kevin Bracco and Chelsea Prechel catch the sun's rays while suspended in the air. Hammocking enthusiasts take advantage of all sunny days, even if there is snow on the ground.



lazy days






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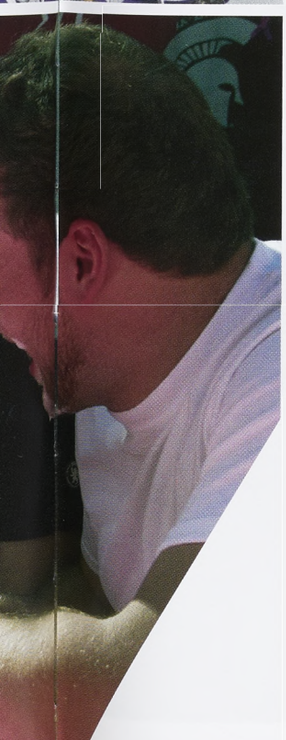





State









greeks

Since 1872, more than 70 fraternities and sororities have created the living, breathing entity that is Greek life. Part of stalwart institutions of brotherhood, philanthropy and campus involvement, members of MSU's Greek community are known by ancient distinctions. Calls for betas, sigmas, alphas or zetas ring out in a cacophony of camaraderie.

It often begins with a plank of wood, a paddle with one's chosen letters carved or painted in elaborate designs. Slung around shoulders or peeking out of backpacks, Greek students carry them with pride as a testament to their dedication.

Members of Greek life see new bonds form as they collide into newly manifested families. Brothers and sisters, once unfamiliar, now nearly flesh and blood, can be identified even without house hieroglyphics on display.

bias-free barbeque

Annual Go Greek barbecue welcomes new students

The delectable smell of sizzling hot dogs and hamburgers wafted in the air, luring curious bystanders and potential pledges to The Rock Sept. 16 for the annual Go Greek Barbecue.

The Rock, plastered with Spartan green paint and the "Go Greek" logo in white, acted as a giant billboard while the grassy knoll behind it transformed into a mini festival, complete with a bumping disc jockey. Four large white tents consumed the area, representing the different types of Greek councils associated with the university.

Sophomore Marisa Hamel, the event planning director, took charge in eliminating the lost puppy look on students' faces as they approached the barbecue.

"Last year the event was very open and people were coming in at a free-for-all," said Hamel. "This year we changed the way people are going around to the tents."

Hamel said Rho Gammas and Rho Chi members greeted potential Greeks near The Rock to sign them in and bring them to each tent.

Hamel explained that she made the event easier to navigate to encourage newcomers to develop an interest in Greek life, which was the overall goal of the barbeque. Hamel pointed out that formal recruitment was pushed back a month later than usual this year, allowing students to become better acquainted with campus before the madness of rushing began.

Sophomore Scott Stewart, member of Psi Upsilon, attributed the success of the barbeque to the minor changes made in the event from the previous year.

"Already I can tell more people are coming than last year," said Stewart. "The Greek community tries really hard each fall to get the word out. I know several sororities have the women change their profile pictures on Facebook to the 'Go Greek' logo and other marketing strategies like that. It is cool to see that our efforts are working and people are taking interest."

Though Greek life at college is hardly a well-kept secret, some students' opinions are bogged down with negative stereotypes perpetuated by television and movies. The Greek community hoped the barbecue would help dismantle students' predispositions about going Greek. Sophomore Callie Wright, member of Sigma Delta Tau, jumped at every opportunity to sway students into rushing.

"A lot of students come to college with friends they made in high school and I think they get stuck in that," stated Wright. "Sure, you meet people in class and you meet people from your hall, but if you want to expand your branches and put yourself out there, Greek life is a great way to actually make lifelong friends and even family. I was an only child before, now I have hundreds of siblings."

In the spirit of staying objective, all students disaffiliated from their chapters for the day and sported the same green T-shirt with "Go Greek" on it. As people wandered into each Greek council tent seeking more information, the representatives offered their knowledge about the community without disclosing which chapter they were in.

"Not knowing who is who is a key element to the barbecue," explained Wright. "We don't want girls or guys to come and pick one specific house, we just want them to get energized about Greek life in general."

Aside from the minor rainstorm that took place mid-cookout, Hamel expressed her satisfaction for the turnout of the event. Along with full bellies, students — whether they decided to rush or not — left with more insight about the Greek community.





GREEK FALL WELCOME

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Cards that read "Rush Phi Kappa Psi" and a composite picture are displayed on a table at the Greek Fall Welcome. Students considering rushing were encouraged to learn about many different houses during the event.

A group of Rho Gammas gather by The Rock despite the approaching storm. Rho Gammas greeted women and guided them toward the tents of different sororities.

Current fraternity brothers mingle with students who are thinking about rushing. The Greek Fall Welcome gave non-Greek students the opportunity to learn about different houses in a laid-back environment.



GO GREEK





Senior Matthew Wagner, juniors Joseph Rusek and Mackenzie Doane and sophomore Tyler Dilly lead the group on their walk down M.A.C. Avenue. Walkers were encouraged to proceed at their own pace and stop at various points to participate in educational activities about sexual assault.



Senior Eric Deacon and junior Joey Gikas, brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha, relax on a porch after their high-heeled trek. The walk started and ended at M.A.C Avenue and Linden Street.

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO JORDON GRIMMINS
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Red patent leather pumps rest in their boxes. A member of Alpha Chi Omega explained that they reached out to "a drag queen shop" to locate enough heels in men's sizes.

high heels, heavy hearts

Alpha Chi Omega sports stilettos to support victims of sexual assault and domestic violence

Men in fraternities are known for colorful pants, button-up dress shirts and expensive brands like Ray Bans or Vineyard Vines. However, it appears the classy ensemble is not complete without one unexpected male fashion trend: fire truck-red pumps.

On Oct. 6, the Greek community redefined gender roles with Walk A Mile in Her Shoes, a mile-long walk to raise awareness for domestic violence and sexual assault. More than 100 male Spartans abandoned their masculinity to squeeze into a pair of high heels and show their compassion for the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition, each walker held a light purple balloon, representing the purple ribbon worn to raise awareness for domestic violence.

Participants donated $7 to the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation, which collaborates with the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence. Together, these organizations provide resources for victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse including counseling, support groups, and other assistance to ultimately recover from traumatizing experiences.

"It was really important for us as fraternity members to not only attend this event and walk in heels but also help sponsor it because of all the stigmas that come with boys in Greek life," said sophomore Frank Rodriguez, a member of Sigma Pi and the MSU Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Team. "We really want to break down those stereotypes and misconceptions but at the same time raise money for a worthy cause."

Before starting the walk, senior Tony Biallas, the Interfraternity Council president and lead organizer of the event, thanked the crowd for coming and invited students to speak about their personal experiences with sexual assault and domestic violence.

"The event is meant to be fun, but at the same time it is a serious topic," said Biallas. "That definitely was the moment where people felt how real of an issue it was, and how it actually can happen to people they know."

Beginning on the corner of M.A.C. Avenue and Linden Street, sophomore Jessica Fedrigo and other women wore huge grins as they trotted beside men struggling to balance in their heels. Fedrigo said it was fulfilling to see the positions reversed and taunt the boys with what she called her "now you know" look.

"Frat guys and boys in general get a bad reputation," said Fedrigo, a member of Alpha Chi Omega. "We wanted to make an impact that showed how boys were taking a stand against sexual assault and domestic violence as well, not just women."

With the exception of a few stumbles, most of the men rocked the shoes. Perhaps motivated by the imminent rain, or simply empowered from growing a few extra inches, the guys flaunted their new kicks in spite of bystanders' befuddled stares.

Slowly but surely the men clicked their way to the end of the mile walk. As the sea of purple balloons and red pumps converged, Biallas motioned for everyone to release their balloons. A purple cloud rose in the sky as tribute to those afflicted by various forms of abuse and violence.

"We hope to make this event something that happens every year," said Biallas. "This message is something that people are sometimes afraid to talk about and commonly gets pushed aside, even by the people who have been affected. There are so many people that are silent about it."

Biallas estimated that the walk raised over $1,500 — a significant figure which he hopes will encourage the community to continue the event. With the powerful image of incredibly hairy legs paired with high socks and heels, Spartans brought attention to the issue, taking small but purposeful steps toward ensuring students' comfort and safety at the university.





protect the rep

Within the tight-knit Greek community, it is common for chapters to gain certain reputations, whether it be for throwing outrageous parties, dominating Greek Week, excelling in academics or being active citizens. Although these titles are built upon past experiences, they do not necessarily dictate a chapter's future repute, as proven by the the Iota Iota chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) with its Firefighter's Challenge.

"Our house historically had a lack of philanthropy involvement, so I stepped up, with the help of Tyler Pratt, to set a new event up that the house can hopefully make into an annual tradition," said junior Matt Dowling, who, along with junior Pratt and sophomore David Chapie, serves as PIKE philanthropy chairman.

To uphold the standards of the MSU Greek community, as well as the fraternity's nationwide values of community service and philanthropy, Dowling, Pratt and Chapie researched fundraisers other PIKE chapters have hosted, which they could implement in East Lansing. In their quest for an engaging event, they discovered the PIKE's Firefighter's Challenge and coordinated their own version of the fundraiser during the week of Sept. 30.

The Firefighter's Challenge was a weeklong competition scattered throughout campus and consisting of events like scavenger hunts, Dunk-A-PIKE, dodgeball tournaments and obstacle courses. Rather than a red carpet, the fraternity rolled out their shiny, ruby fire truck for the occasion. Teams of sorority members competed to earn points for either winning or placing in each event, while the men assisted in running the events and served as team coaches for the ladies.

"We were able to get great participation from all of the sororities during our events. We also had lots of success with our online donations from alumni and active members," said Pratt. "But we had some challenges trying to actually run the events themselves. Due to the fact that this was our first year of running the Fireman's Challenge, we were not totally sure what to expect."

Fortunately, the majority of the events ran smoothly — or rather, swimmingly — as sorority members rushed at the chance to knock bare-chested PIKE members into the frigid water of the dunk tank. Despite their best efforts to a ball, several women resorted to the more reliable method of simply running up and pushing the target with their hands.

"Every day brought a memorable moment and not for just the men of PIKE, but hopefully everyone who competed," said Chapie. "The competitive spirit of all the teams brought an exciting finish to the week as it was a close race, but the sisters of Kappa Delta ultimately won the final prize of the prestigious, first-ever PIKE Firefighter's Challenge trophy."

According to Dowling, the total amount raised during the

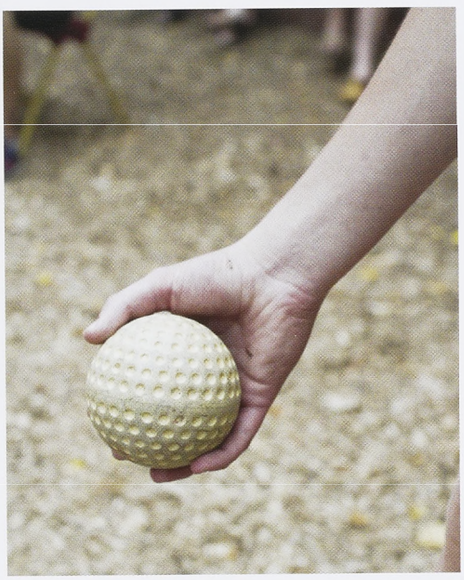
TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



At the inaugural Firefighter's Challenge, sororities stop by the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity house to sink a fraternity brother in the Dunk-A-Pike. The event served as a fundraiser for the Taylor Trudeau Cycle for Life.

Sophomore Joey Gikas gets ready hit the icy water in the dunk tank. Some struggled to hit the target, but a large number of participants were successful in their throws.

A sorority sister prepares to launch the ball towards the dunk tank. Each throw brought in more money and encouraged more participants.



Pi Kappa Alpha strengthens commitment to philanthropy with new fundraiser

challenges was about $6,000. All of that money was donated to Taylor Trudeau Cycle for Life in honor of a former PIKE brother at the University of New Hampshire who lost his battle to leukemia in 2008. The foundation, run by the Trudeau family, raises money for blood cancer research with the goal of one day finding a cure for leukemia. Dowling expressed his gratitude to the Trudeau family not just for providing him with guidance and advice as he planned the event but also for reminding him why it is important to be an active citizen.

"I can only hope that this change in perspective will encourage our members to reach out to additional volunteer and community groups around campus as well," said Dowling. "I hope that this event has broken down some stereotypes and shown other students around MSU's campus and the general East Lansing community that the Greek Life at Michigan State values giving back to the community."

ΠΚΑ



Sophomore Barry Szczesny, member of Sigma Pi, wipes yogurt from his face. Sigma Pi's team made it to the semi-final round of the contest.

Zeta Tau Alpha hosts annual yogurt eating contest

The color pink carries a feminine connotation in most Western countries, evoking gender stereotypes of women as kind, pretty and virtuous people. However, the power of pink transcends aesthetics. It can inspire both men and women to sacrifice their comfort for a greater cause, as revealed in Zeta Tau Alpha's Yogurt Eating Contest on Oct. 11.

As a part of its Think Pink Week, a campaign launched in 2003 to benefit the fraternity's national breast cancer awareness and education philanthropy project, Zeta Tau Alpha teamed with Yoplait to host its annual yogurt eating contest. In accordance with Yoplait's campaign "Save Lids, Save Lives," 10 cents were donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for every Yoplait yogurt lid saved from the event.

The competition was organized by a bracket, so two teams of four raced to eat bowls of strawberry flavored yogurt — without the help of their hands. The team with the fastest time advanced to the next round. To compete, each house donated $30 and each team donated $10, raising more than $500 to support breast cancer awareness and education.

Flocks of fraternity men and sorority women garnished in pink mobbed the front yard of the Zeta Tau Alpha house for the event. A mix of reluctant and enthused participants, and eager spectators formed a crowd as the first of the 22 teams began the mass consumption of sweet, curdled milk.

"Everyone went out of their way to eat the yogurt because of the amount of fun that came with it," said junior Kelly McGowan, philanthropy chair for Zeta Tau Alpha. "Yogurt may not be the easiest food on the stomach to consume, but everyone was well aware that the lids of the yogurt were benefitting breast cancer education and awareness through our sponsor, Yoplait, and this was an interesting, exciting way to save the lids."

Clouds scuttled across the sky and the sun's heat broke out in bursts as the crowd gawked at students' disturbingly hilarious methods for downing the yogurt. While some adopted a canine-style approach of timid licks, others fearlessly face-planted into the bowl, embracing their inevitable Santa Claus yogurt beards.

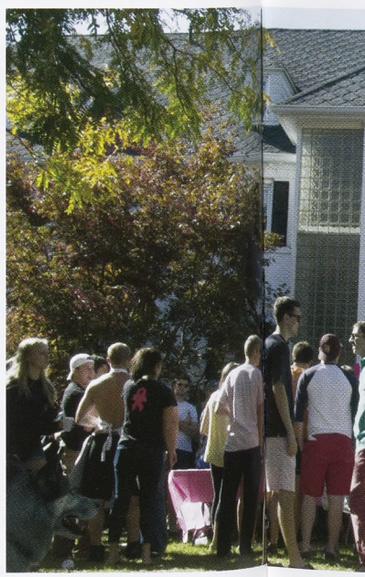
"It was so much harder than I thought," said sophomore Nick Pandya, a brother of Pi Kappa Alpha. "I've been affected by breast cancer first hand. My mom had breast cancer, but she beat it. It is an issue that hits me at home, so I try to do whatever I can, big or small, to help the issue. If that means eating a lot of yogurt, so be it."

Pandya and his teammates did not have the stomach to make it to the final round, though. After almost two hours of standing in the heat and watching people paint their faces with yogurt, Pi Kappa Phi prevailed with a record time of eight seconds. When hearing the results, junior and winner RJ Gibson flailed his arms in the air, yogurt still fused to his beard and coating his eyelashes.

"This event is definitely important to put on each year because breast cancer affects so many people," said Gibson. "My team came out to support the cause, like we have been during the entire Think Pink Week. When it came to the last round, I just shoved my face in there, tried to suck it all in and do the best that I could."

Despite their efforts to fully wipe away the glops of yogurt, little dots of pink clung to students' faces — a reminder of how small sacrifices, like a bloat-inducing dairy overdose, can have a powerful impact.





ZETA TAU ALPHA

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

the power of pink



Freshmen Jenna Saplala and Madison Osentoski, receive help and encouragement from their Zeta sisters as they compete in the yogurt eating contest. Yoplait, one of Zeta's sponsors, donated yogurt for the event.



Event attendees congregate on Zeta Tau Alpha's lawn. There were breaks between rounds of the yogurt eating contest to give participants an opportunity to rest.

one, two, step

Annual National Pan-Hellanic Council Step Show delivers cultural awareness through dance

One of the most treasured forms of expressing creativity throughout time is the art of dance. From the Chinese Lion Dance, in which performers mimic the stealthy moves of a ferocious feline, to the Hawaiian Hula complete with coconut bras and swirling hips, communities create distinct traditions around the art form.

One thing stays consistent, though: Dance is a medium for discussing society and culture and celebrating history. The National Pan-Hellenic Council realized this many years ago when it established the NPHC Step Show that is now embraced by students every year.

On Oct. 11, various groups of students told stories through the rhythmic tapping of their boots and movement of their bodies. The dances, rooted in African tradition and flavored with modern culture, are revered by a special subset of fraternities and sororities that comprise the NPHC, better known as the Divine Nine. These nine Greek houses are known for being the first founded by African American students before 1930, the year when the NPHC was founded.

"Each group incorporates unique steps stemming from African ancestors," said Giovannie Thomas, alumnus of Phi Beta Sigma.

One of those groups was Alpha Phi Alpha, a fraternity that traces its ancestral ties to Egypt. A short video before the performance showed the brothers flying across the globe from East Lansing to Cairo in an animated airplane. As the lights on stage began to glow, 10 men stood tall, dressed in camouflage pants, combat boots and bulletproof vests, and recreated the atmosphere of a war-torn era. Through booming bellows and fierce grimaces, the men personified Egypt's current hardships.

"It is important to incorporate historical step moves into modern-day performances, because you are able to pay respect to your past while establishing a new form of innovation through present day," said senior and event coordinator Brannon Bass.

Through vibrations of the steps, attention-grabbing claps and thundering chants, the performances that followed captured more chapters of history in a dance through time. They encompassed the transformation of basic human rights such as education, equality and justice throughout the world.

Omega Psi Phi incorporated a recent example of injustice into their performance by reenacting the murder of Trayvon Martin. On Feb. 6, 2012, Trayvon Martin was shot and killed by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watchman. The men of the fraternity depicted a random civilian being shot and killed on the street. Omega Psi Phi's message of unfairness was strengthened through various reminders of what this innocent man could have grown to be: a student, a Spartan, a fraternity brother.

"For them to incorporate this very controversial issue into their theme really brought to light the many injustices our community is still facing today and shows why NPHC does the work that we do," said senior and member of NPHC Sirrita Darby.

Music and dance reach across the ages, span distances, and bridge gaps between cultures. In their rhythmic demonstrations, members of the Divine Nine told students of the struggles their ancestors faced and made statements about how far humanity has come and how far it has yet to go.

NPHC STEP SHOW

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Senior Keyon Clinton of Alpha Phi Alpha performs a signature move of stepping and clapping as he stomps. The Alphas incorporated an Egyptian element into their routine, paying tribute to their symbol, the sphinx.

making splashes

Freshman Tyler Boyd executes a belly flop during Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash competition. To raise money for charity, Delta Gamma encouraged fraternities across campus to participate in the event.

Beta Theta Pi brothers prepare to dive into the pool for their synchronized swimming routine. Each fraternity chose a theme for their performances based off of well-known films.

Members of the Sigma Pi coordinate a synchronized swimming formation. In honor of their Delta Gamma hosts, nearly all of the fraternities worked the sorority's distinctive hand symbol into their routine.





TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER





Delta Gamma supports charity through Anchor Splash antics

The smell of chlorine tickled nostrils while the noises of fraternity brothers bounced off the wooden benches and tiled walls of the IM West indoor swimming pool. Delta Gamma cheered on the competing men as they swam, pushed and even belly flopped to take home the gold.

Twelve fraternities competed in Delta Gamma's annual Anchor Splash event on Oct. 20. The philanthropic project was comprised of a series of swimming events across the indoor and diving pools. The sisters of Delta Gamma coached the teams and created themes for their performances, which were incorporated into the men's costumes and synchronized swimming moves. The award for the victorious fraternity was a suite at a Detroit Pistons game during the 2013-2014 season.

Anchor Splash was part of a bigger event called Anchor Week, which raised money for Delta Gamma's national philanthropy, Service for Sight. The organization helps to improve the quality of life for those with visual impairments. Throughout the week, the sorority held a male beauty pageant, called Anchor Man, and two fundraisers.

Meanwhile, fraternity teams spent the week preparing for Anchor Splash's premier event — the synchronized swimming contest. They typically practiced in their living spaces with their Delta Gamma coaches, shifting around a living room or basement to the music of Bob Segar or "Jingle Bell Rock" while shaking in their speedos.

Senior Dimitri Innis of Triangle Fraternity said his team spent six to eight hours practicing the week before the event.

"It was a process trying to get everything figured out," Innis said. "It was funny trying to imagine we're all in the water and working out the kinks."

In the pool, bare-chested men had to create the Greek letters delta and gamma for the judges. For extra points, they also made Delta Gamma's hand symbol by putting their left elbow across their body and pointing their left palm at the ceiling.

Performances included moves and music relating to each team's theme.

"Our theme was the movie 'Remember the Titans,'" said junior Sarah Kennis, coach for Alpha Gamma Rho. "We performed a dance scene from the movie."

Some of the participants were obviously swimmers and could hold themselves above water without difficulty. For others, that was not the case. They bobbed, shimmied and shifted desperately in an attempt to stay afloat, similar to a child in arm floaties learning to swim for the first time.

Nevertheless, the Anchor Splash event that received the most cheers was the belly flop competition. Everyone gathered around the diving well to watch competitors bounce like tennis balls on the diving board. As the bodies jumped into the air, some spectators looked on with despair, anticipating the splat and pain that would coincide with hitting the water.

One brave participant managed to do a complete front flip into a stomach-pounding belly flop that left the crowd wincing in vicarious agony and laughing at the pure audacity of the stunt. Any diver who did not manage to contact the water with their stomach in a satisfactory smack was greeted with heckles as they stepped out of the pool.

Freshman Armen Brus, who participated in the flop on behalf of the Evans Scholars, said unlike the polished choreography of the synchronized swimmers, the belly floppers did not really practice before the event.

"It doesn't hurt that bad, it's a good burn," he said, in spite of his lobster-red stomach.

Anchor Splash brought together the Greek community for a day filled with legs kicking in unison, the sound of stomachs pounding against the water, and philanthropic action. Though participant's synchronized routines and wrinkled hands didn't offer them much after Anchor Splash ended, their actions supported vision services for those in need and furthered Delta Gamma's charitable efforts.



Pi Kappa Alpha brother Ryan Powell represents his country as he races across the field in the 100-yard dash. Although the Pikes finished in a close second, the Rugby Football Club dominated the race and almost every event at Sigmalympics.

field of **fighters**

Sigma Kappa organizes first fraternity field day

The sea of faces gathered on IM East's patchy lawn resembled a band of warriors. Each bore bold stripes of color denoting their respective tribe, bandanas tied tightly around the forehead to catch every bead of sweat. As their eyebrows furrowed to focus on the obstacles that lie ahead, a competitive fire burned in each fighter's eyes. Collectively, they sent a wave of intimidation across the battlefield. Victory would distinguish the manliest brotherhood, and its members would claim the prize of ultimate virility — ornately decorated gift baskets filled with pastel-colored polos. With their eyes on the prize, 16 fraternities as well as the MSU Rugby Football Club lined up for the opening ceremonies of the first Sigmalympics.

Hosted by the Sigma Kappa sisters on Oct. 20, Sigmalympics was the sorority's inaugural field day event featuring only male competitors. The Olympic-themed competition featured games such as an egg-toss, relay race and tire dash, and pitted fraternities like Delta Sigma Phi, Alpha Sigma Phi and Phi Kappa Sigma against one another in head-to-head combat.

Proceeds from team fees and admission benefitted the American Alzheimer's Association. Since fall recruitment conflicted with the annual Alzheimer's walk in which Sigma Kappa normally participates, the women organized Sigmalympics as a way to continue fundraising for the organization.

"I think that this allows Greek members to see where their money is going, and so many people are affected by Alzheimer's in their families and it is has had a great impact in the community," said Katherine Fuller, junior and philanthropy chair.

Although it was the chapter's first time hosting Sigmalympics, it is not an unfamiliar event at other universities in the nation.

"The very first Sigma Kappa chapter to have Sigmalympics was actually at George Washington University. We took the idea and went with it, as Michigan State has a lot of women field day events but none for men to compete," Fuller said.

For newly pledged Delta Sigma Phi brother and sophomore Andrew Williams, this first event opened his eyes to community service done by the Greeks and dirtied his hands with golden, sticky egg yolks.

"I absolutely love the Greek life here, and having the opportunity to spend the day like this and raise money for a good cause, nothing really beats that," Williams said.

Experienced Delta Sigma Phi member and sophomore Kevin Parker noticed that the style of Sigmalympics was akin to events hosted by fraternities. At the Delta Sigma Phi house, a tug-of-war competition had brothers coaching the sisters. For Sigmalympics, the tables were turned; while the sisters stayed toasty in their matching leggings, vests and baseball caps, they cheered on the men who turned their immaculate white shirts into mud-splattered rags.

As sweat trickled down foreheads and heartbeats sped up by the second, the brothers from each fraternity banded together and awaited the contest's final point tally. With arms coated in perspiration and dirt, the warriors fell silent across the battlefield. A sudden roar erupted from the MSU Rugby Football Club as they were deemed victors.

No matter the outcome of the competition, in raising awareness and funds for a serious disease as a tight-knit community, all participants defined themselves as champions.

SIGMA KAPPA

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO STEPHANIE PICKARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



A crowd gathers around the brightly colored Sigmalympics banner hanging from the IM East volleyball net. Although it was Sigma Kappa's first year hosting the philanthropic competition, many fraternities participated.



One of Delta Sigma Phi's newest pledges focuses intensely on the fragile egg that was just tossed his way. The egg toss was one of the most popular events at Sigmalympics, and the winning team's final throwing distance was nearly 40 yards.



Freshman Jack Sherman holds a pumpkin out before smashing it from the third-story window of the Lambda Chi fraternity house. This year the fraternity chose to support a different charity with its Pumpkin Smash, and donated all proceeds to the Medical Amnesty Initiative.

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

use a lifeline

Lambda Chi Alpha raises awareness for medical amnesty

On a lawn covered with red solo cups, bottle tops and chip bags, a limp body lay. Swarms of nervous, intoxicated students sneak out a creaky back door in hopes of avoiding the cacophonous sirens quickly approaching from the end of the road. Rather than help their unconscious friend, they rapidly evacuate the area to evade confrontation with law enforcement. Like that, a night of celebration can end in tragedy.

To prevent these circumstances on campus, the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha spread the word about medical amnesty policies.

Medical amnesty allows legal charges for underage drinking to be dismissed if medical help is sought for individuals whose lives are at risk as a result of alcohol poisoning. The Michigan law, otherwise known as Act No. 125, was introduced in January 2011 and passed May 2012. The legislation presents three guidelines of medical amnesty: intoxicated individuals must go to a health center, someone must accompany the victim to a healthcare facility, or they must contact emergency services for help.

On Oct. 27, Lambda Chi Alpha hosted Pumpkin Smash, a philanthropic event to advocate for the law. Entertainment at the event included pumpkin painting, a dizzy bat relay and throwing pumpkins out of a third-story window. Proceeds went to the Medical Amnesty Initiative, a non-profit organization working to slow alcohol related deaths on college campuses. Alumnus and Lambda Chi brother Aaron Letzeiser was the founder of the initiative. Letzeiser developed interest in the topic after writing a paper for class, and pursued the issue during an internship at the Capitol.

"I was working out there as a legislative aide in the senate for State Legislator Anthony Forlini, who helped sponsor the bill. Once the law was passed in the state of Michigan, I created the Medical Amnesty Initiative," Letzeiser said.

His efforts to educate the public on medical amnesty did not go unaided. While living in the Lambda Chi house, Letzeiser shared the legislation with his brothers who, in turn, spread the word through charity work.

"I thought that we should donate to something that is a little closer to home, something that would make more of an impact on campus," senior and Philanthropy Chairman Alec Prechtel said. "The Pumpkin Smash is a good way for people in the Greek community to come together to further additional awareness of the law."

The brothers of Lambda Chi are not the only students to support the cause. Members of the Associated Students of Michigan State University, like senior and Vice President of Governmental Affairs Jessica Leacher, backed the initiative as well. ASMSU organized a number of campus events to inform students about the policy.

"I'm not sure where it's going to from here, but we plan to continue to bring as much awareness so that most students on campus understand what medical amnesty is," Leacher said. "I wasn't aware of what medical amnesty was until I joined ASMSU. The more events I go to and ask, 'Do you know what medical amnesty is?' many students respond with, 'Oh yeah, it's that thing that if I call I won't get in trouble.'"

Even though some perceive the law as an excuse to drink excessively and avoid consequences, it was created to save lives. According to Letzeiser, there is still work to be done in spreading the word about the initiative. Although daunting, he's determined to inform as many people as possible so that the number of lives lost to alcohol poisoning will diminish.

fresh, fast **friendships**

Sisters in new MSU chapter Beta Theta connect with the Greek community

Look out Spartans, because there is a new sorority in town — kind of. After a 12-year absence, Alpha Xi Delta returned to its former glory as an active chapter of the MSU Greek community, sparking the transformation of more than 100 strangers into sisters.

Alpha Xi Delta originated at MSU in 1934, but was cut from the roster of sororities in 2001 due to a shortage of recruits. However, thanks to remaining chapters consistently promoting Greek life through eye-catching and offbeat events, Spartans' "Go Greek" intrigue piqued. Consequently, the Beta Theta Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta was invited back to East Lansing for 2013 fall recruitment.

"I know the Beta Theta chapter will be an ideal representation of what Alpha Xi Delta is all about," said Allison Davies, an educational leadership consultant for the sorority. "These wonderful women will bring the same values and traditions of the sorority to MSU through their dedication to scholarship, leadership and service through philanthropy."

Davies was a key player in waking the Beta Theta chapter from its dormant state. She not only organized the recruitment process and captured women's interest by educating them on Alpha Xi Delta's mission but also served as a temporary president until the chapter found time to appoint office positions.

Freshman Barbara Selman explained that she did not plan on joining Greek life until her sophomore year, but after speaking with Davies she felt inspired to join Beta Theta.

"I was really interested in the chapter's philanthropy, Autism Speaks. I grew up helping special needs kids, so that hit close to home and made me really want to join the sorority," explained Selman.

Although it is typical for students to join Greek life for the friendships and connections, Selman viewed joining as a way to mold MSU history.

"Because we are the new sorority, I think all of the other chapters are watching us to see how we are going to handle it, which is a little intimidating," said Selman. "But this is a really unique experience. We are in a position where we are able to shape what the sorority will be at MSU and create a legacy."

Though joining Alpha Xi Delta helped Selman and other students find their niche, freshman Caitlin Whitlock admitted she initially struggled to form instant relationships with her army of 100 sorority sisters. To help the sisters truly feel like kin, the chapter holds mandatory weekly meetings on Sunday nights to discuss top-secret sorority news. At the meetings, the sisters also learn of interactive bonding events scheduled for the week ahead, such as baking delicious cookies or carving pumpkins. In addition, Davies implemented a weekly activity called rose buddies, where the women are assigned a small group of sisters to spend time with in a more intimate setting.

"This has been an amazing experience, even though it is still so new," said Whitlock. "What's really great is that everyone is new to it. Everyone wants to do things together, which makes sisterhood events much more fun. At every event we grow closer and you start to see more familiar faces."

With 14 sororities and 29 fraternities on campus, sisters of Beta Theta also recognized the importance of creating mutually respected relationships with the other organizations in Greek life.

"No one really knows what we are like yet because we are so new. At the same time, we go to one-on-ones with frats not knowing what to expect either," said Whitlock. "So far everyone we've met with has been very welcoming. We want to meet them, and they want to meet us. I think everyone is ready for us."



ALPHA XI DELTA

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO STEPH POKARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Newly initiated freshmen Lindy Vallier and Paige Lupori smile in a loving sisterly embrace. The women of Beta Theta were all laughs and grins as they came together to form their new sisterhood.





Junior Rachel Bjorkman explains some basic rules of sorority fashion to her new sisters. The sorority held a fundraiser at Jeaneology as one of its first events.

Rows of fashionable styles and textures were scattered around the boutique, creating a cozy atmosphere. The sorority assigned small groups so sisters could get to know each other in a more intimate setting.



Lorenzo Edwards of Eastern Michigan University takes on senior Carson Swampp. After a very close fight and a split decision by the judges, Edwards was declared the winner.

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



knockout

Sigma Chi hosts second annual Fight Night fundraiser

For one minute, two amateur boxers laid into each other, sweat cascading down their faces and into the ring. For that minute, the opponents focused solely on inflicting pain on one another. Bottled up adrenaline and nerves were released in every punch until the bell struck, causing the fighters to turn away like two teenagers after an awkward breakup. As each boxer turned to face his corner, the cheering of the crowd, barely audible through protective headgear, brought them back down to Earth. Dizzy heads and ringing ears recovered as the participants in the second annual Sigma Chi Fight Night smiled in the direction of the spectators.

Sigma Chi hosted the event in the dim but beautiful ballroom of Eagle Eye Golf Club on Nov. 15. Chandeliers hung from the ceiling, casting a light glow on the Greek members, friends and family in attendance. Men wore suits and ties, while the women sported elegant dresses and heels — both watched the boxers duke it out.

"It's catered towards the Greek community," said senior and Sigma Chi philanthropy chair Keith Cordner of the annual event. "It's the biggest event we've seen."

The amateur fighters, mostly MSU students, were anxious for the opportunity to box in an organized event. Clad in either a green or white basketball jersey, they were paired up based on size and weight to ensure fair matchups and spent three minutelong rounds in the ring. Competition entrance fees benefited the Help a Willing Kid Foundation, which provides tools for Lansing area youth to nurture their potential in a safe environment.

One of the evening's first combatants, sophomore and Sigma Chi member Michael Avesian, was greeted by the roars from the audience and chants of fellow brothers as he entered the ring. Although Avesian was much shorter than his opponent, he came out of the gates like the Road Runner from the classic Warner Bros. cartoon. He spent his time in the ring baiting his opponent before sprinting around to opposite sides and taking a swing.

"He was a taller fighter, so I was waiting for his jabs and trying to counter to the body," said Avesian. "Once he dropped his hands, I went for the head."

The youngest fighter of the night was Keith Cotter from Williamston High School. Cotter's participation in a boxing class at MSU and extra training paid off in the form of a victorious match.

"I'm on top of the world. I'm so happy with how it turned out," said Cotter. "He's huge. That was all that was going through my mind. He would just bum-rush me and I could feel the weight pulling down on me while I was on the ropes. Mentally, I'm a little too tired to be happy. But physically, my legs feel good, my head feels good. I feel excellent."

The ambiance of Fight Night was reminiscent of the older, glory days of boxing. Then, spectators dressed up to cheer on their favorite fighter from the sidelines as they smoked fancy cigars in hazy rooms and hooted and hollered at female sign bearers passing by. Members of Sigma Chi, adorned in their Sunday best, tried to preserve the tradition and excellence of the sport through both the evening's bouts and their philanthropy.

outfitting those in need

Sigma Delta Tau sorority collects clothing for Salvation Army

Bags and bags filled a house on Cowley Road — more than 20 bags to be exact. Stuffed to the brim with sweaters, jeans and shirts, they awaited their journey to a little church on Jolly Road as part of the Sigma Delta Tau clothing drive.

In the month leading up to winter break, students as well as families of the sisters dropped off clothing items to the sorority house. The mass of supplies was loaded into three cars and driven to the Salvation Army's Lansing location, where it would be distributed to community members in need.

Tau members try to have at least one charity event each month, but they wanted to try something new, something everyone could participate in.

"A lot of groups, especially in the Greek community, do food or can drives, but we felt like before the holidays this was a different and better option," said junior Rachel Brett. "We figured our gently used clothes would make for some great holiday presents for many families. Plus with food drives, we usually get less donations because a lot of people feel they have to go out and buy extra canned food whereas a lot of people already have old clothes in their closet that they never wear."

Planning and promoting an event like this isn't as easy as stapling a few notices around campus. Fall semester community service chair and sophomore Melanie Check had the task of coordinating the drive. Her responsibilities ranged from promotion of the event, by using Facebook and fliers, to finding the right venue to collect the clothing.

Many places she originally planned on donating the clothes to wanted to take the clothes and sell them cheaply, but Check wanted to give them to an organization that would donate the clothing to people in need at no cost. The Salvation Army was the only place to offer this option to her.

"It was nice to see the people the clothes were actually going to," Check said. "One of the guys there was like, 'Oh my gosh, is that for us? Can we open it now?' and it was like Christmas morning for them. It was great."

With this drive, Sigma Delta Tau was able to give back to the community and involve the student body. Members bombarded their family and friends' social media pages, urging them to donate to those in need during the holiday season. By getting other students to participate, the spirit of giving spread.

Check was touched by the reaction of staff and recipients at the Salvation Army, who attended a brunch that day.

"As we wheeled in garbage bags full of clothes, we got to see and interact with some of the people our clothes would eventually be given to, which was an amazing experience," Check said.

Sophomore Eden Roth was also touched by the interactions.

"They were kind of in shock by the amount, like they couldn't believe it was all for them. I know that they were really eager to look at all of the clothes, but they had to wait to go through everything until it was closer to the holidays," said Roth. "People kept thanking us and were so grateful. It was an amazing experience."

With the holidays right around the corner, the gifts of warm clothes benefitted many families in need for Christmas. And as families warmed themselves with new apparel, the sisters of Sigma Delta Tau received the gift of grateful faces and warm embraces — something far more valuable than anything wrapped under the tree.



SIGMA DELTA TAU

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Gloves, hats, scarves and other clothing fill plastic bags to capacity. Sigma Delta Tau worked with the Salvation Army for the first time in 2013, and the group donated more than 20 bags of clothing to the organization.





Junior Rina Edelson pushes one of many shopping carts full of donations into the building. The sorority is also involved with numerous philanthropic events promoting positive family life such as Prevent Child Abuse in America.

Junior Eden Roth takes bags of clothing into the Salvation Army as a part of the Sigma Delta Tau Gives Back event. Sisters filled their cars and delivered the articles of clothing to help the less fortunate during the winter months.

training **trailblazers**

EAD 315 provides leadership training for the Greek community



Some people are forced into leadership positions. A member of the royal family is a leader by inheritance, not choice. However, the type of leader a person becomes is not fixed — to be malevolent or benevolent is entirely up to the individual. And though a leader's character is self-defined, it is not always simple to discover.

Since the fall of 1992, MSU has offered EAD 315: Student Leadership Training, as a way for Spartans to ignite and hone their leadership skills. It wasn't until 2014 that the university offered a section of the course that caters specifically to one of the largest communities on campus: Greeks.

"My co-instructor and I wanted to make this new section of the course current so that we could address Greek students' needs," according to course instructor Toubee Yang, president of the Student Affairs Graduate Association. "We aim to explore what is going on in the Greek world right now. What can we do to maintain what already is good about Greek life, and what can we do to demyth the negative stereotypes that exist?"

The Greek section maintains the same core content as the standard sections, which cover five key leadership principles: modeling the way, inspiring a shared vision, challenging the process, enabling others to act and encouraging the heart. The course functions as a huge group discussion about leadership styles, but also operates on a personal level as students set individual goals for what they hope to accomplish.

Although she teaches non-Greek sections, instructor Jessica Mansbach helped develop the structure of the special Greek section and understood why it was necessary.

"The course in general offers students an opportunity to practice leadership skills that they will need in the real world," said Mansbach. "But we found that a lot of students are already in the real world and want that extra help with becoming a leader in their Greek communities."

Sophomore Faith Krogulecki discovered the Greek section of the course via e-mail and immediately decided to enroll.

"In high school I was a do-it-all kind of student. I was president of my class and involved in a lot of other activities, so I was really longing for that leadership here at MSU," said Krogulecki, who is also the vice president of philanthropy for Panhellenic Council, the governing body of sororities on campus.

Krogulecki explained she felt intimidated by taking on 18 credits in addition to her new leadership role in her sorority Kappa Delta, yet had no hesitations about enrolling in EAD 315. She hoped the course would build her confidence in being a leader to her peers, and keep her motivated during her hectic schedule.

"What I love about the Greek section of the course is that we are all Greek, and so we already share a common bond," said Krogulecki. "We all understand the pressure and know what is expected of us from being a member of the Greek community."

For overachieving Greek members like Krogulecki, Yang offered reassurance in their decision to become involved with campus life.

"I always like to tell them that by joining a Greek organization, that was your first step in becoming a leader. That is something a lot of people don't realize," said Yang.

There is no formula for how to become a successful politician, powerful CEO or a generous monarch, but Greek members in EAD 315 demonstrate that as long as a person has a will for self-improvement, and is open to a little self-evaluation, then it does not matter if leaders are born or if they are built.

GREEK LEADERSHIP COURSE

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Sophomore Danielle Smith talks about an experience she had in Chi Omega, her sorority, while Alexandria Miller and sophomores Faith Krogulecki and Kaitlyn Mulcahy listen. Through the class, students learned how to lead their Greek peers and make smart decisions.

Junior Alexandria Miller participates in a dialogue regarding facts and myths about alcohol. At the beginning of each class, students participate in team building exercises and reflect on current events.

Graduate student, Bee Yang reads a fact about alcohol. Many facts that were thought to be true about alcohol were found to be false during the class discussion.



walking with strangers



Junior Alexandra Smith speaks about introducing Help Save The Next Girl to campus. The event took place in the Kappa Kappa Gamma basement and raised awareness about the organization, which brings attention to predatory danger.

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

Kappa Kappa Gamma reflects, inspires community awareness



Junior Alexandra Smith sat in the basement of 605 M.A.C. Ave., the home of the Delta Gamma chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Cradling a Macbook with Sailor Moon stickers, Smith closed the computer, deciding to ad lib her presentation. The audience perched on their seats as they heard about Help Save the Next Girl, a national organization that encourages people to help members of the community get home safely.

Smith introduced herself to the crowd, joking that public speaking made her sweat like hot yoga. Her audience, mostly composed of fellow Kappa sisters who knew Smith's jocose personality, laughed with her.

But the reason Smith had congregated her audience was a serious concern for vulnerable students.

Smith told the harrowing tale of how Help Save the Next Girl (HSTNG) was created. A Virginia Tech student named Morgan Harrington attended a Metallica concert in 2009 and never made it home. Her remains were found 101 days later in a farmer's field, her killer unknown. HSTNG, which was founded in Harrington's memory, impels individuals to watch out for each other and prevent abduction cases like Harrington's from being repeated.

"Not saying that the world is a bad place, but bad things do happen to good people," Smith said gravely. "There needs to be times where we need to be more aware of our surroundings and listen to that little voice in our head that says, 'I saw her, but I didn't do anything.'"

Smith's voice raised a little, emboldened by Morgan's story.

"So be that person that does something, because that's what the world is — it's one big community. So why aren't we helping each other out?"

After Annalee Marshall, a close friend of Smith's, passed away in a car accident two years ago, she sought a way to celebrate and honor her life. Marshall, a student at Virginia Tech, was heavily involved in her school's chapter of HSTNG. That's when Smith got the idea to bring the organization to campus.

Thirty students, some from the Greek community and others who heard about the meeting through word of mouth, stood in line to join the mailing list. Freshman and Kappa sister Kaylee Brown was among them. Brown remembered encountering a young woman on campus at night who appeared disoriented and alone.

"I tried to help her, but at the same time you don't know what to do," Brown explained. "You also don't want to put yourself in a dangerous situation."

Kappa philanthropy chair and junior Olivia Ehret, who has witnessed similar incidents, was also touched by Smith's words.

"I heard the story about the Virginia Tech girl, and I wouldn't want that to be me or my sorority sister or my best friend," Ehret said. "Sometimes I'll be driving home from my boyfriend's house at midnight, and I'll see girls walking home, obviously from a bar or a frat. It's easy to feel invincible, and that's when things happen — when you're not paying attention."

Rushing Kappa Kappa Gamma her freshman year, Smith didn't always think she would be a regular attendee to her sorority's monthly meetings. But after her second day, Smith found what she was looking for.

"Every girl I talked to reminded me of my family, my best friends back home," Smith said, smiling. "People I had never even met yet gave me a totally new outlook on life, and I was like, 'Wow, these people make me want to be just like them.'"

Now two years wiser, Smith has found a new home. The blue and gold lettering on her gray cardigan sparkled in the dim lighting of the basement meeting room. Like Kappas before her, Smith brought a small part of her world — the beloved memory of a friend —to be shared and revered.

battling **debt**

AKA and LTA sororities lend a hand in student financing

Through the onset of adulthood, students must meet the challenges of increased financial responsibility. Whether using a credit card for the first time, searching for financial aid, writing a monthly rent check or signing for student loans, these steps can feel like diving headfirst into the deep end of a pool. On Jan. 30, the sisters of Lambda Theta Alpha and Alpha Kappa Alpha offered a life raft to Spartans treading water in the form of useful financial information.

Debt 101 connected the two Greek organizations through the common cause of monetary mindfulness. As AKA Secretary and senior Cydny Henry explained, the women thought it was important to hold an event that discussed an issue facing the entire student body.

For LTA sisters, the night was also a great chance to promote their sorority.

"What we're trying to do is start a new era," Koraima Guillen, sophomore and president of LTA, said. "We're trying to integrate as a whole, so I thought this was the perfect opportunity to start collaborating with other people and start getting our name out there, not only in the Latino community but on the campus as an entire community."

The room in Bessey Hall where the women held the Debt 101 discussion was buzzing with conversation as students slowly trickled in and found a seat among the rows of sharply dressed fellow Spartans. The projector transitioned from an image of a well-educated piggy bank (his knowledge implied by the glasses he was wearing) to the opening slide of the presentation.

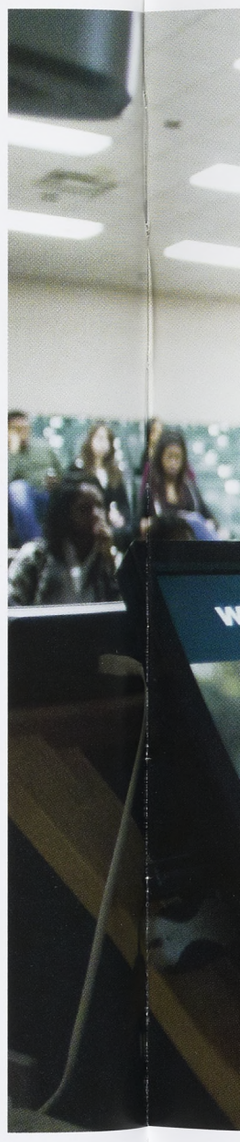
The crowd quieted as presenters took their place at the front of the spacious, circular room. To lead the discussion on avoiding debt, the sororities brought in two experts: the Education Outreach Specialist from MSUFCU, Paul Day, and Financial Aid Advisor James Roye of the MSU Office of Financial Aid.

Day prescribed ways to avoid credit card debt and the importance of knowing one's credit score. In particular, he instructed students to read the fine print on credit card agreements and advised against signing up for numerous store credit cards. Another point of concern Day touched on was identity theft and the need for students to protect their private information. He explained that something seemingly insignificant like leaving a credit card lying around in a dorm room could lead to big problems.

"More often than not, someone who steals your identity knows you really well," Day said.

Also promoting economic vigilance was Roye, who discussed ways to secure more sources of financial aid. Roye explained that the Office of Financial Aid is like a "pot of money" — they can only give out what is in the pot. Once it's gone, it's up to the students to find other ways of gaining assistance, such as offering to help professors with research or seeing if businesses around East Lansing offer scholarships.

Roye opened the floor for questions, and they came flooding in, ranging from inquiries about filling out a FAFSA to how fifth year seniors are affected by the university's aid packages. Navigating the waters of life's numerous financial traps and responsibilities can be a lot to deal with in college. Luckily, as long as students keep swimming along, mindful to take a breath every once and awhile, they can find themselves relaxing on the shores of financial stability.



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA & LAMBDA THETA ALPHA

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Paul Day, a representative from the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union explains who has the ability to access students' financial information. Students learned that potential employers can view the credit reports of potential employees.

Zeta Phi Beta educates students on the black feminist movement

February is Black History Month, and although it highlights the important events and people who fought for equality in America, one group's contribution seems to be put on the back burner: black feminists. But on Feb. 3, the Phi Gamma chapter of Zeta Phi Beta hosted an event called Black HerStory in room 106 of Bessey Hall to give students a better understanding of the black feminist movement.

"I think when we talk about the civil rights movement, a lot of times the contribution of women are overlooked," said Zeta Phi Beta sorority member and public policy senior Merchell Hunt. "Sure, we talk about Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, but we don't really talk about the nitty gritty stuff and the rawness involved with the feminist movement ever."

Guest speaker Maria Martin, a third-year doctoral student in the African Studies Department, led the event's discussion among mostly African American women and a few men. Martin started by explaining the difference between white feminism and black feminism, delving into the history of feminism itself and its origins as a white movement.

"It was an era of apartheid and Jim Crow laws, and any institution that is founded during that era is going to be inherently racist," said Martin. "So with white feminism, they were overtly racist toward black women and didn't even address black women's issues at all. Black women and black feminists had to fight for validation and had to articulate their needs that weren't being met."

Martin described the birth of the black feminist movement in the 1970s, describing its development from the black liberation movement and the women's movement. Black women felt sexually and racially oppressed by both groups, which prompted them to form a new movement advocating for their specific needs.

After Martin's presentation, the women of Zeta Phi Beta opened the floor for discussion of the challenges black women face today. The group underscored how the elements of race and sex are embedded in people's decisions, even those of professionals on campus. A female African American student shared her personal experience with a white male advisor at MSU who told her, "Your kind (black females) don't usually succeed here," which outraged the entire room.

"There is always going to be that issue of male privilege," said junior Kinsey Clarke, an active participant in the night's conversation. "In order for a black man to face racism and to have some sort of dominance, some sort of privilege, they put down black women. If you think about the hierarchy of privilege, it goes: white male privilege, white female, black male and then black women, but black women don't really receive much privilege at all — and that is something we as a group have to keep fighting for."

More topics emerged as the night progressed, like the oversexualization of a black woman's body by men and also issues about calling one another degrading terms like "ho" and "thick."

"I think it is a problem that a lot of black female organizations aren't coming together and aren't speaking," said Hunt. "We have a lot of issues within ourselves, not just in terms of a racial divide but also how we treat one another or conform to what we think men want us to be in terms of what we are expected to wear or how we are told to dance at parties. A lot of times, I think we just do it for attention rather than for ourselves."

As both history and HerStory show, it's important to learn about the past in order to change the present. For Hunt and her fellow HerStory attendees, the debates throughout the evening acknowledged the hierarchical structure of privilege and the many black women who have worked and are still working to dismantle it.



TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

refashioned feminists







Junior Kinsey Clarke actively explains her point of view on black feminism. Many topics were discussed at HerStory, but the event focused on the history of black feminism.

Junior Ona Ventour smiles while looking through a Zeta Phi Beta scrapbook. Ventour is apart of MSU Advantage, a student organization based on supporting the student community through academic and social issues.

Students gathered in Bessey Hall for the first part of Zeta Phi Beta's three-part recognizing black feminism. MSU's Phi Gamma Chapter, chartered in 1969, is Zeta Phi Beta's oldest chapter.

eternally **alight**



With their hands raised, a group of Sigma Beta Rho brothers engage in a moment of silence to honor their fallen brothers. The men also offered speeches and blessings.

Students somberly admire candles and other mementos that rest at the foot of the Spartan statue. Sigma Beta Rho brothers held candlelight vigils on other campuses across the country.

Candles illuminate the base of the iconic Spartan statue. Red, black and green candles were used to represent the fraternity's colors.



TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JORDON GRIMMINS
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

Members of Sigma Beta Rho honor fallen brothers with candlelight vigil

The rigidity of a wax candle lasts but a brief time before it reverts back to its melted form. What was once a strong force begins to break down, as drop by drop, the melting wax slowly glides down a previously smooth surface. However as they fall, these drops caress and reshape the structure, helping it support an eternal flicker of bright possibilities.

These shining sources of light were used by the members of Sigma Beta Rho to commemorate fallen brothers. Snowflakes drifted from the sky, landing on top of students' hats as they gathered around the snowy Sparty Statue to host a candlelight vigil. On Feb. 8, the lives of four brothers from the University of South Florida were taken by a late-night car accident. Having just met these men at a conference a few months prior, students of MSU's Sigma Beta Rho chapter took this devastating loss to heart. Their melancholy was expressed by sophomore Niyanta Rajpoot, president of the fraternity.

"Whether you knew them or not, it will never be easy to see a brother go. We are all part of the same brotherhood, and any piece that gets broken off is irreplaceable," said Rajpoot. "This loss will impact fraternities across the country, which is why it is so important that we all come together at this time of need and remember how grateful we are to have each other."

Whether in sunny southern Florida or ice-ridden Mid-Michigan, Greek members showed their support by simultaneously performing ceremonies in remembrance of the brothers. In East Lansing, Spartans were joined by some brothers from the U of M chapter as well as sisters from various sororities on campus. Holding a white candle in her wool gloves, sophomore Sarah Skoropa, member of Alpha Xi Delta, explained the importance of demonstrating solace.

"We were Sigma Beta Rho's sister sorority during Greek week, so it hurts to see these guys that we have recently become so close with hurting this much," Skoropa said. "It definitely shows how important it is for all of Greek life to come out and show as much support as possible, because we can all use a friend during a time like this."

Everyone who came to honor the brothers received a white candle, and held it throughout the remembrance speeches and a 40-second moment of silence. The many flames hovering above the sparkling white snow provided a glow that matched the speakers' warm words. On the base of the statue sat three small candles: one black, one red and one green. As the fraternity's adopted colors, each stood for a different principle. The black candle stood for brotherhood, the red candle for society and the green, remembrance.

Shortly after extinguishing the flame atop his candle, senior Mohkam Singh, member of Sigma Beta Rho, discussed the unity of a brotherhood.

"One phrase that our brothers take pride in portraying our chapter is 'brotherhood beyond all barriers.' To us, it means that together, we can overcome any obstacle that is thrown our way," said Singh. "Although hearing about the loss was a hard thing to wake up to the morning after it happened, I was instantly reminded that I had brothers across the nation going through the same thing, and knew that we would come together to honorably commemorate these four men."

Although something that once stood tall is capable of deterioration, that doesn't take away from its stability and unity. No matter the candle's shape or size, the flame ignited represents a unified feeling of hope and elation. The drips of wax melt and gently slide down the candle's robust structure. Yet it will continue to stand tall and strong, much like the brothers of Sigma Beta Rho.



pushing borders

Fraternity brothers bike across Florida for charity

Every adult remembers their experience learning how to ride a bike. A torn feeling of excitement and anxiety welled in their stomachs as they balanced precariously on two thin wheels. After a few small cuts and unsuccessful trial runs, they finally obtained freedom. Years after such a childhood experience, two fraternity members aim to take their cycling skills to the next level. Their goal: to bike across the state of Florida in 14 days.

Junior Nico Harrington, propped atop his skeleton-thin Trek Domane four-series bicycle, began his customary daily bike ride around campus. Harrington, a member of Pi Kappa Phi, trained since August 2013 for Push America's Gear Up Florida cycling event. Harrington biked 800 miles across Florida — from Miami to the Capitol building in Tallahassee — with fraternity vice president and sophomore Karl Ochs.

Push America, which was founded in 1977 by Pi Kappa Phi, created an opportunity to lead and volunteer for a non-profit. The organization funds living and health expenses of the disabled across the country, as well as redefines the public's perception of both the disabled and fraternity members.

Ochs, who had also been preparing his mind and body for the 800-mile bike tour, found himself as a part of the Greek community at MSU because of Push America.

"The main reason I joined was because of Push America," Ochs explained. "(Pi Kappa Phi) has something completely different from every (Greek) house in this country. We own and operate our own organization."

In addition to months of training coupled with school and Greek life duties, the two fraternity brothers were required to raise a minimum of $2,500 in sponsorships for the event. During their two-week journey, each fraternity brother biked at an average pace of 15 miles per hour for about 75 miles a day. With the three-month stretch of summer looming, Ochs explained that he was looking for a volunteer opportunity and a challenge to occupy his time between semesters.

"It's a lot of work. I'm a very busy person right now because I'm a biochemistry major and I'm the vice president of a fraternity, and I have to go fundraise a few thousand dollars and train for the event as well," Ochs explained.

Another one of Push America's cycling events, called Journey of Hope, is a bicycle ride from multiple locations on the West Coast to a common destination: Washington, D.C. Junior and former Pi Kappa Phi president Joshua Velasquez trained for the two-month event, stepping up his regime after team training in Ohio. He started off every workout by jumping rope, a technique he learned from watching his favorite sport, boxing.

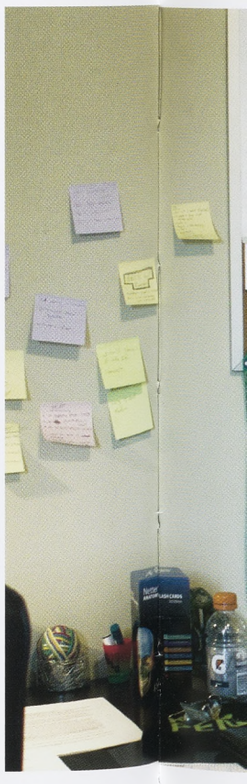
"There's a lot of things that made me want to do Journey of Hope. First and foremost was my own chapter. No one has done it in four years, and this was an area we were lacking in. And who gets to say that they rode 67 days across the country?" Velasquez chuckled.

Pi Kappa Phi brothers Harrington and Ochs also upped their game. Deciding the minimum donation wasn't enough, they set their personal donation goals higher. Ochs, who had raised $1,179 of his $4,250 goal by March, and Harrington, who had raised $2,214.34 of his $4,500 goal, pushed themselves physically as well as mentally when training and garnering support.

"I figured in doing this, I'm helping someone else, but I realized I'm also helping myself," Harrington explained. "I have to put the time in, do the work, push my body. I've always wanted to get myself in shape, but I never had a reason to. Now that I'm doing it for someone else, I have a reason."

The daunting fear of embarking on an unpredictable journey did not seem to affect the athlete's urge to succeed. Without a protective parent to brace their backs, they kick off from the ground and propel forward.





PI KAPPA PHI

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JORDON CHIMMINS
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Junior Nico Harrington grasps the handlebars of his stationary bike. Members of Pi Kappa Phi conditioned individually for their charity ride and also raised funds and awareness for their cause through other biking events.



Harrington trains for his Push America charity ride that will take him through the state of Florida. Push America has been the exclusive philanthropy of Pi Kappa Phi since it was founded in 1977.



Leaning over to put on his specialized shoes, Harrington prepares for his workout. Harrington dedicated time and energy to train for the 800-mile event in an effort to support individuals with disabilities.

sticking it to cancer

Sigma Alpha Epsilon faces Sigma Chi in hockey fundraiser

The squeak of basketball sneakers on a waxed court or the smack of a tennis ball after taking a hit from a racquet — these noises become synonymous with their sport. Though not professional athletes, members of two fraternities generated the familiar scrape of lustrous skates on freshly zambonied ice. Joined by the claps and chants of brothers cheering on their respective houses, these exuberant sounds resounded against the metal interior of Munn Ice Arena, reaching every nook and cranny of the space.

On Mar. 22, Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) faced off against Sigma Chi in the second annual Puck Off Cancer Classic. The event served as a fundraiser for the Jon Huntsman Cancer Institute, a research and treatment facility in Salt Lake City, Utah. Huntsman, a former Sigma Chi brother, receives donations to his institute from chapters all over North America. For the MSU chapter, fundraising began in 2013 with a friendly game of hockey.

"Last year, a couple of my friends who were in Sigma Alpha Epsilon joined those of us in Sigma Chi to a hockey game on the Red Cedar when it froze over," said junior Chris Flanagan, the event coordinator. "Collectively, we decided to create a philanthropy event that would benefit a cause while incorporating our want to play hockey."

Even though the Puck Off Cancer Classic was officially Sigma Chi's philanthropy event, SAE contributed to organizing the game.

"We arranged a friendly scrimmage with Sigma Chi a few days before the event to help prepare our rosters for the best possible hockey game," said Alex Berlin, graduate student and SAE Team Captain. "Our executive board worked closely with Sigma Chi's to help the event come together, and all brothers advertised the event through their social media accounts."

SAE's assistance with the event welcomed members back to an active and collective Greek community with the rechartering of the chapter at MSU in Nov. 2013. For junior and SAE brother Bryce Traverse, the game was a way of ringing in SAE's return to campus after a two-year probation.

"We noticed that when we were reinstated again, houses seemed separate and there weren't a lot of interfraternity events," Traverse said. "We're looking to continue helping Sigma Chi expand this event in the coming years. We would like to make the Puck Off Classic a four-team tournament and hopefully have the MSU Interfraternity Council sponsor us and help create more publicity."

Word about the game spread to numerous brothers and sorority sisters, who filled up the seats at Munn and sported each team's respective colors: purple and gold for SAE and powder blue for Sigma Chi. The competitive fire on the ice spread to the crowd as members of different houses battled to see who could cheer the loudest. Each side hollered louder than the overhead speakers blasting pop songs, heating up the otherwise chilled arena and motivating their brothers below on skates. After striking early in the first period, Sigma Chi kept their lead throughout the game, leading to an eruption of roars when they eventually won 2-1. Even though the two houses were momentarily divided by the friendly competition, they were always united by a common cause.

"Many of our brothers' families and friends have been affected by cancer, so it takes on a personal meaning as well," Berlin said. "Overall, I'm really proud of everyone for not losing sight of the purpose for this event."

While the victors celebrated as cheers echoed throughout the arena and fists launched into the air, both teams lined up and congratulated one another. When the applause quieted down to a dull hum, all that was left were handshakes and smiles of brothers working together.

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Freshman Chandler Berlin carries the puck down the rink. Each fraternity was able to recruit enough capable members to play a quality hockey match.

A brother sports the special jersey made for the Cancer Classic. Each player wore a jersey for the game, regardless of the amount of time they spent on the ice.





Members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon cheer their brothers on the ice. Several sororities were also in the stands to support the second annual Puck Off Cancer Classic.

APO makes weekly rounds to help residents in need

conversations **with** strangers

Three times a week, a small group of Alpha Phi Omega members make the trip. Every Tuesday and Wednesday, five volunteers from the co-ed fraternity drive to 430 N. Larch St., home to Volunteers of America in Lansing. After being buzzed in through the front door, the group walks down a hallway into the main kitchen. There, they spend a few hours preparing to serve more than 100 Lansing community members in need of a hot meal. On Friday, the doors of Volunteers of America open at noon for distribution, and Alpha Phi Omega (APO) volunteers serve the lunch they spent two days preparing.

Juniors Jessie Plamp and Jennifer Hollen stood behind a table with large tubs of salad, blue cheese dressing and coleslaw. Adorned in hairnets and clear plastic gloves, the two women were no strangers to the Friday lunch service. Both Plamp and Hollen visited the Lansing soup kitchen since spring 2012. For the past two years, Plamp engaged in conversations with the homeless she assisted ranging in topics from mismanagement of MSU facilities to the meaning of life.

"The very first time we came to serve food, we got a request to sing the MSU fight song," Plamp laughed. "So we did! We sang the fight song for everyone."

Meals vary each week; some Friday menus include chicken, hamburgers with soup or another side and a dessert. On April 4, sloppy joes, salad with bleu cheese dressing, crackers, chicken noodle soup and lucky charms snacks graced trays. The long hallway into the soup kitchen held a savory smelled and rang loud with chatter.

For the volunteers who work with Volunteers of America staff on prep days, getting ready for Friday's lunch service is a social event. One week, Plamp and her fellow fraternity members even had time to invent a new food coined "the heart attack." It's made of chicken drizzled with pepperoni and taco sauce, glazed in butter and brown sugar-marinated bacon.

When the volunteers aren't behind an industrial-sized stove, they're meeting new people across the counter on serving days.

"One time," Hollen described, "there was a kid that came up to us saying his mom took away his dessert. He kept coming back up to us saying his mom kept taking it away, and we'd amuse him by giving him more, even though we were in on it."

For members of APO, a fraternity requiring 23 hours of service per semester, having a passion to help others is mandatory. Alumnus Luke Gray, an APO advisor, loves the fraternity so much, he still makes it to every weekly meeting. One of the best parts about being in a service fraternity, Gray explained, was that it brought along a warm, fuzzy feeling from doing community service.

"In general, service groups have that aspect because you get a positive feeling and you're doing it with friends," Gray said. "We have a coat of arms and songs we play at every conference, so you're plugging into something bigger than a group of people."

The service fraternity, which was started in 1925 and brought to MSU in 1935, has a history of aiding people in need on and off campus. On March 28, APO brought its members to Relay for Life, an overnight walk to raise money for individuals diagnosed with cancer. Members like senior Bria Kamden found the 12-hour fundraising event to be one of the best bonding experiences with her fraternity brothers and sisters.

"We've been one of the top MSU teams for Relay for Life," Kamden explained. "I've always found that touching. I just came back from an event at Friendship Manor where we sit down and play bingo with senior citizens. You can just see their faces brightening when they see us, and they love having us there."

When dishing up bowls of hot soup, having conversations about the meaning of life with strangers, or finding a way to invent a new culinary masterpiece, APO members found a way to combine having a good time with friends and positively impacting the community — bringing people together and opening up new channels of dialogue that might not have existed otherwise.



ALPHA PHI OMEGA

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



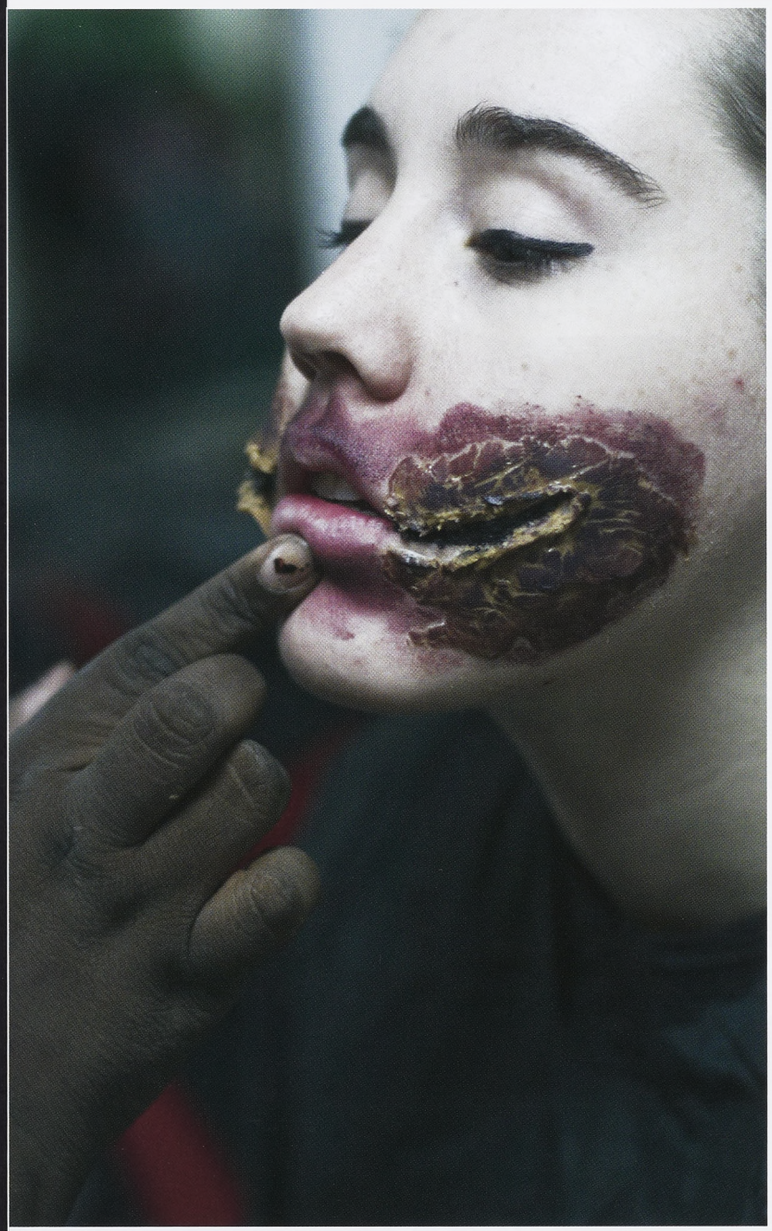


Sophomore Kristin Reister, junior Carmen Hillier and sophomore Farren Rodrigues laugh as they prepare to serve food. Volunteers were invited to help with preparation, serving and cleanup.

A student ladles soup into a bowl for a visitor. Volunteers of America has offered a wide range of services since 1896, and food is just one of those resources.

A tray of food rests on the table in the cafeteria. Visitors to the soup kitchen were offered sloppy joes, soup, salad, coleslaw and a cereal bar.






Surface


EXIT



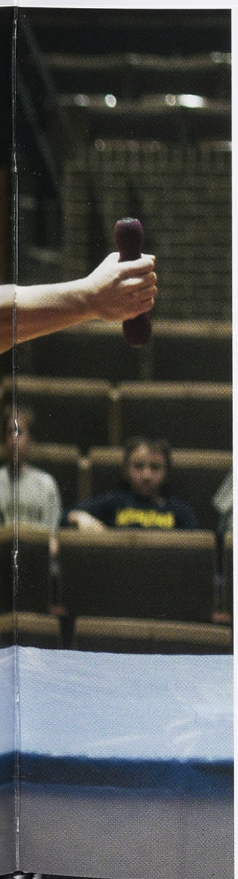


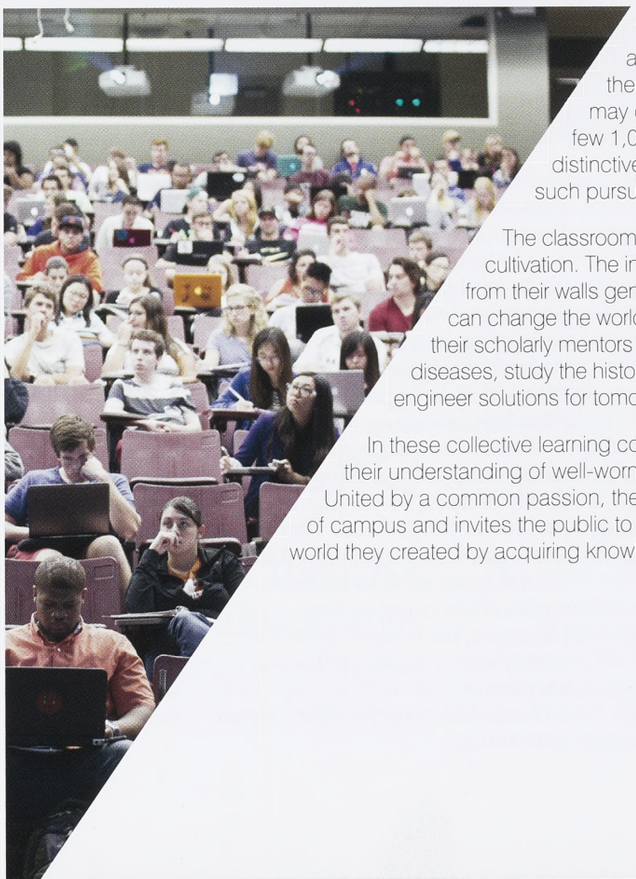






colleges





With over 150 undergraduate majors and countless extensions beyond, there is no limit to the paths Spartans may choose. Among the 5,200 acres, a few 1,000-square-foot buildings housing distinctive colleges are set aside specially for such pursuits.

The classrooms within those buildings allow for cultivation. The ingenuity and creativity reverberating from their walls generate an energy so powerful it can change the world. Here, ever-molding minds join their scholarly mentors to develop treatments for zoonotic diseases, study the history of international governments, and engineer solutions for tomorrow's dilemmas.

In these collective learning communities, students expand not only their understanding of well-worn textbooks but also of themselves. United by a common passion, their force radiates beyond the bounds of campus and invites the public to share in the unparalleled view of the world they created by acquiring knowledge.

NATALIE KOZMA TYPE
STEPH PICKARD PHOTO
CHLOE FOSTER DESIGN

college of agriculture & natural resources





Junior Dhruv Alexander grimaces as he experiences the salty flavors of Vegemite for the first time. Vegemite is a popular Australian spread that consists of leftover brewer's yeast extracts with vegetable and spice additives.

Brody Down Under hosts man their table as students hungry for a taste of Aussie culture stop by. In addition to the assortment of Australian-inspired foods available throughout the cafeteria, students were able to sample common foodie phrases from the country.

Dietetic students bring Australia to Brody Square

Senior Amy Barton helped show students the extensive contrast between Australian and American culture on Nov. 7 with Brody Down Under, hosted by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

For the event, Barton and fellow senior dietetic majors Esha Fletcher, Leah Michele, Lydia Quella and Marshall Salzemnieks joined forces with the culinary staff of Brody Square to educate Spartans about Australia — Barton's homeland.

"Americans don't really understand my lingo, and I noticed through my years here they don't know much about Australia. I hope this event helps people become culturally aware and make them want to explore other countries," said Barton, dressed in a kangaroo onesie costume.

To bridge the language gap, pamphlets were placed on the cafeteria tables listing translated Australian phrases, such as "Brekkie," or breakfast, and "Tucker," meaning food.

Brody Down Under featured tucker straight from Barton's family recipes. Meals like meat pie, aussie burgers and bacon and egg pizza were offered to the ravenous mob of students anxiously waiting in line. However, most were drawn to savory desserts like pavlova, a meringue cake with a crisp crust and soft, sweet marshmallow center.

"An Australian theme is very out-of-the-box," said Quella. "We had issues with getting the right ingredients for recipes to truly be authentic. We worked with what we could. I think this will at least intrigue people to want to learn more."

Quella also contacted Potter Park Zoo, who volunteered to bring Australian reptiles, like the inland bearded dragon, for students to pet as they gained insight about Australian wildlife.

"We have a huge representation of different cultures at MSU," said Salzemnieks. "It is nice to give international students the chance to have a taste of home and share it with the new friends they've made."

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Junior Mary Dilworth foreshadows the intimidation and gore the Haunted Aud has to offer. A majority of the proceeds funded senior performances as well as student initiatives and organizations within the college.

college of arts & letters

Department of Theatre's Haunted Auditorium is frightening spectacle of carnage

Mary Dilworth sat patiently in her chair, eyes closed as costume makeup was applied. A pint-size jar of crimson liquid sat on the counter in front of her. Opening her eyes, she smiled, gazing on at her horrifying visage. Large scars on each side of her mouth and dribbles of red down her chin complimented her torn ringmaster's costume. And to think, if she was this scary with the lights on, she would be even more terrifying with them off.

Oct. 2013 marked the fifth production of the theatre department's Haunted Auditorium. As a ritual arranged by selected juniors, the Haunted Aud. raises funds for graduating seniors.

"Some of the money from Haunted Aud. is put aside for next year's show, but most of it goes to graduating seniors to travel and perform showcases," junior Josh Whitson explained.

Whitson was one of the two selected juniors in charge of everything from creating the theme of this year's Haunted Aud., which was "carnage," to perfecting the placement of the very last animatronic clown. An enormous amount of collaboration from everyone involved is required to make the elaborate production a success.

"We really just pull with what we have," junior Melissa Mercieca explained as she powdered her face for her performance as a ballerina. "Old props and materials students have at home are used for the production of Haunted Aud. every year."

The students also had the guidance of associate professor Robert Roznowski, who proudly oversaw the hard work invested into the production.

"Watching students explore their craft in intensive training is the most gratifying job one could ask for," Roznowski explained. "To see students achieve their potential or surpass their own expectations is an amazing perk."

As adrenaline-seeking students entered the Haunted Aud., they were greeted by the ringmaster. Standing in the middle of the room on what appeared to be a slowly spinning circular platform, this horrifying figure cracked her whip, sending echoes of maniacal cackling and terrified screams bouncing from the walls. Shrouded in darkness and costume makeup, it was difficult to distinguish the faces of Dilworth and other familiar theatre students that sent fearful imaginations running wild through the darkness of the night.

ERIC SCHWARTZ TYPE
LUKE PIOTROWSKI PHOTO
ALEXANDER CYR DESIGN



college of communication arts & sciences

Out of the Box team practices charity through creativity



Senior Carter Ellwood chimes in during a meeting prior to the group's trip to SXSW. Ellwood's focus was media and information, but all members helped with tasks outside their areas of expertise.

Students in Out of the Box meet to discuss details of their project. The group regularly films its meetings and posts the videos to social media accounts to allow other students, and the organizations they assist, to track their progress.

What was supposed to be a 72-mile outing turned into a 1402-mile journey. The Out of the Box team, a new division within the Media Sandbox, came back from ArtPrize in Grand Rapids with a new idea: travel to five cities and share their knowledge of social media, marketing and design to enhance the image of non-profit organizations across the country.

In March, seven of the team's 10 members boarded a mini-van headed for Austin, Texas. Their destination was the South by Southwest (SXSW) Interactive Festival, a hub for creatives to come together over emerging technologies and network with other professionals in the field of media. The group decided to enact their idea to endorse charities along their route.

"It's a way to highlight wonderful organizations," senior and Out of the Box member Carter Ellwood said. "Also, it's a way to show our talents through helping others."

The Media Sandbox program integrates students of all majors within the College of Communication Arts and Sciences including advertising, media and information and journalism. The program serves to establish a creative community for the college's students to share their talents for the common good.

The team has already made a difference for the Georgia Street Community Collective, a non-profit organization in Detroit. The program provides services ranging from urban farming to hot meals.

While the non-profit accepted the team's physical labor, it was their digital talents that helped the organization improve most.

"We noticed right away how old and out of date their website was," senior Reid Masimore said. "Immediately, we wanted to help them make their site fresh and clean."

The other cities that the team visited on the journey to see how creativity connects groups of people included Indianapolis, Nashville, Memphis and Dallas. Similar to the Out of the Box mission is the college's goal: to unite students with a wide range of abilities.

As junior and Out of the Box participant Amber Taylor said, "People from all different backgrounds with different talents can come together, work, grow and learn to make a difference that you never thought you could."

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Professor Rebecca Jacobsen quickly writes out notes about analyzing economic benefits of urban planning during a lecture. Professor Jacobsen's background is in public opinion and its impact on education policy.

college of education

Six MSU educators make list of top 200 most influential professors

The graduate programs in elementary and secondary education at MSU have been ranked number one in the nation for 19 years in a row. So what makes this year different from the other 19? Recognition for the builders of this well-established foundation: an outstanding staff of professors.

A ranking of the top 200 education scholars produced by Education Week in January 2014 included MSU professors William Schmidt, Donald Heller, Barbara Schneider, Gary Sykes, Rebecca Jacobsen and Sarah Reckhow. MSU Education Policy Center Co-Director William Schmidt shared how it felt to be ranked number 58 on the list.

"As an academic who recently had the opportunity to bring the knowledge to a public policy and to influence the public education policy in this country, it's kind of nice to see that recognition," Schmidt said, "because it means that what I have studied and what I bring to the table is appreciated and influencing people."

Hoping to learn from the dedication and devotion shown by each of her professors, junior Emma Flynn, an aspiring secondary history teacher, is glad to be part of the College of Education.

"Knowing that I am receiving the best education I can possibly receive is an absolutely amazing feeling," said Flynn, "I can only hope to one day match the amount of excellence my professors pass down to me."

It is a common goal among educators to inspire their students in ways that will influence them for the rest of their lives. Passionately discussing her favorite parts of teaching, Rebecca Jacobsen, assistant professor of teacher education, said there are many ways to promote positive change as instructors and academics.

"Too often, great research never makes it into the hands of those shaping the ways schools are run and the way kids are taught each day," said Jacobsen. "Being influential means we need to both listen beyond our campus and also then reach back out and share what we've learned."

NATALIE KOZMA TYPE
JOHN FLUCK PHOTO
ALEXANDER CYR DESIGN

college of business

Supply chain management program snags another No.1 ranking



Students are packed into N130 in the Business College Complex for Introduction to Supply Chain Management. Professor Bixby Cooper is one of the longest-serving professors in the supply chain program.

Spartans do not need validation for their MSU pride, but it doesn't hurt to have a program ranked No.1 in the country. For the third consecutive year, "U.S. News & World Report" ranked the MSU Broad College of Business No.1 in the country for supply chain management education, adding another bullet point to students' list of bragging rights.

However, the true success of the program according to senior Blake Malburg, supply chain management association president, is derived from the faculty.

"I try to beat it home to other students that we have done very little to achieve the ranking," said Malburg. "I think it is great to be proud of it, but we have to take a step back and realize who we need to give credit to."

Malburg expressed his gratitude toward faculty like John G. Fitch, the director of corporate and student relations for the supply chain management department, for sharing their wealth of knowledge. Although Fitch joked that he had nothing to do with the ranking, his personable teaching style enables students to excel in the program.

"I talk to students a lot of the time when they have personal issues. Some students refer to me as Uncle John. That is the kind of relationship that develops with students in the program," said Fitch.

The program is equipped with other key faculty members like Dr. David Closs, a supply chain professor and the John H. McConnell chair in business administration. Closs gave credit to the entire faculty for designing a curriculum that includes all facets of supply chain management.

"It was historically challenging to get the broad and balanced perspective," explained Closs. "Hopefully we will be able to maintain it. It is not going to be something easy for other schools to duplicate."



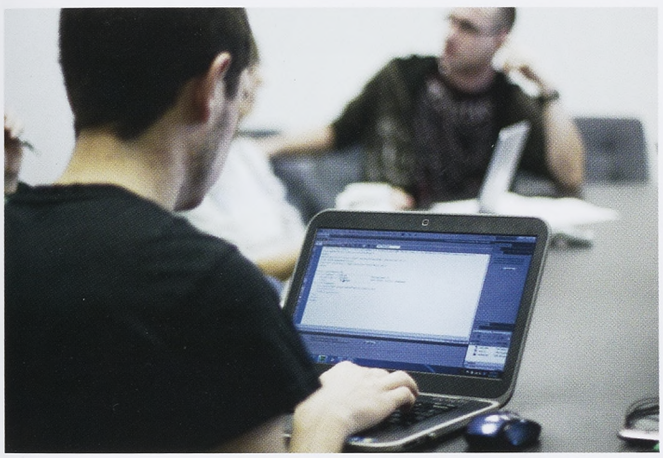
Professor Bixby Cooper writes down answers to a homework assignment during his supply chain management lecture. Cooper began his tenure as a professor at the Eli Broad College of Business in 1980.

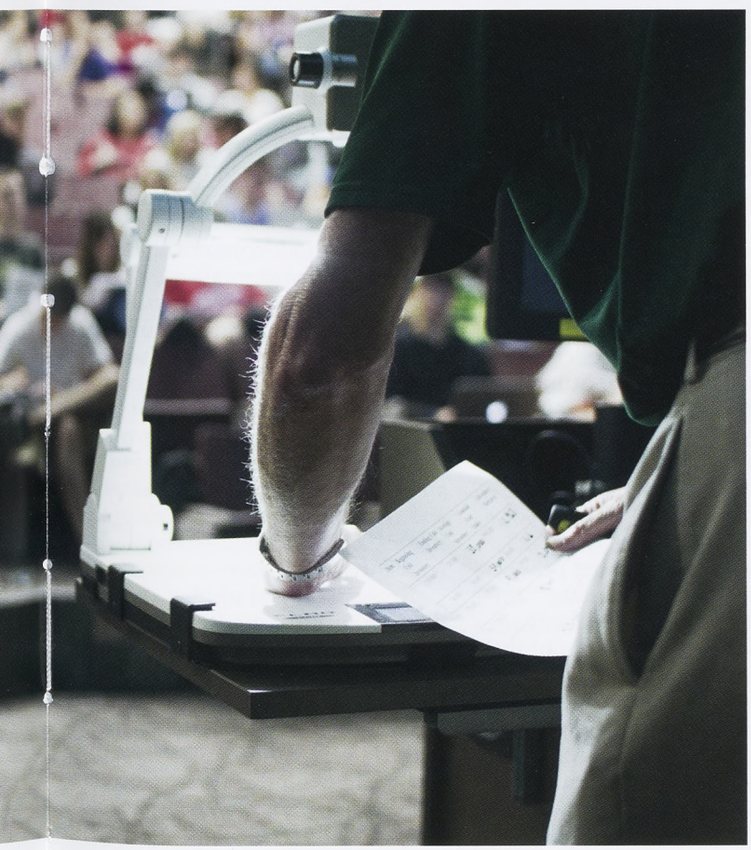
TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

college of engineering

Ford grant enables high school students to learn programming

Freshman Ryan Christiansen writes code during a meeting for the Ford Community Challenge grant. Students used the grant to create a 12-week program, which was implemented in local high schools during the spring 2014 semester.





Engineers have a major impact on the world. They create the materials, technologies, chemicals and software used in everyday life. Senior Kaitlin Davis, a computer science major, was not content with waiting until after graduation to make this positive change in the community.

Davis created a proposal for the 2013 Ford College Community Challenge, which funds select student-initiated community service projects. The proposal was a semifinalist, making MSU one of nine schools in the country to receive a $25,000 grant.

Davis' proposal included creating a 12-week program for high school students to teach them how to code. Through the course, students will not only learn the computer software language but also apply their new knowledge to program an energy efficiency application.

"Energy efficiency came up in discussion, since the topic for the Ford College Community Challenge was building sustainable communities," Davis said. "But we also wanted to tackle the rising energy problem. Most problems in the world are from a lack of resources, so we're addressing that using software."

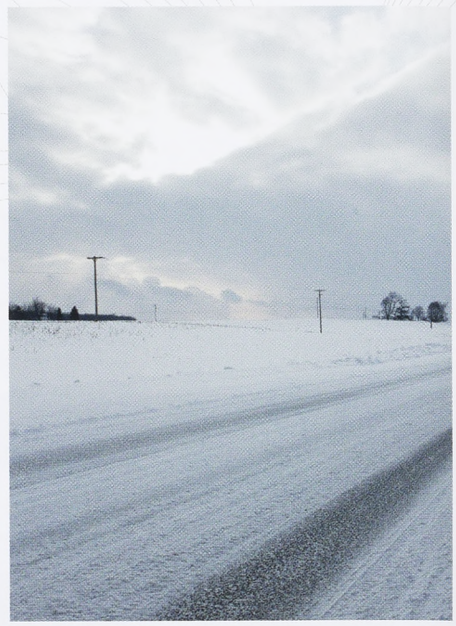
Computer Science professor Laura Dillion stressed that one of the program's main objectives is to prepare and inform students for careers in the programming fields.

"Our underlying goal for the whole project is to expose high school students to what they can do with computing before they get to the college level and get them interested in possibly majoring in computing," Dillion said.

As these high schoolers prepare to further their education, members of the College of Engineering like Dean Leo Campbell hope students do more than simply learn their craft.

"What we want is for the role of education to not only be to learn skills for the marketplace, but also to learn the skills to be a better citizen for the future."

ERIC SCHWARTZ TYPE
LUKE PIOTROWSKI PHOTO
PATTY SZCZEPANSKI DESIGN



Sunshine illuminates a snowy back road in DeWitt. Students traveled several miles on a winter day to attend the fireside chat hosted by the Honors College.

honors college

Faculty members host nights of dining and conversation



Capt. Art Slayton and Lt. Col. Bill Parker talk with students during an Honors College Fireside Chat. The evening's conversation centered around leadership and how students can improve such skills in themselves.

As soon as Lt. Col. Keith Keana opened the door to his home, the comforting aroma of a home-cooked meal and heat radiating from the register overcame students. After small talk over hors d'oeuvres, the warmth of the surrounding atmosphere made its way to the 12 strangers who began to engage in deep conversation.

These gatherings, called Fireside Chats, were created nearly two decades ago to connect first-year Honors College students and faculty in an informal setting. Often conducted in professors' homes, discussions revolve around topics not normally explored in the classroom, like making a difference in the community.

"This program really highlights the individualized attention that students receive here at the Honors College," Graduate Assistant for Student Affairs Administration Jessica Mestre said.

During the Feb. 9 chat, the focus was leadership. Keana, commander of the Air Force ROTC on campus, opened his home to six students and other faculty members to discuss traits needed to be an effective leader. Keana is a graduate of the Honors College at the University of Oregon and said that the opportunity to host fellow scholars was impossible to pass up.

"Here's a chance to learn about leadership from a different viewpoint other than academia, but rather from those in military backgrounds," Keana said.

Keana gave an example of a time when his leadership was tested in Iraq in 2008 and 2009. He was instructing a soldier who was under his rank, and the soldier would not follow through with Keana's commands. After effectively adjusting his method of communication with his comrade, Keana realized that there is a fine line between managing and leading others.

This topic of leading and serving for the nation continued to develop with freshman Air Force ROTC Cadet Grant Kunzi. At the chat, Kunzi mentioned how communication and leading by example was something he sees with his professors in the Honors College and in ROTC. The connection of honors and military curricula made it simple for Kunzi to participate in the conversation.

"I saw this opportunity to amplify my experience in college and continue to pursue levels of success I had before attending MSU," Kunzi said.

Keana wrapped up the discussion by asking, "Is a leader born or made?" His answer was both — everyone is born with drive. However, the leadership skills that stem from that drive develops with time, whether it's on the battlefield or in the classroom.

TYPE SOMEONE ELSE
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Senior Chris Bourgandis and the RCMUN Coordinator, junior Mary Connolly, smile happily as they hand off a certificate and gavel to a middle school delegate. The highest performing students were recognized for excellence within their committees during the closing ceremonies.

james madison

Students run annual Model United Nations Program

How would the world respond if a deadly disease broke out in the Midwestern United States? What if hundreds were stuck on Interstate 94 between Chicago and Kalamazoo, Mich. as army helicopters escorted the uninfected to quarantined facilities?

Such perilous quandaries were posed to middle and high school students at the Red Cedar Model United Nations conference. Held in the Business College Complex on Feb. 15, the event encouraged future leaders to debate numerous world issues including animal ethics, disease outbreaks and standardized testing. They also considered past decisions such as the founding of the United States and the World War II Peace Conferences. The program, hosted by James Madison College, introduced adolescents to world policy and gave them experience in handling high-pressure situations.

"In our time we've gone through several scares, which when I was younger made me a little bit jittery. I think the fact they're talking about it now, or aware of it, if something like this happens, they might be able to keep their cool," said senior Louis Michael, who presented new hypothetical crises to the student committee.

Junior Kristi Schmidt, who attended Model UN conferences while she was in high school, came full circle with this event. As one of the student leaders heading the education committee, she encouraged students to think creatively.

"This is the middle school level so it's a lot more lofty ideals and less specifics. But I'm really impressed with the amount of debate we've gotten, especially since this is a smaller committee," said Schmidt.

The conference provided MSU students an opportunity to explore their studies by creating dynamic challenges for the visiting students to partake in.

"Every year when we hire our staff, they're given the challenge of coming up with these topics," said junior and leader of the conference Mary Connolly. "It gives them a chance to further explore what they're studying and to hone in on what they're interested in."

In the future, these students could be senators, leaders of the world's largest corporations or mayors of local cities. But for now, mentors in James Madison ushered them around the business college and through global issues, hoping to inspire them and open their minds to a world that always needs remodeling.

GINA JUAREZ TYPE
JORDON CRIMMINS PHOTO
ALEXANDER CYR DESIGN

lyman briggs college

Students gather for scientific pumpkin carving

Of the 118 elements on the periodic table, 92 are found on Earth in their natural form. The rest, called synthetic elements, are a product of nuclear reactors or particle accelerators and were discovered or created in various ways. Einsteinium and fermium are an example of this, as they were discovered by a team of scientists studying radioactive debris from the detonation of the first hydrogen bomb.

On Oct. 29, students of the Lyman Briggs residential college took a different approach to creating elements. Holmes Hall resident assistants partnered with Residence Education and Housing Services to host a pumpkin carving bash. After the careful removal of gooey guts and seeds, participants etched chemical symbols into the ribbed exterior of 98 regular pumpkins, supplied by Culinary Services, to form the periodic table of elements.

"I love events like this," said Assistant Community Director and graduate student Lora DiBlasi as she clung to a handful of stringy innards. "It allows students to engage in community building activities, which is really essential in order to maintain a peaceful, happy place of residence."

After all elements were carved, the pumpkins were stacked by atomic number and displayed in the front lobby of Holmes Hall. Illuminated by candles, each element shone as bright as noble gases in neon signs, demanding the attention of passersby.

Kent Workman, complex director of Holmes Hall watched the table take shape.

"Bringing everyone together to do events for upcoming holidays like this is important," said Workman. "If it's a tradition at home, being at school shouldn't stop that."

After hours of gutting and carving, students were finally able to appreciate the resulting masterpiece.

"I love the fact that we're celebrating Halloween nerdy style," said Briggs sophomore Clare Laut. "It's definitely fitting and will most likely be appreciated by all Briggsies."

Despite being too old to go trick-or-treating, Lyman Briggs students were able to engage in Halloween celebrations with their own twist. Instead of spending the evening in the library taking notes or flipping through textbook pages, students took a trip back to their childhoods, carving pumpkins and bonding with hallmates while still sticking to science.



Pumpkins line a table in a classroom in Holmes Hall. Lyman Briggs students aimed to carve one pumpkin for every element on the periodic table.

TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Professors of Jazz member Etienne Charles plays into the microphone for a crowd of students, alumni and jazz enthusiasts. The Professors of Jazz are members of the university jazz faculty.

college of music

Professors of Jazz treat listeners to passionate performance

On Aug. 28, the Wharton Center was alive with hundreds of enthralled individuals awaiting a night of lively jazz music, performed by none other than the MSU Professors of Jazz. The six band members, who teach a variety of jazz courses, represented the College of Music.

"It's something we do to inspire our jazz studies majors," said Director of Jazz Studies and bassist Rodney Whitaker, of the group's early semester show.

The concert was not only for students in jazz studies — anyone interested in snapping fingers to a bass pluck or tapping feet to a trumpet blare was welcome.

"I love seeing the Professors of Jazz perform," said sophomore John Walker. "The drummer is awesome. They're all so talented."

The passion that each of the professors have for what they do was apparent as they played their set. The six professors spent two hours smiling through their instruments, playing straight from the soul, and transforming the Wharton Center into a street corner in downtown New Orleans.

The addition of vocalist Mardra Thomas to four of the songs was an energizing element of the night. Thomas introduced one of the songs as a "song that can only be described in two words: buh-lues," and showed the group's commitment to variety in their program.

"Music transcends everything," said Whitaker after the show. "We're all each other's brothers and sisters, and if you don't wanna be a part of that, you can't play jazz."



Rodney Whitaker performs at the Wharton Center with fellow jazz musicians. Whitaker is the director of the Jazz Studies program and part of the MSU Professors of Jazz, which puts on free concerts for students throughout the year.

ERIC SCHWARTZ TYPE
STEPH PICKARD PHOTO
ALEXANDER CYR DESIGN



Senior Patrick Morgan presents the outcome of his experiment. Morgan combined hydrogen peroxide with green food dye, soap and a potassium iodide catalyst to create a colorful reaction.

college of natural science

Science Theatre transforms the classroom into a stage

As soon as a VHS tape of "Bill Nye the Science Guy" started playing, the tweens began tapping on their cell phones. Learning about angular momentum and chemical reactions didn't interest them. Then, a group of Spartan scientists arrived, transforming the classroom filled with unimpressed students into a laboratory of active learners.

MSU Science Theatre, a science education outreach program within the College of Natural Science (CNS), completed its 23rd year of wowing students from elementary to high schools with live demonstrations. Science Theatre incorporates several fields of scientific study including chemistry, physics, astronomy and biology, in hopes of inspiring young students to pursue one or more of those subjects.

For senior Patrick Morgan, the Science Theatre student physics director, seeing audiences engaged in his performances has been the most fulfilling part of his time with the group.

"There's always one kid that lights up and you know you just changed his or her life and made them that much more interested in science," Morgan said.

On Feb. 20, Science Theatre visited Kinawa Middle School in Okemos, participating in the school's student science fair. Kinawa is just one of approximately 100 schools that the group visits annually, performing for about 50 students each show.

"By getting our name out to so many different elementary, middle and high schools, we've been able to leave a positive mark on so many students and show them that working in science is both interesting and rewarding," said junior and Science Theatre performer David Pastula.

Preparing show material is one of the easiest tasks for performers. They are able to apply concepts learned in lectures to real world situations — something the CNS curriculum strives to accomplish.

"Understanding concepts helps you answer questions with other than an 'I don't know' for the younger students," commented Cody Tanis, senior and Science Theatre president. Tanis added that half of the material used in physics shows comes from his classes.

The audience of middle school students, eyes filled with wonder, watched hydrogen peroxide and dish soap make mountains of colorful foam, and saw a dollar bill soaked in methanol and water remain intact despite efforts to set it ablaze. Through these experiments, Science Theatre performers hoped to intice some of the students before them to become Spartan scientists themselves.

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

college of nursing

"Moving Forward" publication wins ADDY award

Not all awards ceremonies include lavish walks along red carpets and incessant camera flashes. Though ADDY award recipients weren't the subject of extensive television coverage, their innovative approaches to advertising did not go unnoticed. With its publication "Moving Forward," the College of Nursing earned a Merit Award in the Mid-Michigan American Advertising Awards, one tier of the American Advertising Federation's national ADDY Awards competition.

The award-winning magazine commemorates advancements within the college and highlights nursing students' successes, according to Jill Vondrasek, marketing and communications director for the College of Nursing.

"It was time to bring back an annual publication that encapsulated the story of our nursing students, researchers, practice, partnerships and alumni," said Vondrasek. "It was time to make our constituents aware of these achievements and tell the nursing story."

Student contributions to the magazine included content, web editing, page design and photography, all of which Vondrasek applauds.

"It would be great to get our students recognized for the great work they contribute to our success," Vondrasek said. "What we do would not be possible without their talents."

Food industry management senior Lauren Moore was a key contributor to the project, and the experience helped her determine what she wanted to do in the future.

"I love my job here at the college, and this was another way to help out and expand my skills and knowledge base," said Moore. "I now know that I want to pursue a career in marketing and communications, and it is all thanks to my position, projects such as this, and the great people here at the college."

Moore interviewed a number of college representatives for the magazine including senior Tia Sharp, a student in the Achieving Culturally Competent Education and Student Success Program (ACCESS). ACCESS provides financial and education support, which includes a summer transition program, tutoring, and stipends for students in the program.

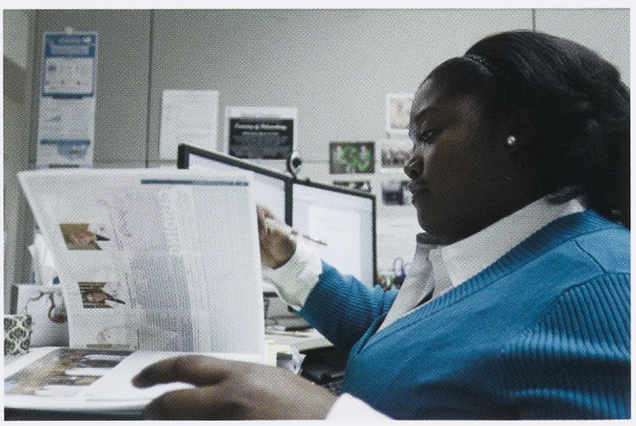
"(Moore) asked me about my dreams and goals, and I felt that she personally cared about what I had to say," Sharp said. "I felt heard, and as a result, I was able to be open with her about my experience with ACCESS."

Though they might not be discussed at water coolers across America, ADDY award winners in the College of Nursing continue to strive for excellence and push the boundaries of advertising and design.

Senior Lauren Moore reviews the upcoming version of "Moving Forward." Moore makes revisions on a printed copy of the magazine before the final version is released.

Sophomore Shayna Gross works on a photo for a feature issue. Gross ensures that photos and other design content cohesively integrate into the publication's design.





ASHLEY WEIGEL TYPE
LUKE PIOTROWSKI PHOTO
PATTY SZCZEPANSKI DESIGN

college of osteopathic medicine

MSU Joy Initiative relieves medical students' tensions





Dr. Miko Rose and Dr. Alyse Ley discuss their role in the Joy Initiative. The Joy Initiative is a program through the College of Osteopathic Medicine that gives students a platform to discuss issues and learn to manage stress associated with being a medical student.

Colossal, heavy textbooks. Tedious labs and grueling exams. These are just a few of the pressures plaguing students within the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The stress of balancing school work with their personal lives can break the spirits of even the most positive medical student. In response, the college started the Joy Initiative in February 2012, a program to help relieve students' current anxieties as well as teach new ways of coping with stress in the future.

Psychiatry resident Dr. Miko Rose started the program, originally a 10-week elective research project. With grant money and support from her supervisor, Dr. Alyse Ley, the initiative now holds monthly focus group dinners aimed at assisting minority students in navigating the long and winding pathways of medical school.

"They were excited that the focus was solving problems," said Dr. Rose of the students in the program. "It's giving people a voice on a platform where they know they will be heard."

With topics ranging from overcoming challenges of race to dealing with sexual orientation issues, the dinners are a response to requests from students who felt others could benefit from open discussions.

"Students who have attended previous sessions have talked about how good it was to hear that some of the experiences that they have had at MSUCOM were shared by many of their classmates," said student coordinator and second year COM student James Dodge.

Dr. Celia Guro, a sponsor of the program, got involved because of her belief in its success.

"The Joy Initiative has been extremely helpful to all students who have participated," Dr. Guro explained. "The feedback to me has been excellent. The students are using the techniques taught by Dr. Rose and her colleagues."

A 2012 survey by Mayo Clinic found that nearly half of all American doctors are experiencing occupation-related burnout stress. COM representatives hope that with techniques learned through the Joy Initiative, students will be better equipped for the demands of managing a practice and caring for patients after graduation. Simple strategies like meditation and deep breathing can put medical students on the path toward a more relaxed lifestyle.

TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

residential college of arts & humanities

RCAH premiers Wednesday Night Live artist lecture series

Some students braved the frigid weather to thank an individual who changed the way people viewed their hometown. Others came to see what it takes to make it in the film industry. Nationally recognized presenters, who have made appearances in TED talks and popular entertainment venues, talked to members of the Residential College of Arts & Humanities (RCAH) in the convenience of the intimate 132-seat RCAH Theater, giving students a glimpse into their creative minds and humane hearts.

In it's inaugural year, the Wednesday Night Live (WNL) series aimed to give RCAH students the chance to interact with figures who have made a career in the arts or humanities.

On Jan. 22, Erik Ploux exposed the optimism of Detroit citizens' in regards to the city's future his short film, "Lemonade: Detroit."

Niki Rudolph, director of student affairs for RCAH, commented that the artists who visit feature multiple viewpoints on the subject of their work, pushing listeners to do the same.

"These artists, like Erik, are using their art for community engagement and developmental projects," Rudolph said. "Showing that life is interdisciplinary and the work that these people do is what we want our students to do and combine the arts and humanities interests as a part of their daily lives."

Some of these lecturers have even taught RCAH classes. Freshman Trevor Daniels said that the Stratford Players and the Second City acting troupes visited one of his classes to discuss the study and process of acting.

"There have been a lot of ideas put forth from the WNL programs that we're able to extrapolate and apply in the classroom," Daniels said. "It is truly a visual representation of what RCAH is really about."

The program has been such a success that faculty have implemented a degree requirement that students must attend 12 WNL lectures before they graduate. For freshman Ben DeHart, Ploux's presentation marked his fourth attended in his first year alone.

"This is a time when we can see the theory of everything we're learning actualized," DeHart said. "Whether it's acting with the Second City or in the field of civics and education with John Hunter, these WNL performances have solidified my decision to continue my studies within RCAH."



Students lean in as Erik Pruolx answers questions regarding his documentary about Detroit. RCAH is involved in many public works projects in urban areas like Lansing and Detroit.

NATALIE KOZMA TYPE
LUKE PIOTROWSKI PHOTO
CHLOE FOSTER DESIGN



Former press secretary Elizabeth Boyd shares her expertise with students in the MGSP this semester. Boyd answered questions about her work experiences and gave students advice to progress their own careers.

college of social science

Michigan Government Semester Program students trade classroom for Capitol

What happens behind closed doors of the Michigan State Capitol remains a mystery to most, but some are fortunate enough to be part of the exclusive inner circle - like the Spartans in the Michigan Government Semester Program (MGSP).

Created in 2013, MGSP is a fresh, untapped option for junior and senior political science majors who have a special interest in Michigan politics. The program includes two four-credit classes held in the Capitol building and an internship related to politics worth six credits.

"Our objective was to give students the opportunity to immerse themselves in Michigan government politics, so what we decided to do was get them involved in the real practical world of it and what goes on in the state Capitol," said Charles Matzke, program instructor. "We wanted to enhance the environment and expose students to as many prominent Michigan government professionals as possible."

To achieve this, one of the program's required courses invites weekly guest speakers from Michigan government and politics to come and share their expertise.

"In a normal classroom setting, you may get one prominent speaker for the whole semester, and if you want to you can hide," said senior Justin Huffman. "In the MGSP, you have a prominent speaker every class session in a room of 15 students, so there is no hiding and you have to be on your A-game."

According to junior Matt Brady, the speaker highlights for the semester were Elizabeth Boyd, press secretary for former Governor Granholm, and Dennis Muchmore, chief of staff for Governor Snyder. Brady was most impressed by Muchmore's honest feedback when he boldly asked the politician about a recent scandal.

"It was unbelievable how calm he was in his response," said Brady. "He was kind of like 'haters gonna hate.' That's the biggest concept I have taken away."

But there is a huge distinction between listening to politics and actually working in it. When describing his internship at the Capitol, Brady stated that no amount of textbook regurgitation or practical writing course could have given him the same learning experience.

Today, an intern. Tomorrow, a governor? By trading the traditional classroom structure for seats in the Capitol, MGSP students are given a glimpse of what their futures could hold. Working alongside politicians, rather than just watching them through the media, students learn how to distinguish truths from myths.

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

A silver tabby cat curiously observes visitors to the shelter. After learning about operations from a representative, students were invited to tour the shelter and meet the animals.





Freshman Francine Barksdale holds a long-haired feline during the Vetward Bound visit to the shelter. A volunteer explained that the cats are kept in a room called Kitty Kingdom.

college of veterinary medicine

Vetward Bound students explore shelter medicine at Ingham County Animal Control

The dream to become a veterinarian is a noble one, but with only 28 American Veterinary Medical Association accredited schools in the country, the competition is fierce and the journey arduous. However, Spartans aren't easily discouraged, as proven by the 861 applications received by the College of Veterinary Medicine for the Class of 2017. A number of hopeful undergraduates are not alone; the Vetward Bound Program is helping them forge their way through the daunting and laborious process.

For 35 years, the Vetward Bound Program has helped students from educational, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds that are underrepresented in Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) programs be successful in their academic endeavors. The program provides mentoring, supplemental instruction in pre-vet courses and exposure to veterinary practices in a variety of disciplines.

"Vetward Bound is basically the only helping hand these students have," said senior Misty Harden, a peer advisor leader for Vetward Bound. "It may sound stupid, but many students don't know how to ask for help at a place like this. I know I didn't my freshman year."

On Feb. 7, a group of Vetward Bound students journeyed to Ingham County Animal Control to learn the ins and outs of shelter medicine. Outreach Coordinator Kari Storm chaperoned students on the tour, which ended with a playdate in Kitty Kingdom, a sanctuary of more than 20 lounging felines.

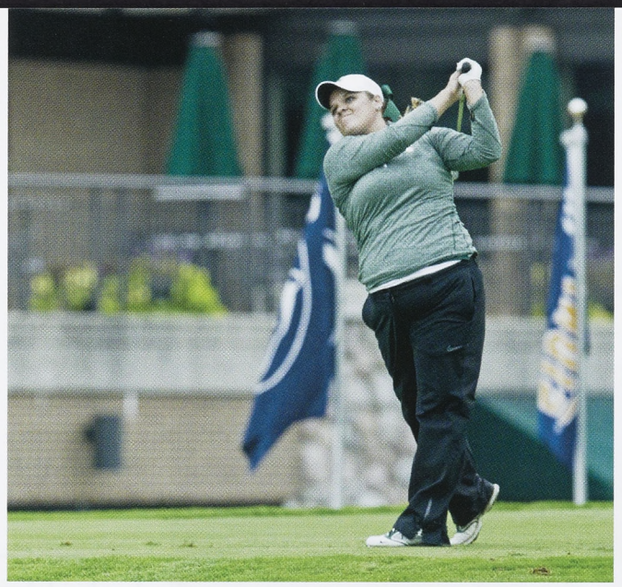
"The programs and workshops that Vetward Bound puts on are geared toward helping students see different areas and different aspects of the profession," said Storm. "There's a lot of students who want to be small animal veterinarians, so having opportunities to visit some of those areas gives them an idea if it'd be something they'd actually be interested in. It broadens their horizons."

Freshman Evan Carter expressed his gratitude for the program. He hoped the trip would help him decide whether to study zoo or shelter medicine.

"At the center, I saw for the first time the degree of help that shelter animals need and the need for people to help at shelters," said Carter. "Shelters really depend on volunteers, and this trip shows the positive impact people can have on helping animals that are either homeless, abused or abandoned."

For aspiring veterinarians, hands-on trips and supplemental support can help seal the envelope of an acceptance letter. And who says one cannot enjoy some quality time with wagging tails and purring kittens along the way?


SHUTTLE TO M
BERRY
27
15

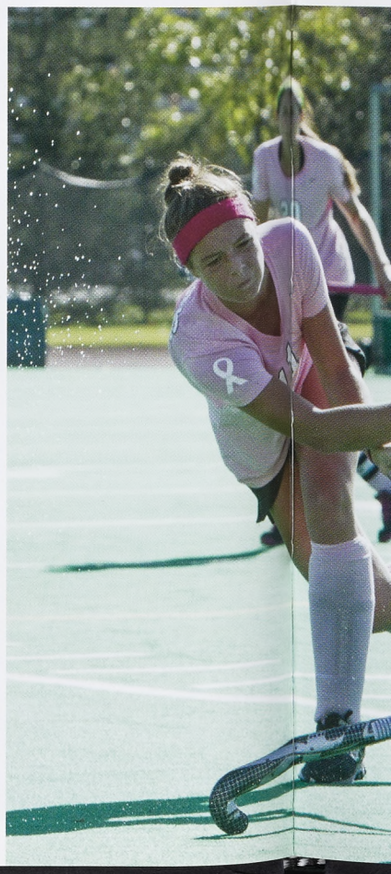



pepsi


MICHIGAN STATE
20




SPARTANS







varsity sports

As time marches on, history repeats itself. Today's Spartans are proof that the warriors who defend the Breslin Center, the Pavillion, and all sporting grounds between are as valiant and voracious as their namesakes from 900 B.C.

The proud men and women of Sparta were fiercely competitive in any physical challenge. Known by outsiders to speak their minds and value education, Spartans dominated every battlefield. Their love of contests — and all the prestige that comes with winning — inspired these brave combatants to travel to Olympia in search of honor.

Though the fields modern athletes compete on are vastly different, the spirit of the game remains unchanged. Trading helmets forged from welded bronze for those of molded polymers, athletes come to East Lansing from near and far to fight for the only colors: green and white. While pursuing their ambitions to become scientists, artists, historians, or other professionals, each revitalizes the creed that Spartans of long ago fought for.

They give their sweat, passion, courage and drive in the heat of the fray. As it has been for centuries and as it will always be, Spartans battle for their team, their titles and their pride. They battle for Sparta.

results

Ohio State	W, 7-6
Ohio State	L, 6-2
Ohio State	L, 1-0
Minnesota	L, 4-2
Minnesota	W, 15-0
Minnesota	W, 5-0
Eastern Michigan	W, 5-3
Oakland	W, 5-3
Lansing Lugnuts	L, 3-2
Siena	W, 4-0
Siena	W, 6-1
Siena	W, 5-1
Central Michigan	L, 10-1
Western Michigan	W, 11-3
Purdue	L, 5-3
Purdue	W, 7-6
Purdue	W, 2-1
Indiana	L, 7-0
Indiana	L, 4-1
Indiana	L, 2-1
Toledo	W, 4-2
Northwestern	W, 3-2



Sophomore Cam Gibson slides into home base safely against a Western Michigan catcher. Gibson plays outfield and contributed two hits in the game.

The enticing smell of hotdogs and popcorn wafted around McLane Baseball Stadium as the Spartans prepared to take on the Siena Saints. Students and families found their seats as the announcer's booming voice proclaimed that the game was about to start. As the third game of a weekend-long series, the Spartans wiped the beads of sweat off their foreheads, embraced the sunshine and got ready to play some ball.

After hits from senior Joel Fisher and junior Blaise Salter, the lights on the scoreboard displayed a 2-1 score in MSU's favor at the bottom of the sixth inning. Stepping up to the plate for the Spartans was junior Jimmy Pickens, who sought to widen the scoring gap. With runners on first and second base, Pickens took a crack at the first pitch, sending the ball soaring into the outfield and allowing three teammates to tag up to homebase.

Contributing a home run in the bottom of the sixth, Salter dusted the dirt off his jersey and continued to play with ambition throughout the weekend. Leading the Big Ten with an astounding 25 RBIs and 11 doubles, Salter posed the Spartan's most dangerous threat on the plate. Although the team continues to prove why they belong in the top ranks, Salter discussed improvements he wishes to see on the team.

"We have to become more consistent at the plate, make all routine plays, and especially keep pitching as well as we have been," said Salter. "We definitely have the talent up and down our lineup, so we're ready to do some good things this year."

The players standing at the center of the diamond were also at the center of the team's success. Starting pitchers junior Mick VanVossen and sophomore Justin Alleman combined throughout the series to hold Siena's hitting to a minimum, only allowing six total hits in the first two games. Freshman Cam Vieaux contributed to the pitching prestige for the third game, earning his fourth win of the season.

"Our pitching is improving game by game. Those guys threw well all weekend long," said head coach Jake Boss. "Cam Vieaux just keeps getting better and better with the more starts that he gets under his belt. He's a guy that wants the ball, and I think his game is more suited for starting than relieving."

After the weekend series against Siena, Spartans looked forward to playing teams closer to home. Although not facing U of M during the season, challengers such as Central and Western filled the role of a rivalry.

"Central always plays tough. We always like beating them and they always try to beat us, so we're not gonna let up by any means," said Pickens. "At the beginning of the year, we always try to win the state of Michigan. Winning every game against every team in Michigan is big for us, so that's what we try to do."

As the sun prepared to set behind the outfield of the stadium, sophomore relief pitcher Anthony Misiewicz began to close out the game, giving up a run at the top of the ninth inning. With two outs, one man on base and a 3-2 count, the pressure was on for Misiewicz to throw a strike and give the Spartans yet another victory. After taking a deep breath, Misiewicz thrusted the ball toward the hitter who then smacked a hit just short of second base. Sprinting to retrieve the ball, freshman shortstop Johnny Nate snatched the ball off the ground, lobbing it to junior second baseman PJ Nowak just seconds before a worn-down Siena cleat tagged the white bag. Sweeping the Saints with a final 5-1 victory, the Spartans carried the grit and tenacity of the series throughout the rest of their season.



TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS, LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

sweeping the saints

Baseball team wins weekend-long series against Siena Saints



Junior Ryan Krill makes contact on a pitch against Siena. The Spartans won all three games they played against Siena during the 2014 season.

roster

Keith Appling	SR
Trevor Bohnhoff	SO
Russell Byrd	JR
Dan Chapman	SR
Matt Costello	SO
Branden Dawson	JR
Alvin Ellis III	FR
Alex Gauna	JR
Gary Harris	SO
Kenny Kaminski	FR
Adreian Payne	SR
Galvin Schilling	FR
Travis Trice	JR
Denzel Valentine	SO
Keenan Wetzel	JR
Colby Wollenman	SO

results

Mcneese State	W, 98-56
Kentucky	W, 78-74
Columbia	W, 62-53
Portland	W, 82-67
Virginia Tech	W, 96-77
Oklahoma	W, 87-76
Mount St. Mary's	W, 98-65
North Carolina	L, 79-65
Oakland	W, 67-63
North Florida	W, 78-48
at Texas	W,92-78
New Orleans	W, 101-48
at Penn State	W, 79-63
at Indiana	W, 73-56
Ohio State	W, 72-68
Minnesota	W, 87-75
at Northwestern	W, 54-40
at Illinois	W, 78-62
Indiana	W, 71-66
Michigan	L, 80-75
at Iowa	W, 71-66
Georgtown	L, 64-60
Penn State	W, 82-67
at Wisconsin	L, 60-58
Northwestern	W, 85-70
Nebraska	L, 60-51
at Purdue	W, 94-79
at Michigan	L, 79-70
Illinois	L, 53-46
Iowa	W, 86-76
at Ohio State	L, 69-67
Northwestern	W, 67-51
Wisconsin	W, 83-75
Michigan	W, 69-55
Delaware	W,93-78
Harvard	W, 80-73
Virginia	W, 61-59
Conneticut	L, 60-54



driving the lane

Injuries, challenges and a young girl inspires men's basketball team

Some teams rely on archaic rituals or supposed symbols of good fortune for success. But for MSU basketball player and senior Adreian Payne, all he needed was a smile from his "little sister." Thev inspiration of 8-year-old Lacey Holsworth's battle with cancer helped Payne and his teammates through a season of injuries to secure a spot in the Elite Eight.

The Spartans started off strong, winning seven straight games and the number one ranking in the NCAA. Just as the team found their rhythm, players started dropping like flies. By the time the Spartans played North Florida in December, sophomore forward Matt Costello, sophomore guard Gary Harris and junior guard Travis Trice were forced to sit on the sidelines. Coach Tom Izzo knew they would have to battle their way through the injuries to come out on top.

"I guess in general I was pleased with the performance," Izzo said, commenting on the players who stepped up to beat North Florida 78-48. "I was disappointed in a few things and still question marking where we are with this incredible injury situation."

Though the injured starters left a hole in the Spartan lineup, the team continued through their non-conference games and into Big Ten play. Unfortunately, as injured players began returning, the team lost Payne and junior Branden Dawson before their matchup with the University of Michigan on Jan. 25. Although the team lost to the Wolverines 80-75, Costello looked forward to another shot at U of M later in the season.

"This gives us a little bit of



TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO NATE REYARD/JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR

Senior Adreian Payne finishes with a finger roll against conference rival Nebraska. Payne averaged 16.4 points on the season while battling various injuries.

Sophomore Gary Harris drives toward the hoop. Harris ended the season with a 16.7 points per game average, leading the team.



confidence," said Costello. "We were down two of our best players and played pretty well against them. We just have to regroup and tear up the rest of the Big Ten."

The Spartans struck back, with a record of 12-6 in conference play and defeated the higher ranked Michigan team to win the Big Ten Tournament in Indianapolis. This made MSU the first Big Ten school to earn the honor in both football and basketball in the same season.

Amidst the action on the court, another story was developing in the background. Lacey Holsworth, an 8-year-old girl battling neuroblastoma, was becoming part of the MSU family. Holsworth was a huge fan of Payne, sharing some of the biggest moments in his career. In turn, Payne was a frequent visitor of the Holsworth home and took time out of his schedule to see Lacey whenever she was in the hospital.

"She calls me her 'Superman,' but she's the one who's got the super strength," Payne said in an interview with the Lansing State Journal. "She's incredible with everything she's gone through. (Doctors) told her she wouldn't walk again. But she did. She's just an incredible fighter. And if I can bring her a little bit of happiness to help her forget everything for a little while, then that's what I want to do."

With their princess watching, the Spartans soared past Delaware, Harvard and Virginia to make it to the Elite Eight before being eliminated from the NCAA Tournament by the University of Connecticut. However, the team took pride in knowing their games were giving a little girl a chance to escape her reality.

Unfortunately, on April 9, Holsworth succumbed to cancer. A crowd gathered that evening to paint and sign The Rock in honor of the young girl whose story touched Spartan Nation. Among them was Coach Izzo, who became teary eyed as he addressed the assembled students.

"Princess Lacey has taught us all an incredible lesson about love, strength and toughness. We can all learn from her on how to handle adversity with class and dignity," Izzo said in a statement.

It was a season full of life lessons for the Spartans. From overcoming constant injuries to being inspired by Holsworth, the team managed to stand beside the best of the NCAA . Playing the cards they were dealt, they captivated loyal fans sitting courtside as well as those watching from a distant dorm room.



roster

Branndais Agee	FR*
Klarissa Bell	SR
Taylor Hengesbach	FR
Jasmine Hines	JR
Tori Jankoska	FR
Kiana Johnson	JR
Kendra Lumpkin	JR
Cara Miller	SO
Becca Mills	JR
Anna Morrissey	JR
Annalise Pickrel	SR
Aerial Powers	FR*
Madison Williams	JR*

results

Notre Dame	L, 81-62
Canisius	W, 102-54
Dayton	W, 96-89
Detroit	W, 80-41
Rice	W, 81-68
Temple	W, 74-70
IPFW	L, 81-76
Florida State	L, 60-58
Virginia Tech	L, 72-66
Oakland	W, 80-62
Oklahoma State	L, 63-57
Georgetown	W, 67-54
Colgate	W, 96-46
Minnesota	W, 81-56
Nebraska	W, 70-57
Michigan	W, 79-72
Iowa	W, 88-72
Penn State	L, 66-54
Illinois	L, 61-51
Ohio State	W, 82-68
Wisconsin	W, 71-67
Purdue	W, 89-73
Illinois	W, 69-53
Nebraska	L, 76-56
Ohio State	W, 70-49
Wisconsin	W, 76-66
Minnesota	W, 75-61
Northwestern	W, 75-44
Indiana	W, 76-56
Michigan	W, 61-58
Nebraska	L, 86-58
Hampton	W, 91-61
North Carolina	L, 62-52

rebound

Women's basketball team fights through rough patch to win Big Ten championship



After she receives a pass, freshman Branndais Agee makes a rush down the court. Even though she missed the remainder of the 2012-13 season after tearing her ACL, Agee came back to the court in the spring with a passion.

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO STEPH PICKARD/LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

The Breslin Center erupted with cheers as a flash of orange fell through white netting at the end of the hardwood. Surrounded by members of the campus fanbase, the women dribbled the ball up and down the court, occasionally calling out to their teammates for a pass. The women's basketball team worked out a rhythm throughout the game against Minnesota, and it was that bond that led them to victory throughout the season.

Freshman guard Victoria Jankoska quickly snagged a rebound from the air, zigging and zagging past one, then two, then a third overbearing defender for an elegant layup against the Ferris State defense. The Spartans hit the court running early in the season, winning seven of nine non-conference games including their home opener against Ferris State.

However, halfway through the season their record took a turn for the worse. The game on Dec. 1 was rough for the Spartans, as they lost for the first time at home, 81-76. Senior Klarissa Bell remembers it as moment of realization for the squad.

"(A critical moment) I think for the team as a whole was starting with the loss against Indiana University — Purdue University Fort Wayne. This showed that we were a young team and haven't quite figured out how to play together," Bell said.

For many players, the games that followed were the lowest points in the season. Co-captain and senior forward Annalise Pickrel said the team was about to hit rock bottom, and it wasn't until they were about to start Big Ten play that they were finally able to come together as a team.

"My favorite part were the games in the beginning of the Big Ten that were our best, because we learned how to play together and share the ball and we were just in attack mode for about four games straight," Pickrel said.

Bell thought their teamwork prevailed over other factors and pulled the Spartans through the rough patch.

"We worked really hard together as a group and we overcame our struggles, and I think the first Big Ten game against Minnesota was a game that really showed us what we could do as a team who all plays together," Bell said.

The 81-56 victory against Minnesota started the team's Big Ten play and second half of the season. It sparked the fire that led them through the rest of the season and allowed their Spartan pride to shine through. Venturing into enemy territory, the lady Spartans beat the University of Michigan on the road, ultimately ending conference play with a record of 13-3.

In the Big Ten Tournament the Spartans had ups and downs, defeating Michigan for a second time but falling to Nebraska, the eventual victors of the tournament, in the second round. However, the Spartan team earned a fifth-seed ranking in the NCAA Tournament.

Pickerel and Bell, as well as redshirt junior Madison Williams, became the first female basketball players to win two Big Ten titles. Coach Suzy Merchant also became the first MSU women's basketball coach to earn the same honor. For an eleventh straight season, the Spartans won 20 or more games, giving them the longest active winning streak in Big Ten women's basketball.

"My favorite part of the season was definitely winning the Big Ten Championship and cutting down the nets on our home floor in front of our fans," said sophomore guard Cara Miller.

As the MSU women took to the court to celebrate their victory, Merchant and her team began slowly removing the nets from Breslin's baskets. Fans stood on their feet and cheered as one by one, players took to the hoop to make their incision. Like the tasks they faced previously, each player played a vital role until the white nylon fell to the ground.

Senior Annalise Pickrel takes a jump shot against Big Ten rival Illinois. Pickrel averaged 12.4 points and 6.8 rebounds during the 2013-14 season.





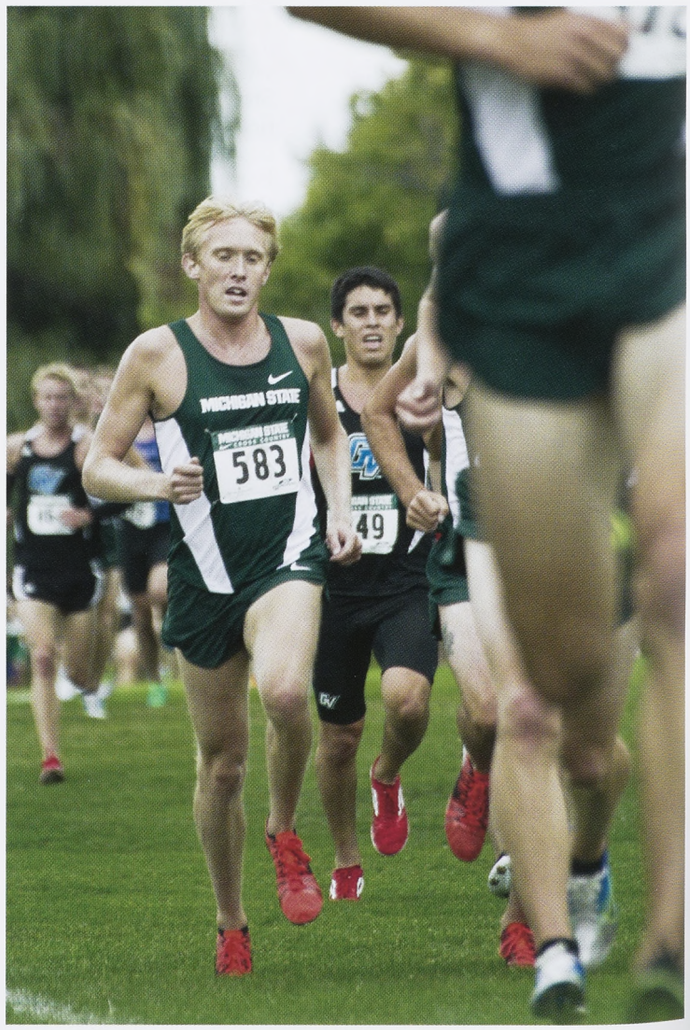
results

Roy Griak Invite	6th- 219 pts
U of M Intercollegiate	2nd- 75 pts
WI adidas Invite	26th- 583 pts
B1G Ten	7th 170 pts
NCAA Great Lakes	5th 151 pts



Senior Kevin Yarnell runs in the middle of the pack during the 2014 Spartan Invitational. Cross country is both an individual and a team sport, as runners are judged on individual times, and teams by a points-scoring method.

Members of the men's cross country team lead the race at Forest Akers Golf Course. The men held on to the lead throughout the invitational and gained the top three positions for the day.



TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER





against the elements

Men's cross country runners are distinguished at NCAA Championships

Three hundred fifty-five miles away from home on Nov. 23, grisly weather and bleak skies set a gloomy stage for the men's cross country NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind. With whipping 22 mile-per-hour winds threatening to stifle runners' progress, the severe conditions made victors of only the most indomitable athletes.

Sophomore Caleb Rhynard finished 34th overall with a time of 30:41 in the 8-kilometer race, battling harsh weather and an even harsher circuit. The course itself is notoriously challenging with rolling hills and gravelly terrain, but under harsh fall weather, the most difficult opponent seemed to be the wind rather than rival athletes.

Rhynard credited his success as an athlete and during the NCAA Championship meet to his coach Walter Drenth, who taught him how to surpass his personal expectations.

Coach Drenth, prior to coaching at East Lansing, turned the Arizona State men's and women's cross country teams around from not placing at all to making nationals. The coach has been progressing the men's and women's cross country teams at MSU for almost eight years.

"Drenth has been in the field for his whole life," Rhynard explained. "He used to run, his brother ran, and he's been coaching ever since he graduated college. He's got a lot of experience, and nine times out of 10, what he says is going to work."

Earning the title of All-American, a prestigious spot reserved for only a few runners at the NCAA Championship meet, Rhynard represented the only qualifier from the MSU men's team. Rhynard is the first cross country runner on the men's team to be distinguished with this honor since 1997.

Junior Chris Collier finished seventh at the Eastern Michigan University Fall Classic with a time of 15:22, making him the first Spartan to cross the finish line. At the same meet, which marked the end of the regular season, six runners clocked their best times.

"The season for us was a learning experience and we are really excited as a program to continue to work hard and look to make a statement at the conference and national level," Collier said. "We have seen some progress recently, but we're never satisfied and the team is excited to get better."

With the pressure to maintain a strong season surging at each starting line, Drenth's team did not disappoint.

"The most memorable part of the season was a race in Minnesota," senior Ben Carruthers said. "The weather was awful, and we knew that the weather was going to be awful. We went out there and we raced really tough."

Despite the terrible conditions, the team made the best of the situation by looking at the brighter side of things.

"I had a lot of fun running through the mud," Carruthers chuckled.

Not made apathetic by his victory, Collier already had a game plan for making the next season even more successful.

"Personally, all I can do is just continue to run as much as I can and work hard with my teammates," Collier said. "It's very much a team sport, and it's never just about one person in the program. We're all along for the ride together."

With fierce winds against their faces and rivals' breath on their backs, the runners charged forward. Though they crossed the finish line as individuals, support from teammates gave each a secure foothold even on muddy ground.



results

Indiana	W, 80-65
Nebraska	W, 68-55
Wisconsin	W, 63-60
Iowa	W, 95-61
Matthew Mossely	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

fostering inertia

Coach of the Year leads women's team to Big Ten title

Six kilometers of winding, unfamiliar terrain stood between nine women and absolute victory. None of the runners tested the track, and for six of them, this was the first time they had ever run with stakes so high. For this small group of cross-country runners, the veterans set the pace, making the hills and dips of the course feel less like mountains and valleys.

Junior Leah O'Connor was no stranger to the cross-country Big Ten Championships. Her trip with the team to West Lafayette, Indiana on Nov. 3 marked her third Big Ten Championship. Despite flu-like symptoms, O'Connor took second place, propelled forward by her teammates.

"During the race, I knew that I didn't necessarily feel good that day," O'Connor explained. "I knew I couldn't quit because I couldn't quit on my team. Those girls needed me more than anything at that point to navigate through the field of women."

O'Connor has a brother and sister who also run cross-country for Michigan universities. Though the running gene is clearly expressed in her family, her impressive Big Ten Championship time of 20:56 was not just a byproduct of genetics; grueling practices and immeasurable amounts of hard work played a significant role in her second place standing.

O'Connor wasn't the only member of the team to experience success during the Big Ten Championships, as Michigan State runners beat out the University of Michigan and clinched first place.

"When the gun went off, everyone did their job and pushed together, and we beat Michigan!" O'Connor exclaimed. "That's always exciting. It's a crazy rivalry, and it doesn't apply in just football and basketball."

Head coach Walter Drenth believed the team's obligation to each other was a key factor in their accomplishments, and one of the most valuable qualities of a team. Cross-country, to this team, was about pushing physical and mental boundaries.

"They really suspended their egos as a team," Drenth said. "I really appreciated that. You run on your own, but you practice as a team."

Drenth, along with the high honor of coaching the best team in the Big Ten, was awarded the title Coach of the Year at the Big Ten Conference.

"He deserves that award and so much more credit," said sophomore Katie Landwehr. "The coaches cater the training to us and help us race confidently. None of us were really expecting to do that well, and now we're here."

For many of the girls new to the Big Ten Championships, even hours of practice before the high-pressure race did not make it less daunting.

"I think my biggest struggle was not having the experience from the championship before," said Landwehr. "For me and a lot of girls, we're young and it was our first time. My experience was really a heads up and I could say I wasn't sure what to expect."

As the team finished third in the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championships on Nov. 15, two weeks after the Big Ten Championships, slowing the pace proved not to be an option. Pushing personal bests, demanding more of their minds and bodies than ever before and competing against some of the best female cross-country athletes in the country would normally be a very humbling experience for any runner. But victory warrants some boasting.

"We're really looking to do some big things as a team and keep the momentum going," said Landwehr.

Although speed and endurance are prominent in the equation for any cross-country runner, the key to these ladies' success is inertia: a resistance to changing their motion.



WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Sophomore Katie Landwehr and senior Julia Otwell embrace after crossing the finish line. Runners on the women's team took the top six spots at the Spartan Invitational.



Junior Leah O'Connor holds her lead during the Spartan Invitational. O'Connor earned her place as a first team All Big Ten member and an All Region Honoree.

results

Western Michigan	W, 26-13
South Florida	W, 21-6
Youngstown State	W, 55-17
Notre Dame	L, 17-13
Iowa	W, 26-14
Indiana	W, 42-28
Purdue	W, 14-0
Illinois	W, 42-3
Michigan	W, 29-6
Nebraska	W, 41-28
Northwestern	W, 30-6
Minnesota	W, 14-3
Ohio State (Big Ten)	W, 34-24
Stanford (Rose Bowl)	W, 24-20

roses are green

Football team wins the 100th Rose Bowl

January 1, 2014 — a date ingrained in the minds of a generation of MSU football fans. The Spartans kicked off the new year in a substantial way, marching into Rose Bowl Stadium as underdogs and emerging as champions of the 100th Rose Bowl.

The beginning of the season, however, was not as concrete. Coach Mark Dantonio was faced with a difficult quandary: which quarterback would lead the Spartans? Options included the team's senior quarterback, Andrew Maxwell, who filled the offensive hole left by Kirk Cousins. Or newbie Connor Cook, a sophomore with a lot of potential and some experience the year before. There was also redshirt freshman Tyler O'Connor and freshman Damion Terry.

Dantonio needed to make a decision vital to the team's offensive strategy.

Although Maxwell took the first snap of the season, both he and Cook played in the opening game against Western Michigan University, winning 26-13. It was not until the 55-17 victory over Youngstown State in the third game of the season that Dantonio answered all questions.

"Connor Cook is the number one quarterback," the coach simply stated.

With the quarterback position set and senior Max Bullough leading the team's charge as captain, the Spartans hit the field hard the rest of the season.

Throughout autumn, the Spartans proved their strength against many adversaries, from Penguins to Wolverines. The team was undefeated in their conference and had only one loss overall, and went on to represent the Legends Division in the third annual Big Ten Championship game.

MSU scored 17 unanswered points to start the game, but was quickly outdone by their opponents, with the Ohio State Buckeyes responding with 24 points. Aided by Jeremy Langford's 128 rushing yards and a spectacular 44-yard field goal from kicker Michael Geiger, the team eventually defeated the Buckeyes 34-24 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind. This guaranteed the Spartans a spot in the Rose Bowl for the first time in 26 years.

Spartan country exploded with excitement upon hearing the news. A new generation of fans would experience the joy of going to the "Granddaddy of Them All" bowl game. Ticket requests for the game came flying through the MSU website, and at least 60,000 Spartans made the trip to the Golden State.

Despite a lack of faith from sports analysts, MSU bravely fought and defeated the 5th ranked Stanford Cardinals. The close game started with a few Spartan slipups, but the team rallied back. Cook threw for 332 yards and two touchdowns, and MSU ultimately won the game 24-20 with a defensive stop on a fourth-and-one play by Kyler Ellsworth, a fifth-year senior brought in to replace team captain Bullough. With the clock winding down, the Spartans' only hope was to stop the Cardinal defense at all costs, and with a flying leap at the ball carrier, Ellsworth did just that.

The usually straight-faced and serious Dantonio had nothing but positive words and smiles after the game.

"It's sort of living the dream," Coach Dantonio reflected. "I woke up this morning, and I knew the day might be very, very special if we played hard, great things were going to happen. We had possibilities, and that's what we did. We just kept playing. No magic to it, we just kept playing, found a way to make plays."

The fans were exhilarated by the victory as well. Senior Allison Koontz was among the students who made the trek to sunny Pasadena.

"Going to the Rose Bowl was one of the best experiences I've had as a Spartan," said Koontz. "I especially loved the fact that MSU fans took up some of the Stanford section. I felt so much Spartan pride seeing so much green out in California and the camaraderie was amazing."

The victory meant more to fans than just another win, as senior Kevin Kelly, who also attended the game, explained.

"There was a lot of legacy involved in this game, and overall there was an incomprehensible amount of emotion leading up to, during, and in celebration after the game," Kelly said.

From Darqueze Dennard and the "No-Fly Zone" to Coach Dantonio assuring the team that "they are the ones," Spartan fans had a lot to cheer about during the season. Whether watching intently on couches or cheering on the team live, there was no shortage of Green and White spirit throughout Spartan Nation.



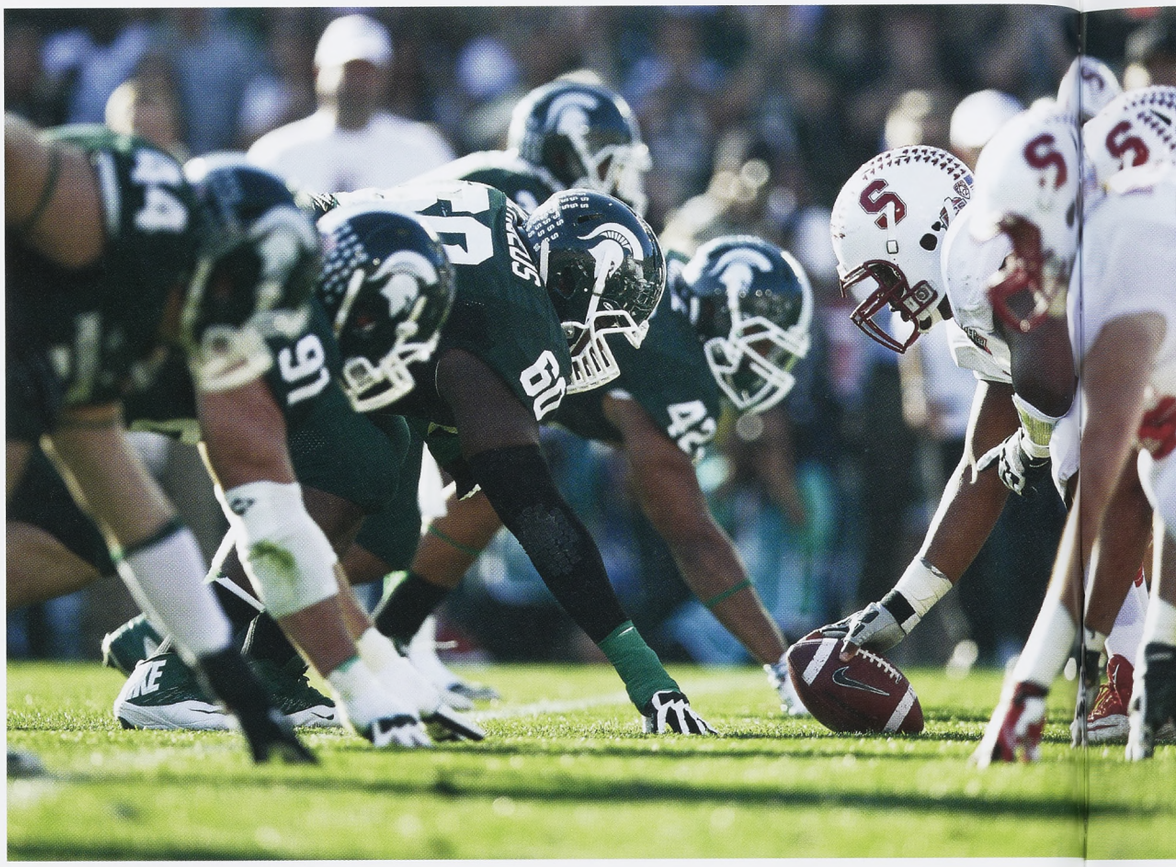
TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Teammates celebrate with junior linebacker Ed Davis after a tackle during the victory over the University of Michigan. Davis had two and a half sacks and four tackles throughout the game.



Freshman fullback Riley Bullough splits the middle during an early season home game. The team was undefeated at home during the season.




BIG
MICHIGAN STATE
13

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER







Senior wide receiver Bennie Fowler stiff-arms safety Ed Reynolds as he breaks for a large gain. Fowler had two catches for 97 yards receiving during the game.

Sophomore quarterback Connor Cook throws downfield while evading a Stanford defender. The 2014 Rose Bowl marked the 100th anniversary of the Tournament of Roses.

MSU's defensive linemen get into their stances opposite Stanford's offensive line. The Spartan defense held up its reputation, allowing only one offensive touchdown the entire game.



Defensive and offensive MVPs senior Kyler Elsworth and junior Connor Cook hoist their awards in front of coach Mark Dantonio and the Rose Bowl trophy. Elsworth replaced suspended captain Max Bullough for the Rose Bowl and had an opportunity to shine in the game.


B1G
MICHIGAN STATE
18


WILKES
T. JONES
32



The Spartan defense swarms Stanford's ball carrier. In a similar stop at the end of the game, senior middle linebacker Kyler Elsworth and the defensive line held up Standford running back Tyler Gaffney, which caused Stanford to turn over the ball and made the Spartans Rose Bowl champions soon after.

roster

Gareth Blease SR
Carson Castellani SR
Jon Finley JR
Sean Friel FR*
Charlie Green FR
Gareth Lappin FR
Gates Muller FR*
Charlie Netzel FR
Francesco Ruffino FR
Mitch Rutledge SO
Sam Weatherhead FR
*redshirt

results

Gopher Invite. 9th,10th
Wolverine Inter. 1st,1st
Fighting Irish Classic 3rd, 2nd
Erin Hills Inter. 12th,12th,11th
Crooked Stick Colleg. 13th, 13th
Invite @ The Ocean 14th, 14th, 13th
Michigan L, 2-3
Penn State W, 4-1
Wisconsin W, 3-0-2
College River Colleg. 3rd, 3rd
Linger Longer Invite. 13th, 13th
Hawkeye Invite. 8th, 9th
Boilermaker Invite. 8th, 9th

the 18th hole

Men's golf molds young team through challenges in 14-tournament season

As the nine-iron lowers to the ground, gently gracing the perfectly groomed grass, the golfer's focus narrows onto the dimpled ball propped primly on its tee. His grip tightens as his heart rate increases, adrenaline providing the perfect pulse to hit the ball down the fairway. With feet a shoulder width apart and knees bent, the golfer pauses, bottling all of the energy and anxiety as time around him ceases to exist. Taking a deep breath, the golfer at last smacks the ball, sending it soaring toward the sun.

The excitement of hitting the first ball of a big tournament is all too familiar to the men's golf team, which competed in a total of 14 tournaments this season. Teeing off against Notre Dame, UCLA and Green Bay, Spartans exemplified consistent hard work as they chased their goal of being in the top ranks of the Big Ten.

"This is a fun group from the standpoint of they're thirsty. They're hungry. There's a deep desire for more knowledge, more understanding and how to get better," said head coach Casey Lubahn.

Using knowledge gained throughout the season, sophomore Mitch Rutledge boasted his personal best career score in the Wolverine Intercollegiate tournament in mid-September. Rutledge surpassed his previous top score by nine shots, finishing third overall in the tournament. The Spartans executed down the stretch as they took first place overall in the tournament, finishing four under par.

The coaches have mainly used this season as an opportunity to discover each player's strengths and weaknesses, as seven of the players are freshmen — something rare for any college golf team. However, the younger players were determined to match the experience and talent of their teammates before them, such as senior Gareth Blease, captain of the team.

"I think the main goal for me this season is to help springboard the young guys onto greater things in their career here," said Blease. "They are the most talented group since the teams of the early 2000's, now they just need to get tough and reach their potential. They found out how cool it is to win at Michigan, and I believe they will win a Big Ten title together in the future."

Escaping the monstrous blizzards in East Lansing, the team packed their clubs and headed south to compete in the 2014 Big Ten Match Play Championship in sunny Bradenton, Fla. The team competed against Michigan, Penn State and Wisconsin, knocking off Wisconsin in the consolation bracket to finish the tournament with a 2-1 record. The team only lost four of their 15 individual matches throughout the weekend, with victories from freshman Gareth Lappin and junior Jon Finley.

Although having many successes throughout their season, the men on the team are focusing mainly on building their skills for the years to come. Intentionally recruiting mainly freshman, the coaches built this season's roster with the future in mind.

"Hopefully, we can build on the moments of success we had this year and really be a solid team in the years to come," said senior Carson Castellani.

After a long round of spirited strokes and immense concentration, the golfer prepares to sink the ball. Standing a few inches from the hole, a golfer transfers all of his focus and energy through his arms, hands, down the club and into the white sphere. Tapped with a commendable amount of precision, the ball rolls through the grass blade by blade, eventually finding its home in the bottom of the 18th hole.



TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO MATTHEW MITCHELL
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI





Senior Carson Castellani putts from the edge of the green at Forest Akers Golf Course. Castellani's best 18-hole performance was a 70 during the 2013-14 season.

Freshman Charlie Netzel follows his ball during a tee-off at the Wolverine Intercollegiate Golf Tournament. Netzel tied for 9th in Ann Arbor, shooting 214 through 54 holes.

roster

Yuhsira Budhram	SR
Allyssa Ferrell	AR
Kelly Grassel	FR
Mackenzie Johnson	SO
Mariah Massa	SO
Lindsey McPherson	JR
Christine Meier	SR
Bea Murray	JR
Liz Nagel	SR
Carley Saint-Onge	SO
Katie Sharp	FR
Soleil Singh	SO
Jenny Sritragul	JR
Trisha Witherby	JR
Gabby Yurik	FR

results

Mary Fossum Invitate	1st (892)
Mason Rudolph	9th (896)
Tar Heel Invitational	T-13th (890)
Landfall Tradition	T-6th (910)
Central District Invite	3rd (849)
Bryon National	T-10th (916)
Liz Murphey	T-9th (307)
Lady Buckeye	T-2nd (900)





Senior Allyssa Ferrell strikes the ball with her driver. Ferrell was named Big Ten Women's Co-Golfer of the Week when she set an MSU 54-hole record, shooting 9-under-par to tie for first at the Central District Invitational.

Junior Bea Murray watches her ball drift down the fairway during a round of spring golf. Murray tied for eigth in the stroke-play portion of the Michigan Women's Amateur tournament in summer 2013.

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO MATTHEW MITCHELL
DESIGN ALEXANDER CHR

takeaway

Senior Liz Nagel battles cancer but longs to stay on the course

When faced with life-threatening situations, one harkens back to memories of what they love most, whether it be a person, an object, or in senior Liz Nagel's case, a sport. After being diagnosed with thyroid cancer in November 2012, the first thing Nagel asked her doctors was when she could play golf again.

"Just being able to keep my mind in the future and not in the present helped," explained Nagel. "The present at the time was kind of a struggle. I always kept thinking to when I could play golf again and when I could just get back to normal, because for a while there I didn't know how long it would be."

Following the diagnosis, Nagel underwent surgery in December, causing her to miss the first tournament of the 2012 spring season. She was back on the course shortly after and in the starting lineup for the remainder of the year, helping the Spartans finish ninth at Nationals — the best ranking in the history of the program.

"I think it still kind of looms over us," admitted head coach Stacy Slobodnik-Stoll, referring to Nagel's diagnosis. "But the thought that she is OK and that she is doing well reminds us how lucky we all are. We tell our student-athletes that it is not just about golf trophies. It's about establishing relationships, it's about the connections you make here, it's about always being proud to wear the green and white no matter where you are, no matter what stage of life you are in."

To help stay positive through her fight, Nagel adopted the mantra "Spartan strong," which she defines as having the courage and strength to persevere through tough times.

After being named Big Ten Women's Golfer of the Week on Sept. 18, 2013 and declared cancer-free in December, Nagel was itching to cap off her final season with a Big Ten win and a trip to Nationals.

"We have all the talent, and we're extremely capable," said Nagel. "We're talking a lot about belief. Just believing in each other. If you don't have teammates who support you and believe in you, then you're not going to get very far."

Seniors Christine Meier and Allyssa Ferrell also had successful seasons, joining Nagel on the list of Big Ten's Golfers to Watch. Ferrell even established a new school record for the lowest 54-hole score. Freshman Kelly Grassel, a serious contender for Big Ten's Freshman of the Year according to Slobodnik-Stoll, kept up with the veterans.

"At first it was a little intimidating being the only freshman traveling with the seniors, but I've become pretty close with all of them," said Grassel. "They're good role models because they've had a lot of success. I just want to help them finish their last year here strong. It would be hard to be the score that counted so that your team didn't win the Big Ten."

While Nagel and the other seniors yearned for a send-off complete with Big Ten Champion rings, Nagel explained that the true reward was the relationships she built over the years. Although a trophy is valuable, Nagel's victory over thyroid cancer was enough to make her appreciate aspects of life other than the sport.

"Golf isn't life for me, especially after going through the whole cancer thing. It brings everything into perspective, though, because for a while I couldn't play and that is when you understand how much something means to you," said Nagel. "Golf isn't life, but life is definitely better with golf."



roster

Lisa Burt	SO
Gillian Carr	SR
Alina Cartwright	JR
Nicola Deans	SO
Kate Filosi	SO
Kira Frederick	FR
Brittany Holmes	SO
Elena Laqoski	FR
Dani Levy	SR
Ashley Noll	JR
Alex Pace	SR
Katie Richter	FR
Holly Ryan	FR
Jessica Shostak	FR
Mackenzie Smith	FR
Ashley Stevenson	JR
Carson Tabiolo	JR
Jane Winstead	FR

results

WMU Scrimmage	W, 144.250 pts.
Illinois	L, 194.150 pts.
Pittsburgh	L, 192.525 pts.
Penn State	L, 192.750 pts.
Michigan	L, 193.900 pts.
Iowa	W, 194.150 pts.
Minnesota	L, 193.700 pts.
WMU	L, 194.775 pts.
Denver	L, 195.550 pts.
SEMO	W, 194.900 pts.
TWU Quad Meet	4th- 194.625 pts.
UNL, Illi. & OSU	3rd- 196.200 pts.

practice makes permanent

Gymnastics team vies for spot in the Big Ten

Dressed in traditional forest green warmups, the MSU gymnastics team coated their hands in powdery chalk. Thrusting them into the middle of a circular huddle, each gymnast looked at the women to her right and left. After a ceremonial battle cry, it was time to focus their newfound motivation. Concentrated, each of the women stretched and eyed the judges' table, mentally preparing to defy gravity.

On Feb. 28, the 18 women of the MSU gymnastics team took to the floor, vaults, and balance beams in Jenison Field House to compete against the University of Denver. As it was seniors' night, this was the last time three gymnasts would compete for their school. Gymnasts like juniors Alina Cartwright and Ashley Noll did a front handspring on the vault, while senior Alex Pace showed off her cartwheels and pike jumps while carefully toeing the edge of the balance beam.

Though the 2014 season started off with difficulty, the team members recaptured its lost momentum by scoring some of their personal best scores in the later part of the season. Although Coach Kathie Klages would lose three star gymnasts, she felt that the team was on track to becoming a serious competitive threat.

"We started out very rough with some pretty big errors on vault and bars, didn't do what we see in the gym every single day. I feel like we fought back and didn't give up, and that's a really solid call on the team," said Klages.

Cartwright made the top all-around score of her career at the Denver meet. Despite the accolades, Cartwright explained that even professional athletes need a strong team and support system to back them up.

"My teammates tell me this is easy for you, you do this all the time," Cartwright explained. "It gave me so much confidence, and it made me so excited. I was just able to put it on the floor."

Although the team lost against Denver, they had much to be proud of, looking back at how far their scores had improved throughout the season. Starting from 192.525 points at their first meet against Illinois, the team ended its season with a 194.90 win against Southeast Missouri State.

As a whole, the team's 195.550 combined score was the program's highest since 2007.

Sophomore Lisa Burt, who competed in the 2013 NCAA Championships, tied MSU's ninth-place record for her balance beam performance in the 2014 season. Burt, too, insisted that her accomplishments wouldn't have been nearly as impactful without the presence of her teammates.

"I know that someone is cheering for me, and we have each others' backs," Burt said.

At the end of the Denver meet, the athletes dusted their hands of gymnasts chalk and their performances. When the mats were put away, and the Jenison Field House lights turned off, the team kept its motivation and pride, preparing to adjust their performances for the meets ahead.



TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER





Freshman Jessica Shostak executes a flight series on the balance beam. Performing on the beam requires balance, flexibility, poise and strength.

Sophomore Brittany Holmes completes a giant in her routine on the uneven bars. Gymnasts perform swinging, circling, transitional and release moves when competing on the uneven bars.

roster

Caitlin Abbott	FR
Mary Claire Abbott	FR
Allie Ahern	JR
Jessica Albers	FR
Kendal Anderson	FR
Abby Barker	JR
Lauren Bonness	FE
Molly Cassidy	SR*
Adrea Donaldson	FR
Megan Fenton	FR
Michelle Graham	JR
Alli Helwig	JR
Kristen Henn	SR
Heather Howie	JR
Katherine Jamieson	SR
Claire Johnson	SO*
Adelle Lever	SR
Kristin Matula	FR
Mallory McDonagh	SR
Sierra PAtton	FR
Victoria Radwell	SO
Jenni Smith	JR
Becky Stiles	JR
Shelby Supica	FR
Mallory Tyler	SO
Simone Vagnoni	FR

*redshirt

results

Michigan	W, 2-1
California	L, 2-1
Pacific	W, 7-0
Stanford	L, 5-2
Princeton	L, 2-1
Delaware	L, 5-1
Northeastern	W, 2-0
Old Dominion	L, 3-1
Ohio State	W, 3-2
Indiana	W, 4-3
Miami (Oh)	L, 2-0
Michigan	W, 3-2
Ball State	W, 8-0
Penn State	L, 4-3
C. Michigan	W, 1-0
Northwestern	L, 2-1
Iowa	W, 4-3
Indiana	W, 6-0
Ohio State	W, 2-1
Iowa	W, 3-2



Senior midfielder Katherine Jamieson pushes the ball downfield during a match against Ohio State. Jamieson's pregame ritual is dancing in the locker room.

Women's field hockey team celebrates Big Ten victory

Upon winning the women's field hockey Big Ten Tournament, the victors are given a Big Ten Champions shirt. The garments complement their trophy in photos, and can be shown off proudly to grandchildren one day. The last time MSU's team won the tournament was in 2009, when redshirt senior Molly Cassidy was a freshman. She said that once she put her shirt on, it was nearly impossible to take off — it was all she wanted to wear.

In 2014, however, the team decided to sport some new and unusual attire, according to senior and three-time Captain Kristen Henn.

"Before the Big Ten Tournament, we sent out an email about what clothes we're going to wear," recalled Henn. "We were all joking saying that once we won the Big Ten Tournament that we would wear our onesies or our pajamas on the way home."

Sure enough, the Spartans followed up their 9-9 regular season record with a 4-2 record in conference play, including a thrilling comeback over Iowa University in the title game. Despite entering the tournament as a three seed, the women remained confident of their chance at victory.

"Our girls believed so fully that we were going to win the Big Ten Tournament. There was no other option," Cassidy said. "When we showed up in Columbus for the tournament, the girls unpacked everything in their suitcase, because we were so set on staying through the weekend."

As previously decided, the women dressed in their polka dotted and striped onesies for the bus ride home, singing along jovially to the hit single "Timber" by Pitbull and Ke$ha.

"We went to the showers. Some of us didn't even shower because we were so excited," said Cassidy. "We hopped on the bus in our pajamas. I buckled in the trophy in the seat next to me."

Upon arriving back in East Lansing, the pajama-clad champions immediately went to the Breslin Center to find out their seedings for the NCAA tournament. It was their first appearance on the national stage since 2010.

"We looked pretty goofy, that's for sure. We were sitting in the basketball film room and all these cameras were taking pictures and video of us waiting to find out our seed," said Henn.

The women were drawn into a play-in game against Miami of Ohio, and the winner would face second seed Syracuse University. The Spartans shut out the Redhawks 3-0 and advanced to play Syracuse on the Orange's home turf, where they had a 45-game winning streak.

"We came in confident and ready to go. Our opponents maybe thought it was a gimme. We came to play," said head coach Helen Knull.

Like the Greek warriors for which they were named, the Spartans refused to lose to their formidable opponent, and they walked out with a 2-1 victory.

"After the game, it was pure joy. It was such a shock to everyone. It was a shock to our coaches. It was a shock to Syracuse. It was a shock to the field hockey community," said Cassidy.

Unfortunately, that was the farthest the ladies would go in the tournament. They fell to the University of Connecticut in the next round. It was their sixth match across the Midwest in only 10 days.

The women finished the season 14-10, including a victory against the University of Michigan for the first time since 2009. For their hard work, coach Helen Knoll was named the West Region Coach of the Year while junior Abby Barker earned a spot on the All-American third team as a forward.

On the field, the women put in the dedication and perspiration necessary for a successful season. While their unconventional fashion choices may have caused some confusion, there wasn't any question of the team's new addition to their Jenison Fieldhouse trophy case.



TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE/NATE REYARD
DESIGN PATTY SZOZEPANSKI



Junior Heather Howie battles for the ball against University of Michigan during the annual Breast Cancer Awareness game. The Spartans earned a double-overtime victory, defeating the Wolverines 3-2.

winning in style

results

Massachusetts	L, 3-1
Massachusetts	L, 5-2
Umass-Lowell	L, 4-1
Boston University	W, 3-1
American International	W, 5-4
American International	W, 4-0
Michigan Tech	L, 3-0
Michigan Tech	L, 3-2
Western Michigan	L, 2-0
Western Michigan	L, 4-1
Princeton	W, 4-1
Princeton	W, 8-2
Minnesota	T, 2-2
Minnesota	L, 3-2
Ferris State	L, 2-0
Michigan Tech	T, 2-2
Michigan	W, 3-0
Ohio State	L, 5-3
Ohio State	T, 1-1
Penn State	W, 3-0
Penn State	W, 3-2
Michigan	L, 2-1
Michigan	L, 5-2
Minnesota	T, 2-2
Minnesota	L, 1-0
Ohio State	T, 2-2
Ohio State	T, 2-2
Penn State	T, 2-2
Penn State	W, 2-1
Wisconsin	L, 5-2
Wisconsin	L, 2-0
Michigan	L, 7-1
Michigan	W, 4-3
Wisconsin	W, 5-4
Wisconsin	L, 4-3



Freshman Mackenzie MacEachern skates the puck into the zone. The team came away with a weekend sweep over Purdue.

Men's hockey team leaves CCHA to join Big Ten Hockey Conference

carving the ice

The snow glimmered in the bright sunlight and drifted onto the seats of Comerica Park. Some fans desperately clutched their cups of hot chocolate — their only heat source in the below-freezing temperatures. The breath emitted during cheers resembled smoke from the Detroit factories beyond Comerica's walls. Though seats in the park are normally occupied by baseball fanatics, the 2013 Winter Classic reserved them for college hockey fans supporting their favorite teams.

Competing in the annual Great Lakes Invitational was MSU, U of M, WMU and Michigan Tech. Although usually held at the Joe Louis Arena, the new outdoor atmosphere made for a memorable experience for players, coaches and fans alike. Wearing a green and white scarf and winter hat, sophomore Ian Clark discussed what it was like to be in the audience.

"It was so cool to watch the guys play outside. It was cold and snowing, but the sun was shining, and it was a great day for hockey. Plus, we ended up beating the Wolverines 3-0, so that didn't hurt too bad either," Clark said.

The 2013-14 season brought about a major change to the team as they announced that they were leaving the CCHA conference. Joining U of M, OSU, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin and Penn State, MSU looked forward to facing new opponents in this six-team Big Ten Hockey Conference. Coach Tom Anastos discussed some strong points that his team will bring to the new conference.

"We play really hard. We're improving our skill level defensively, but we're coming together as a team, and we're difficult to play against," said Anastos. "Our goaltending has been really good, and our team defense continues to get better and better."

A number of players used the season to put their skills to the test — with big payoffs. Goaltender Jake Hildebrand was awarded the Big Ten Third Star of the Week, given weekly to the top three players in college hockey.

Other primary players on the team included freshman Villiam Haag, a forward from Gothenburg, Sweden. As a new Spartan, Haag provided a skill set that created depth and dexterity for the team.

"It is an honor being a freshman here at MSU. The opportunities to develop as a player and a person are fantastic, and I am just trying to do my best every day," said Haag.

Although the team had many strong points throughout the season, a few downfalls were present. After a successful tournament at Comerica, the team lost to their Wolverine rivals at the Joe Louis Arena. Despite the upset, Haag was not discouraged.

"The team was struggling, and our game didn't really connect," said Hagg. "At the same time, this is a team sport, and I think every team at every level is having their downs, so the big deal is how you react to it. And I believe we responded well and played a good weekend after that."

The numbers on the scoreboard increased as inches of powdery snow accumulated on the rink. Playing through the few final minutes at Comerica, Spartans outshot their opponents 40-29, which lead to victory. Even through the trials and tribulations of a season filled with new experiences, the team had more than one warm memory to hold close.



TYPE GINA JUAREZ
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Senior Greg Wolfe switches from forehand to backhand on a shootout attempt against Minnesota. The hockey team went on to win the shootout over Minnesota, who were ranked number one.

roster

Joanna Beaton JR
Julianne Calzonetti SO
Hannah Champ SR
Lori Comer SO
Katie Cromie SO
Sarah Crosby JR
Asabe Danpollo SO
Corinne DeVries SO
Brook Edgar FR
Emma Green JR
Elinor Hannum JR
Olivia Jamrog JR
Hayley Jenkins SR
Alyssa Jurcak SO
Jane Katzer SO
Adrien Kawalek FR
Zion Keck SO
Chelsea Kneuer JR
Sarah Kovacs SR
Monica LaPointe SR
Anna Ludes SR
Jessica Marone SO
Colleen McConnell FR
Erin McGarry SR
Laura Moore SR
Ursula O'Connor SO
Rose Pawlowski SR
Emily Sharp JR
Sara Sherman SR
Katie Trahan JR

results

Tennessee L, 81-62
Rutgers W, 102-54
Boston W, 96-89
Princeton W, 80-41
Brown W, 81-68
Minnesota W, 74-70
Wisconsin L, 81-76
Michigan L, 60-58
Virginia L, 72-66
Michigan W, 80-62
Ohio State L, 63-57
Louisville W, 67-54

blister trophies

Women's rowing looks to improve Big Ten ranking through brutal winter training

Albert Einstein once said the definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over and expect different results, which might be the perfect description for the women's rowing team's 2013-14 winter training season.

Heading into the 2014 spring season, the team had its sights on an NCAA championship, but in order to get there the ladies first had to endure a strenuous, monotonous winter training schedule. According to senior Sarah Kovacs, it is the most difficult component of rowing but commonly overlooked and misunderstood by those new to the sport.

"We go out in the winter, it's freezing, there is ice on the water, and we are still out there rowing. People think it's crazy, but I love that they think that," said Kovacs. "You walk around and people ask you about your sport. You tell them you're on rowing, and then you show them your hands. Those blisters are kind of like trophies. They're disgusting, but you are so proud of those blisters because it just shows how hard you work."

The ladies fight through harsh weather conditions as long as possible, but when the Red Cedar River freezes over, it signals a farewell to practice regattas and an invitation to a five-month grind in the weight room. The winter workouts include weight lifting and small doses of running, but the majority of the season is spent on the rowing machine.

"It's hard physically and it's hard mentally because you're basically by yourself," said Kovacs. "Your team is there, but it is only you on the machine, and you are just staring at a number on a screen trying to reach your goal. All you do is think about the number. It is a big mental game. It'd be like only training on a treadmill if you were a serious cross-country runner."

To keep the team focused and motivated, head coach Matt Weise devised three key attributes for the women to aspire toward: fearless, aggressive and self-assured. Why? Because according to Weise, those are the characteristics that define a champion.

But senior Laura Moore revealed that the real motivators this season were her teammates — all 52 of them.

"The rowing team is my life. It is a big family," said Moore. "I want to be able to look back after I graduate, and be able to see not only what we've accomplished as a team but also what we've meant to each other. I want to be known for being a close team and being willing to fight for the girls next to us. Just be each others' lives and use that to energize us on the water."

As glimpses of spring sprouted on campus and the ice melted away, the Spartans were finally able to get back in the water. Their first race of the season was at the Oak Ridge Cardinal Regatta on Melton Lake in Oak Ridge, Tenn. Despite the strong competition of crews like Duke and Kansas, the ladies kicked off the season with four wins out of the six races.

"Compared to last year, we are starting off on a much better foot," said junior Joanna Beaton. "We are meshing together, and we just know that the team has our back. Everyone is working with each other and for each other to make our season be successful."

The team's self-proclaimed pride for craziness is as truthful as it is fake. The appearance of their insanity functions more as a mask for what lies beneath the surface: passion and intensity for each other, for their coach, and for the program they represent at MSU. The workouts are arduous and repetitive, but they always expect different — and better — results because they know that when a team gives it their all, they are destined for greatness.



WOMEN'S ROWING

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO NATE REYARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Junior Joanna Beaton practices technique and speed with her teammates. The rowing team practices and races on the Grand River in Lansing, where their boat house is located.

The rowing team glides down Grand River during a fall practice. Head coach, Matt Weise, rides boat-side next to the team in order to critique and perfect rowers' form.



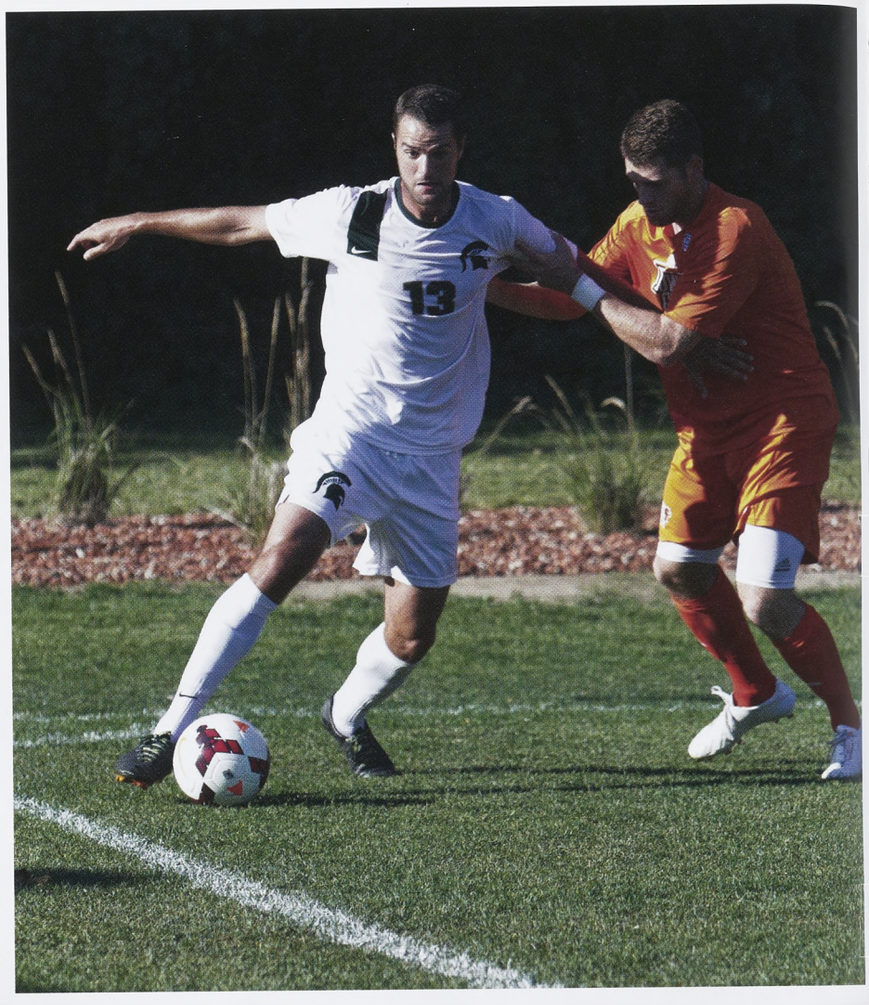
roster

Quinn McAnaney	SO*
Zach Bennett	SO
Ryan Scott	SO
Kevin Cope	SR*
Tim Kreutz	JR*
Ryan Thelen	SR*
Ben Myers	JR
Josh Barens	JR*
Brent McIntosh	SR*
Sean Conerty	SO
Jay Chapman	SO
Ryan Keener	JR*
Andrew Herr	FR*
Adam Montague	JR
Dewey Lewis	FR
Ali Scheib	FR
Asa Miller	SO*
Kyle Rutz	JR
Brian Winterfield	FR
Austin Piwinski	FR
Jason Stacy	SO
Blake Skamiera	JR
Wesley Curtis	SR
Jermone Cristobal	FR*
Fatai Alashe	JR
Cody Henderson	SR
Bryce Dobbins	SR*

*redshirt

results

Western Michigan	W,4-0
Oregon State	W, 1-0
Valparaiso	L, 2-1
Marquette	W, 2-0
Bowling Green	W, 1-0
Creighton	T, 2-2
NIU	W, 2-0
UIC Flames	W, 2-0
Northwestern	W, 3-2
Ohio State	T, 1-1
Oakland	W, 3-0
Penn State	L, 2-1
AKRON	T, 0-0
Wisconsin	L, 1-0
Indiana	W, 3-2
Notre Dame	L, 2-0
Michigan	W, 2-0
Ohio State	W, 2-0
Northwestern	W, 1-0
Indiana	L, 1-0
Louisville	W, 1-0
Georgetown	W, 1-0
Notre Dame	L, 2-1



Junior Adam Montague shields the ball from a Bowling Green defender during their 1-0 shutout. The Spartans outscored their opponents 31-15 during the 2013 season.

Junior Fatai Alashe celebrates his game-winning goal against rival Michigan during their clash for the Big Bear Trophy at DeMartin Stadium. The Spartans won possession of the Big Bear after defeating the Wolverines 2-0.



TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO CHASE O'BLACK/NATE REVARD/TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER

cope-ing mechanisms

Senior Kevin Cope leads men's soccer in the journey to the Elite 8

It had been more than 40 years since the men's soccer team last made it to the NCAA Round of Eight, but 2013 proved to be a year of change for the program thanks to strong leaders like senior captain Kevin Cope.

At the start of the season, the team suffered an early loss to Valparaiso University, which, according to junior Tim Kreutz, is usually a win. With the added challenge of having both Cope and junior Captain Adam Montague injured within the first six games, the other players knew they were in for a backbreaking season.

"I think missing those guys may have resulted in some poor play for a few games, but players stepped up and were able to get back to playing good soccer and beating top-ranked teams throughout the country," explained Kreutz.

Even though Cope had to support the team from the sidelines for five games due to an injured rib and right foot, he still contributed to its success by keeping the men connected both on and off the field. By organizing activities as simple as watching football together, Cope helped the team create a closer bond than in previous years.

"The culture and atmosphere of the program has changed. When I came in as a freshman, there were some cliques and divisions amongst the team," said Cope. "That was one of the main reasons why we didn't reach the level that we wanted to. There was always something holding us back, it was that lack of chemistry. But this year has been completely different now that we have a closer team."

Junior Fatai Alashe filled Cope's position on defense during his absence. Alashe said he was honored to be Cope's replacement and also described him as the star of the soccer program.

"Kevin was one of the first guys to immediately include me when I first got here," said Alashe. "Obviously when you're a freshman, the seniors can be a little intimidating at first, but Kevin really helped merge the team. He is also a huge leader on the field and has personally helped me during the games by keeping my spirits high if I make a mistake."

Eager to return to the field, Cope dismissed concern about his still-injured rib to finish out his final season as a Spartan. He helped the men maintain their stonewall defense, resulting in 13 shutout games and a total of 14 wins — breaking the record for the most wins in a single season and securing a spot in the 2013 NCAA Tournament.

"Stick to the plan and stick to the process. Great things can happen when you do that," said Cope as he explained the team's strategy.

Despite a loss in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament to Notre Dame, who later became the reigning champions, the Spartan's season was a historic and record-breaking run. Cope, Kreutz and sophomore Jay Chapman received NSCAA All-Region honors, and in addition, head coach Damon Rensing was named 2013 Great Lakes Regional Coach of the Year. In addition, Cope was selected in the second round of the 2014 Major League Soccer SuperDraft by the Philadelphia Union as the 25th overall pick.

"The biggest thing I'm going to miss about MSU is my team," said Cope. "We will be friends for life, but I will definitely miss going to practice with them every day. Hopefully I continue my soccer career, but I'm just going to take those friendships with me and try to make them proud. Hopefully they can inspire me, and hopefully I can inspire them."



roster

Courtney Clem	JR
Nicole Pond	FR
Allyson Krause	SO
Shelby Foit	FR
Lisa Vogel	JR
Alexandra Gjonaj	SO
Caitlyn Riley	FR
Mary Kathryn Fiebernitz	SO
Jessica White	FR
Kaylee Phillips	FR
Megan Marsack	JR
Rachel Van Poppelen	SO
Shauna Stadelmaier	SO
Emily Paymer	FR
Nicole Caruso	JR
Kelsey Mullen	SR
Jessica Kiellstrom	FR
Sarah Kovan	SO
Michell Dear	FR
Marisa Oleksiak	FR
Kirsten Evans	SO
Megan Rafac	FR
Paige Wester	JR
Kelli Timar	SO
Erica Goodenough	FR
Courtney Hammer	SO
Madeline Luccia	FR
Kaitlin Johnson	FR
Gabrielle Garuder	SO

results

Central Michigan	L, 1-0
Buffalo	W, 2-0
Milwaukee	W, 5-2
San Diego State	T, 1-1 (2OT)
Dayton	W, 2-1
Oaklan	T, 1-1 (2OT)
New Mexico	W, 1-0
Bowling Green	W, 3-1
Eastern Michigan	W, 3-2
Nebraska	L, 1-0
Minnesota	W, 3-0
Wisconsin	L, 2-0
Michigan	L, 2-1
Iowa	L, 1-0 (2OT)
Ohio State	L, 3-1
Purdue	W, 4-0
Indiana	L, 3-2 (2OT)
Northwestern	W, 2-1
Illinois	L, 2-0
Penn State	L, 2-0

blessing in disguise

Women's soccer team builds leadership in underclassmen

Entering the 2013 season, women's soccer head coach Tom Saxton knew it was going to be one of growth. After seven seniors graduated the previous season, he was challenged with rebuilding a team. Under the guidance of Saxton and the lone remaining senior, Kelsey Mullins, 13 freshmen joined the team and finished with a slightly discouraging 9-9-2 record. However, beyond those statistics lies a victory for the team in leadership development.

"I think it's the youngest team we've had here with one senior and two-thirds of the team being freshmen and sophomores," Saxton said. "We were out of balance this year, but it was a great opportunity for the young players to grow."

Widely seen as a roadblock, the overall age of the team was actually a blessing in disguise. Saxton was grateful for the opportunity to emphasize leadership in his coaching regimens.

"We identified some important adjectives that we associate with our team: hunger, unity, and resilience," Saxton said. "We kept going back to those throughout the season."

Unity was a well-practiced concept for the women. Mullins could not be the only leader of the team, especially after suffering a career-threatening injury mid-season. She severely strained her medial collateral ligament during the Ohio State game. During the time when Mullins was out, underclassmen like freshman Kaylee Phillips had to fill the void.

"With such a young team and only one senior it required a lot of younger players to step up and take a leadership role," Phillips said. "This actually forced everyone to come together."

As the season progressed, Phillips noticed the resilience in her teammates that was adamantly taught by Saxton from the beginning. During the Michigan game, Phillips said the team used its halftime break to review what it did incorrectly in the first half, but mainly focused on rebuilding players' confidence and driving to finish strong.

Although it ended in a loss, the team rebounded in the second half and began to outmaneuver the Wolverines — a personal highlight in Phillips' first season as a Spartan.

"Even though we had some unfortunate games, we never got down and we would always come back the next game with an adjusted attitude," Phillips noted.

Mullins managed to recover enough to play one last game on home turf against Penn State. After four years on the team, her share of victory, defeat, travel and fellowship culminated in that experience.

"Being a member on this team has been everything. The memories I've had I'm going to cherish and take with me for the rest of my life," Mullins said. "It's definitely shaped me and has made me the person I am today."

With one year under the belts of many underclassmen players, the focus was adjusted to the 2014 season. Saxton has already laid out what he expects from his players next year, not forgetting what his players achieved the past season.

"Watching a player like Kelsey Mullins finish her career," Saxton said, "despite the fact she was out for three weeks, act so classy as a captain and having the rallying support from the rest of the team will stick with me as a memory for a long time."



TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Freshman Michelle Dear settles the ball at her feet during a match against MAC competitor Bowling Green. The Spartans won the match 3-2.



Sophomore Kelli Timar passes the ball through her opponent's legs. After going into overtime the Spartans lost to Indiana 3-2.

roster

Lindsey Besson	FR
Sarah Bowling	SR
Dana Briggs	SR
Emma Fernandez	SR
McKinzie Freimuth	JR
Dani Goranson	SO
Sarah Gutknecht	FR
Valerie Kaff	FR
Kassidy Kujawa	FR
Destinee Luna	SO
Alyssa McBride	JR
Carly Nielsen	JR
Jacquie Reiser	SO
Stephanie Sanders	JR*
Kelly Smith	SR
Ellie Stoffer	JR
Shanin Thomas	SO
Kristina Zalewski	FR

*redshirt

results

Ohio State	L, 13-6
Ohio State	L, 11-7
Ohio State	L, 4-3
Purdue	L, 10-1
Purdue	W, 6-3
Purdue	L, 10-1
Notre Dame	L, 11-4
Penn State	L, 9-3
Penn State	L, 7-3
Penn State	L, 6-0
Indiana	W, 5-3
Indiana	L, 7-3
Michigan	L, 9-1
Michigan	L, 8-0
Michigan	L, 14-0
Iowa	W, 1-0
Iowa	L, 5-1
Iowa	W, 4-0
Central Michigan	L, 6-4
Nebraska	L, 2-0
Nebraska	L, 6-0

in memoriam: charles fobbs

Women's softball mourns the loss of assistant coach Charles Fobbs

During the fall season, women's softball suffered one of the hardest losses the team could imagine — not on the field but in their hearts. On Wednesday, Sept. 18, the team's assistant coach Charles Fobbs died in a car accident, leaving the program devastated and in shock.

After hearing the tragic news, the team canceled games scheduled for the weekend to take time to mourn. The players and head coach Jacquie Joseph were heartbroken, but tried to focus on what they could do to make Fobbs proud of the spring season.

"He doesn't want us to sulk about it. He never made things about him, so I think we know that he'd just want us to play. Play like we have been," said sophomore Shanin Thomas. "But there's definitely a whole new reason why I play now. For this season, anytime I put my glove on, get a ground ball, lace up my cleat or anything, I'll think of him and what he would want for us as a team to be."

Thomas described Fobbs as hilarious and full of swag, laughing fondly at the former coach's habit of wearing velvet suits to the airport when the team traveled. Besides providing comic relief, Thomas said Fobbs inspired her to have confidence at the plate and on the field.

"I didn't play much last year, and he used to ask me all of the time, 'What are you afraid of? Are you afraid of being good?' I will never forget that," said Thomas. "I will forever hear his voice saying that to me. That is probably the biggest memory and impact that he's had on me. Just that one saying. It really hits me hard."

Thomas continues a tradition she had with Fobbs, wearing tape around her wrist on game days with "what are you afraid of" written on one side. In addition, all of the ladies wear a patch on the left shoulder of their uniforms that reads "Fobbs," keeping the kind words he spoke and his memory with them on the field.

Senior Emma Fernandez reflected on a conversation she had with Fobbs the day he passed away.

"I walked onto the field and saw Fobbs in the dugout. I said 'Hey coach how you doing?' He turned around, flashed me a huge grin and said "I'm doing great, 'cause I'm here with you Fernandez."

Even with the personal mementos, the team had a difficult start to its spring season, losing 0-3 in its series against Penn State.

"Coach Fobbs would be disappointed that we are not doing better," said Joseph. "He was a very matter of fact man and had a very clear vision for what he thought we were capable of and for each player. He hated to lose as much as I hate to lose. He would only want them to be playing to their ability, and we've got some kids who are not playing to their ability."

The team also lost two of its four pitchers to injuries at the start of the season, a huge setback according to Joseph. As the challenges multiplied, the team agreed the best way to proceed was to focus on the parts of life they can control, like the mechanics of softball, leaving the pain of losing a series and loved ones in the past. To be successful, the women looked to not only develop the younger players but also strived to play what Joseph describes as a complete game: solid pitching, good defense and timely hitting.

"Sometimes life deals you a difficult hand, and it is really important that you learn how to get up from tough times," said Joseph. "You learn to be resilient, you learn to handle adversity. Life is not always peaches and cream. We've been dealt a difficult hand, but that is not what matters. What matters is how we move forward."



TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI



Freshman Valerie Kaff pitches a ball to a Penn State batter at Secchia Stadium. Kaff was one of three pitchers during the game.

Senior Sara Bowling swings at a pitch during a game against Penn State. The Spartans fell 7-3 to the Nittany Lions.



results

G-W Meet	White- 336
	Green- 243
UI w/ UNI	M: 2nd
	W: 2nd
U of I w. Liberty	W: 3rd
Ball State	W, 182-118
Grand Valley	W: W, 162-138
	M: L, 134-166
Notre Dame	L, 103- 197
NWU Invitate	M: 2nd
	W: 4th
NWU Invitate	M: 2nd
	W: 2nd
NWU Invite	M: 2nd
	W: 2nd
Winter Nationals	All Day
Winter Nationals	All Day
Winter Nationals	NTS
Purdue	M: L, 112.5- 187.5
	W: L, 125-167
Bowling Green	L, 144-150
EMU with Buffalo	M: 3rd; W: 3rd
Oakland	W: W, 163-135
	M: W, 154.5-143.5
Michigan	L, 164-107
Michigan	L, 172-103
at Toledo	L, 148-94
W B1G Ten	11th- 24 pts.
W B1G Ten	10th- 47 pts.
W B1G Ten	10th- 70 pts.
W B1G Ten	11th- 87 pts.
Men's B1G Ten	9th- 36 pts.
Men's B1G Ten	10th- 52 pts.
Men's B1G Ten	10th- 84.5 pts.
Men's B1G Ten	10th- 107.5 pts.

the ripple effect

Swimming and diving teams break school records

Two hundred million years ago, marine life took its first tentative steps on soil. From there, mammals evolved on land, and a few returned back into the ocean. The evolution from water to soil marked a transition — from fins and gills to legs and lungs. Despite anatomical disadvantages, the swimming and diving team's ability to seemingly defy the forces of gravity, fluid dynamics and evolution prove that with intense training, humans can flourish in water like their metamorphic ancestors.

Such stamina was not always present during the men's swimming season. After a 15-year-long career, senior Nick Roberts, an individual medley swimmer, recorded some of his slowest times.

Initially disappointed in his performances during what he termed "a midseason slump," Roberts found his turnaround point when new coach Mike Hulme infused fresh energy into practices. After a week of arduous training, Roberts and his teammates were ready to set the rest of their season afire.

"Hulme brought energy and excitement, and a lot of new challenges," Roberts explained. "He expected a lot more out of us, go above and beyond — like putting up fast times during regular practice."

Senior swimmer Sam Schulze gave up his summer to swim. Tired of having to catch up physically after a long summer away from rigorous practice, Schulze amped up his training in hopes to improve his final season.

And it paid off. Schulze and three other swimmers, Bryan Williams, Patrick Falconer and Jacob Moore beat the record they had set only a year earlier on the 200-meter freestyle relay with a time of 1:20.16.

"It's a privilege to still be involved in athletics at my age and see what I could do," Schulze said.

"After this (season), I'm not going to be in top physical form anymore. I thought if I put in all this work into it and push my body to the limit, I can see how far I could go."

Disconnected by lane dividers, members of the swim and dive teams shined in their respective events while continuing to cheer each other on both in and out of the pool.

Senior Cristee Cordes was standing in a line of 47 divers with her diving team during the Big Ten meet. Cracking jokes with teammates relaxed Cordes as the line of divers before her thinned and she was eventually standing high above.

In preparation for her reverse rotation, Cordes stiffened her muscles and inched towards the edge of the board. Raising her arms, she bounced into the air, tucking, spinning and finally puncturing the water's surface.

"Diving is not physically hard, it's more of a mental sport," Cordes said. "The physical part isn't hard for me, it's always about getting past a mental block."

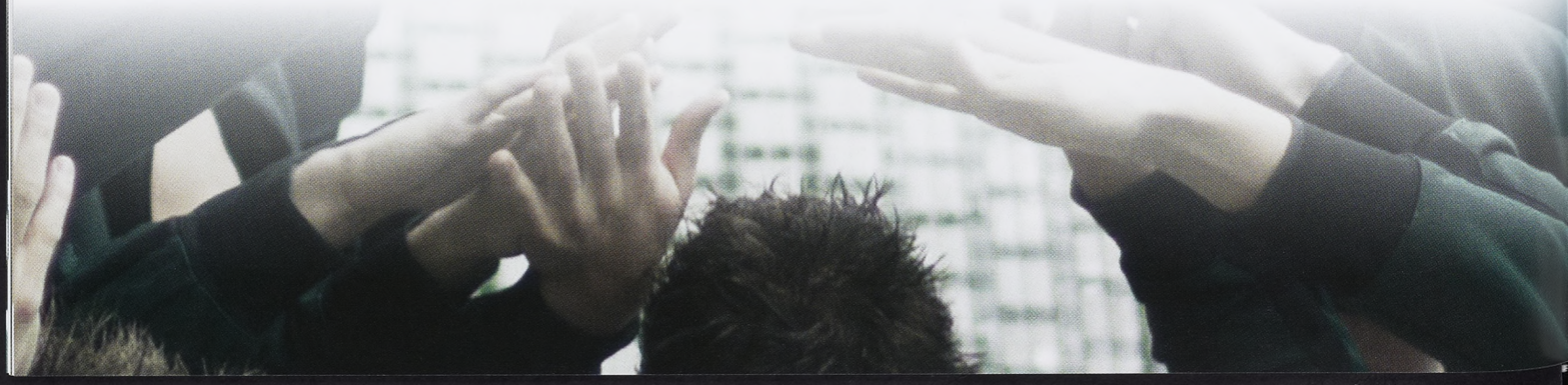
Despite the mental barriers the sport poses, the diving team broke eight school records during the season.

With the women's swim team taking 11th at Big Ten Championships and men's team taking 10th, the swimmers finished their season with a considerable number of broken records. Senior Alison Menzies, who qualified for NCAA Zones after Big Ten Championships, brought her 11th place back to East Lansing.

For each swimmer and diver, the largest challenge is not preparing to beat the competition, but triumphing over personal doubts. The key is to think that any record is unbreakable, whether it's cutting through water or diving headfirst into it.







TYPE CHELSEA MONGEAU
PHOTO TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Senior Nick Roberts takes a breath during the 200-meter individual medley. Roberts attained two personal records during the season in the 200-meter freestyle and in the 200-meter individual medley.

Swimmers jump into the pool for the 400-meter freestyle. Bad weather prevented the opposing team from competing, so the Spartans had an intra-squad meet in which swimmers were allowed to wear special suits for less water resistance.



roster

Will Davis	SO*
Brett Forman	FR
Paul Heeder	SO
Harry Jadun	JR
Drew Lied	SR
Gijs Linders	JR
John Patrick Mullane	SO
Aaron Pfister	SR
Mac Roy	FR
Doug Zade	JR

*redshirt

results

Detroit Mercy	W, 7-0
Toledo	W, 6-1
Notre Dame	L, 5-2
Tennessee	L, 4-1
North Carolina State	L, 4-0
Ball State	W, 7-0
Eastern Illinois	W, 7-0
Kentucky	L, 4-1
Tulsa	L, 4-3
Xavier	W, 6-1
Michigan	L, 4-3
Harvard	L, 5-2
Western Michigan	W, 6-1
Louisville	L, 7-0
Penn State	L, 4-3
Ohio State	L, 5-2
Nebraska	W, 4-3
Iowa	W, 5-2
Illinois	L, 6-1
Northwestern	L, 6-1
Wisconsin	W, 4-3
Minnesota	L, 5-2
Purdue	W, 5-2
Indiana	W, 6-1



Junior Doug Zade serves to a Toledo player. Zade went 3-6 in singles and 2-3 in doubles during the season.

Senior Will Davis hits a ground stroke against Eastern Illinois. Davis advanced to the round of 32 at the indoor Big Ten Tournament during the 2013-2014 season.



TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO LUKE PIOTROWSKI
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

rallying for success

Men's tennis team works to qualify for Nationals for second year

After capping a historic 100th season with their first-ever trip to the NCAA tournament in 2013, the men's tennis team was hungry for a demanding season of match play. They asked and received. Beginning with two shutout home victories against Ball State University and Eastern Illinois, the team worked to regain the previous year's rhythm, inching closer to another qualification in national match play.

Midway through the season, head coach Gene Orlando said the men were still looking for that pinnacle game. Many matches were close in score until the end, and the team worked on how to wrap up a match and grab a win. Despite not having that "highlight match" this season, Orlando added that the mentality of this year's squad has not been seen in previous rosters.

"This season was a gamble — I wanted to play the best, the guys wanted to play the best, but at the end of the day, we haven't been able to create this momentum to bring back a win," Orlando said. "However, the perseverance of this team to keep moving after a tough day has been more of a highlight than a match could've been. This is the strongest team we've had on paper here."

For senior Aaron Pfister, setting immediate goals and focusing on one match at a time are just steps to the prize at the end — qualifying for the NCAA tournament again. When choosing among universities, Pfister was told by others that if he became a Spartan, he'd never make it to an NCAA tournament. While he already proved disbelievers wrong, the pursuit for another run to nationals did not end.

"We learn a lot about ourselves every time we play," Pfister said. "We're always establishing our identity on what we can become and accomplish as a team. Taking games week by week, we're able to clean up mistakes and hopefully it'll be enough to reach our goals."

Considering the season on a weekly basis has made the transition to collegiate play smoother for freshman Brett Forman.

"Having a fall off-season helped get me into shape for the spring. We take our successes one practice, one match, one week at a time," Forman said. "Having that support from these brothers each day has motivated me not just to be a better player but a better team member."

Every time one of the players steps onto the court, shakes their opponent's hand and begins match play, the performance becomes a testament to the hours they spent in practice perfecting their forehand swing or service shots. Playing teams such as nationally ranked No. 1 Ohio State and 23rd ranked Penn State, each swing became a crucial tool to the Spartans' ultimate victory.

"This is the gauntlet that the guys were given," Orlando said. "For the Big Ten Tournament, it's a win or go home situation, and we want another run at nationals. We're capable of doing that, but every practice and every match will determine our outcome."

Although the season did not go according to plan, entering the Big Ten championships with an eigth place ranking, the team was not driven or defined by numbers. Orlando summed up this season by calling it "persistent" — not dwelling on the past, just looking forward to what lie ahead.



roster

Marina Bohrer SR
Christina Brown SR
Olga Chernova SR
Erin Faulkner FR
Julianne Gruber JR
Hilary Hager JR
Katarina Lingl SR
Emily Meyers SO
Catherine Parenteau JR
Athena Trouillot FR
Emmy Virkus FR
Jennifer Yen SR
Anna Zelechonok FR

results

Toledo	W, 7-0
Detroit	W, 6-0
Ball State	L, 6-1
Cleveland State	W, 7-0
Eastern Michigan	W, 6-1
Bowling Green	W, 5-2
Oakland	W, 7-0
UIC	W, 5-2
DePaul	L, 7-0
Western Michigan	W, 6-1
Milwaukee	W, 6-1
Wright State	W, 7-0
Niagara	W, 7-0
Mercer	W, 7-0
Michigan	L, 6-1
Penn State	W, 7-0
Ohio State	L, 5-2
Nebraska	W, 4-3
Iowa	W, 4-3
Illinois	W, 4-3
Northwestern	L, 6-1
Wisconsin	W, 6-1
Minnesota	L, 4-3

finding their footing

Women's tennis team's mental resolve leads to record-breaking season

Every year in late June, the world's greatest athletes gather in London for the oldest tennis tournament: Wimbledon. This is tennis at its most prestigious. Every participant, male and female, is dressed in traditional all-white outfits while the crowd salutes each powerful shot with rambunctious applause. But there is more to the sport than manicured lawns and English propriety. Although not playing for millions, the women's tennis team still fights to achieve a stellar performance.

These athletes have served, stroked and volleyed their way to one of their best seasons in history. The 17-9 record is the team's best since 1987-88, when the Spartans won 18 matches.

"I think that for many years, we haven't won many matches. It was definitely putting pressure on us," said senior Olga Chernova. "This year we are finally so much tougher. We are fed up with losing. We became better teammates for each other, and we push each other harder during practices so we are ready to compete."

Led by senior and first singles player Marina Bohrer, the ladies reached the peak of their performances against Illinois, then ranked No. 34 in the nation. Scoring a third consecutive win in Big Ten play, they secured their first streak of that length since 1990-91. Wisconsin gave them their fifth Big Ten win, and the team's best record in 13 years.

But the women weren't always knocking teams down so easily. An early 4-3 loss against Ball State University on home court caused them to reevaluate their performance and identify areas for improvement.

"We had really long team meetings and individual meetings to figure out how we could start thinking as a team," said Bohrer. "We spoke about how everyone should support each other in and outside of practice. Like if you are done with your match, you should go cheer for your teammates and not chat with friends or be on your phone. It's the small things, but when you add them, it makes a huge difference."

During doubles play, Borher and her partner, freshman Erin Faulkner, would yell "Go green, Go white" to their teammates to join the chorus of encouraging words ringing from all over the courts. As the women slid and stroked their way to points, the sound of Chernova's Russian growl could be heard several courts away while an enthusiastic "let's go" accompanied each well-earned point.

"I think that going forward, other Big Ten teams will be nervous to play Michigan State, because they know the Spartans will fight on the court. We do not care which color of the shirt we play; we compete no matter who is on the other side of the court," said Chernova.

After coaching the team for six years, coach Simone Jardim said the mental strength of these athletes is part of a cultural shift of women's tennis at MSU.

"We've been making history because the kids are winning a ton of matches. The kids enjoy winning, and they're really competitive," said Jardim. "In the past, against teams like Northwestern and Michigan, we folded. We have not done that this year."

Despite a tough match against Northwestern at the tail end of the year, the team refused to falter. Chernova's loss in a third-set tiebreaker along with other close calls resulted in defeat. However, the match was highlighted by Bohrer's win against the 44th ranked singles player in the nation and a defeat over the 21st ranked doubles with Faulkner.

While MSU's campus may not be the professional tennis stages of Dubai or Melbourne, these young athletes' resolve and tenacity transforms home court into an illustrious venue. And their efforts secured one of the most successful records in women's tennis history.



TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Freshman Erin Faulker serves a ball during her match. Chernova received a 5-4 record in singles during the fall season.

Junior Catherine Parenteau returns a shot during a series of volleying during her match. The Spartans defeated Cleveland State 7-0 in the game.



results

Notre Dame	M: 1st W:2nd
B1G Ten	M: 3rd W: 6th
B1G Ten	M: 8th W: 7th



Freshman Kayla Koch releases her javelin after a powerful run-up. The Spartans finished in the top four spots in each of the four throwing disciplines during the Spartan Invitational.

Qualifiers to the NCAA Indoor competition transition to outdoor season

The flight back from the Indoor Track and Field NCAA Championships in Albuquerque was the only break that several MSU track members received. After finishing the competition on Mar. 15, the athletes' focus switched to preparing for the outdoor season two weeks later. For senior Kurt Schneider, this transition brought one final opportunity to achieve his goal of earning a First Team All-American mark in the decathlon.

"I'm motivated now more than ever," Schneider said. "After I tripped over the last hurdle at the NCAA championships, I knew going into the outdoor season that I needed to work harder than ever to make that mark."

Alongside fellow senior Antonio James as well as juniors Tori Franklin, Leah O'Connor, Caleb Rhynard and Rachele Schulist, Schneider and his teammates landed in Lansing eager to begin the outdoor season. However, Schneider noted that bringing back the experiences of the indoor championships redefined the meaning of practice.

"I always knew I was a hard worker, but until I reached a competition like nationals, I knew why these athletes didn't skip reps, and outside of practice they pushed themselves day in and day out so they can make it to this meet and give it their all while they were there," Schneider said.

O'Connor agreed that the level of competition at nationals was overwhelming. However, her preparations didn't come in the form of extra sprints but rather in visits with a sports psychiatrist.

"At NCAAs, you look around and you're competing with Olympians, so there's a lot of pressure going into an event," O'Connor said. "You have to learn how to manage yourself. Physically, you're ready. Mentally, you have to prepare months in advance to approach meets in a new light and plan out ways to not be afraid when you step out on the track. I micro-managed the national meet before I even got there."

O'Connor's planning started before either seasons began. As a cross-country runner, she was preparing for races in the summer. She admitted that cross-country is the season with which she feels most uncomfortable because of the diverse racing format and conditions. However, after helping the team become sixth in the nation, she was able to ease into the subsequent track seasons.

"Coming into indoor and battling the demons I had before, I learned how to become a tough competitor," O'Connor said.

Aside from mental roadblocks, athletes encountered physical injuries as well. For James, relapsing from a torn labrum and meniscus as well as cartilage damage on his knee gave him a change of heart upon entering a second season of competition.

"I wanted to go into the outdoor season healthy," James said. "If I can go to each meet with a positive mindset, I'm able to spread my energy to the rest of the team because with two seasons, indoor and outdoor, it's exhausting. If I can keep them optimistic, we'll have the results."

Director of Track and Field Walt Drenth said that the positive mentalities these athletes possess is a testament to the program's continuing growth.

"Now that we have more people with national experience, it helps with leadership and goal-setting for athletes new to our program who haven't built up confidence," Drenth said.

While only these six can call themselves national athletes, they do not forget their contributions as players to a larger team. Whether teammates were thousands of miles apart or running one lane next to each other, supporting each other through personal, mental and physical challenges became a victory of national competition proportions.



TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN PATTY SZCZEPANSKI

a seasonal battle



Freshman Nadia Lorencz leaps over a hurdle near the end of her 100-meter hurdles race. Lorencz took first place at the Spartan Invitational with a time of 16.10 seconds.

roster

Kori Moster	JR
Kristen Muir	FR*
Autumn Christenson	FR
Halle Peterson	SO
Megan Tompkins	FR
Allyssah Fitterer	FR
Ryian Hubbard	JR
Ebony Scott	SO
Taylor Galloway	JR
Kelsey Kuipers	SR
Chloe Reinig	FR
Kristen Kelsay	SR
Brooke Kranda	FR
Jazmine White	JR
Lauren Wicinski	SR
Maggie Halloran	SO
Alexis Mathews	SR

*redshirt

results

Saint Francis	W, 3-0
Towson	W, 3-0
Pacific	L, 3-0
Virginia Tech	W, 3-2
Oregon	W, 3-0
Oregon State	W, 3-0
IPFW	W, 3-0
Illinois State	W, 3-0
Butler	W, 3-0
Eastern Michigan	W, 3-0
Duquesne	W, 3-1
Cincinnati	W, 3-0
Penn State	W, 3-2
Ohio State	W, 3-0
Illinios	W, 3-0
Northwestern	W, 3-0
IOWA	W, 3-0
Nebraska	W, 3-1
Minnesota	L, 3-2
Wisconsin	L, 3-1
Michigan	L, 3-1
Indiana	L, 3-2
Ohio State	W, 3-0
Penn State	L, 3-0
Northwestern	W, 3-1
Illinois	L, 3-1
Nebraska	L, 3-0
IOWA	W, 3-0
Wisconsin	L, 3-1
Minnesota	L, 3-1
Michigan	W, 3-0
Purdue	L, 3-2
OHIO	W, 3-0
Kentucky	W, 3-1
Penn State	L, 3-1

top thrill

MSU volleyball steps up in a season full of highs and lows

The MSU volleyball season was one of towering heights and steep descents. Climbing all the way to the fifth spot in the polls during the regular season, the team was eventually bounced out of the NCAA tournament in the Sweet 16 by eventual-champions Penn State. But as with any rollercoaster, those hanging on in the end craved their next thrilling ride.

The non-conference schedule at the beginning of the year started with 13 wins in 14 matches. By this time, the ladies had only strapped themselves in.

The women climbed the enormous slope of the roller coaster during Big Ten play. Exploding out of the gate, they defeated No. 1 ranked Penn State University on their home court.

"Beating Penn State was huge for us," said Coach Cathy George. "We became the hunted immediately."

The Spartans fought their way to an early 6-0 record in Big Ten play, moving all the way to No. 5 in the national rankings. This was the team's highest ranking since 1996, when they were third in the nation. Senior and Captain Kristen Kelsay referred to the stiff competition in Big Ten play as the "SEC of volleyball," alluding to the recent parity and performances of the SEC teams in college football. The team had a final taste of glory with a victory against the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, another nationally-ranked squad, before things grinded to a halt.

The ladies' first lost of the Big Ten season was to the University of Minnesota on the road. For the women, it was the drop on the rollercoaster. Hands up in terror, the women watched their 6-0 start to the Big Ten season quickly drop to 6-4.

"We set the bar high for ourselves," said Kelsay. "We realized we were human. It freaked us out."

Coach George agreed to an extent with Kelsay, but emphasized the teamwork, tenacity and Spartan pride inside each of her players.

"I think we started playing not to lose. It was all out of a great desire to make MSU look well," said George. "It was a lesson that had to be learned."

Junior and Captain Kori Moster said the team wasn't prepared for the challenges they faced after being pursued by the rest of the Big Ten.

"It's a big mental game. I think we let that get the best of us," said Moster. "We didn't prepare ourselves for that kind of adversity. It's hard to keep your spirits up when you're not doing as well as you're capable of."

The team fought through the setback of losing four straight matches to finish the Big Ten season with a .500 record. Kelsay said the season was broken into three big chunks: the non-conference play, Big Ten play and the NCAA tournament.

The ladies ended up winning four of their remaining Big Ten games and finished a modest 10-10 in Big Ten play and finished ranked No. 14 in the nation.

"It's not just a great team; it's the start to a great program," said George.

Kelsay said the team had ambitions of advancing past the Sweet 16 and possibly to the title game, an enormous step up from just hoping to get votes to be ranked in the top 25 in the nation her freshman year.

With their tribulations behind them, a number of players received national and academic honors. Lauren Wicinski was a second-team All-American. Moster was third-team All-American, while senior Alexis Mathews was an All-American honorable mention. Kelsay was a third-team Academic All-American. Wicinski finished 13th in NCAA history in kills.

Once the high speed twists and turns subsided, the women seemed to gasp for breath as sweat glistened on their face from the intensity of the ride. But at the end of the day, they could smile, knowing they had accomplished something, especially after dealing with intense adversity. The women finished the year with a record of 23-12, providing next season's team plenty to build on. It may not have been the picture-perfect season they had hoped for, but the program continues forward with dreams of higher peaks.

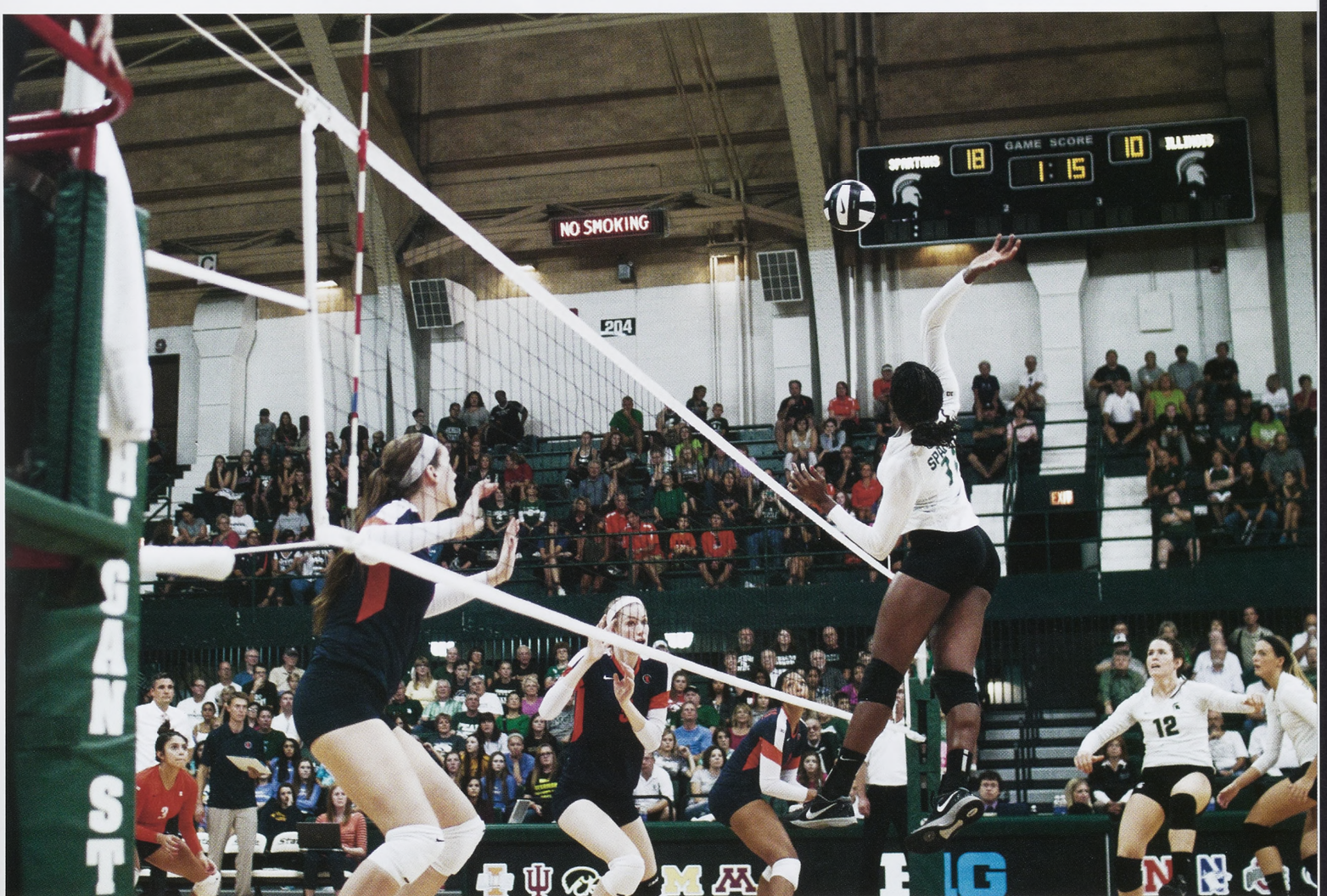


TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO STAFF
DESIGN CHLOE FOSTER



Senior Kelsey Kulpers blocks the ball with her teammates. Kulpers also added two aces and two kills for her team during the Auto-Owners Insurance Spartan Invitational.

Senior Alexis Mathews spikes the ball. Mathews was invited to participate in the USA Volleyball National team's winter training block after completing her final season at MSU.



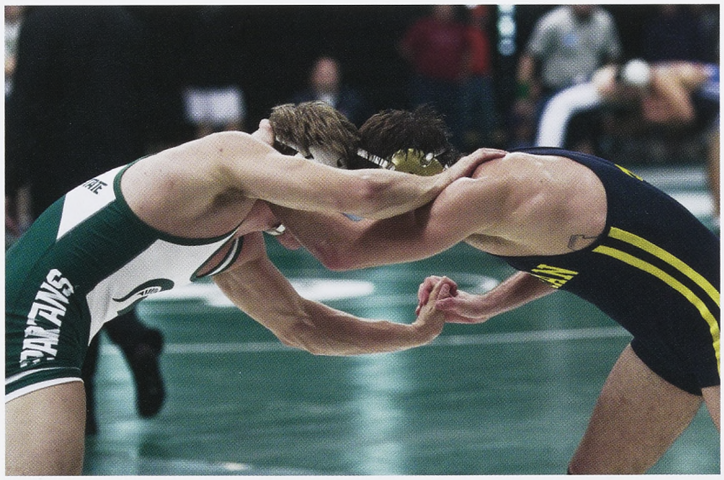
results

Oregon State	L, 29-9
Utah Valley	W, 21-18
Gardner-Webb	W, 26-13
Drexel	W, 25-9
Eastern Michigan	W, 24-9
Columbia	L, 16-15
Rutgers	L, 21-18
North Carolina	W, 22-19
Wisconsin	L, 30-7
Brute Invitational	1st-105 pts
Iowa	L, 41-0
Minnesota	L, 35-3
Michigan	L, 26-6
Illinois	L, 29-6
Penn State	L, 42-3
Ohio State	L, 39-6
Indiana	W, 18-16
Olivet	W, 40-0
Central Michigan	W, 18-14
Big Ten Championship	12th-21.5 pts
NCAA Championships	32nd-12.5 pts



Trimble pins his opponent in a match against U of M at the Jenison Field House. Several matches were going on at once on the floor of the field house.

TYPE ASHLEY WEIGEL
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN ALEXANDER CYR



Sophomore Nick Trimble matches up against a U of M wrestler. Trimble finished the season with a 22-13 record.

off the mat

Wrestling team's season means more than a record

Silence filled the the Jenison Field House as the referee blew the whistle to start off the Jan. 31 match. Only the rustle of the mat could be heard as senior Mike McClure grappled his hapless opponent, Penn State heavyweight Nick Ruggear. The Spartan pinned Ruggear to the ground and held him there until the whistle sounded once again. As McClure was awarded points for the takedown, a group of young men seated to the side of the mat cheered. Whether an active player or not, every member offered encouraging words of support.

With a record of 8-10, this season was about more than the scoreboard. The wrestlers partnered with team IMPACT, a non-profit that pairs children facing life-threatening illnesses with college teams. Sparrow Hospital makes arrangements to allow the team to host these special guests at their practices.

Tyler Jones, an 11-year-old diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, was given an opportunity to be an honorary member of the team. Jones became a part of the wrestling family in February and befriended many of the players, occasionally participating in team warm-ups.

"Tyler accepted our offer to be on the team and now regularly attends practice and competitions," said Christopher Nash, sophomore heavyweight. "It was good for our team because it was the motivation we needed near the end of the season to understand that our problems aren't that serious. His presence also helped to create a common bond amongst our team which helped as well."

Sophomore Brian Gibbs felt that Jones brought the team together during the year.

"Having Tyler around the team gave me and my teammates a more positive attitude when coming to practice and competing," Gibbs said. "It was nice to have something that made us more of a family."

For three teammates, this sense of family was more than just a shared interest. Christopher, Kevin and Robert Nash had an opportunity not available to most other siblings: to play on a college sports team together. The ability to train and compete alongside their brothers led to a stronger performance throughout the season.

"Having a team of close friends and also two brothers helped me push myself every day, and I was held accountable," said the oldest brother, senior Robert Nash. "I can't explain how amazing it was to be part of a collegiate wrestling team such as Michigan State."

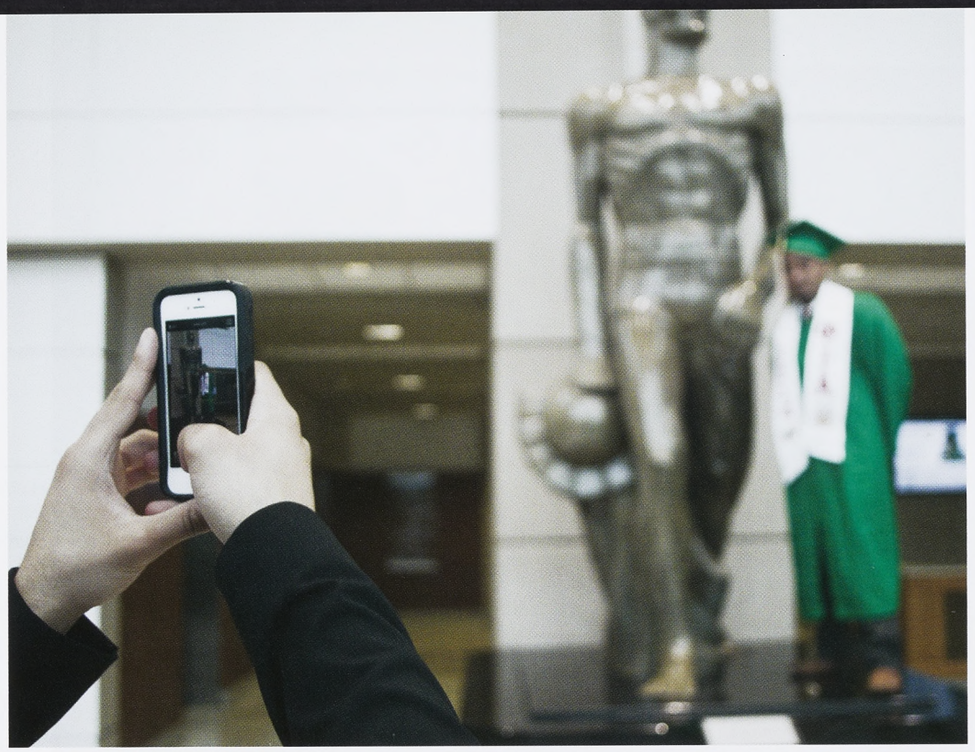
Though not blood-related, the rest of the teammates still had a chance to connect throughout the year. From an important victory on the road against Central Michigan University to mentoring Jones, Robert Nash explained that the Spartans grew close and always had each other's backs.

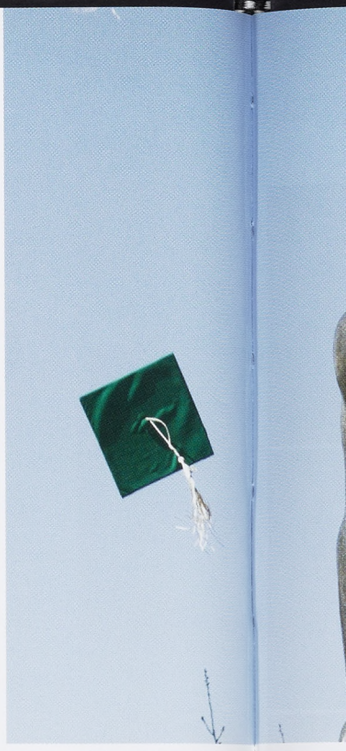
"Day in and day out we fight in that wrestling room. No one understands the sacrifices, commitment, the weight cut, losing ten pounds in a week and the struggles we faced other than myself and my teammates," Nash said. "This is an extremely mentally and physically demanding sport, and to have teammates that you can relate to and know will be there for you is great."

Family has a number of definitions, but one theme is always prevalent: support. The care and trust that comprises a family unit, whether it's genetic or built on bonds of friendship, bring out the best in each member. No matter what weight class they fall into, everyone has struggles to overcome. By celebrating every triumph on and off the mat, teammates help each other bear the weight of their respective loads.




2014










ΦΙΑ
CHIGAN STATE





seniors

Time's up. Pencils down. Scantrons to the front of the room. Just like that, seniors' college careers come to an end. Doors of dated lecture halls open for the last time into the warm spring sun. The excitement of a new chapter melds with the sadness of leaving East Lansing's embrace.

But the rigid structures of the university stay in place and cement the memories made there. Its vibrant landscape ties together the stories of friends and classmates, tailgates and late nights.

After caps are thrown and diplomas accepted, individuals go their separate ways and lives rearrange. As they head down a path shaped by their years at the university, their own footsteps leave impressions on campus grounds.

The distance to which they travel is insignificant. They carry fragments of MSU within them always, in the form of knowledge, realtionships and achievements.

Though youth and college experiences are ephemeral, the Spartan bond is everlasting.





Seniors

ACHACON TO ANDERSON

Alyssa Achacon
Adrienne Adamczyk
Damon Adams
Dominique Adams
Jackelyn Adams
Abdelaziz Adawe



Widya Adidharma
Courtney Adkins
Arturo Aguirre
Noor Ahmadkamel
Souheila Ajami
Hillary Albert



Hilary Alcala
Dezmen Aldridge
Breanna Alfano
Souad Alfaraj
Omar Ali
Syeda Ali



Emina Alic
Eman Aljabr
Omar Aljawder
Zakariya Alkhatib
Joshua Alleman
Najah Allen



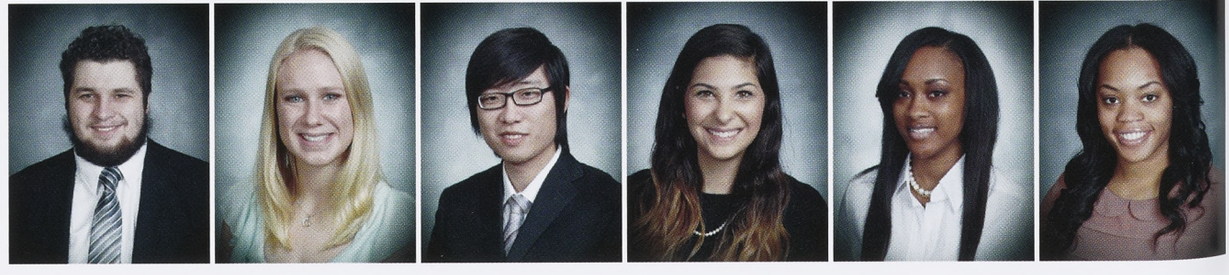
Rachel Allen
Adia Alli
Arturo Almanza
Aishah Almasri
Hussain Alsatarwah
Thamer Alshuaibi



Mohammed Alsinan
Jamie Alworden
Maytham Alzayer
Ahmad Alzubail
Chad Amato
Chelsea Amman



Bret Amo
Cynthia Amstutz
Xuran An
Nicole Andaloro
Anjelica Anderson
Elise Anderson





Jocelyn Anderson
Lora Anderson
Brittney Andre
Ashley Andreski
Nikhil Andrews
Seleta Andrews

Arunteja Annadatha
Michael Aravas
Saige Arend-Ritter
Bryndan Arnold
James Arnold
John Arpino

Taryn Arrighi
Sofio Arroyo
Ashleigh Artist
Katie Artz
Kary Askew
Assad Assad

Marcelo Assis
Nwakuso Atagbuzia
Clarissa Athmer
Roseanne Atsalakis
Ashley Attisha
Kayla Atwell

Lee Aufderheide
Kaila Austin
Nicholas Auz
Ananya Avinash
Bethel Ayalew
Rita Babijaev

Marcia Baczkowski
Matthew Bailey
Elizabeth Baker
Paige Baker
Hassan Bakkar
Christopher Baldwin

Jordan Ballance
Jieyu Ban
Brandon Banks
Chunya Bao
Alex Barber
Kevin Barcelon

Seniors

BARRETT TO BILLHORN

Ann Barrett
Kinsey Barrett
Gabrielle Barringer
Andrew Bartholomew
Tylor Bartley
Aaron Barto



Amy Barton
Alexandra Basford
Daniyal Bashir
Maxwell Bauer
Sarah Baughman
Gina Beach



Kaitlyn Bean
Rynisha Bean
Joseph Beaubien
Eric Beaudet
Jeremy Bebber
Kara Beck



Kaitlyn Bednarowski
Amanda Beebe
Eric Bell
Nicholas Bell
Andrew Belsito
Mary Bement



Kayla Bender
Alexander Benn
Alexa Bennett
Andrea Bennett
Leah Benoit
Peter Bensel



Adrena Benson
Jacob Benton
Frank Berardi
Melanie Bernard
Jeffrey Bertram
Yvonne Berz



Bryce Beyer
Adam Bezinque
Li Bialke
Anthony Biallas
Ashley Bica
Jake Billhorn





Angela Birchmeier
Thomas Birkett
Michael Bischoff
Demario Black
Brittani Blackwell
Brianna Blais

Ivanna Blakely
Bryan Blancke
Rocio Blanco
Briana Blomstrom
Cera Bloomquist
Henan Bo

Benjamin Boardman
Caroline Bodiya
Hannah Bodrie
Nicholas Bohr
Marina Bohrer
Tyler Bolton

Molly Bond
Rachel Bonello
Rachel Bonneau
Briana Booker
Laura Borchgrevink
Kathleen Borgman

Michael Bork
Danielle Boston
Brandon Boswell
Celeste Bott
Benjamin Bouchard
Taos Boudjemai

Nehal Boukhamsin
Joel Bowling
Amanda Boyd
Katherine Boyd
Laura Brakhage
Scott Brandt

Harold Bransdorfer
Allison Bratzel
Alexandra Bredael
Laura Bregar
Kara Brewer
Lila Brickner

Seniors

BRIEGEL TO BURNS

Brandon Briegel
Leticia Briseno
Kristen Brito
Chantal Brooks
Shane Brotherton
Amber Brown

Bianca Brown
Brea Brown
Brekeya Brown
Carlos Brown
David Brown
Jalessa Brown

Jenae Brown
Jordan Brown
Lyndsie Brown
Matthew Brown
Maxwell Brown
Mercedes Brown

Nolisha Brown
Pamela Brown
Sydnie Brown
Takisha Brown
Jasmine Brown-Moreland
Cassandra Bruns

Jessica Bryant
Leah Brynaert
Nubia Buckingham
Brett Buckley
Brianna Buckley
Nicholas Buglak

Aaron Bukovick
Donavan Bullock
Mallory Burcz
Chelsi Burger
Rasean Burgess
Sausan Burgol

Taylor Burgoon
Sarah Burke
Gerrard Burks
Sonae Burks
Joshua Burnell
Adam Burns





Ashlyn Burns
James Burns
Kevin Burrows
Jeremy Burstein
Keosha Burton
Stephanie Bury

Matthew Busterna
Meghan Butler
Alex Butts
Anthony Byrnes
Jessica Cady
Chengrong Cai

Lifan Cai
Giavani Cairo
Isabel Calder
Jameria Caldwell
Matthew Callaghan
Amanda Calotti

Brandon Cameron
Whitney Campagne
Andrew Campbell
Brittany Campbell
Lisa Campbell
Alper Can

Benjamin Caneba
Erica Cantor
Joseph Canty
Lei Cao
Yuetang Cao
David Caples

Celeste Carbajal
Breanne Card
Leah Rebecca Cardona
Jonathan Carrothers
Blair Carter
Felicia Carter

Kevin Carter
Dimitri Cason
Jaqueline Castaneda
Anne Castillo
Sean Caswell
Courtney Catcho

Seniors

CEDARSTAFF TO CHO



Anthony Cedarstaff
Zachary Chacko
Neil Chaffin
Taylor Chambers
Hannah Champ
Catherine Chan

Vera Chan
Tsung Chang
Daniel Chapman
Johnele Chapman
Matthew Chappuies
Man Wai Chau

Feifan Chen
Han Chen
Hao Chen
Jiaying Chen
Jin Chen
Ni Chen

Qinglin Chen
Shang-Wei Chen
Sicong Chen
Siqi Chen
Ting Chen
Yang Chen

Yanling Chen
Yicheng Chen
Yingqian Chen
Yishu Chen
Yunzhi Chen
Zejun Chen

Zhenyu Chen
Chen Cheng
Li Cheng
Sijia Cheng
Yida Cheng
Olga Chernova

Karen Cheung
Mansze Cheung
Chanice Chism
Joshua Chism
Byung-Wook Cho
Eunhae Cho



Ka Cho
Kyung-Min Cho
Sung Uk Cho
Yoon-Hei Cho
Aro Choi
Jung Choi



Yun Choi
Jiyoon Choo
Clement Choong
Yu-Ching Chou
Richa Choubey
Zulhaj Choudhury



Kyle Christian
Akillah Christopher
Morgan Christy
Jennifer Chu
Heather Chuhran
Jessica Cichocki



Eric Ciolek
Alyssa Clair
Kristy Clark
Samantha Clark
Cassandra Clay
Chelsey Clemens



Gillian Cobb
Brinn Cochrane
Danielle Cohen
Maddisen Coil
Elizabeth Cole
Taylor Coleman



Tiffany Collier
Stephanie Collins
Kelly Colpitts
Joseph Conley
Taylor Connor
Zachary Conrad



Johnathon Constan
Erin Cook
Thomas Cook
Carly Cooper
Max Cooper
Tara Cooper

Seniors

COPLAI TO DAVIS

Callahan Coplai
Kevin Corbett
Brooke Corbin
Samuel Corden
Ashley Cordray
Aubrey Cornish



Dedrick Cotton
Alyssa Cottrell
Rachel Countegan
Corey Cox
Mary Cox
Shawn Cox



Ellen Crain
Connor Crank
Jeremy Crawford
Kelsey Crawford
Alison Crites
Benjamin Crites



Brandon Croft
Curtis Crosier
Brianna Cummings
Trenton Cummins
Robert Curis
Rachel Curts



Michelle Cusick
Steven Cybulski
Alexander Cyr
Jalila Dado
Sarah Dahn
Ruijia Dai



Alexander Dailey
Drew Dakin
Carolyn Daley
Stephanie Damron
Leana Danesh
Sirrita Darby



Daryl Datu-On
Annah Davis
Christina Davis
Sarah Davis
Shelby Davis
Timothy Davis



TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN KATIE FOLEY











Senior Carlee Henderson sits tranquilly in the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, reading a book. Henderson became affiliated with the museum during her years on campus through her position as a docent.

carlee henderson

When dressing for class each morning, senior Carlee Henderson never took the easy way out. A strong believer in having a sense of style and self-worth, Henderson always strove to add pieces to her wardrobe that embodied her individual flair.

During her six years at MSU, Henderson found peaceful satisfaction working as a docent at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. The building encompasses what Henderson tries to accomplish in her everyday life: mixing art, fashion and culture.

"Working in an environment where like-minded people are coming together to build a better community in the arts appeals to me," said Henderson. "I want to help show people what is out there and what you can relate to emotionally and conceptually."

With her Bachelor of Arts degree in art history and visual culture, Henderson hopes to work for a museum or design magazine and continue to engage in creative expression.

Seniors

DAVIS TO DOWD

Wendy Davis
Eric Deacon
Bradley Deane
Elisha Defrain
Taylor Dehnke
Karen Delarosa

Kent Dell
Robert Deloof
Vincenzo Delvillano
Nicholas Demorest
Shuying Deng
Christopher Derocher

Kristin Deroshia
Emma Desautel
Kelly Desmond
Sara Devereaux
Adam Devine
Joseph Devota

Haihong Diao
Alicia Dimauro
John Dinh
Therese Diola
Laurel Dipucchio
William Disessa

Alexandra Ditrapani
Breanna Dittman
Bianca Dixon
Alexandria Dmoch
Brianna Dobberstein
Katrina Dodson

Andre Dompierre
Nick Donabedian
Aletra Donaldson
Meixing Dong
Zhecheng Dong
Anthony Donofrio

Caitlyn Doornbos
Brian Dorsey
Dejanae Douglas
Candace Dove
Rebecca Dow
Nolan Dowd





Emily Doyal
Eleanor Doyle
Harry Drake
Valarie Dreliozis
Ava Drillock
Trevor Drost

Jolan Drouillard
Taylor Drury
Chen Du
Siwei Du
Xinye Du
Domeda Duncan

Anjelica Dunlap
Brittany Durham
Dianna Durham
Denise Dust
Paige Dwyer
Alexandria Dykstra

Katrina Eddy
Brittany Edwards
Courtney Edwards
Jessica Edwards
Adam Eggleston
Stephanie Eick

Brittany Eilers
Elaina Elizondo
Jonathan Elkins
Derek Elleman
Nathan Elliott
Charles Ellis

Betsy Ells
Jamel Ellsberry
Nathaniel Ellsworth
Wendy Emali
Michael Emelander
Nicole Emmett

Rachel Emory
Peter Engstrom
Stephanie Eno
Cortney Erndt
Valerie Esho
Bryan Evans

Seniors

EVANS TO FRIEDLI

Ellen Evans
Alan Everdeen
Amber Faasen
Alexandra Falzetta
Dian Fan
Xiaozhou Fan



Zheng Fan
Chuyao Fang
Zhou Fang
Doris Fansler
Rafe Farhat
William Faucett



Anne Fazzini
Larissa Fedoroff
Ryan Felan
Abbey Feldpausch
Xi Feng
Kelly Fenn



Kate Ferraro
Daniel Fershtman
Alexandria Fiema
Caleb Fiori
Kate Fitzpatrick
Mallory Flanders



Esha Fletcher
Katherine Foley
Alexandria Foote
Michelle Forbush
Melissa Forero
Maxwell Forton



Erica Fossett
Eliza Foster
Whitney Foster
Kelly Fournier
Emily Fox
Shanna Fox



Amy Frahm
Kelley Frake
Megan Frayer
Meggan Freeland
Rebecca Freybler
Lucas Friedli





Christa Frizzell
Paul Froman
Jodi Fry
Sami Ftouni
Linfeng Fu
Ruili Fu

Wanzheng Fu
Dekendra Fuller
Lauren Gagneau
Jacob Gajewski
Aaron Galer
Shannon Gallivan

Cheng Gao
Qinxin Gao
Rui Gao
Shengzhe Gao
Xiang Gao
Jennifer Garavaglia

Martin Garcia
Kelly Gardner
Ramarra Garrett
Stephanie Garris
Julia Garvey
Andrew Gasior

Kenzie Gatewood
Elizabeth Gatzek
Sarah Gauer
Natasha Gauna
Rachel Gawel
Mary Gebbie

Samrawi Gebermedhin
Rachel Geer
Amanda Geldersma
Kirk Geldersma
Shuang Geng
Jessica George

Terese Geraghty
Brooke Gerrish
Mohammad Ghuloum
Thuy-Tien Giap
Lauren Gibbons
Jason Gibson

Seniors

GILL TO GRISSOM



Keysharri Gill
Orlando Gillespie
Christian Gilson
Julian Gimmler
Hannah Gingery
Christianna Gluys

Young Hyuk Go
Andria Goedert
Addie Goff
Pravalika Gogireddy
Grant Golasa
Dominique Golden

Jordan Goldstein
Lauren Goldstein
David Golembiewski
Dustin Golembiewski
Catherine Goll
Fang Gong

Tingting Gong
Yan Gong
Yiyang Gong
Christopher Gonzalez
Darvish Goode
Lindsay Goode

Thomas Goodsell
Ashley Gordon
Ashley Gordon
Kristian Gore
Dieter Gottschalk
Maria Gouzos

Lindsay Gove
Andrea Grafstein
Tia Graham
Julie Gram
Victoria Grant
Megan Green

Delarro Greer
Paige Grennan
Lauren Gressley
Milan Griffes
Cherie Griffey
Nathan Grissom



Kimberly Groneck
Kirsten Grooms
Matthew Gross
Kara Grupe
Kathryn Gryczan
Jiaji Gu



Saichao Gu
Xiaoyan Gu
Yang Gu
Grace Guerra
John Gundry
Kimberlee Gundry



Da Guo
Jun Guo
Junyang Guo
Shuyi Guo
Yufei Guo
Justin Hadden



Jermayne Hairston
Javian Hale
Cody Hall
Stephanie Hall
Jennifer Hallesy
Bryan Halloran



Thomas Halpin
Nicole Halvorsen
D'Nisha Hamblin
Dominique Hamilton
Krystle Hammac
Jennifer Hamme



Youssef Hammoud
Caroline Han
Runlin Han
Yue Han
Karin Hanisch
William Hanley



Lisa Hanna
Samantha Hannum
Alex Hansen
Kenneth Hanson
Puyan Hao
Sijia Hao

Seniors

HARBOUR TO HERNANDEZ

Marvin Harbour
Briahna Hardaway
China Harison
Dana Harper
Antonio Harris
Bianca Harris



Kiara Harris
Marianne Harris
Micqueal Harris
Tynissa Harris
Brittany Harrison
Chelsea Harrison



Taylor Harrison
Aaron Hartkop
Ashley Hatfield
Jillian Hattie
Jeff Hattis
Dayna Hatwood



Kyle Hautala
Brittani Havenaar
Jimeka Hayes
Sarah Hayes
Shaoyu He
Xiaomeng He



Yani He
Nastassja Heard
Victoria Heath
Stefan Hebert
Jessica Heidrich
Courtney Heilig



Margaret Hein
Chase Heise
Kristen Heitman
Carlee Henderson
Empress Henderson
Tyler Hendon



Katelyn Hendrick
Cydny Henry
Emma Henry
Kaila Herin
James Hermiz
Jessica Hernandez





Lorena Hernandez
Michele Herremans
Sophia Herrera
Emily Hildebrand
Nicholas Hilden
Eric Hill

Layla Hillie
Taylor Hiner
Gabriel Hisem
Kaitlyn Hlywa
Chia-Ling Ho
Emily Hoeksema

Abigail Hoeppner
Jacqueline Hoffman
Benjamin Hollerbach
Heather Holliday
Amanda Hollingsworth
Aundrea Hollingsworth

Britney Holloway
Charli Holloway
Lauryn Holmes
Shanier Holmes
Kimberly Holzknecht
Christine Homminga

Sungjun Hong
Paige Hook
Sarah Hopkins
Gavin Hoppe
Katelyn Horning
Aiyun Hou

Yue Hou
Eric Houghtaling
Claire Houser
Kimberly Houston
Demyra Hover
Daniel Howarth

Sarah Howting
Di Hu
Fei Hu
Jiyuan Hu
Yanjun Hu
Danrui Huang

Seniors

HUANG TO JANZEN

Mengdi Huang
Xiaopei Huang
Ying Huang
Yiran Huang
Denise Hubbard
Krista Hubbard



Jonathan Huck
Yorel Huckleberry
Cierra Hudgins
Airel Hughes
Nolan Hughes
Sarah Hughes



Chelsea Huguley
Heather Hull
Sarah Hundt
Casey Hunsberger
Merchell Hunt
Amanda Hunter



Melissa Hutchings
Megan Hutton
Mark Iafrate
Winnie Imbuchi
Amanda Impellizzeri
Michael Inch



Stephen Ingber
Elizabeth Ingle
Kristen Ingram
Stephen Ireland
Mariyam Isa
Ibrahim Issoufou Kanda



Kyle Ivester
William Jackman
Erica Jackson
Lamond Jackson
Latavia Jackson
Timothy Jacque



Kristen Jahn
John Jakubik
Charnee James
Kwang Jang
Matthew Jannette
Hannah Janzen



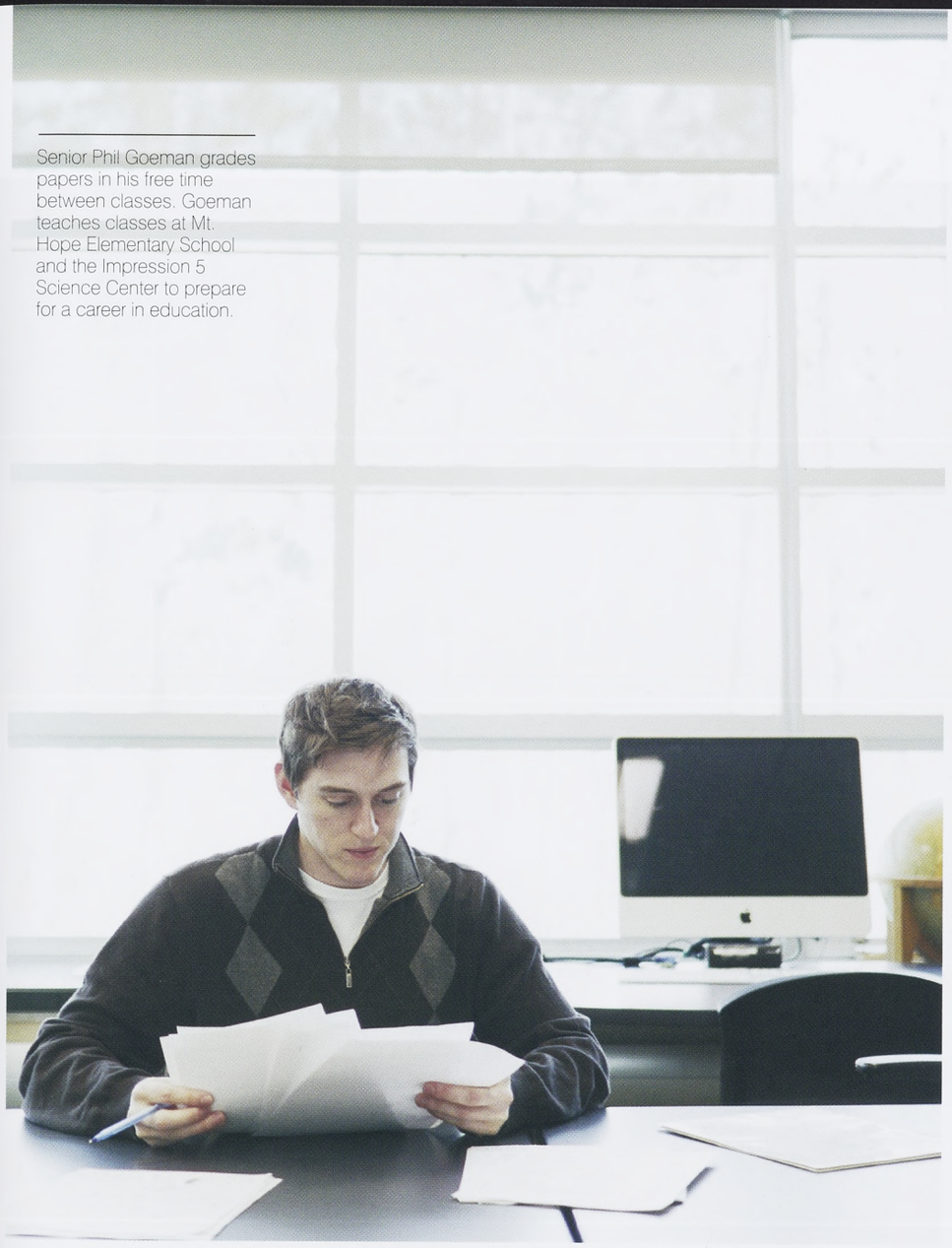
TYPE ERIC SCHWARTZ
PHOTO JOHN FLUCK
DESIGN KATIE FOLEY











Senior Phil Goeman grades papers in his free time between classes. Goeman teaches classes at Mt. Hope Elementary School and the Impression 5 Science Center to prepare for a career in education.

phil goeman

The careers that middle school students put down for "About Me" assignments have most likely changed throughout high school and college. That wasn't the case for Phil Goeman.

An elementary education major in the Global Education Cohort program, Goeman's passion for teaching has brought him all over the world. Taking him from South Africa to China, his cohort can be credited for his involvement in enlightening others.

"Since freshman orientation, this program has been able to combine my passion for traveling with teaching," Goeman said. "Being able to study educational systems around the world, making cultural connections and even instructing a lesson while in China was a rewarding experience."

Despite international travel experience, Goeman said that being a student is something he'll miss once he's in the reverse role and teaching others.

"We're all in college still growing and developing, and even though we're all individuals and have our own agendas, we're all under this greater category of being students," he said.

Though his status as a full-time student expired, Goeman will pay homage to those who taught him in the past as he becomes a teacher himself, working to educate and inspire students.

Seniors

JAPOWICZ TO KANN

Michael Japowicz
Jacob Jarrell
Jamisha Jeffery
Desirae Jemison
Hayley Jenkins
Brooke Jesue



Chunmin Jiang
Yitian Jiang
Fermin Jimenez
Tyler Jimenez
Yonghwan Jin
Emma Johanon



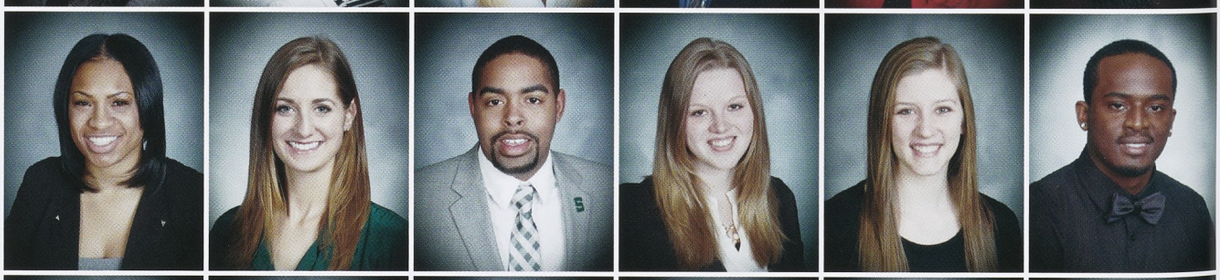
Arrin Johnson
Brandi Johnson
Brittany Johnson
Donovan Johnson
Jenise Johnson
Jimmy Johnson



Kiara Johnson
Lavon Johnson
Lindsey Johnson
Ryan Johnson
Alexa Jones
Aundi Jones



Autumn Jones
Catelyn Jones
Derrick Jones
Emily Jones
Hannah Jones
Jeff Jones



Jeffrey Jones
Taylor Jones
Haocheng Ju
Hsiao-Hsuan Juan
Haejung Jun
Meghan Justema



Matthew Kaas
Lauren Kaczperski
Mautasim Kalakatawi
Melissa Kamenitsa
Nicholas Kanillopoolos
Alexa Kann





Radhika Kapoor
Behirda Karaj
Sarah Karalius
Eric Kastory
Rahul Katbamna
Kati Kauffman

Trevor Kay
Alexa Keene
Kyle Keeney
Lauren Keiser
Brian Kelly
Kiersten Kelly

Lisa Kelly
Marisa Kelly
Megan Kelly
Jerrod Kempf
Brendan Kennedy
Ryanne Kennerly

Justin Kenton
Caroline Kerbelis
Steven Kercher
Heather Ketzler
Myung Keum
Lillian Keyes

Shaheda Khalish
Uzair Khan
Teela Kibble
Alyssa Kilgore
Dong Kim
Dong-Won Kim

Hyunchul Kim
Inkyu Kim
Jun Kim
Junghoon Kim
Min Kim
Myungsoo Kim

Pan Kim
Sangmin Kim
Seung Kim
Solyi Kim
Young Woo Kim
Benjamin Kindel

Seniors

KINDY TO KWON

Koady Kindy
Christy Kinney
Colleen Kiplinger
Noelle Kirchmer
Brittany Kirkland
Erin Klavon



Kory Klein
Kaitlin Klemp
MacKenzie Klenk
Kaitlynn Knopp
Aeln Koh
Ryan Koleda



Marie Kone
Boram Koo
Meghan Koorndyk
Kyle Korte
Megan Kosinski
Rachel Kowalewski



Brittany Kozicki
Laura Krahel
Kelly Kramer
Kyle Kramer
Shira Kresch
Laura Krhovsky



Lija Krievs
Alaina Kristoff
Timothy Kroninger
Shelby Kroske
Melissa Krug
Carly Krull



Lauren Kubert
Cortney Kubicki
Nicole Kueck
Amanda Kujawa
Joanna Kukla
Kamryn Kurtz



Kyle Kurtz
Lauren Kustasz
Sarah Kutsche
Bria Kwakam
Mary-Catherine Kwilos
Goohyun Kwon





Lennon Kyriakoza
India Lacy
Stephanie Lafave
Susanna Lagory
Christopher Lamarche
Matthew Land

Melvin Lane
Allison Langley
Nathan Langolf
Monica Lapointe
Jennifer Lareau-Gee
Krista Larkin

Sarah Larson
Todd Lassen
Joseph Lasslett
Hiu Lau
Matthew Lawson
Robin Lawson

David Lea
Jason Leach
Jessica Leacher
Nicole Leclaire
Charlotte Lee
Cho-Yuan Lee

Dongmin Lee
Eric Lee
Hyuk Soo Lee
Kaprice Lee
Katharine Lee
Lauren Lee

Minji Lee
Soojin Lee
Sunjik Lee
Tae Lee
Ting-Wei Lee
Yi-Ning Lee

Arial Leeper
Christopher Lentini
Emilee Letarte
Sandy Leung
Kelsey Leveille
Adelle Lever

Seniors

LEVI TO LIU

Heather Levi
Allison Lewsley
Chang Li
Chunyu Li
Feifei Li
Jiahe Li

Jialin Li
Jianing Li
Jingwen Li
Mengyuan Li
Tian Li
Xiaolong Li

Xiaomeng Li
Xiaotian Li
Xinyang Li
Yichao Li
Tianyu Lian
Hewei Liang

Yiyi Liang
Yaxiong Liao
Pashanea Libbett
Sojung Lim
Hai Lin
Haiyang Lin

Jiang Lin
Jie Lin
Po-Han Lin
Weiwei Lin
Jeffery Lippert
Benjamin List

Heidi Little
Chih-Tsen Liu
Junlang Liu
Qiang Liu
Shaowen Liu
Shasha Liu

Tian Liu
Xiaolin Liu
Ya Liu
Zhaojian Liu
Zhijing Liu
Zihou Liu





Andrea Lollo
Keyi Long
Shannon Long
Samantha Longhini
Ruby Lopez
John Los

Xiaocan Lou
Bonnie Lowry
Jeanie Lozano
Dazhi Lu
Duo Lu
Mengru Lu

Xiaojiao Lu
Xiaotian Lu
Yanan Lu
Zhichao Lu
Zhuxuan Lu
Jiansong Luo

Lin Luo
Haley Lusk
Corinne Luxton
Danielle Lyttle
Dandan Ma
Jinbo Ma

Wei Ma
Audrey Mabiza
Danny MacBeth
Michael MacHala
Shamyra Mack
Lydia MacKlin-Camel

Michelle MacKovjak
Tasha Maiville
Pablo Majano
Aubrey Makara
Katelyn Malanyn
Jordyn Malkin

Grant Malone
Kevin Maloney
Allison Mancini
Christina Mancini
Adrian Mandujano
Rachel Manela

Seniors

MAO TO MCCRAY

Zhen Mao
Blessy Mappilaparampil
Vanessa Marinas
Amanda Marion
Cameron Marnoch
Christina Marone



Anthony Marsala
Adam Marsh
Jacqueline Martin
Jeremy Martin
Kevin Martin
Matthew Martin



Meccah Martin
Melanie Martin
Nicholas Martin
Alexa Maser
Neil Maskill
Jennifer Maslak



Kirk Mason
Shaina Mason
Jerad Masse
Benjamin Mastay
Karly Master
Rachel Matero



Amanda Matkowski
Elizabeth Matlock
Trevor Mattis
Courtney Matz
Peter Mayer
Katelyn McAtamney



Amy McBrien
Brandi McCadney
Cheron McCan
Devonna McCarthy
Kendra McCarthy
Carrigan McCatty



Ariel McClendon
Michael McClure
Kristin McCool
Kellie McCormick
Sidney McCoy
Anthony McCray





Zachary McCullough
Kristen McDowell
Michael McFadden
Leah McGee
Shannon McGreal-Miller
Jessica McGregor

Lauren McGrier
Taylor McGuffie
Shannon McKeel
Kathleen McLain
Kenyeda McLaughlin
Stephanie McLeod

Auston McMurray
Anthony McNamara
Erin McNamara
Stephen McNamara
Alyssa McNure
Patrick McWilliams

Sanjana Mehta
Vaibhav Mehta
Caitlyn Melamed
Elizabeth Melangton
Renjie Meng
Shutong Meng

Kate Menge
Dhanya Menon
Kate Merchant
Annemieke Merritt
Lindy Merten
Austin Messing

Morgan Messing
Bridget Meyer
Jodi Meyer
Yiliang Miao
Maggie Michalczyk
Alexandra Michalski

Brittany Middlebrook
Anthony Mieske
Margaret Mikus
Derek Miller
James Miller
Julia Miller

Seniors

MILLER TO MUHIRE

Monquese Miller
Ryan Miller
Sarah Miller
Tabitha Miller
Kristin Mills
Kelsey Miner



Michael Misenar
Cheryl Mitchell
Meredith Mixter
Vanessa Moase
Susann Moaveni
Eric Mocher



Kaiser Mock
Grace Modes
Roman Moeckel
Jacob Moegle
Bianca Moffitt
Diba Mohammadullah



Lauren Molloy
Benjamin Mommersteeg
Lauren Moon
Sung Moon
James Mooney
Cortni Moore



Laticia Moore
Lauren Moore
Blanca Moraled
Samantha Morgan
Candice Morrison
Kayla Morrison



Michelle Morrison
Charlotte Morrow
Rita Morse
Andrea Mortensen
Kalli Mortenson
Emilee Moseley



Chrias Moss
Jerrica Moss
Brittany Motz
Janelle Moulding
Christina Mueller
Ange Muhire



TYPE Eric Schwartz
PHOTO John Flock
DESIGN Katie Foley



Senior Michaelyn Lux prepares a trial for an experiment. Lux has been developing a source of alternative energy for over two years and is now trying to apply her findings on a larger scale.

michaelyn lux

If Michaelyn Lux were an element, she'd be Manganese. When oxidized, permanganate becomes a radiant shade of purple, which Lux admires, partly because its spelling is similar to that of her name. Just as chemistry looks at the build-up of matter, it also defined Lux's time as a Spartan.

Lux, a chemistry major, commented that her scientific studies allowed her to travel abroad and participate in undergraduate research since her freshman year. Those opportunities helped her graduate in just three years, landing her admission to a doctoral program at the Tri-Institutional Program in Manhattan. This opportunity will keep her in a place she's grown to know well — a laboratory where the pristine sheen of clean glassware reflects the sterile yet luminous fluorescent light.

"Chemistry has allowed me to express my creativity," Lux said. "I don't draw, paint or shoot photos, but I'm able to problem solve and look at world issues that are challenging people daily and try to solve them using chemistry."

For two and a half years, Lux researched the feasibility of bio-oil as an alternative fuel source.

"Through undergraduate research in the chemistry department, I've been able to see how the experimental process really works and solve these complicated problems in an odd yet beautiful way."

Seniors

MUKHTAR TO OHSE



Mohamed Mukhtar
Tyler Mulville
Seolim Mun
Salman Muridi
Andrew Murray
Alisha Myers



Allison Myers
Collin Myers
Young-Jun Na
Nicholas Najor
Olivia Najor
Kimberly Nalezyty



Branford Nard
Hiba Naseem
Shawn Nash
Widad Nasser
Derek Neben
Douglas Necastro



Matthew Needham
Kristen Neithercut
Misti Nesbitt
Raymond Nethery
Katie Neumeier
Cabernet Nguyen



Ting Ting Ni
Xiaojie Ni
Marjorie Niblack
Alyse Nichols
Cong Nie
Violeta Nieves



Jack Norgren
Kevin Noss
Marguerite Novak
Caleigh Nowlin
Angela Nowosielski
Akua Nuamah



Alex Oakley
Chase O'Black
Kathleen Obrien
Kelly O'Connell
Kristin Odonnoghue
Paige Ohse



Michael Olcese
Chioma Olekanma
MacKenzie Oleski
Valeria Olguin
Maxwell Olivero
Elizabeth Olli

Elizabeth Olsen
Fahim Omari
Jennifer Onwenu
Amanda Orban
Christopher Origer
Ryan Orischak

Michelle Orlando
Angelica Ortega
Rachel Osborn
Robert Oshnock
Tiana Oswill
Kolien Owens

Patrick Owens
Matilyn Ozment
Alexandra Pace
Simone Page
Jessica Palm
Jingjing Pan

Yue Pan
Rachel Paran
Heesu Park
Jaejoon Park
Jin Park
Kabin Park

Kyung Park
Sungjin Park
Taylor Parker
Mitchell Parks
Janisse Patino-Martinez
Alyse Patrick

Brianna Patrick
Tanara Patterson
Crysta Paul
Thomas Paul
Rose Pawlowski
Chanell Payne

Seniors

PAYNE TO POWELL

Jamie Payne
Craig Pearson
Jenna Peltonen
Zachary Pena
Ashley Pendergast
Jun Peng



Liyu Peng
Ye Peng
Megan Penkevich
Evan Pennisi
Paige Pennycook
Adam Peppel



Brian Perry
Mine Perry
Rachel Perry
Brooke Peruski
Benjamin Peters
Sherrie Peters



Aneta Peterson
Ryan Peterson
Robert Petrillo
Lucas Petto
Brian Peznowski
Alex Pickard



Hunter Piegols
Thomas Pierce
Hillary Pijls
Jacqueline Pitone
Ashley Plotzke
Megan Podschlne



Rachel Polk
Heather Pollack
Kevin Pollack
Robert Pollum
Kaitlyn Polonis
Haley Pomorski



Hanna Porterfield
Tevin Porter-Vezina
Samantha Portice
Alexander Potestivo
Jack Potterack
Daniel Powell





Chad Powers
Azeglio Pranata
Jessica Prather
Asia Pratt
Kelsey Prochazka
Jacqueline Proper

Cori Pruch
Kevin Pruess
Brenda Pruitt
Brittanie Pruitt
Joanne Prybylski
Valentin Pulido

Nicholas Pung
Hilary Puroll
Ji Qi
Tiancheng Qi
Jiaji Qian
Mingran Qian

Wen Qiang
Xuefei Qiao
Kaite Qing
Chuqiao Qiu
Weibin Qiu
Yu Qiu

Ziteng Qiu
Zhi Qu
Megan R
Samantha Rachwal
Jordan Racklin-Costello
Chanel Raddatz

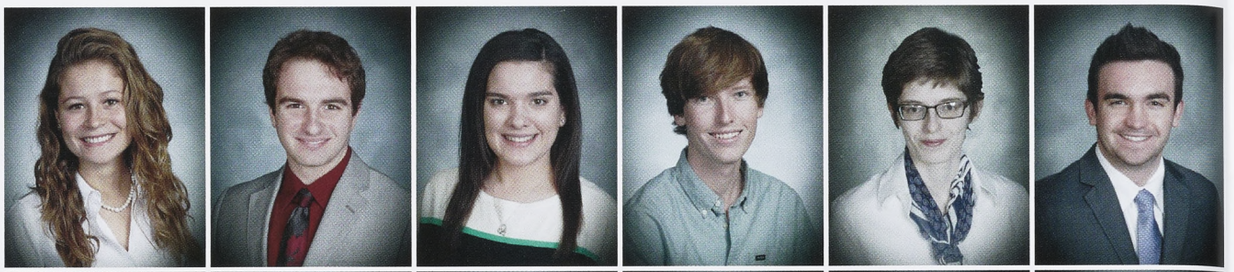
Samantha Radecki
Matthew Rademacher
Kyle Rais
Julia Ramey
Jasmin Ramirez
Morgan Randle

Neha Rao
Lana Raouf
Brandon Ratkowski
Kajal Ravani
Ma-Bianca Razo
Ryan Reardon

Seniors

REBELLO TO ROCKWELL

Caroline Rebello
Kyle Redfield
Carlie Regal
Blaine Reich
Monica Reida
Dylan Reminder



Hongda Ren
Jian Ren
Jingshi Ren
Lin Ren
Qin Ren
Gabrielle Rendon



David Renier
Brian Rett
Lindsey Rey
Amanda Reyes
Madison Rial
Qudsia Riaz



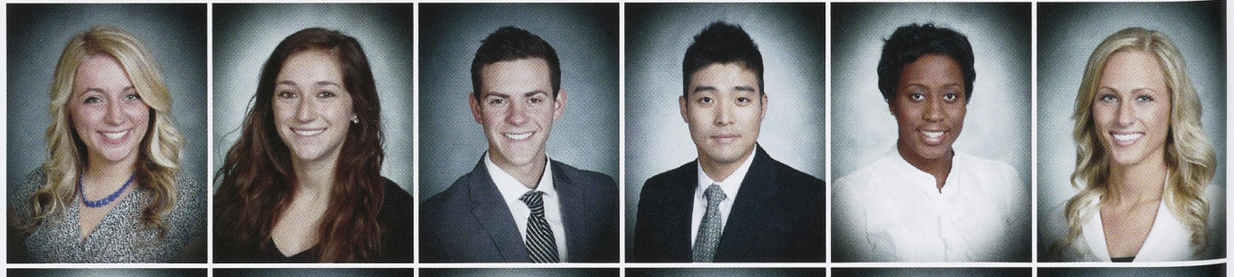
Mikaila Ribianszky
Sara Richard
Sarah Richard
Kathryn Richards
Shaniqua Richardson
Shelleyse Richardson



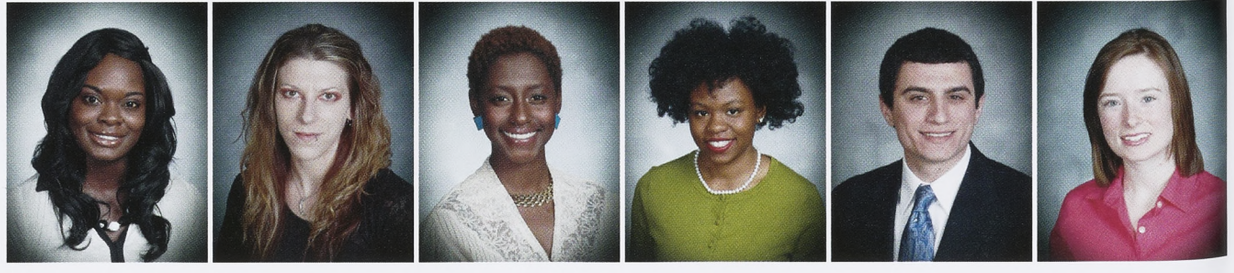
Megan Ricica
Bradley Riedinger
Ryan Riedy
Kayla Riley
Alexandra Risher
Eric Ritonja



Taylor Ritter
Michelle Rizor
Nick Rizzo
Donghwan Ro
Rokeyta Roberson
Amber Roberts



Courtney Roberts
Stacey Roberts
Ashley Robinson
Leah Robinson
Peter Rocco
Shelby Rockwell





Alyssa Rodammer
Cordarius Rodgers
Stephanie Rodriguez
Christian Roehmer
Ciana Rogers
Kelsey Rogers

Zachariah Roggenkamp
Komeisha Rose
Chelsea Ross
Jasmine Ross
Devon Rossman
Valencia Roston

Stephanie Rousseau
Katherine Rouster
Grace Rowbotham
Chelsea Rowe
Amanda Rudey
Lachelle Ruff

Tyler Rumler
Alyssa Rumon
Collin Rumsey
Angelique Rush
Colleen Russell
Justin Sabol

Eva Sabolcik
Ashley Sabourin
Allison Safko
Tianna Saintmarie
Rachael Sak
Stephen Salens

Marshall Salzemnieks
Bradley Sammut
Diana Sanchez
Julie Sanchez
Kyande Sanders
Mietta Sanford

Samantha Sant
Jacob Santangelo
Gabriel Sarnacki
Walter Saunders
Andrew Sauser
Christian Savona

Seniors

SAWAYA TO SHAPIRO

Margo Sawaya
Joshua Sawyer
Haleigh Sayen
Fabrizio Scanabissi
Alyssa Schaefer
Mark Schaeff



Jordan Schafer
William Schaller
Giavanna Scheidt
Symphony Schick
Scott Schimp
Adelina Schmidt



Doug Schmidt
Jodee Schmidt
Robert Schneeberger
Kurt Schneider
Matthew Schneider
Nicole Schneider



Kimberly Schoch
Amanda Schoeppe
Hilary Schroeder
Paul Schultz
Karl Schwinghamer
Anne Scobell



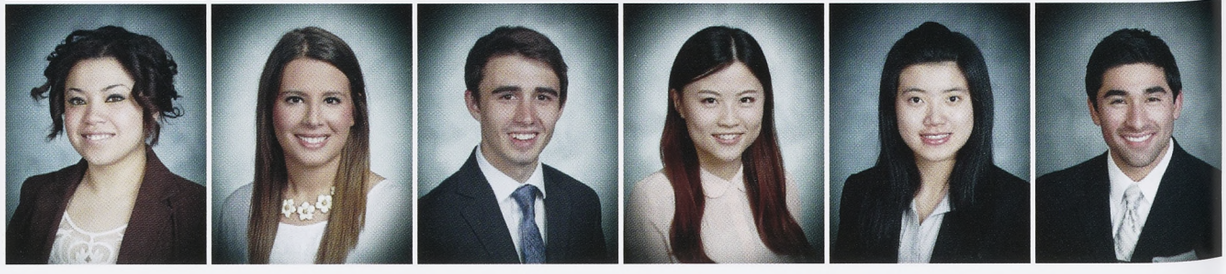
Cleashay Scott
Errik Scott
Sarah Scott
Qyrstin Seay
Lauren Sebolt
Julian Seecoomar



Michael Seefried
Haejun Seo
Heesung Seo
Jaeyun Seo
Jieun Seo
Kayla Servay



Vanessa Servin
Elisa Shalari
Wilson Shaner
Mingmin Shao
Xiaoshan Shao
Jonathan Shapiro





Tinisha Sharp
Zachary Shea
Kazam Sheikh
Chun Shen
Hongyu Shen
Shiyu Shen

Xin Shen
Yutang Sheng
Dakota Shepard
Kelli Shepherd
Chao Shi
Jiaji Shi

Jianhuang Shi
Jingfei Shi
Lujiao Shi
Wenjing Shi
Evan Shields
Taesup Shin

Yunjin Shin
Tayler Shinabery
Katelyn Shorter
Danielle Shouldice
Krity Shrestha
Nicole Shriner

Bojun Shu
Chen Shu
Matthew Shumate
Andrew Shutt
Sana Siddique
Megan Sidge

Tyler Sieler
Kelsey Siler
Michaela Silesova
Ross Simons
Joseph Simowski
Cortney Simpson

Alexander Sims
MacKenzie Sims
Sydney Sims
Alexandria Singleton
Kellie Singleton
Hilary Sircus

Seniors

SJOLANDER TO SPITZLEY

Megan Sjolander
Alexandria Slack
Ruqaiah Sleel
Camille Sloan
Roy Small
Sharae Smiley



Abbey Smith
Aletha Smith
Ashley Smith
Cedrisha Smith
Christopher Smith
Darrell Smith



Deepa Smith
Elena Smith
James Smith
Jeff Smith
Laura Smith
Nicole Smith



Paige Smith
Ryan Smith
Daniel Snyder
Haley Snyder
Abigail Soble
Leah Socia



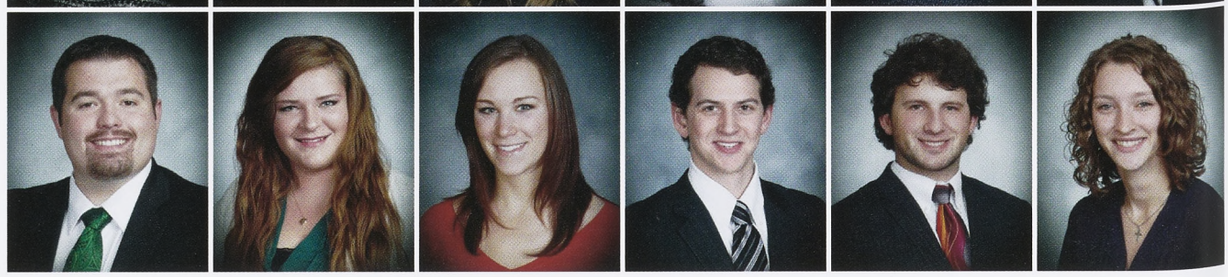
Fernando Solis
Changwoo Son
Jun Son
Almira Sonea
Jiayi Song
Yang Song



Ye Song
Susan Sonnenschein
Kayley Sopel
Asia Souder
Nicole Soules
Nicholas Soumis



Nick Sowers
Casandra Spahr
Emma Spatz
Austin Spencer
Michael Spencer
Taylor Spitzley



KYLER WILKINS

TYPE NATALIE KOZMA
PHOTO NATE REVARD
DESIGN KATIE FOLEY



Senior Kyler Wilkins leads his a cappella group through a song during a rehearsal. Wilkins is a member of the State of Fifths, a co-ed group formed in 2008.

kyler wilkins

In his first two weeks as a freshman, Kyler Wilkins discovered an instant family in his a cappella group, State of Fifths. He entered as a kid with mild stage fright but transformed into a fearless entertainer and music director for the group. Wilkins considers himself a "papa bear" member with six solos under his belt during his five years with the group.

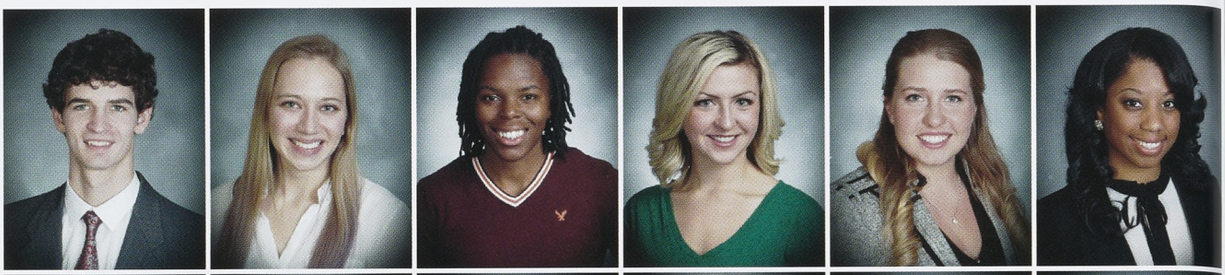
"It is important to keep in mind how you treat every person that you meet and not base everything off of someone's talent level," said Wilkins. "It is really easy to overlook what certain people want to do or what they believe, but everyone has an equal voice."

As a computer engineering major, Wilkins used a cappella to infuse his life with clarity and balance. Though he is passionate about his academics, music was too important to neglect. Wilkins is happiest when he is with his a cappella family, challenging and transforming traditional music by meshing together everyone's distinct voices.

Seniors

SQUIBBS TO SUDEK

Neal Squibbs
Kelly Squiers
Ashley Stacey
Valerie Stacey
Alexandra Stafford
Ashley Staley



Monet Stanfield
Matthew Stankey
Annabelle Staples
Heather Stark
Samantha Stechschulte
Lauren Steele



Eileen Stefansky
Kelsey Steketee
Lauren Stepanski
Jordan Sterk
Samantha Stern
Kelly Stevens



Audra Stewart
Cameron Stewart
Molly Stewart
Troy Stewart
Meghan Stickler
Brian Stiles



Angela Stimage
Hayden Stinebaugh
Krystal Stinson
Andrew Stone
Travis Stone
Daniel Stoscup



Stevan Stoutenburg
Trevor Strang
Erica Strausbough
Stephanie Strawska
Daijah Street
Paul Sturr



Lang Su
Shanshan Su
Xinyi Su
Yubing Su
Malyssa Suarez
Stephen Sudek





Christian Suero
Kang-One Suh
Maram Sulimani
Caitlin Sullivan
Julia Sullivan
Bingcheng Sun

Xiangyi Sun
Yidong Sun
Yuzhu Sun
Ziwei Sun
Syahirah Surani
Eleanor Surtman

Mayra Sustaita
Korawee Suthidara
Jeremy Sutton
Amber Suttorpsund
Joshua Swab
Michael Swabash

Katherine Swanic
Charles Swanson
Jamie Swanson
Michael Swoish
Chanel Swoope
Richard Szczesny

Cody Szostek
Asra Taher
Hongjie Tang
Jianying Tang
Zih-Han Tang
Cheick Tangara

Yongchao Tao
Nickolas Tap
Kristie Taphouse
Noor Taraben
Faye Tata
Steven Tate

Adam Tayloe
Christopher Taylor
MacKenzie Taylor
Michael Taylor
Ashley Tebbe
Giso Tehrani

Seniors

TENG TO TRAN

Xuewei Teng
Bernard Tennant
Michelle Terazawa
Teresa Teremi
Courtney Terrell
Katelyn Terrill



Christie Teske
Dustin Thaler
Charisma Thapa
Christopher Thieda
Benjamin Thomas
Bennetta Thomas



Brittany Thomas
Danan Thomas
Iyanna Thomas
Jazmyn Thomas
Lauren Thomas
Matthew Thomas



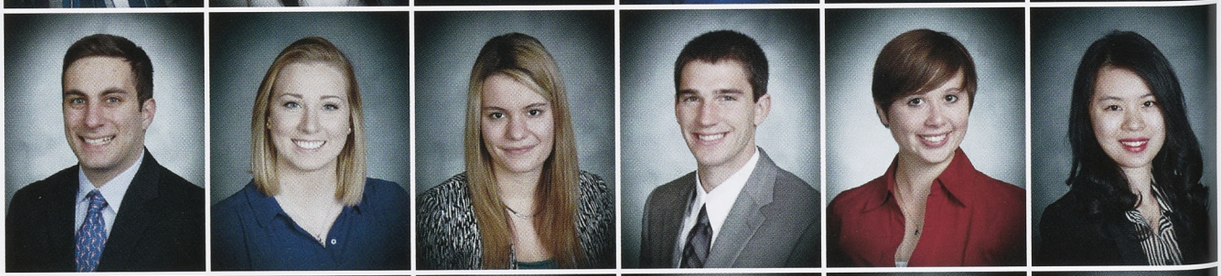
Tayloire Thomas
Susan Thompson
Veotis Thompson
Faith Thornton
Sierra Throop
Spencer Thulin



Shali Tian
Yaxin Tian
Shelby Timmis
Renea Timmons
Leta Tingle
Teepiyanut
Tipakornsaowapak



Noah Tobes
Elizabeth Todd
Tamara Todor-Nits
Joshua Tolinski
Abigail Tomlinson
Wingchi Tong



Emily Topham
Armen Topouzian
Adriana Tortora
Raeann Tourangeau
Khoi Tran
My Tran





Thuy T Tran
Lilian Tripp
Kurt Trowbridge
Shaun Trush
Iris Tuma
Larry Turnbow



Alfreda Turner
Lyndsay Tyler
Christopher Tyranski
Arshele Tyus
Aubreigh Ulicki
Adam Umstead



Gabriela Urbaniak
Riordan Vale
Dayna Valent
Robert Valentic
Colleen Valko
Haley Vallier



Huyen Van
Samantha Vanags
Madeline Vandecappelle
Drew Vandegrift
Kelly Vandenberg
Meghan Vanderbeke



Kristen Vanderhelm
Kris Vanderwilp
Kathleen Vandriessche
Gaoia Vang
Thao Vang
Andrew Vanhouten



Faye Vanoostenburg
Jan Vansickle
Nicholas Vanslembrouck
Timothy Vansumeren
Armando Vargas
Joseph Vasquez



Autumn Vassell
Jose Vegahazouri
Ligxy Velasco
Lauren Vermeulen
Kathryn Verplanck
Zachary Viaches

Seniors

VIERA TO WANG

Sonia Viera
Eric Villanueva
Lindsey Vincent
Samantha Viola
Jenna Virant
Michael Viselli



Kevin Visser
Justin Vo
Jeffrey Vonlinsowe
Haley Vos
Gregory Vranish
Julie Vue



Katlyn Vuillemot
Matthew Wackerman
Ellakate Wagner
April Wakeham
Matthew Walch
Nicolas Waldecker



Ashley Walds
Wednesday Walesa
Anna Walker
Brian Walker
Kenneth Walker
Megan Wallace



Rebecca Wallington
Ari Walter
Daisy Walters
Robert Walters
Michael Walton
Ruanne Walworth



Shan Wan
Siqi Wan
Joseph Wandyez
Binbin Wang
Binyu Wang
Chun Wang



Fei Wang
Hanyang Wang
Heying Wang
Jiajia Wang
Jiaming Wang
Jiaqi Wang





Jue Wang
Kaichang Wang
Le Wang
Lu Wang
Qian Wang
Ruosi Wang

Sihan Wang
Tianxing Wang
Yan Wang
Yangting Wang
Yuchen Wang
Zhaoda Wang

Zhi Wang
Zijun Wang
Chery Wangsawihardja
Terry Ward
Amr Wardeh
Jessica Warfield

Samuel Warheit
Jessica Warvel
Charlton Washington
Tre Washington
Alexandra Watson
Matthew Watson

Courtney Weatherbee
Ben Weber
Melissa Weber
Nicole Weber
Chad Webster
Emily Webster

Raven Webster
Eric Wedesky
Xuan Wei
Megan Weidman
Ethan Weiner
Robert Weir

Anne Weiss
Jonathan Weiss
Matthew Wendel
Karisa Wendland
Anna Wendzinski
Kaitlyn West

Seniors

WESTHUIS TO WOLFER

Spencer Westhuis
Carrie Westman
Michele Weston
Matthew Wetzel
Arneisha Whaley
Rebecca Whaley



Megan Whipple
Rachel White
Luke Whiteman
Susan Whitenight
Jamison Wicks
Chloe Wielgat



Christian Wiesenberg
Emily Wiesner
Bailey Wilcox
Ranee Wiley
Stephanie Wiley
Bryan Wilkie



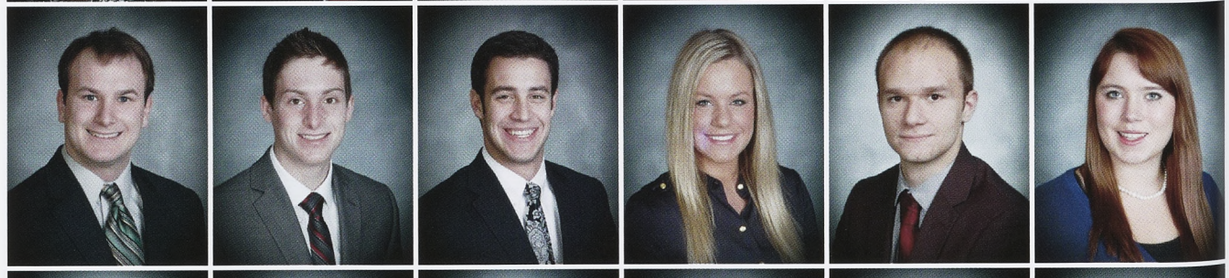
Dominik Wilkiewicz
Kyler Wilkins
Lindsay Wilkinson
Sakija Wilkinson
Jenna Willey
Autume Williams



Caroline Williams
George Williams
Quantanise Williams
Raven Williams
Shanae Williams
Kyle Wills



Nathan Wilson
Joshua Winkelmann
Andrew Winship
Lauren Winship
Andrew Wisniewski
Elizabeth Witcher



Katelynn Witten
Brooke Wohlers
Marijo Wohlfert
Robert Wolcott
Alan Wolfe
Samantha Wolfer





Todd Wolverton
Daniel Wong
Hin Wong
Hing Wong
Jonathan Woo
Erin Woods

Meredith Woodward
Cherisse Woolard
Angela Wright
Ashley Wright
Audrey Wright
Daniel Wright

Deidranee Wright
Kristina Wright
Chen Wu
Hao Wu
Ming Wu
Robert Wu

Tsung-Han Wu
Xuefeng Wu
Xuemei Wu
Yiman Wu
Yiwen Wu
Zhuo Wu

Leigh Wyatt
Andrew Wyles
Trisalaya Wyrick
Karen Xavier
Qichen Xiao
Hang Xie

Mengyi Xie
Zilin Xie
Jie Xin
Minglei Xin
Nkaajdu Xiong
Jiaao Xu

Lingling Xu
Menglin Xu
Ruiying Xu
Shimeng Xu
Tianjiao Xu
Xiaohan Xu

Seniors

XU TO ZENTNER



Xinyi Xu
Yifan Xu
Yiru Xu
Yiwen Xu
Zhiyang Xu
Ziwei Xu

Weijin Xue
Saeed Yadolahi
Han Yan
Weihan Yan
Eunbong Yang
Fan Yang

He Yang
Shasha Yang
Soua Yang
Yaojing Yang
Yer Yang
Yi Yang

Yuan Yao
Kevin Yarnell
Yuanchen Ye
Jennifer Yen
Desirae Yeomans
So Yim

Weiyi Yin
Lauren Yorio
Dondre Young
Kari Young
Natalie Yousif
Jun Yu

Xiaoshui Yu
Xin Yu
Ye Yu
Aijia Yuan
Yi Yuan
Benjamin Zakaria

Matthew Zanardi
Luis Zarco
Erica Zazo
Chao Zeng
Yupei Zeng
Erica Zentner

KARLI NAVE

TYPE JOSH DRZEWICKI
PHOTO JORDON CRIMMINS
DESIGN KATIE FOLEY











Senior Karli Nave looks out at Adams Field. Nave frequented the field during the warmer months to study, relax and spend time with friends.

karli nave

Every Saturday morning in the fall, about two hours before each home football game, the Spartan Marching Band bellows the fight song from Adams Field. Senior Karli Nave was one of the 300 members who created the cacophony of sound.

From her first tour across the vast campus to her final tear-filled farewell verse of the alma mater, Adams Field has been the musician's home. The lanterns and sunshine provided her with a sanctuary to jot down notes for psychology courses, play the fight song on her mellophone, and kick around a soccer ball.

Adams Field was named after Walter Adams, the 13th president of MSU and a former economics professor. Adams, band legend has it, was known for being a band fanatic and would attend morning rehearsals on game day smoking cheap cigars.

"It encompasses tradition, college experiences and camaraderie for me," said Nave. "It is where I have heard so many stories about Walter Adams, the professor who took it upon himself to truly connect with a large group of MSU students."

Seniors

ZEOLLA TO ZHU

Donald Zeolla
Bao Zhang
Boxun Zhang
Chen Zhang
Hong Zhang
Kun Zhang



Lilun Zhang
Mian Zhang
Qiaochu Zhang
Yangtao Zhang
Ying Zhang
Yuan Zhang



Yuqian Zhang
Longfei Zhao
Mengshu Zhao
Mingyang Zhao
Sisi Zhao
Wenting Zhao



Yi Zhao
Yiran Zhao
Yun Zhao
Yuyi Zhao
Hao Zheng
Le Zheng



Siyi Zheng
Xuemei Zheng
Dewen Zhong
Siyun Zhong
Binghong Zhou
Chen Zhou



Guangyu Zhou
Jiazhi Zhou
Mingming Zhou
Ning Zhou
Wenting Zhou
Yingkai Zhou



Yuhan Zhou
Zekun Zhou
Bowen Zhu
Congyi Zhu
Ge Zhu
Hairong Zhu





Hongyuan Zhu
Lianye Zhu
Yifan Zhu
Yiming Zhu
Natalie Ziejka
Victoria Zielinski



Alexander Zimmerman
Eric Zipple
Elliot Zirulnik
Alyssa Zoski
Jiani Zou

design

design editor katie foley
staff designers alexander cyr, chloe foster, patty szczepanski



photo

photography editors lauren gaboury, chase o'black
staff photogs jordon crimmins, john fluck, steph pickard
intern photogs taylor featherstone, luke piotrowski, nate revard

PHOTO CHASE O'BLACK
DESIGN KATIE FOLEY



content

content editors cooper franks, rj wolcott
copy editor holly drankhan
staff journalists josh drzewicki, natalie kozma, chelsea mongeau
intern journalists gina juarez, eric schwartz, ashley weigel



colophon

Design: The Red Cedar Log was produced entirely on Macintosh computers for page layouts, photo editing and word processing. All computers were networked with a LaCie server. Software used included Adobe CS5.5 Design Standard and Microsoft Office 2007.

Type: All headlines and spread subjects within the folio were set in Swis721 Hv BT. Page numbers, subheadlines, captions, the index, and credit lines within the folio were set in Swis721 Th BT. All body copy was set in Bembo Std.

Photography: The photography in the Red Cedar Log, with the exception of the senior portraits and unless credited otherwise, is wholly the original work of the photographers who produced this volume. The cameras and flash units used were from the Canon product line, with a combination of Canon and Sigma lenses.

Advertising: ASMSU provided the Red Cedar Log with two pages of color advertisements.

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Brian Fessler, Tim Ross, everyone from the Jostens plant, Rick Brooks, Mike Lafferty, Paul Bilgore and Lauren Studios, Maryalice Chester, Brian Jeffries, Sona Movsisyan and Lauren Stepanski.

photo credit

Openers:
002-003 Chase O'Black
006-007 (CW from bottom left) Jordon Crimmins | Taylor Featherstone | John Fluck

Closers:
384-385 John Fluck | Taylor Featherstone | John Fluck
386-387 John Fluck | John Fluck | Luke Piotrowski
388-389 Chase O'Black | John Fluck | Lauren Gaboury
390-391 John Fluck
392 Steph Pickard

Dividers:
010-011 John Fluck | Nate Revard | John Fluck | Taylor Featherstone | Taylor Featherstone | Jordon Crimmins | Nate Revard(center photo)
120-121 John Fluck | Jordon Crimmins | John Fluck | Steph Pickard | Nate Revard | Steph Pickard | John Fluck(center photo)

Dividers cont'd:
202-203 John Fluck | Nate Revard | Jordon Crimmins | Nate Revard | John Fluck | Jordon Crimmins | John Fluck(center photo)
242-243 Luke Piotrowski | Taylor Featherstone | Steph Pickard | Jordon Crimmins | John Fluck | Steph Pickard | Jordon Crimmins
260-261 Steph Pickard | Taylor Featherstone | Jordon Crimmins | Nate Revard | John Fluck | Nate Revard | Nate Revard
310-311 Chase O'Black

To my lovely staff,

This was the hardest job I've ever had. The title "editor-in-chief," with those hyphens and all they hold between them, is an incomprehensible responsibility. Being in charge of a nearly 400-page publication, its promotion, distribution, and its 21 dynamic creators is not a mindless day job.

Yet I took it on. I took on the late nights, working weekends and loads of stress. I sat in that big chair and uncovered, while planning, editing and rearranging pieces of the Spartan Element, the atoms of myself.

With politically correct humbleness set aside for a minute, let me say that I'm used to being the best. I'm familiar with being good at everything I do, succeeding and exceeding expectations.

And then I tainted my record with this position. I tripped and fell, stumbled blindly through an informationless cave, and perfection was out of my perceptible range. I don't know that I could've spotted it with an expensive, well-calibrated pair of binoculars. Actually, I know that I couldn't have. Nevertheless, I ran after it for miles. And then I grew tired. In my exhausted state, I was finally able to realize the truth.

I learned this year that perfection is a non-existent, cruel concept. It is there to tempt, and it forms the basis of countless unrealistic, grossly unattainable goals. It drove me for many years of my life, I'm sure. It usually seemed just an arm's length away, in the best of times, near the palm of my hand.

But I learned that I can never be perfect, and then I accepted that fact. I thank all of you for helping me grow in that way. I hope I've given you something too. I hope, at the very least, I've planted a seed of good performance in your minds. I hope you've come to realize that work, especially of the creative breed, is never done and never acceptable unless it's your best. Although we can never be perfect, we can always put forth our utmost effort. In all that you do, give all that you can. I guarantee you, you won't run out of things to give; your gifts will only become greater.

That is why I attempted to push each and every one of you. I know that you are capable of so much. However, there are so many things I wish I would've done differently — almost everything, in fact. But I could never regret this position. I can only be grateful for all that I've learned about people, about the workplace, about myself.

I hope you can understand the effort I've put into this book. I gave everything I possibly could and did all I could think of to make it great. There were mistakes and there were missteps, but let there be no misconceptions about how hard I tried.

I've been told that the true test of a leader is whether they leave an improved system behind them. Based on that scale, I did well. Though I could've taken the easiest paths, I always tried to streamline the processes I encountered. I know that next year, operations will run smoothly, void of the many hiccups and unexpected challenges that cropped up on me (hopefully unbeknownst to you most times).

With all my heart, thank you for everything. Thank you for all your work and your innumerable other contributions.

As I leave my place at RCL, I stand by the statement I started the year with: You are all artists. Continue to foster your talents. Envision, experiment, develop.

And realize now that we're done. Look what we've done.

Fondly,



Merinda Valley, editor-in-chief

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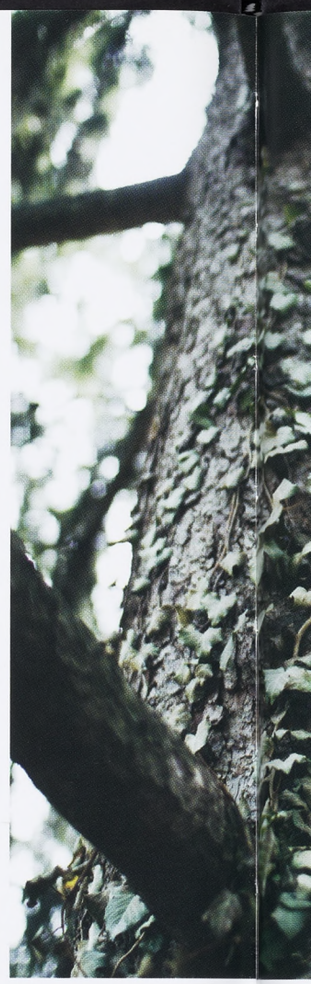
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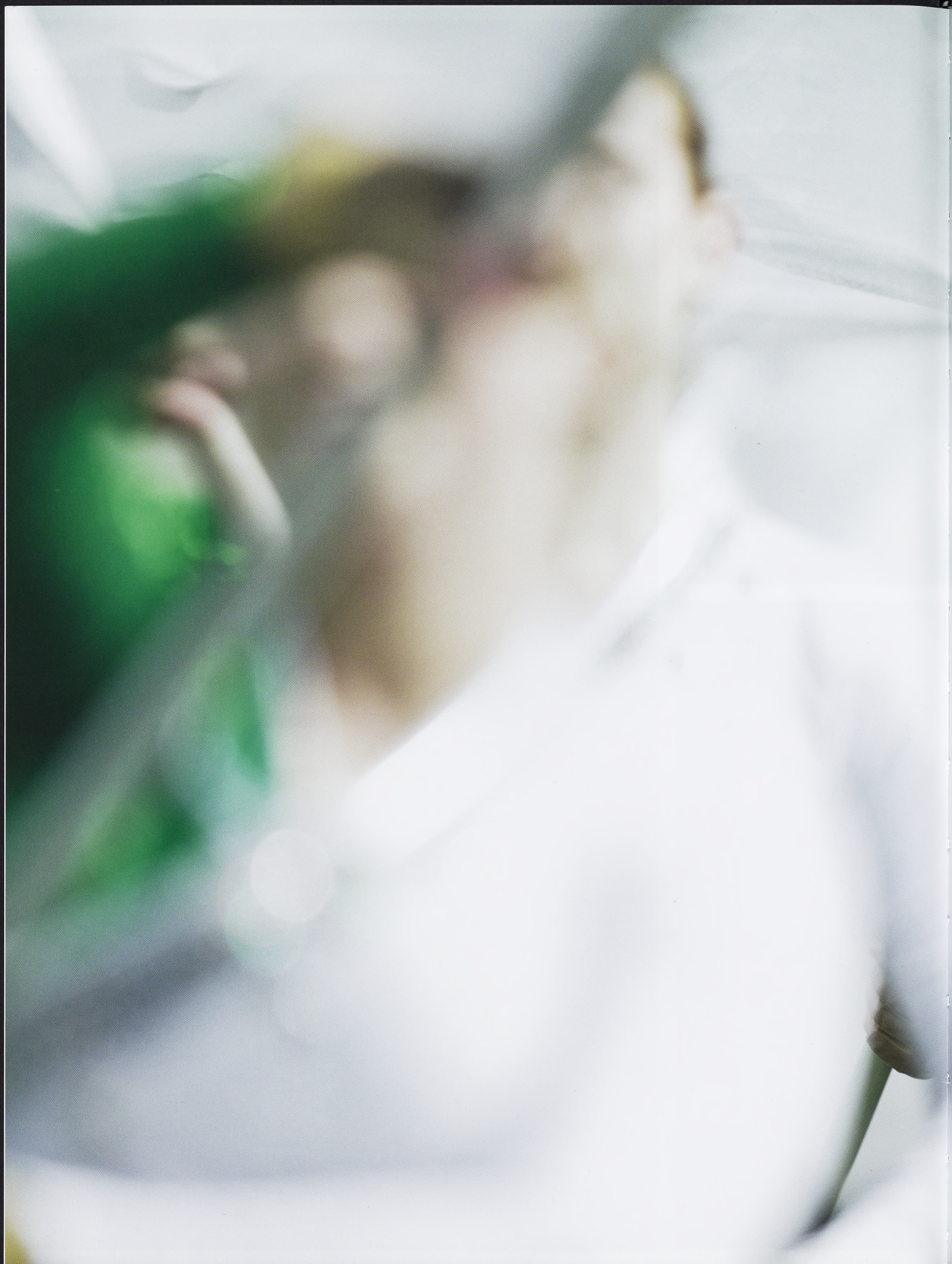







MICHIGAN
STATE COLLEGE









to the class of 2014:

Congratulations on your graduation from Michigan State University! Your graduation signifies a great accomplishment-one that is made even more impressive with the realization that you are now one of nearly 500,000 Spartans working daily to improve the world. All of us are committed to proving what our MSU background has taught us-that Spartans Will. We have the knowledge, skills, and drive to make a continuing difference in the lives of those around us as we continue on our journey. Although it is now time to leave the place where this journey began, I am confident that you will take what you have learned and truly work to improve the world around you.

In 2014, MSU was showcased nationally when President Barack Obama signed the Farm Bill on our campus. It is fitting that this historic piece of agricultural legislation was signed here at MSU, the first land-grant college in the nation. This past spring, we also honored Justin Morrill, the sponsor of the original Land-Grant Act, through the dedication of a new plaza where the previous Morrill Hall stood. The new Morrill Plaza highlights and honors MSU's rich history and traditions. While the Farm Bill and Morrill Plaza represent our agricultural roots, another major event demonstrated our ongoing commitment to advancing science and pushing the boundaries of what is possible. The Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) groundbreaking ceremony occurred in March 2014. We look forward to seeing the many advances and achievements in nuclear science that will result from it.

In addition, your class had the unique chance to participate in the innovative and fascinating documentary, "360.24: A Day in the Lives of Spartans." This film showcased the extraordinary work being done on an ordinary day by those, like yourselves, who have the privilege of being called Spartans. Collectively, we are pioneers, leaders, and lifesavers, and we create better outcomes for our state, nation, and the world. Whether it is through researching brain and cognitive engineering at Korea University, teaching classes in Sweden, working on entertainment marketing in Hollywood, or studying hard in East Lansing, being a Spartan means relentlessly pursuing excellence in whichever field you choose.

Lastly, but certainly not least, your football team's perseverance and dedication culminated in a victory in the 100th Rose Bowl game.

Whether you watched the exciting game from the bleachers in Pasadena or from campus with friends, this was an impressive feat that unified the pride in our university. In addition to your football team's success, the women's and men's basketball teams, women's field hockey team, and men's soccer team provided championship performances in the Big Ten and on the national stage.

As you can see, MSU had many successes this year spanning different fields. These accomplishments show how courage, leadership, and hard work can help turn bold dreams into new realities. Although we have all had much to celebrate, there will also come a time when you face obstacles. Have confidence in your skills, live your morals and values, and know that you have the tools to be successful in all that life has to offer. On the banks of the Red Cedar, you have grown academically and personally. Now it is time to create your own Spartan legacy.

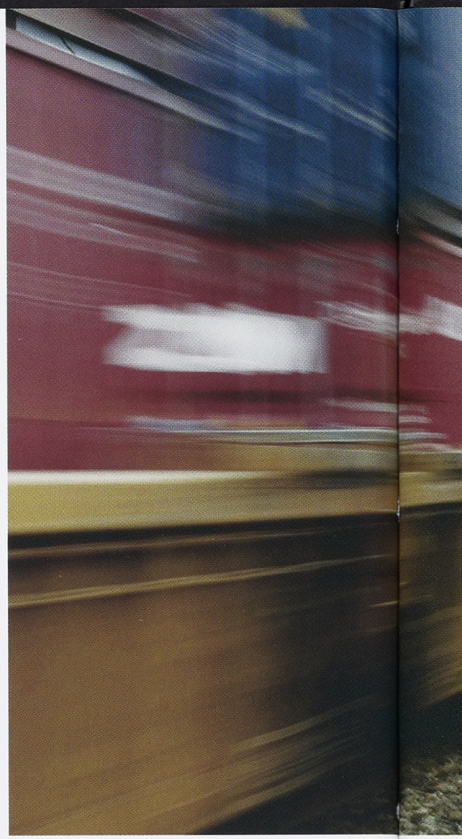
Congratulations on behalf of all of Team MSU. I wish you the best of luck for your continued success. Come home often!

Sincerely,

Lou Anna K. Simon

Lou Anna K. Simon, Ph.D.
President





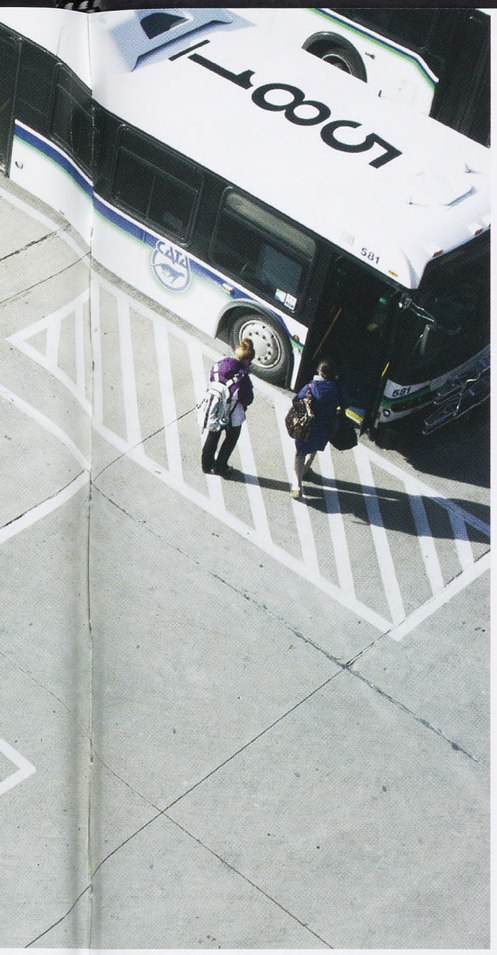





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Though winter ravaged campus and sent students scurrying to the warm relief of classrooms and dormitories, our optimism persisted. By the light of an honorary Spartan princess's smile, we moved forward.

The fountain beside the Main Library began flowing as we crammed for final exams and became inundated with knowledge and caffeine.

Then the semesters melted away like snow on a sunny day.

We pinpoint the year's setbacks and accomplishments that now define us. And whether we leave for a summer-long break or walk across the Breslin's stage to accept a diploma, an unseen force continues to bind us.

It mortars the red clay bricks of our ever-changing campus and invites national esteem for a dedication to educational excellence. It beckons a visit from the 44th president to recognize our land-grant legacy. It compels us to venture into the community in a commitment to service. It warrants pride and promise, within ourselves and among each other.

This element is ingrained in everyone who lingered upon the sloped banks of the Red Cedar this year — all 37,300 of us.

Take it with you when you go.



