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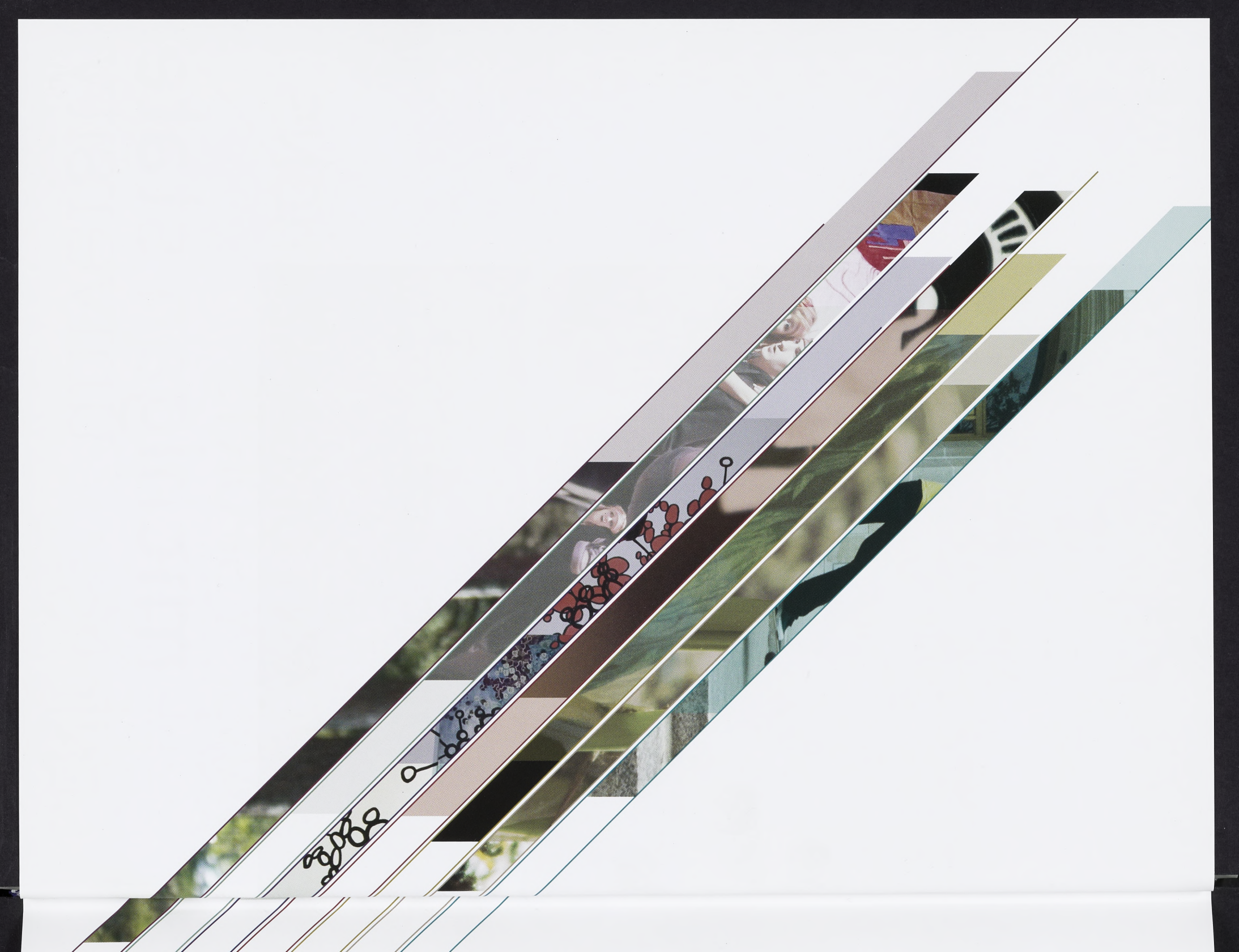



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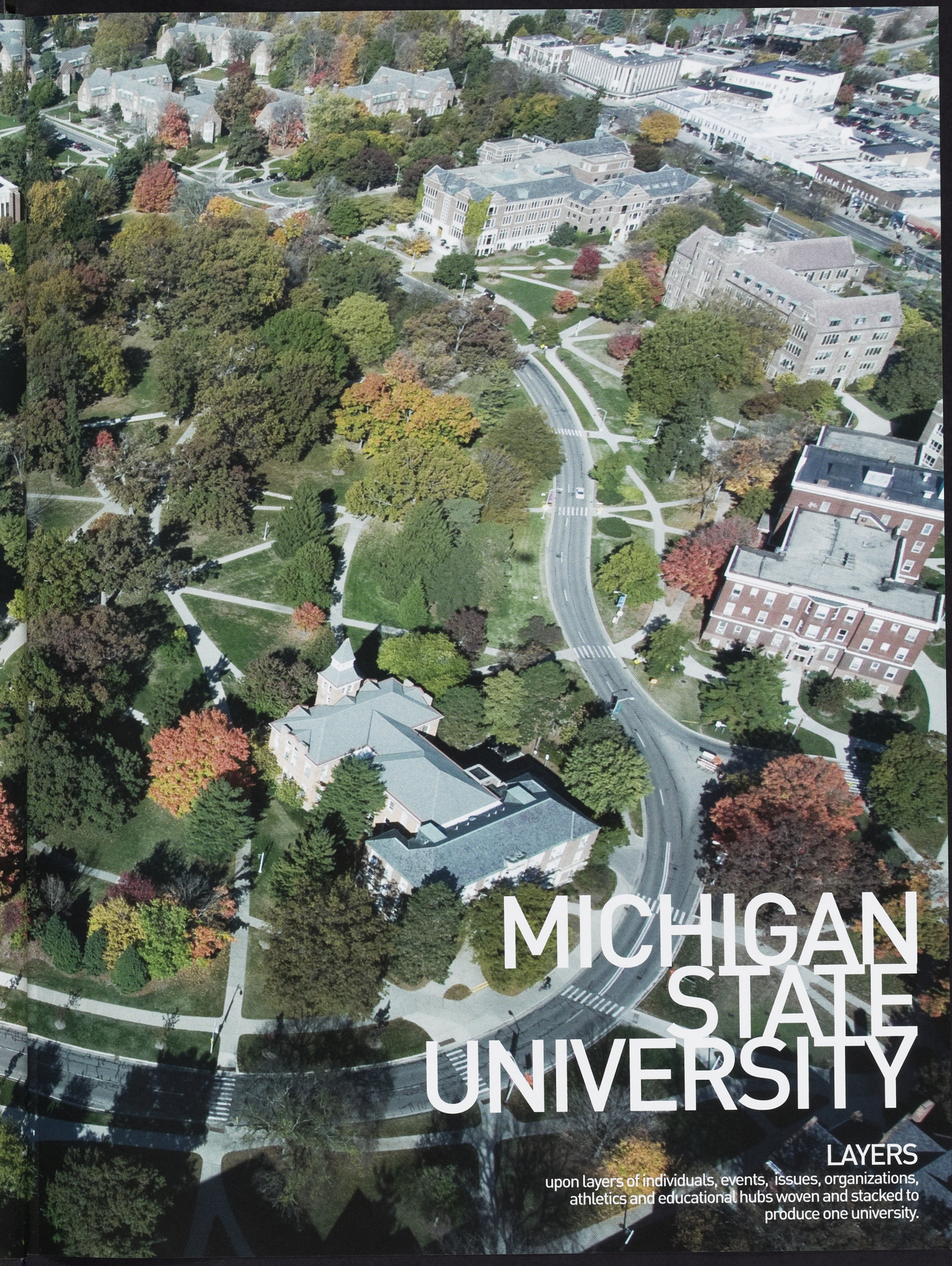

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

LAYERS

upon layers of individuals, events, issues, organizations, athletics and educational hubs woven and stacked to produce one university.



hilary higgins



hilary higgins

The DeMartin soccer field is home to both the MSU men's and women's varsity soccer teams. The men's soccer team finished their season with a 13-7-2 record, while the women's team finished with a 9-6-4 record.

The sparty statue stands in front of Demostration Field. In addition to the MSC smokestack and the Beaumont Tower, the statue is one of several well-known icons on the Michigan State University campus.



erica treals

Spartan Stadium rests in the middle of the Michigan State University campus. The stadium can host 75,005 people at full capacity.

The calm waters of the IM West pool lay vacant. The pool hosted several events this year including a UAB event for swimming and a movie.



erica treais

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cassie allore



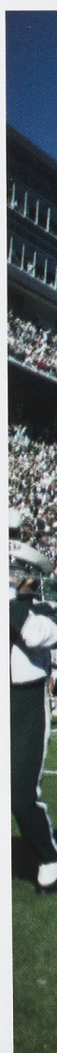
Cars stream down Bogue Street in front of the infamous Cedar Village. The apartment complex is best known for hosting Cedar Fest, a post-March Madness celebration for men's basketball.

Students celebrate at the Passion Pit concert at the MSU Auditorium. Wale, Mike Posner and Big Sean also performed live at the Auditorium.



erica treais

The Spartan Marching Band performs during halftime at Spartan Stadium. Founded in 1870, today the band is composed of 300 members.





erica treais

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CAMPUS LIFE

Providing memorable concerts, explosive protests and registered student organizations of all kinds, Michigan State University is our playground.

Cultures and customs mash as the social lives of tens of thousands of undergraduates collide, adding a layer of excitement and fun to higher education.

From speed-dating and political rallies to holiday celebrations and a snow day for the history books, this is Spartan life outside the classroom.


MSU
THE NORTH FACE

Capital Green serenades incoming visitors to Sparticipation. The event allowed students to learn about different organizations on campus.



finding their place in sparta

Sparticipation promotes MSU's student organizations

Countless student organizations packed under tents on Tuesday, Aug. 31, to offer Spartans a chance to find a club that fit their needs at Sparticipation. From greek life to Christian groups, there was a place for everyone at Munn Field.

Among live music and masses of people, some organizations sat stationary at tables, while others used creative tactics to draw a crowd.

One club in particular had a unique way of grabbing onlookers' attention. Dressed from head-to-toe in homemade medieval fighting gear, members of the Society for Creative Anachronism performed fights for students. One of the fighters, senior Charles Hameline, has been fighting for under a year.

"I like violence in a controlled setting," Hameline said.

The club usually recruits anywhere from five to 15 students, and this year they are expecting more. Sparticipation brought on one new member: freshman Alexandra Bredael.

"It sounded interesting and I like Renaissance festivals," Bredael said about her interest in SCA.

SCA was not the only club attracting onlookers. The Underwater Hockey team, with their male members walking around in Speedos, grabbed the attention of freshman Justin Weintraub, who didn't find the Speedos appealing.

"I'm sure they're cool people, but walking around in a Speedo is not cool," he said.

Club members junior Aaron Schwartz-Duval and sophomore Lauren Knollenberg talked to students about the underwater team. According to them, all that's required is a bathing suit and a towel; potential members don't even need to know how to swim.

For students trying to combat the heat, the MSU Navigators, a Christian organization, came to the rescue. While promoting their youth group, members passed out surveys and rewarded participants with popsicles.

Senior Evamarie Cropsey shared her experience about how her involvement with the club has had an impact on her life.

"I joined because I think my relationship with God is very important. Jesus Christ is the most important person in my life. MSU Navigators help me stay focused on God," she said.

Student organizations weren't the only groups to participate in the event. Among other businesses, Bubble Island was on the scene to give out free drinks. But the freebies didn't end there. Thanks to the Associated Students of Michigan State University, students were able to indulge in free food, T-shirts, water bottles and a fireworks show at the end of the night.

From quirky extracurricular activities to meaningful causes, students received a sampling of MSU's variety of student organizations with hopes of discovering a club that fit their interests. Some students, such as junior Melissa Cofield, are already looking forward to next year.

"It was a great experience." Cofield said. "It was nice seeing all of the organizations come together. I can't wait for next year."



Senior Charles Hameline battles a trainer at the Society for Creative Anachronism's booth at Sparticipation. The SCA practices medieval fighting and makes their own costumes and jewlery.

TYPErodneya ross/PHOTOhilary higgins/DESIGNbetsy eber



Freshman Alexandra Bredael signs up for the Society for Creative Anachronism's mailing list. The SCA practices many traditions from the medieval period.

Aaron Schwartz-Duval, junior, and Lauren Knollenberg, sophomore, promote Underwater Hockey to freshmen Alexandra Bredael and Jennifer Miller. Underwater Hockey is played using a hockey stick to push a puck across the bottom of the pool.





The MSU Surplus Store used to be located on Harrison Road. Its new location on Farm Lane is more centralized and saves gas for the trucks that pick up new goods every day.

one man's trash

Great deals on second-hand goods abound at the MSU Surplus Store

Organized chaos. Those words best describe the atmosphere at the MSU Surplus Store. Abandoned bikes, antique furniture, dining utensils, and even a used Spartan hockey zamboni are among the hodge-podge of items that fill this cavernous green and gray building.

"If they advertised more, I'm sure a lot more students would come here and buy stuff," said freshman Dylan Mahoney-Muno. "They have decent stuff for so cheap."

His first time at the store, Mahoney-Muno was in search of a bike, but left with the intention of returning for a used printer.

The store, one of MSU's better-kept secrets, was originally founded in the mid-1940s. It was relocated to the corner of Farm Lane and Green Way a year ago.

"Most of the students come the first week before classes, then we usually have a mixed crowd," Surplus Store accounting clerk Gail DeGood said.

The Surplus Store takes anything that MSU departments, residence halls, farms, and even off-campus affiliates want to get rid of, or no longer need. In fact, as part of the university's "Be Spartan Green" initiative, any large items slated for disposal need to be sent through the store first. Its role as a liaison between MSU and bargain hunters ensures a degree of cash flow back into campus from products that would've otherwise gone to waste.

According to sales floor manager Tom March, the store only keeps enough money for its own functional purposes.

"We get everything except for the stuff that goes directly in the trash," March said.

A quick tour around the store's warehouse-like interior verifies this statement. Old overheads, Spartan football programs, vinyl records, comic books and computers are just some of the products which the MSU Surplus Store carries. Walking through the broad aisles, it seems as if the university sheds a layer of itself each year – a layer of Spartan tradition that ends up scattered across the Surplus Store's many shelves.

"We only get rid of electronics that we can't find a value on," March said, adding that they did the same for items that have gone beyond a certain point of obsolescence. "Most of the furniture, we always have."

"Even if it's broken, people might use it differently. There's something here for everyone."

"It makes you feel small," DeGood said, "but it's like that saying, 'One person's trash is another person's treasure.'"

"It contains so much history," she continued, citing Christmas postcards she had seen in the store that date all the way back to the 1940s. "Some of the stuff comes through and I just say 'wow'."





Every day, Surplus Store employees pick up used products around campus. The store even had an old MSU hockey zamboni for sale.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO ellina stein/DESIGN saralee gordon







Juniors Alex Wilson, Laura Tupancy and Elizabeth Lane check out old Spartan jerseys at the Surplus Store. Jerseys are some of several used goods that the store receives from the university.

Senior Bethany Lumbert examines an old map from MSU's map library. Originally, she came to the store to find furniture for her house.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO erica treais, chase o'black/
DESIGN saralee gordon

the new icon of campus

MSU seeks to construct revolutionary multi-million dollar art museum



When it comes to the talk of geographical icons on campus, familiar locations like Beaumont Tower or Spartan Stadium may come to mind. However, with the construction of the yet-unfinished Eli and Edythe Broad Museum, the university may have a new point of attraction.

"I think it's going to be a huge impact," associate professor of graphic design Chris Corneal said. "They're talking about it being the new icon of campus. It's going to reach beyond East Lansing, and even beyond the state."

The museum, which is to be located on the corner of Grand River Avenue and Farm Lane across from the Student Services Building, involves a variety of big names in its creation and construction process.

The Friends of Kresge group began a fundraising effort to renovate MSU's Kresge Art Museum. The group's efforts were enhanced by distinguished MSU alums', Eli and Edythe Broad, donation of $26 million dollars.

The donation, announced in 2007, led to the idea of a new museum to be designed by renowned international architect Zaha Hadid. As Hadid's first project on a college campus and her second in the United States, she brings an outstanding reputation to the project.

"[She's] clearly the most famous woman architect in the world today," said Linda Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services and project coordinator for the Broad Museum. Hadid is a recipient of the Pritzker Prize, which Stanford describes as the Nobel Prize for architects.

The Broads eventually donated at total of $28 million for the museum, with a majority going toward construction and another portion toward art acquisition. Beyond that, additional funds come entirely from private donations to the university, according to university relations communication manager Lisa Mulcrone. No state or tuition money was used, Stanford said.

Although ground was broken in March 2010, Mulcrone said that as of January 2010, only $33 million of the estimated $40 to 45 million was raised for the museum's construction. Regardless, Mulcrone believes the costs can be accounted for by the time the museum is expected to open in 2012.

"That's a typical way of doing things," Mulcrone said about beginning construction of the museum before the estimated funds were raised. "The assumption is that they will reach their goals during the completion of the museum."

Stanford was also sure of the eventual funding and said the university would have never begun the project unless the money could be secured.

Regardless, the implications of the project are huge. Corneal said the location will serve as a gateway to MSU for non-student citizens of East Lansing.

"I know some people in the community are hesitant to come on campus, so putting it on Grand River is not only putting it out front, but inviting people in," he said.

Beyond serving as an iconic house for contemporary art, Corneal believes the Broad Museum will improve the education of students associated with the arts and humanities.

"We are going to integrate curriculum, experiences for the students. That was really important in the whole project, to make an impact on the education of the students," Corneal said.

Art students also envision the impacts the museum will have, from their education and beyond.

"We have a vast collection of art, but only room for about 70 pieces [at Kresge Art Museum]," senior Satpreet Kahlon said. "It'll be good for art students to see a bigger variety. The art aspect at MSU is very underappreciated. Having a big museum on campus will let people better explore what art students are doing here."

For senior Clark Goeman, it all goes back to the goal of the museum being an icon on campus, which everyone involved hopes for—and believes.

"The museum itself is a piece of art. The fact that it's one of [Hadid's] pieces will be like having the Taj Mahal," Goeman said. "It's going to be a famous aspect of campus."

Steel beams cover the construction site of the Eli and Edythe Broad art museum, designed by architect Zaha Hadid. The new museum is scheduled to open in the spring of 2012.



chase o'black

erica treals





erica treals

Michigan State University's new art museum is located on Grand River Avenue. Ground was broken in March 2010 and the museum is scheduled to open in the spring of 2012.

Berkey Hall hovers above the art museum construction site on East Circle Drive. The road was closed to accommodate space needed for construction machinery and building materials for the Eli and Edythe Broad art museum.

Students make their way up the stairs to experience the new Brody Cafe. The $49 million project began 15 months ago, and will be completed in 2011.



The new Brody Hall cafeteria awaits visitors. The remodel plans include classrooms, wireless internet throughout the building, and a Sparty's convenience store.

TYPE natalie patterson/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN betsy eber



Fresh greens await diners at the salad bar. The self-serve vegetable bar is one of the many fresh culinary options available to Brody residents and visitors.



from dump to destination point

The new Brody Square increases Brody Complex's popularity

Huddled in the northwestern corner of campus once lay the dorms known as the "Brojects." But as any passerby can see, Brody Hall now has something to be proud of.

"They used to gather all the freshmen here and clump them together," cafeteria employee Kenzie Fuqua said. "Now people are coming from all over campus to eat here."

Fuqua is talking about the early success of Brody Square, the revolutionary new cafeteria complex opened in the Brody neighborhood this fall. This area once deemed an isolated island of freshmen is now a destination point for students.

"I literally travelled to come here," freshman Jon Veitengruber said. Others seated at his table said they had also made the trek from various points of campus to experience the new cafeteria.

After working in the Brody cafeteria for three years, junior Christopher Kenrick has seen the progress and lived through the turmoil of construction.

"Last year was just a joke," Kenrick said. "It was disorganized; there was no excitement. No one came here, we all left for SnyPhi. Brody wasn't a place you came to. It was a place you were assigned to."

Executive Chef Dave Brown said he particularly admired the modern, yet comfortable, design of the new cafeteria's warmly lit interior.

"There are all sorts of nooks and crannies and coves for people to relax in," Brown said.

The transformation is astounding. The $49 million project, started in 2008, now boasts a half-dozen different venues serving freshly made food for students to choose from.

"Before, we didn't make any of the pasta or sauce here," Brown said. "Now everything is made with fresh ingredients. We are working with fresh herbs, and creating homemade dishes that are healthy and nutritious."

One of these healthy venues is "Veg Out"; a vegetarian/vegan option that Brown feels is especially significant.

"At Veg Out, we use the same principles as we do with meat to create various vegetarian products that make a full meal," Brown said. "We hope to get the word out to vegetarians."

Students are not the only ones to enjoy this epicurean revolution. Parents and staff members have also headed over to experience the cafeteria for themselves. On freshmen move-in day, Fuqua estimates over a thousand parents from all over campus came in for lunch.

"In the past, parents were reluctant to send their kids to school, knowing their options were limited," Fuqua said. "Seeing that their children can eat at a well-balanced cafeteria gives them hope."

local inspiration

Michigan hip-hop scene highlighted at Big Sean concert



Chip tha Ripper performs for students at the Auditorium. Other talent included FowL, Dom Kennedy and Fly Union.



The spotlight is on Big Sean as he raps for excited fans. Sean has been a musical presence at MSU since he distributed his first mixtape around campus in 2007.

On Sept. 9, Detroit-native Big Sean brought his local flavor to MSU and served as a motivation for aspiring artists to keep hustling.

Fans packed the Auditorium at 7 p.m. to see Big Sean take the stage.

"He's a great example of an artist that uses his resources and doesn't rely on the record label to get his name out," William Ketchum, managing editor of the website michiganhiphop.com, said about the concert put on by the Residence Halls Association.

Big Sean, no stranger to MSU, performed with Mike Posner and opened for Kid Cudi in 2009. He even considered attending Michigan State, but an offer from Kanye West to record in 2005 for G.O.O.D Music kept him from becoming a Spartan.

His appearance this year was one that Ketchum believes showed the diversity of the hip-hop culture in Michigan.

"The lineup of artists shows how multifaceted the state's hip-hop scene really is," Ketchum said. Aside from highlighting Big Sean's debut album "Finally Famous," the concert showcased local artists including Chip Tha Ripper, Fly.Union, Dom Kennedy and FowL, who is a sophomore at MSU.

To maintain the Michigan artist's presence in East Lansing, Big Sean's representatives have handed out promotional CDs and T-shirts around campus. These promotions are what attracted junior Patrick Duda, who became a fan after receiving one of the mixtapes.

"I would have paid a lot more to come see him," Duda said. "It's cool how they can put it on for so cheap."

According to Zeno Jones, a member of the tour working in merchandising, it was an easy decision for Big Sean to perform at MSU.

"State's always been real big," Jones said, referring to the growing hip-hop scene in the Lansing area. "It's kind of a no-brainer. A lot of his friends go here."

To aspiring artists such as Duda, who performs in the mid-Michigan area as part of the hip-hop act "The Spektators," Big Sean serves as an inspiration.

"It's nice to have performers like Big Sean to look up to who are also local," he said.

And although he's a signed artist, fame doesn't stop Big Sean from promoting himself like many independent artists do.

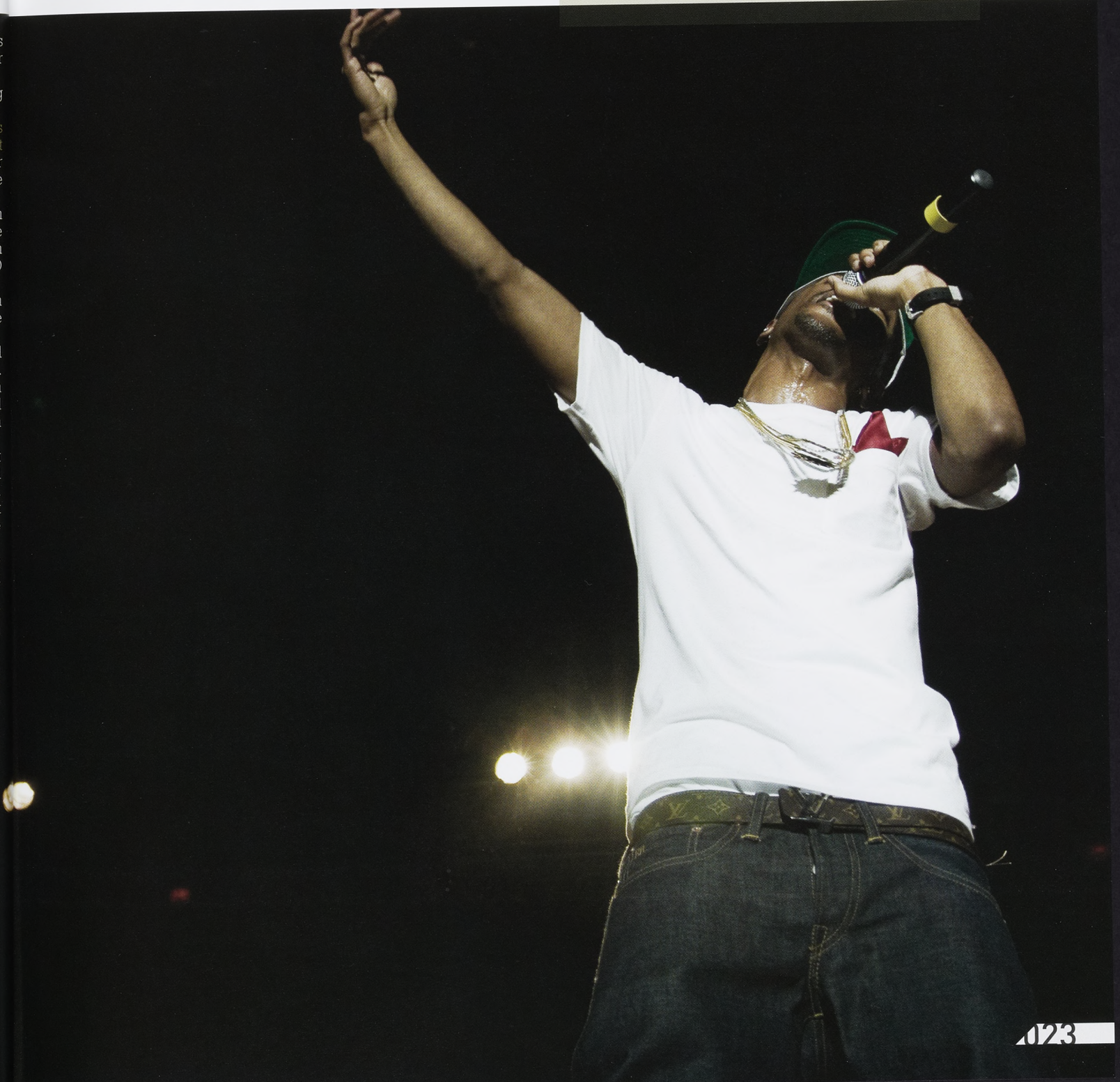
"He's an artist who does things on his own," Ketchum said. "This really shows that."

TYPEnatalie patterson/PHOTOhilary higgins/DESIGNbrendan prost



Students rock out to rap artists at the Big Sean concert. Hip-hop fans were treated to four different artists.

Big Sean raps for students and fans at the Auditorium. The concert, put on by the Residence Halls Association, showcased local talent like FowL, as well as other big names.



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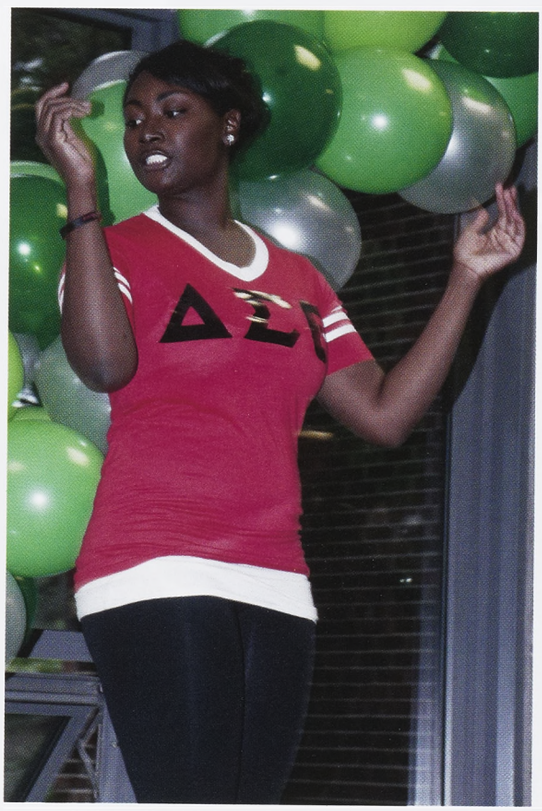


Kaitlyn Billops, a member of Delta Sigma Theta, performs at Spartan Remix on Sept. 9. In its third year, the performance, which is held at the Union, represents over 60 student organizations.



Pilipino-American Student Society break dances to a variety of songs at Spartan Remix. The group focuses on academic achievement and cultural awareness.



(re)mixing cultures

Student organizations gather to celebrate campus diversity at Spartan Remix

In the shadow of a stage crowned with an arch of Spartan-green balloons, students of various majors, years and cultural backgrounds flooded the lobby of the MSU Union, eagerly awaiting their fellow students' moment in the spotlight despite the lack of sitting-room.

Such was the initial scene at the Spartan Remix, held on Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. The event was opened by speeches from Provost Kim Wilcox, Dr. Paulette Granberry, director of the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, and Dr. Lee June, associate provost and vice president of Student Affairs.

Following the speakers, six different student groups provided entertainment to a welcoming crowd. Their line-up of performances included slam poetry, traditional Mexican and hip-hop dance displays, and a medley of Jackson 5, Maroon 5 and Third Eye Blind covers.

Visitors were given a chance after the performances to mingle with over 60 student organizations in order to learn more about what they do as well as how they could get involved with these associations.

"It's a lot more diverse than Sparticipation," said senior Mas Mizobuchi, vice president of the Asian-Pacific American Student Organization.

According to Stephanie Bierlein, Assistant Manager of the UAB, the Spartan Remix is still a relatively new event to MSU.

"The core groups used to do their own events. We wanted a welcome reception to celebrate all the groups together," she said.

"This is the third year for this event. It's great because new students can find out about the groups and returning students can reconnect with friends and promote their organizations."

According to students at the event, the sheer amount of diversity present that night was the main draw of the Remix itself.

"Diversity, not only in majors or ethnic backgrounds, but [in] ways of thinking, makes the University a good place," said senior Tom Cast. "It's what makes MSU, MSU."

Mizobuchi agrees.

"It [Spartan Remix] brings everybody together to interact with different cultures," he said. "It's a great way to unify everyone."

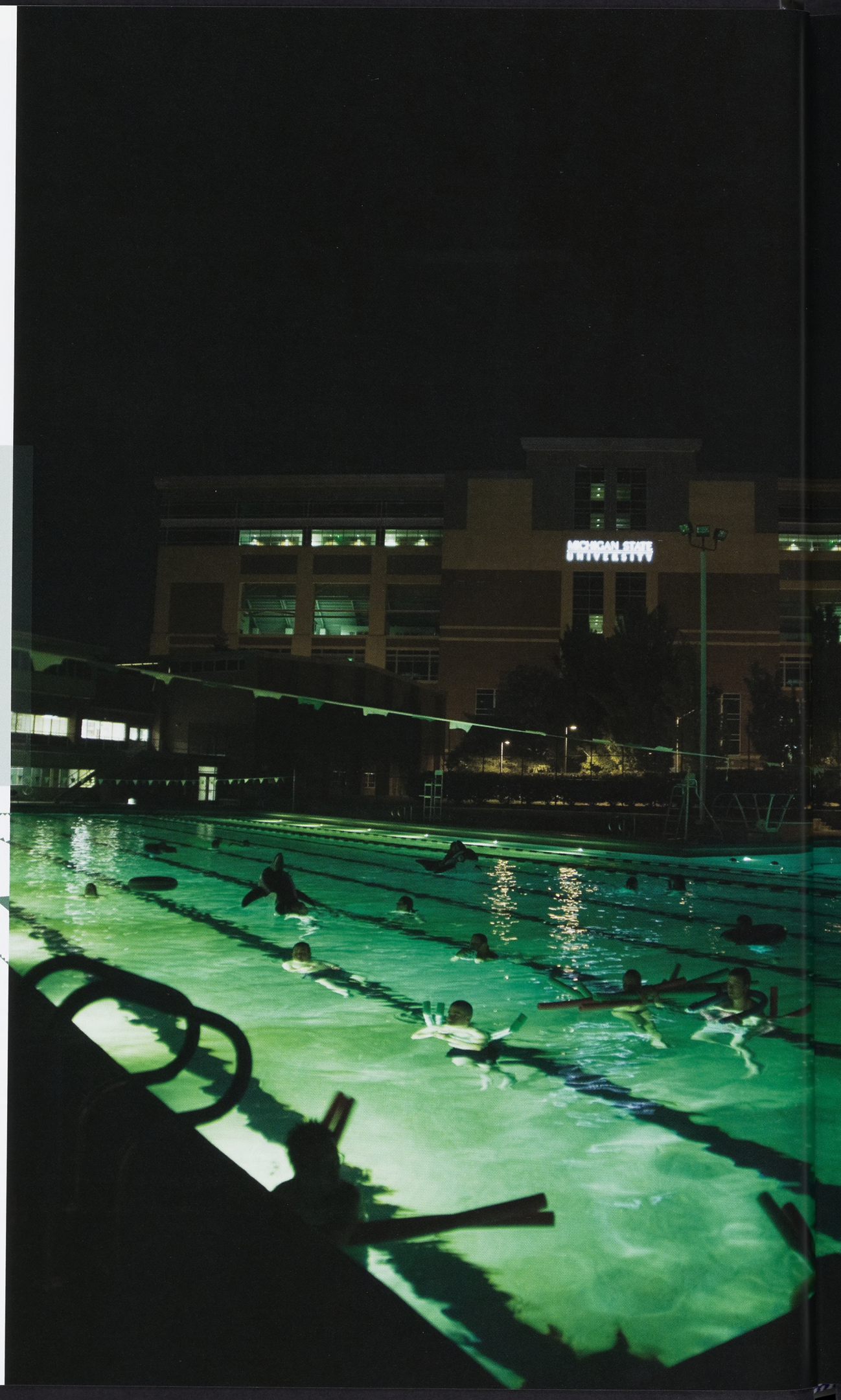
However, according to Bierlein, Spartan Remix isn't the only event that celebrates diversity at MSU. UAB, she said, hosts similar events all year long.

"We partner up with groups for smaller events," she said, "like poetry slams or a salsa night. It's all up to the students."



Calvin Fant performs to represent his fraternity Iota Phi Theta at Spartan Remix. Several acts performed to showcase talents and raise awareness for their organizations.

Christian Dioso performs a variety of cover songs with the rest of his band from the Asian Pacific American Student Organization. The group holds events throughout the year to bring together students of Asian Pacific American descent.



Students enjoy a swim, a snack, and a film at IM West as part of the Dive-In movie event. Regardless of the weather, student turnout was high compared to previous years.

TYPEnatalie patterson/PHOTOellina stein/DESIGNjessica halfyard

diving in for a night out

University Activities Board hosts outdoor event for students

Though it was only 64 degrees outside, junior Oshan Weerasinghe and sophomore Lauren Lendzion boarded the bus to IM West wearing swimsuits.

Weerasinghe and Lendzion were on their way to the Dive-In movie event hosted by the University Activities Board. The annual event promises students free candy, popcorn, Insomnia Cookies, as well as a movie and a good time.

Aside from the freebies, what attracted Weerasinghe was the opportunity to participate in a weekend social event that included everyone.

"This sounded way better than drinking and getting wasted," Weerasinghe said. "It's good to have some sort of social activity for the people who don't want to drink to go to."

Although there are typically many activities—parties, events, concerts—to choose from each weekend, the Dive-In caters to students, such as Lendzion, who want to do more than party.

"We had a big party to go to," Lendzion said. "We chose this over that."

As a long-standing UAB tradition, the Dive-In allows students to enjoy their Friday night on campus without spending any money.

"Our mission is to provide low-cost, late night events for students," director of marketing Amy Pochodylo said. "The Dive-In is a way to shake it up a bit outdoors."

For students looking for movies and entertainment Thursday through Sunday, Pochodylo suggests they check out Wells Hall. The Dive-In was an event similar to Wells movie nights, but with a twist.

Although the Dive-In is typically held in the fall while the weather is usually still relatively warm, the temperature is usually not a problem for students, and the event makes a big splash each year.

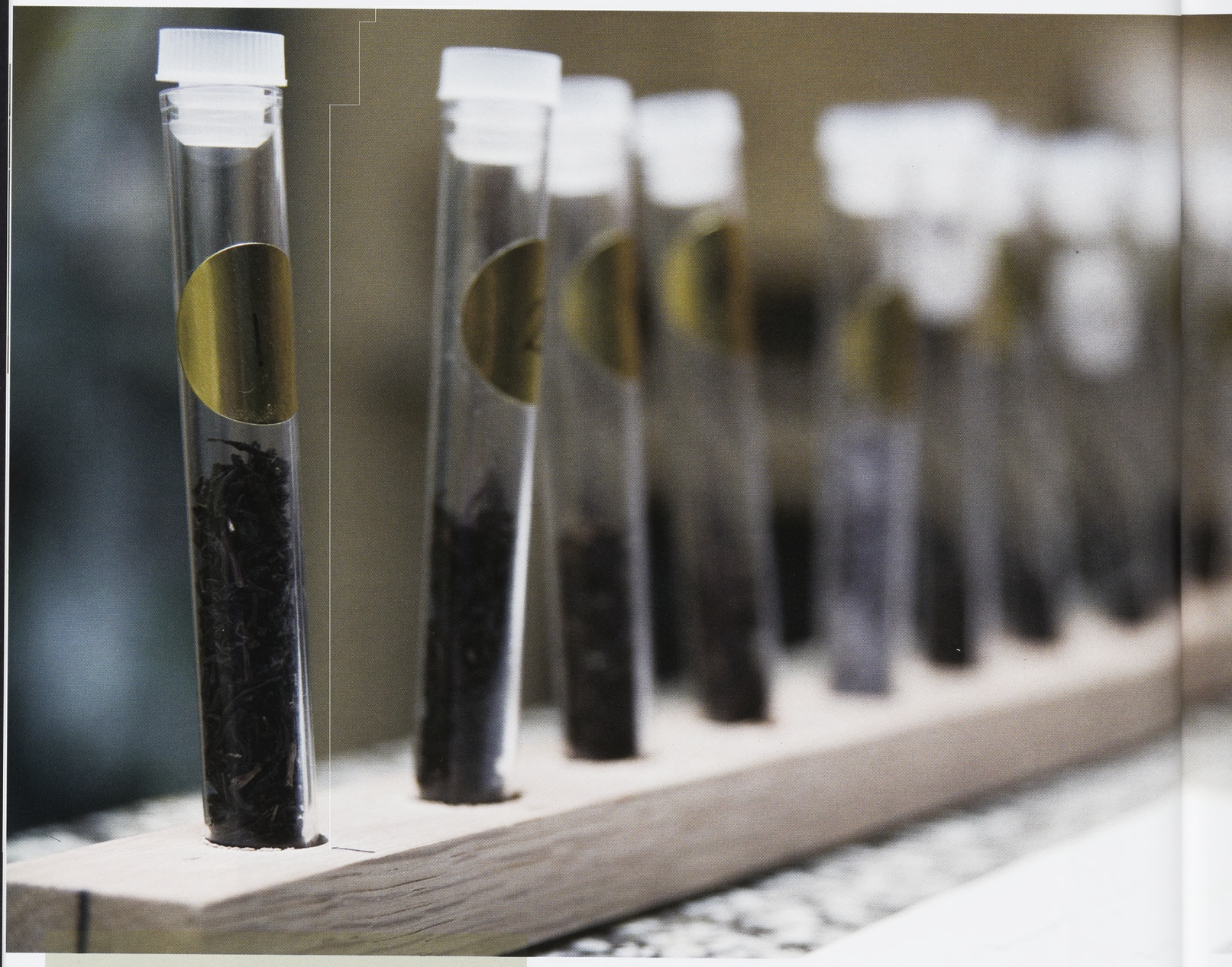
"The student body really seems to like this event," Pochodylo said. "Even when it's cold and rainy, we still have a great turnout."

Freshmen Nathan Quattrochi and Canlon Bruer decide to check out the teahouse for a cure to their colds. Wanderer's features remedies for all types of sickness.

Wanderer's Teahouse features 34 kinds of tea. Flowering tea, a small bundle of tea leaves and flower petals bound together, is a popular item in the store.







The teahouse sampling center allows students to explore different teas before they purchase. Spano said he lets the students "follow their noses."

TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO ellina stein/DESIGN betsy eber



Wanderer's co-owner Michael Spano creates his own tea concoction. The teahouse opened for business Sept. 1.

a place for wanderers

MSU alumnus opens specialty tea house on Grand River Avenue



Wanderer's Teahouse and Cafe, owned by married couple Michael Spano and Elizabeth Marazita, opened its doors for business on Sept. 1, and has since served as a hot spot for tea enthusiasts.

Located at 547 E. Grand River Ave., the tea house offers 34 kinds of tea made of 30 common herbs, as well as coffee, pastries, sandwiches and salads with a vegetarian/vegan option. All ingredients are completely organic, Spano said.

A variety of signature blends are also offered, which are, among other things, aimed at combating stress, hangovers, insomnia, colds or PMS. But concocting the perfect remedy was not something that happened overnight.

Spano worked in restaurant management for 12 years before leaving to study Chinese medicine at Bastyr University in Seattle, where he met Marazita.

Marazita, a native of the Lansing area and a graduate of the James Madison College at MSU, worked as an international banker before she studied natural medicine.

"We've been wandering for many years," Spano said.

The couple has lived all over the globe including Italy, Switzerland and China.

"We have an eight-year-old that we've been bouncing around the world, and so we decided to come home," Marazita said.

While visiting East Lansing last February, the couple stumbled upon the vacant location of the future tea house. Since the opening, Spano said weeknights have been packed. Students pour in to drink tea, study and take advantage of the Wi-Fi.

"I heard this place was awesome so I came here in the morning, and now I'm back to study," senior Brad Seifert said. "It's a great environment for that."

That's one of the goals of the tea house, according to Marazita.

"I understand stress," she said. "I understand stress as an undergrad, a graduate and as a mother."

And to help students cope with their stress, Marazita began what she calls "Tea and Tai Chi," where she offers Tai Chi classes twice a week behind the shop. Eight sessions are $45 dollars, and each class is followed by conversation with Marazita over seasonal teas.

The inside of the tea house boasts a comfortable atmosphere as well. Quotes from Marie Curie, Rosa Parks, Albert Einstein and Jack Kerouac, among others, spice up the walls. There are also a number of donated books to read.

"One thing I've noticed is that you'll tend to see a lot more people sitting around reading instead of on their computers," Spano said, adding that the shop offers a children's corner with a high chair and books.

"I think parents are the one group of students who are really ignored on this strip. They're welcome here," he said.

Additionally, there is a tea testing center at the front of the shop.

"I like to let the customer sniff the tea before they try it," Spano said. "'Follow your nose,' I always say."

In the future, Spano and Marazita hope to open the tea house to live performances of music, poetry and monologues and host language tables where students can learn foreign languages.

"I wanted to create a place that I would like to go to," Spano said. "We just want to make sure everyone who walks in is happy."

And painted on the back door, in the words of William Shakespeare, is an invitation for these happy customers to come again: "Safe May'st Thou Wander, Safe Return Again."

home made

MSU students build a house and a stronger community

As former field director for the Bolivian branch of International Service, a British non-governmental organization that fights poverty, MSU graduate student Anna Malavisi is no stranger to the effects of destitution.

That's why, on the chilly morning of Sept. 17, Malavisi was up at 9 a.m. measuring and cutting wood for the siding of a house being built on MSU's campus through the partnership of Habitat for Humanity Lansing and the Whirlpool Building Blocks program. The catch: the house was Malavisi's own future home.

"My helmet keeps falling off," she said as she worked side by side with students and other volunteers in a section of Lot 89 turned construction zone, where the outer shell of the 1,100 square foot house was being erected.

"This year they [the Whirlpool Building Blocks program] decided that they wanted to do a blitz build on college campuses," Senior Student Services Coordinator Kevin Schwemmin said, explaining that MSU was the first campus chosen for this project, in which a home would be built in just two weeks.

"It turned out even better that it [the project] is helping out an MSU graduate student."

Malavisi and her three daughters were living in a two-bedroom home in Lansing when they learned of their qualification for the house. Her previous home, she explained, was too small and expensive, and she was pursuing her doctoral degree in philosophy while working three part-time jobs and raising her girls. The interest-free mortgage levied at the new house, however, would grant Malavisi more time for both her daughters and her studies.

"It was a coincidence that I was chosen; maybe meant to be," she said, when considering her connection as a student to MSU.

According to a press release, MSU was one of two schools chosen by Whirlpool for this program due to its commitment to community outreach.

"As a land-grant institution, its the core [to why MSU was chosen]," Schwemmin said. "It's essential to our institution."

"It's great [to be volunteering], especially because Anna is here and I get to work with her, and just knowing she's so thankful," senior Christina Kotevski, a student volunteer, said at the site.

"It really helps out her family," student volunteer and junior Amar Jaswa agreed.

According to Schwemmin, approximately 345 students signed up online to volunteer for the project, with about 60 showing up over the weekend of Sept. 11 and varying numbers helping out during the following week.

"It's really good to see students jumping behind this," he said. "It just adds to MSU's commitment."

"Things like this build community spirit and get people who may not have been aware involved," said Malavisi, a regular volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

As the first project of its kind on campus, awareness of the good it can do for low-income families was crucial. Governor Jennifer Granholm came out to speak on the opening day of construction on Sept. 11, and Malavisi received the keys to her new home at the homecoming football game on Oct. 16 in front of a large portion of the Spartan community. For some volunteers such as senior Jeremy Brown, however, just being a part of the process was enough.

"The best part about this will be seeing Anna's smiling face after it's completed," Brown said.



Student and faculty volunteers work to complete the outer shell of the Habitat for Humanity home. MSU was one of only two universities chosen for the Whirlpool Building Blocks program blitz builds.



Sophomore Allison LaSota hammers the siding on to the outer shell of the new home. She was one of four other girls who came out to volunteer for the event that day.

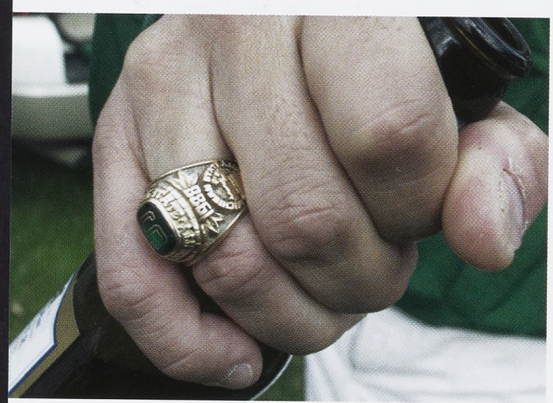
TYPE**courtney zott**/PHOTO**hilary higgins**/DESIGN**saralee gordon**



Junior Alison Judson gets some help from volunteer Bill Kiebler. Student volunteers often received guidance from more experienced workers before starting a new task.

Ken Krill, class of 1988, lights up the grill for his fellow tailgaters before the Northern Colorado game. Besides food, tailgaters shared stories from their college days, as well as a sense of camaraderie.

Alumnus Ken Krill, class of '88, displays his class ring. Spartan alumni frequently come back to support their school through tailgating at sporting events.





Samantha Smith, daughter of alumnus Tony Smith, class of 2000, retrieves bean bags during a game of cornhole. Many alumni brought their children to the tailgate to instill Spartan spirit at a young age.

TYPEnatalie patterson/PHOTOnatalie kolb/DESIGNbrendan prost



passing the torch

MSU alumni bring up the next generation of Spartans

Beneath one tent, three generations of Spartans gathered for the football game against Northern Colorado. It's a typical game morning for this group on Sept. 25: beers are cracked, snacks are laid out and children are running among the tent posts playing with a football. But for Jon Hirschenberger and Steve Baillie, tailgating is more than a pregame for football. It's a time to keep the Spartan spirit alive and instill it in their children.

Hirschenberger and Baillie, both in the graduating class of 2002, became friends during their time at MSU. Their families frequently attend MSU sporting events and alumni activities, and they enjoy coming out to campus to show the area to the kids: Baillie's sons Nathan, 6, and Owen, 4, and Hirschenberger's sons Wyatt, 2, and Ty, 5.

The future Spartans enjoyed the tailgate and the sunny morning by playing with a football around the tent.

"The kids are born and raised green and white," Hirschenberger said. "We come out here to show the kids what life is like in college."

Life at MSU today, however, is much different than when Dave McGregor, from the class of 1977 and a friend of both families, was here. As the oldest member of the tailgate, he recalled the atmosphere of the area – by the tennis courts where many alumni and students tailgate – back in his day.

"There were cows standing where we're standing right now," McGregor said. "This was Moo U. We would be standing in farmland."

With the cows on the barbecue rather than grazing in a field, the past and tradition of Spartan spirit permeated the tailgate party.

"I've had season tickets since '94," Baillie said. "There's a lot of heritage here. There are a lot of memories."

Coming to the football game is only one way that Hirschenberger and his group continue to support their Alma Mater.

"We'll be paying a lot of tuition fees to this place," he said. "All these kids are going to State."

Hirschenberger won't be the only one supporting future State scholars. McGregor also plans to help turn his longtime friends' kids into future Spartans.

"The whole family is here; those kids will be going here," McGregor said. "And I'm going to pay."



Alumni Steve Baillie and budding Spartans Owen Baillie, Nathan Baillie, Wyatt Hirschenberger and Ty Hirschenberger play ladder ball before the football game. Steve Baillie came back for the Northern Colorado game to relive his time as a student at MSU.

Seniors Gina Rome and Emily Bradley, along with junior Tobias Roth and sophomore Stefan Weihl attended the meeting to meet students in other co-ops. The orientation consisted of many ice-breaker activities.

Junior Molly Griffin checks out Post-its describing life in a co-op. Thirteen different co-operative houses are available to students seeking alternative living arrangements.







TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN saralee gordon

under one roof

Students opt for co-operative housing options off campus



Students gather at the new member orientation to participate in ice breaker activities. They also learned what co-operative living really means.

Living on campus has its benefits, but it's not for everyone; no pets, no kitchen and sometimes, loud hallmates.

So, some students choose instead to live in one of the 13 co-operative housing options around the East Lansing area.

Chris Walsh, member service coordinator of the MSU Student Housing Cooperative, said this year, 105 out of the 207 co-op residents are new members.

"Many of the new members aren't acquainted with the co-op process," said Emily Bradley, President of SHC. "The thirteen houses work together to pay rent. It's different from an apartment because you essentially are your own landlord."

There are seven principles, called the Rochdale Principles of Cooperative Living, which guide the way a co-op is supposed to run. The principles focus on things like voluntary and open membership, democratic decision making, economic participation, autonomy and independence, co-operation among co-operatives, community involvement and education for new members.

Each new member is required to attend the New Member Meeting Orientation held this year at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center to learn all about co-operative living.

The orientation was followed by the fall semester "All Member Party" (FAMPO), which is exclusively for SHC members and invited guests. NMO and All Member parties are also held during the spring and summer semesters.

"This is where we confirm that their choice to live in the co-ops was the best one," said Rebecca Saunders, Executive Director of SHC.

"We need a way to communicate with everyone," Walsh said. "We go over things like how to resolve disputes in the house or what to do if something breaks."

Each house also holds meetings throughout the year to discuss house affairs and activities, residents' duties and to make sure everyone is doing their part as responsible tenants.

Ferency house member and junior Brendan LaCroix said he likes cooperative living because the housemates are "completely in charge of the house."

"We're totally encouraged to do whatever improvements we want to the house," he said. "We don't pay rent to anyone. No one makes a profit off of us living here. It's also just really cool living in a house with people you don't know. I've had a great time getting to know everyone I live with."

Avalon house member and junior Josef Krawciw agrees.

"It's a chance to meet new people and live in a smaller community within Michigan State," he said. "Everyone is close so it works out well."

Saunders said the main goals of the SHC are to make sure that houses function efficiently within the co-operative system and to also ensure that the students are happy.

"What makes the co-ops are the co-opers," she said. "They have to love it so other people will want to move in."



Sophomore Tim Smela play the roles of Arthur Clayton and Graham in The American Clock. The play was performed in the arena theatre, which helped create a connection with the audience.

chasing dreams

"The American Clock" dissects the struggle for the American Dream amidst tough times



TYPE rodneya ross/PHOTO ellina stein/DESIGN saralee gordon



Junior Chris Robinson and MFA Wes Haskell play the roles of Theodore K. Quinn and Arthur A. Robertson. The two discussed their plans of dealing with dilemmas that have been created from the Great Depression.

Imagine having everything in the world and then losing it all within minutes, or spending your entire life chasing a vision that frustratingly dances just beyond your grasp.

Such is the lot of the characters in "The American Clock," a moving production by the MSU Department of Theatre that took audiences back in time to a particularly turbulent era of American History – the Great Depression. The play opened on Wednesday, Sept. 22 in the arena theatre.

Set in the 1930s, "The American Clock" explores the lives of the Baums, members of an upper-class family whose worlds come crashing down when the stock market collapses, and are forced to completely reevaluate their ideals of the American Dream from the bottom up. As the Baums navigate through tough times with a sympathetic mix of denial, brokenness, and silent resilience, their lives intersect with other characters from all walks of life that have been affected by the Great Depression. All of the characters struggle to find their places in life in the wake of this great social upheaval.

Junior Kristen Mills, saw the play on its opening night, and was amazed by how well it was performed.

"It's unbelievable how parallel it is to now. The props were awesome. The way they set up the stage was really unique. I've never seen a play like that," Mills said.

The play was also an opportunity for theatre students to showcase their talents. Many of the actors had to portray two or more characters, and some even had to take on the roles of characters differing vastly in age.

Despite the limited space that the actors had to work with, they were able to use that to their advantage to ensure that the audience felt more connected to the story. Quentin Brown, a cast member and sophomore theater major, said that he felt this play was one best performed in a more intimate space due to the intensity of emotions being portrayed.

"The arena was a really great place to have it, among the other selection of venues," he said. "Many people complained about the venue at first. I even did when I found out that we were doing it there. But after taking our audience into consideration, the best decision really was the arena."

Ben DeGroot, a senior, said he enjoyed the way the set was laid out, and that he also enjoyed the actors' performances.

"They did a pretty good job. A lot of the costumes helped a lot. I could definitely see some characters coming into their own as a result of their choice of dress," he said.



The American Clock focuses on the lives of a wealthy family, the Baums, whose lives come crashing down when the stock market collapses. The storyline of the play can be related to life today with the recent recession.

Quentin Brown's character, Joe, stands alone in the light on stage. Joe jumped in front of a train, committing suicide once the stress of the Great Depression became too hard for him to handle.



Freshman Danielle Takacs fills out a registration application for the Nov. 2 midterm elections. YouVote's main goal this year was to educate voters and increase student voter participation.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN brendan prost

democracy in action

YouVote encourages students to vote in the midterm election

Midterm elections may not seem important to some, but to YouVote, they are just as important as the presidential campaign.

The group, a nonpartisan voting initiative at MSU, aims to educate students about the importance of casting their ballots at elections. Through their website and other events, YouVote provides information about the candidates and important issues and also helps students to register as voters and participate in the process.

On Sept. 30, volunteers for the group set up two tents and tables in the Ann Street Plaza where students could fill out forms to register as voters. With music loud enough to be heard from Grand River Avenue and red, white and blue balloons wafting over the scene, it was hard not to give the event a second look.

"Students should be more worried about this election because it affects them directly," Mike Zaborowski, a graduate student and coordinator of YouVote, said. "The governor hits them more directly than the president."

Since 2000, YouVote has been working to register and educate students for upcoming elections, as well as encouraging them to vote. The initiative was formed when MSU and East Lansing officials saw that students were confused, or, more often, disinterested in presidential as well as midterm elections, Zaborowski said.

"Last gubernatorial election, we had about a 45 percent turnout (in East Lansing), and that was with an incumbent," East Lansing City Clerk Nicole Evans, who assisted at YouVote's event, said. "This is the first year without an incumbent, so we'll see how it turns out."

While some students didn't know much about the elections, such as freshman Hannah Bodrie, others came to the event with knowledge about the candidates, like freshman Stephanie Takacs.

"I just don't know how to find out," Bodrie said, when asked why she didn't try to find more information.

"I'm not too thrilled with the candidates," Takacs said. "I'm also not a fan of the severe divide between Republicans and Democrats. Until we fix that we can't do anything in Michigan."

Former Governor Jennifer Granholm served her second and final term in 2010, which opened up the race for two new candidates: Republican Rick Snyder, a former Ann Arbor businessman, and Democrat Virg Bernero, the mayor of Lansing.

"I'm speaking for a demographic party I'm no longer a part of, but I think the (midterm) election is as interesting as the candidates make it," Evans said. "If they (students) don't think an issue is going to make a difference, they won't be interested."

"Someone needs to let them know," she added, "and they need to educate themselves."

"Our main goal this year is education," Zaborowski said. "We want students to know that YouVote exists and can help them."





YouVote members created a Facebook page and Twitter account to become more accessible to the student voter population. Members focused on increasing student participation.

YouVote volunteers decked out Ann Street Plaza in red, white and blue and played loud pop music to attract students to their tents. Last year, the campaign registered 300 students to vote.

TYPEmarissa russo/PHOTOellina stein/DESIGNsaralee gordon



Joel Medina is a 19-year-old student at Jackson Community College. He came in eighth place overall, running the 5k Dino Dash race in 16 minutes and 54 seconds.



Sarah Baird and her daughter Sheridan Baird, from Jackson, MI, come back to the event every year with her husband, who grew up in East Lansing. The family agreed that it's the best 5k race in which to participate.

Beginning and ending in front of the MSU Museum, the runners start the 5k Dino Dash race. Twenty-three-year-old Brendan Martin finished first in 15 minutes and 33 seconds. The Dino Dash benefits the MSU Museum's education programs.



dashing for a cause

Students participate in a race to benefit museum

Anxious, excited, nervous: these feelings seemed to overpower the 1,500 people who gathered on the West Circle Drive sidewalk on Oct. 3 at 10 a.m. and waited for a horn to blow.

These people were part of the 25th annual MSU Museum's Dino Dash 5k run/walk. A run for everyone, it connected members of the East Lansing community with MSU's campus.

Many people, such as senior Kelsi Franckowiak, participated to help support the museum's educational programs. Franckowiak, who ran with a friend, said the cause made the race meaningful.

"The event raises money and awareness for the Michigan State Museum, which is just a good cause within itself. People should want to come out and help," she said.

The race was run by people from all walks of life. Some competed in wheel chairs, and others pushed children in strollers. From toddlers to 79-year-olds, people were more than motivated to begin the race.

With a few minutes until race time, contestants lined up behind the starting mark, running in place and mentally preparing themselves for the horn to blow. Once the race began, runners and walkers took off for the three-mile run with determination.

Graduate student Danielle Bonoban said she didn't formally train for the run, but was excited nonetheless.

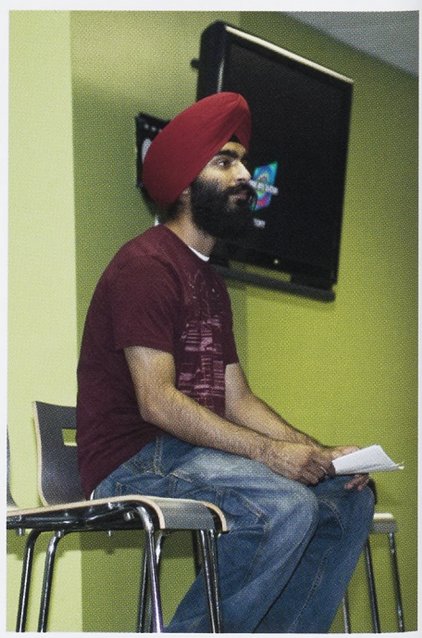
"I have never done an event like this before," said graduate student Danielle Bonoban. "I decided to do this race because grad students got in for free, and I just want to show my support because I know it's for a great cause."

The MSU Federal Credit Union helped the museum with the organization of the event and the registration of participants. Executive Vice President of the credit union, April Clobes, said she hoped the event would raise awareness for the museum.

"We are just hoping to make this a great family day and a fun day to support the museum," she said.

This year, the first-place winners were from Jackson and Lansing, but from children to alumni, everyone who participated was considered a winner.

Katie Lowden, Snyder Hall director tries on a turban, tied by the coordinator of the event, junior Ameek Singh Sodhi. He hosted the event to raise awareness about Sikhism.



Junior Ameek Singh Sodhi leads a discussion about the Sikh religion. The group discussed issues Sodhi felt were relevant to Sikhs in America, like prejudice and tolerance.

TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO audrey aquino/DESIGN brendan prost



turbans for tolerance

MSU student invites peers to explore his religion of Sikhism

In hopes of raising awareness and overcoming false knowledge (or lack thereof) of his religion, devout Sikh and junior Ameek Singh Sodhi hosted his second annual Turban Night.

Students gathered in the Pillar Room of Phillips Hall on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 5, to learn more about Sikhism and experience what it feels like to wear a turban.

"Turbans are unique to Sikhism. They signify two things," Sodhi said. "First, they remind others of who you are and second, they remind yourself of who you are."

Sodhi explained that his religion, Sikhism, is often mistaken as a sect of Hinduism or Islam, but in fact is its own distinct religion with its own divine scriptures. It was founded by Guru Nanak Dev as an alternative to both Hinduism and Islam, and is a monotheistic religion that believes in an omnipresent deity. Its practitioners, known as Sikhs, strongly reject ideas of discrimination by gender, caste or creed.

According to the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world, with an estimated 500,000 Sikhs in the United States alone.

As a mentor in Snyder Hall, Sodhi encouraged students living on his floor to come to the event.

"We wanted to learn about Ameek's religion," sophomore Drew Dzwonkowski, a student on Singh's floor and visitor at the event, said.

Sodhi hosted a short discussion on the importance of the turban, and about the prejudices held towards it. The turban is an important religious signifier for Sikhs, and is worn to remind them of their commitment to their religion's beliefs and values. Sodhi then gave visitors a chance to try a turban on for themselves.

"I was a little nervous to try the turban on," freshman Elle Ables-Allison said. "But after wearing it I realized that they put it on everyday as a part of their routine and it didn't seem like that big of a deal or anything to be nervous about. It's just a part of their lives."

Sodhi also showed a film titled "Ocean of Pearls," which focuses on a Sikh's struggle with identity in North America.

"After 9/11 it definitely got harder for Sikhs to express themselves," Sodhi said. "Many people mistake Sikhs like me as Muslim, and many associate Muslims with terrorism."

"Most people don't know that my religion preaches equality of gender and races, of surrendering your ego, and to dedicating yourself to the same God (we call him Waheguru) that Abrahamic religions worship."

Sodhi pointed out that despite prejudices he may receive while wearing the turban, he has lived in America all his life and appreciates everything it stands for.

"I bleed red, white and blue," he said. "Being a James Madison student, I understand the complexity and genius of our founding documents, and appreciate the institutions that have made America an exceptional chapter in world history."

"The identity for a Sikh was designed to catch someone's attention," he said. "It is to remind me that I get up in the morning, tie my turban, brush my beard, do my prayers, and yes, maybe be called a dirty name in the middle of the day, because I believe, deeply in the tenets of my religion."



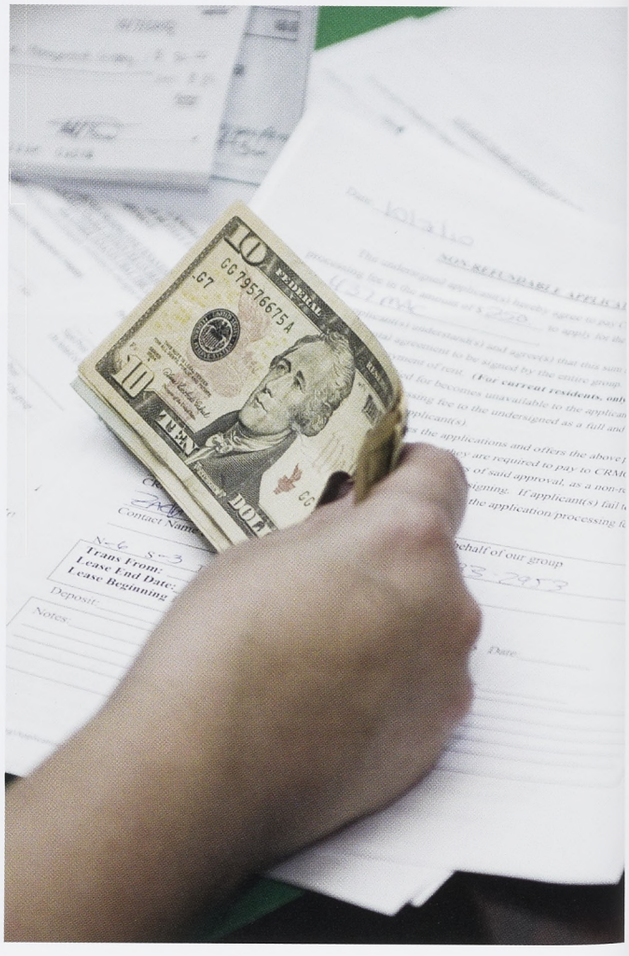
A group of students gathered in the Pillar Room of Phillips Hall to watch the film "Ocean of Pearls." The film focuses on a Sikh's struggle to keep and accept his identity in America.



A student reclines outside the Community Resource Management Center. Students interested in getting their first choice of housing had the opportunity to camp out and be one of the first in line to sign a lease.



Junior Dan Lewandowski and junior Emma Jakobcic giggle while reflecting on his future home. Off-campus housing, on average, costs around $600 in rent a month.



Community Resource Management Company worker Julie Mullen receives a student's safety deposit money. Students looking for off-campus housing can look to deposit between $200 and $300 when they sign their lease.

TYPE natalie patterson/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN brendan prost



home sweet home

Students explore housing options off campus

For two nights, Juniors Kacey Klem, Tricia Gordon and Austin Brooks have been sleeping in a tent outside the Community Resource Management Company on Grand River Avenue. Although it's only October, they're waiting to sign a lease in hopes that a tent doesn't become their permanent home next fall.

"It's not about second choices," Brooks said. "That's why we're here."

Brooks, Gordon and Klem aren't the first on the list to sign a lease, but thanks to a few weak-hearted souls who left the event early, they are closer to getting their dream homes.

Brooks' dream house on Beal Street would be the man cave where he and the entire tennis team could hang out and relax. He looks forward to a little privacy while still living with his good friends.

"I'm all about the basement. I want a finished basement and a garage," he said. "My room is 6 x 6 where I live right now. It'll be nice to have more privacy."

The average dorm room at Michigan State is 11 x 12 feet. When freshman Sarah Wilsey comes home to her room in Wilson Hall, she doesn't feel a sense of home.

"Mainly, I just want where I am living to feel like my home," she said. "A dorm room is too small, and we don't get our own rooms."

Like Wilsey, Brooks' decision for living off campus comes from experiences gained in the dorms.

"I hated the food on campus," Brooks said. "Living off campus teaches you how to cook for yourself. You also have a lot more privacy."

Besides houses, there are a variety of off-campus options to choose from, apartments, townhouses and co-ops, to name a few. For students, price is one of the first criterion when it comes to housing, mostly because for the first time, they will be paying for it themselves. Average rent for an apartment in East Lansing hovers around $600, while houses, depending on the location and amenities, can run as high as $1,035, according to housing review website, apartmentratings.com.

Despite the cost, Wilsey is set on a house.

"I feel that a house would feel more like my home than an apartment will," she said. "The criteria I'm keeping in mind is clean, good location and of course, not too expensive."

Monthly financial responsibilities aside from rent, such as utilities and food, can mount quickly.

"I know about things like food, utilities and gas money," Wilsey said. "But I'm sure there are many more."

Unlike Klem, Gordon and Brooks, Wilsey has never been through the selection and decision process associated with off-campus living. However, she is not without guidance.

"I'm not too familiar with the process, but I am sure that my older sister can help me out," Wilsey said. "She's a senior at State and she's been through the process three times now. I haven't been looking that much, but I do know it's a good plan to choose a place sooner than later."

Over on Ann Street lies Klem and Gordon's perfect home: a dark, woody green house they hope to get by shopping early. The house meets the standards that they feel make it the perfect living space.

"We want a porch and something where we could have people over. Maybe a few tailgates," Klem said. "We wouldn't look at anything past three blocks from campus. We still want to be close to the bars."

But at the end of the day, Klem believes any residence can be a home.

"As long as it's not a dirt floor, I'll be fine," she said.



Ryan Frisbie, a member of the University of Michigan's Triathlon Team, enters the transfer area to get on his bike after swimming 400 meters. The total race was about 15.75 miles.

ready, set, sprint

MSU Triathlon Team hosts Spartan Sprint Triathlon

For the MSU Triathlon Team this year, it was Tuscaloosa or bust.

This Alabama city was the host of the Collegiate Nationals for triathlon teams in April. So while most students were sleeping in on Oct. 10 after a night of celebrating a football victory against the Wolverines, the team was up before 9 a.m. raising money to fund their trip with the Spartan Sprint Triathlon.

"We pay for the expenses of traveling for our other races during the year," said junior Zach Church, who volunteered instead of competing in the race. "Nationals is the only one paid for by the team."

The team hosts the Spartan Sprint Triathlon every year with the help of 3 Disciplines Racing, a health and fitness event coordinating company. The race is considered a sprint because the 400-meter swim, 20-kilometer bike and 5-kilometer run are about half of the normal distance in a regular triathlon.

Both collegiate athletes and members of the public could compete in the race, which began in the pool behind IM West and continued with bike and running courses throughout the campus. The funds for Nationals came from the registration fees for the race, which the team split with 3 Disciplines, said event coordinator Jennifer Cooke.

Raising enough money, however, was only half of the battle in getting to Tuscaloosa. Sophomore Colin Paulbeck said the team practiced every day during the week to prepare for Nationals.

"We have a swim coordinator, bike coordinator and run coordinator," he said. "We alternate between different workouts every day."

Senior Bill Vann, who placed 94th in the nation last year, trains 22 hours a week under the guidance of Team USA triathlon coach Kris Swarthout.

"I train twice, sometimes three times a day, six days a week, with one day off until I peak in April for the Collegiate National Race," he said. "This is what I am really passionate about and I hope to do everything we can to achieve all of our goals."

Last year, the team placed 14th overall in the nation. The men placed 10th in their division while the women placed 23rd. This year, Vann expects significant improvement.

"Our team has the greatest abundance of natural talent in the nation and the potential this year for us is through the roof," Vann said. "We have some high goals set for Nationals as a team and I believe that we can compete for a top-five place in the overall team category, if not better."

"The team is really excited and ready to prove what Spartans are made of," he said.



Competitors prepare to swim 400 meters at the Spartan Sprint Triathlon. The swimming part of the race took place in the pool behind IM West.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO ellina stein/DESIGN betsy eber



Sophomore and member of the MSU Triathlon Team Colin Paulbeck crosses the finish line at the Spartan Sprint Triathlon. Paulbeck finished with a time of 1:09:25.

Collegiate female competitors prepare for the swimming portion of the Spartan Sprint Triathlon. Most of the MSU Triathlon Team did not compete in the race, and instead helped out at food, traffic and water stations.





a conversation with

At 4 a.m., campus seemed desolate as the lights emitting from dorm room windows slowly faded into blackness.

But an MSU night receptionist has company all night long.

The job of a night receptionist may seem lonely, but students filter in frequently until the wee hours of the morning.

"There are drunk people, obviously," junior Caitlin Pingel said. "It's college."

However, according to Pingel, who has worked in the Red Cedar neighborhood since spring semester 2010, she's never had to call the police because of student behavior.

"I haven't worked in the more troublesome complexes," she said.

Dorm complexes around campus fulfill their reputations through nighttime activity, according to junior Samantha Myers, who has worked as a night receptionist since March 2010.

"The craziness depends on the complex," she said. "Nothing happens in West Circle. I've never called the cops in the Red Cedar neighborhoods, but it happens two to three times a week in East and South Complexes, due to size."

Aside from an occasional phone call to the MSU police and scanning student IDs, it's up to the night receptionists to keep themselves busy.

"I've become a lot better at browsing the internet," Pingel said. "Night receptionists are often addicted to Facebook and caffeine."

Supervisors make their rounds four to five times a night to check that receptionists are awake and schedule breaks, according to senior Anthony Young.

"I usually play loud music, or sometimes set alarms on my phone if I'm really tired," Young said.

Last year, night receptionists had the option of working a split shift. However, in effect this fall, workers are obligated to a full nighttime shift, from 11:40 p.m. to 6:55 a.m., in hopes of reducing the number of no-call-no-shows.

"I don't sleep very well," Myers said. "I sleep during the day. But 4:30 to 5:30 is the worst hour because you're more than half done and you just zone, staring at your computer. It's a good time to get work done, though."

Sophomore Dana Castle agrees.

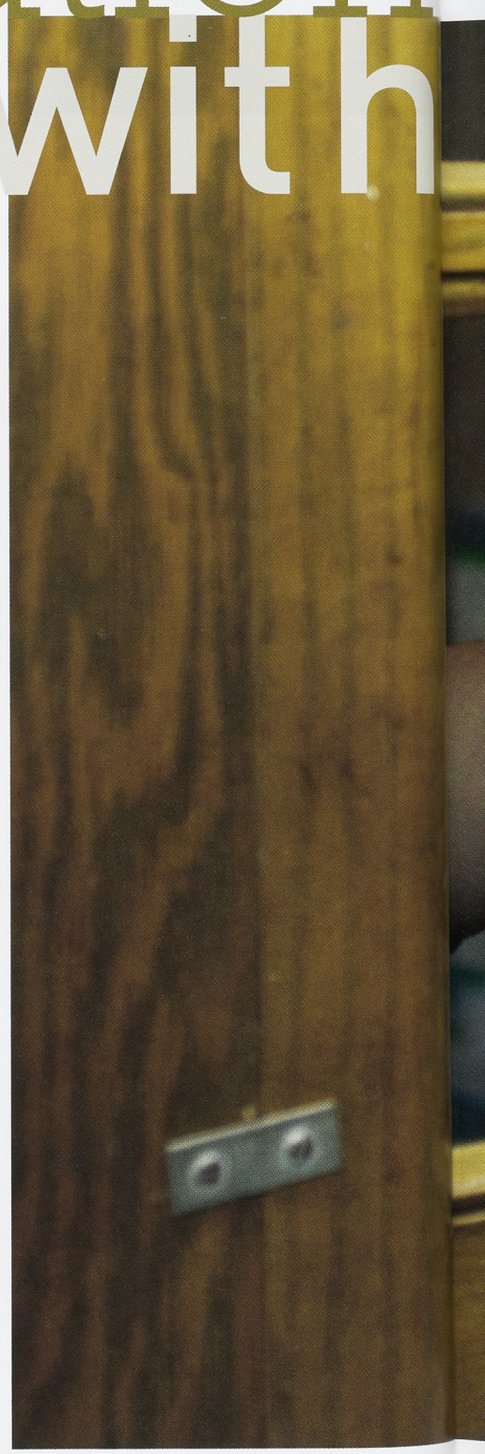
"Around 5:30, I'm losing it," she said. "That's when '5-hour Energy' shots come in handy."

According to Young, a midnight to 7 a.m. workday doesn't work for all types of class schedules. Students, such as Myers, cluster their classes on certain days to accommodate for night shifts.

"My earliest class was 12:40 last year," Myers said. "You try to concentrate your classes on Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Tuesday, Thursday so you can sleep."

While the job of a night receptionist might be easy, they serve a very important function, beyond automated ID scanners.

"How would people check in guests?" Castle said. "The main worry is that students would just prop the doors and people will get in that aren't supposed to. It's a safety thing."



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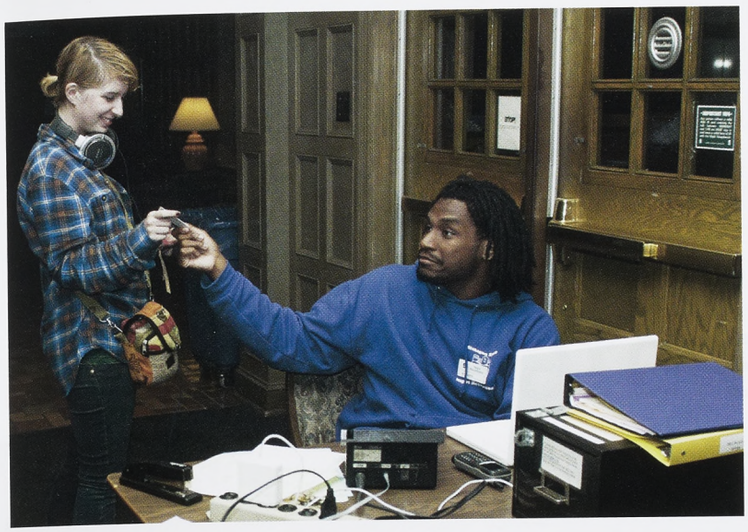


Senior Hannah Oldaker takes her MSU I.D. from senior Anthony Young after he swipes it for entry. Night receptionists are required to I.D. all residents after midnight.

A night receptionist accepts an MSU I.D. through the door of Mason Hall. Only residents are allowed re-entry into their respective halls, while guests must be signed in.

night receptionists

a



Passion Pit lead singer Michael Angelakos hits a high note. The five-man electronica band is known for its upbeat and independent sound.



Indie-rock and hip-hop artist K.Flay opens for Passion Pit. K.Flay released her first self-titled EP in October and traveled from San Francisco to present her bold, distinctive sound.

TYPEangie jackson/PHOTOerica treais/DESIGNbrendan prost

a passionate approach

Passion Pit delivers a high-energy performance at the MSU Auditorium



You wouldn't expect Spartans to have a lot to dance about the week before midterms, but on Oct. 18, there they were, crowding the MSU Auditorium, moving to the melodies of East Coast electronica band Passion Pit.

The Boston natives mesmerized the audience with their upbeat pop tunes and dreamy light show, and their catchy sound transported listeners into a state of audio-induced euphoria. The concert, which began at 7 p.m., was organized by the Residence Halls Association.

Since they broke into the scene in 2008 with their EP "Chunk of Change," Passion Pit has been producing fast-paced electronic pop songs, woven together with synthesizers and abstract lyrics.

"I like them because they're techno but easy to listen to. It's different: it's not super-mainstream, but it's still upbeat," said freshman Jackie Martin, who was looking forward to hearing Passion Pit perform "Moth's Wings."

Fans expected two things aside from their favorite songs: a light show and a dance party in full force.

After patiently waiting through two openers, fans rushed the stage, and when lead singer Michael Angelakos' high-pitched singing broke the air, the crowd couldn't help but pulsate to the rhythm.

"It was so hot in here you could hardly breathe, but it didn't matter," freshman Maddie Parker said.

As the lights hit the room like a kaleidoscope, morphing from blues to greens, and fading into shades of pink, people continued to dance.

"This was perfect timing with stressful midterms, to come out and let loose," senior Kara Erickson, a fan since 2008, said. "It's a relief."

Halfway through the set, Angelakos encouraged the audience to lift their hands, clap and then go crazy. With arms flailing in every direction and crowd surfers floating by, the auditorium became a swelling sea of limbs and bobbing heads.

Senior Justin Covington, who discovered Passion Pit on the Internet radio site Last.fm, danced along. Passion Pit's unique and independent sound, he said, made his decision to attend the concert a no-brainer.

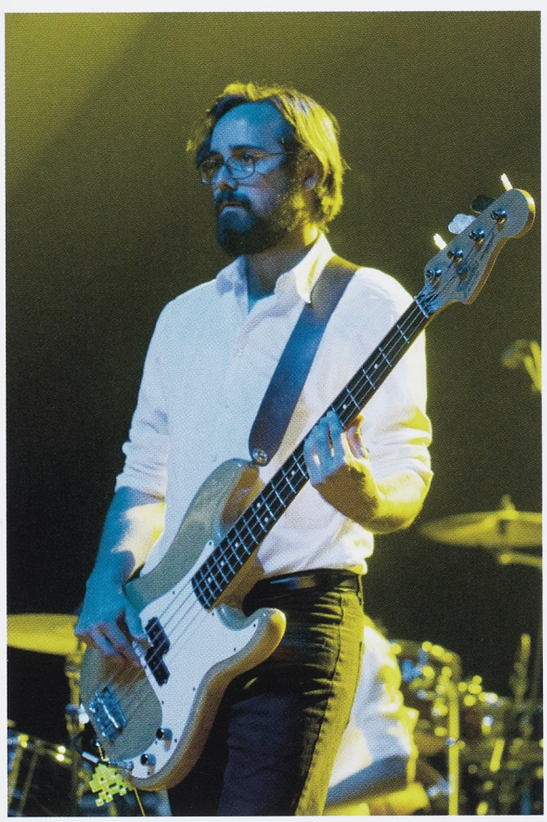
"I saw the thing in the cafeteria about the show, so I went back to my room to buy tickets. I didn't go to class that day just to buy tickets," he said.

As the energy continued to amplify, the band wrapped up the show with their hit "Sleepyhead."

A satisfied audience filed out of the Auditorium at 10 p.m. With sweat dripping into the creases of their smiles, there were no sleepyheads in sight.

Fans such as Parker left the show in awe of Passion Pit's performance and the atmosphere.

"A lot of times at shows there's a lot of hostility, but not here, not at Passion Pit. Everyone was everyone else's life support," she said.





Fans sing and dance along with Passion Pit. Many students came out to the Monday night concert looking for an opportunity to let loose before midterms.

Guitarist for opening band, Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybears, performs for the crowd. The Texas-based blues and soul group also opened up for big-name artists such as Little Richard.

a royal honor

Three stellar Spartans among MSU's homecoming court



ellina stein

Senior Kevin Fleury waves to the fans in Spartan Stadium during halftime of the homecoming game. Fleury has been involved with RHA and has been a resident mentor, as well as studied abroad in Switzerland.

The homecoming court stands proudly at midfield in Spartan Stadium during halftime of the homecoming game. The Spartans played the Illinois Fighting Illini and won the game 26-6.



ellina stein

On a campus that boasts more than 45,000 students, it takes a remarkable track record to represent MSU during homecoming week. Among the 2010 homecoming court, Megan Gebhart, Nick Pfost and Brianna Gardner were certainly no exception to this rule.

Gebhart founded msuCatalyst.com, a site that shares inspiring stories of extraordinary Spartans, past and present. Pfost is the vice president and secretary of the South Neighborhood Lesbian-Bisexual-Gay-Transgendered Ally Caucus. Gardner is the executive producer of MSU Telecasters and interned on the set of "The Office" last summer. Despite their different backgrounds, all of them share one passion: being a Spartan.

"We're looking for people who embody MSU and the Spartan experience, who have a love for the university and who are good role models for other students, because they're put in a spot where they become spokespeople for the student body," Jodi Hancock, co-advisor to the homecoming court, said.

Take Gebhart, for example. A marketing major at the Eli Broad College of Business, she founded the Gumball Group, a gathering of students who meet to bounce entrepreneurial ideas off of one another. She also studied abroad in France, Spain and Belgium. She's currently in the midst of a new adventure called 52 Cups of Coffee, in which she plans to have a cup of coffee with a new person every week for a year, and is recording her progress on her blog, 52cups.tumblr.com.

As the executive producer of MSU Telecasters, Gardner is in charge of six student-run shows that are broadcast and streamed to MSU and the general public. She interned on the show "The Office" and helped develop the NBC show "Community." She has also studied abroad in Spain and Portugal, and is majoring in Finance and Media Arts and Technology.

In addition to the occasional radio spot to promote homecoming, the court is encouraged to attend all of the daily events leading up to the weekend. From Friday to Saturday, the court attended the pep rally at The Rock, the parade, the Green and White brunch, and the homecoming game against Illinois - including being introduced at the 50-yard line during halftime.

"It has been really crazy, especially since it is homecoming week and National Coming Out Week," Pfost, the LBGTA officer and chairperson for The Alliance of Queer & Ally Students, said. "I've had to balance my commitments, because I've had to be at something every day."

The homecoming court isn't merely a one-week deal. During the summer, the court was invited to attend the Kedzie Reunion, an event for MSU alumni who graduated 50 years ago. They also had the option of attending the Pentwater Homecoming Days in August, a celebration located in a village near Lake Michigan that features a large MSU alumni population.

After the homecoming festivities are over, the court is expected to serve on the nomination and paper cut committees, which narrow down the applicants for next year's homecoming court. Despite the year-long commitment, these exemplary Spartans revel in their reign as royalty.

"It's such a huge honor to be representing 44,000 people at a place I love so much," Gardner said. "This is the highest honor I could have at MSU."

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO hilary higgins, ellina stein/DESIGN betsy eber



ellina stein

Senior Brianna Gardner greets the crowd during halftime of the homecoming game. Gardner interned on the set of "The Office" and she's the director of MSU Telecasters.



hilary higgins

Seniors Nicholas Pfost and Alice Topping ride through East Lansing as part of the annual homecoming parade. The parade snaked down Abbott Road to Grand River Avenue and through MSU via Farm Lane.



hilary higgins

The homecoming court pose for a picture around President Lou Anna K. Simon. Hanging out with President Simon was one of the many perks the court enjoyed.

The MSU women's basketball team rides atop a fire truck in the homecoming parade. The team began their season later that night at Midnight Madness.

A car built by the Society of Automotive Engineers races down the road. The College of Engineering was one of several colleges to show off their accomplishments in the parade.







TYPE natalie patterson/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN betsy eber

homeward and beyond

Spartans gather to celebrate MSU during homecoming weekend



Sparty conducts the MSU cheer team as they perform in the homecoming parade. The team spread more spirit the next day during the homecoming game.

From Farm Lane down past Hagadorn Road, traffic sat and waited as rockets and spaceships rolled down the road. As the caravan of floats and fans wove its way through campus, students and supporters lined the streets and helped ring in another homecoming weekend at MSU.

The theme, "A Spartan Space Odyssey", reflected on MSU's dedication to scientific research and the exploration of worlds beyond our own, and inspired parade participants to create otherworldly floats. Aside from featuring different student, Greek, and alumni groups, the parade also showcased local high school bands and community groups in East Lansing.

Spectators whooped and cheered enthusiastically as MSU's various sports teams rode by in the procession, waving at the adoring crowd as they went. Members of the university's various student organizations joined the convoy on a plethora of vehicles – from automobiles to horses to go-karts to a speedboat mounted on a truck trailer. Children of MSU alumni and East Lansing families, on the other hand, had a field day filling bags with the free candy that rained down on them as each float passed, its passengers scattering sugary confections to the crowd in its wake.

As night fell on the evening of Oct. 15, another tradition unfolded: for the second year in a row, the Breslin Center was filled to the brim for Midnight Madness, the heralding in of the basketball season. With blasts of pyrotechnics, Tom Izzo dressed as an astronaut, and special celebrity Spartan Gerard Butler, the night served to boost spectators' green and white pride, as well as prepare them for the game against the University of Illinois.

"When you have sports teams like ours that are nationally ranked, it's easy for everyone to get excited," junior Tyler Domina, a spectator at the event, said.

The excitement continued when the football team took on the fighting Illini to their seventh consecutive win – a feat that hasn't occurred since 1966. Gerard Butler attended the game as well, and led the famous Spartan battle cry from 300. Musical numbers and spectacles from the band, cheer, and dance teams helped pump the crowd to fever pitch. For Domina, this was the best part.

"The way they set up the games makes the students want to go and support their team," Domina said. "Regardless if they know anything about sports; it's fun to watch all the extras. It gets them excited."

Before the game could begin, many of the colleges across campus sponsored tailgates for students past and present, allowing alumni to reconnect with former classmates and professors. Homecoming is as much an event for students as it is for alumni.

"Homecoming is a chance for alumni to come back and relive their college lives for a weekend," Domina said. "There are all sorts of events for them to reconnect."

It's an important time for all Spartan fans; the symbolic factor of 'coming home' to the place where their support, pride, and often tuition dollars, lie. Through the series of events – from historical hayrides, to the parade, to the final victory over Illinois, an inspiring burst of Spartan spirit for both academics and athletics left spectators with enough pride in their alma mater to lead them through another year.

The ropes and pulleys shown are used to pull the sail into place. The process of switching the sail allows the wind to redirect the movement and speed of the sailboat.



sailing through class

MSU students travel to Muskegon for an educational sailing experience

When's the last time you drove two hours to a class, on a weekend? That scenario doesn't seem likely, unless you've taken Great Lakes Sailing with Capt. Joe Smith.

The one credit Kinesiology 101 class teaches the basics of sailing in the classroom and on board Smith's sailboat. The actual sailing lessons take place at the Bluffton Bay Marina in Muskegon, located on Muskegon Lake.

At least 180 students signed up for the class. Smith takes groups of them out in three separate, weekend-long sessions before winter hits.

The class features 16 hours of instruction on campus, with seminars on safety and the parts of the boat. The other 12 hours are dedicated to an overnight boat trip, in which students drive to Muskegon on a Saturday night to sail, sleep overnight on the boat, and then sail again the next day, featuring an all-you-can-eat breakfast Sunday morning. Students are required to complete at least one overnight trip with Smith to receive the pass/fail credit.

Smith has been teaching the class since 1986, when he presented the idea to MSU. An MSU alumnus, he taught math and physics at high schools across the country, but he wanted to use his love of sailing to teach students in a different way.

"I wanted to do something that involved students more," he said. "What sailing allows me to do is to bring a student out of the situation of what they call 'normal learning' and get involved in a hands-on situation."

After Smith guides the boat out of the marina using the motor, he has the students unfurl the sail themselves. When it comes time to shift direction, they use ropes and pulleys to pull the sail to the opposite side of the mast, a procedure called tacking.

However, the class doesn't get much more strenuous than that. After the sail is in place, Smith explains the next step in proper sailing. He calls it "Position A." He demonstrates by lying back, folding his hands behind his head and striking a comfortable pose. His point? Once the sail's in place, all you have to do is enjoy the peace of the gentle waves.

The class usually has students new to sailing, so beyond learning tacking and safety, the trip is mostly spent in "Position A."

Smith does guarantee several benefits that students get from Great Lakes Sailing: They'll enjoy a proper sailing experience. They're provided an all-you-can-eat breakfast on Sunday. They're informed of exclusive tips on how to get free boats (asking around at marinas for boats that have been abandoned by owners), and they're given unlimited opportunities to sail for free with Smith once completing the course.

Although some students who join the class may just scrambling for an easy elective, they seem to enjoy Smith's antics and musings on their weekend excursion away from East Lansing.

Smith even suggests that the course is important for later in life. After you get the high paying job and the new boat, Smith asks, will you know how to operate that boat? Great Lakes Sailing could certainly help, he argues. The students agree.

"It kind of showed me that it's something I might want to do in the future when I'm older. You know, have my own money and just need to get away," sophomore Ismail Gregory said.

If anything though, the students did take away the most important concept from the class discussion.

"I learned how to relax in 'Position A,'" senior David Parke said.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN betsy eber



Capt. Joe Smith watches as sophomore Sasha Savage pulls the sail into place, a process called tacking. Students learned by performing the tacking themselves.

Capt. Joe Smith takes to the helm as he lectures on the lesiure of sailing. The one credit kinesiology class requires that students sign up with Smith for a two-day, overnight trip on Lake Muskegeon, complete with an all-you-can-eat breakfast on Sunday morning.





Senior Katie Soule pulls the sail into place, a process called tacking. In addition to learning to sail, students relaxed and enjoyed the sunny Sunday morning.



The Spartan Marching Band saxophone players stand at attention on the Cobb Great Hall Stage for the Spartan Spectacular. The marching band finished off the sold-out show this year with a 30-minute ensemble of portions from all of their halftime shows.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN saralee gordon

band-o-rama

Parents and students relive halftime at the Spartan Spectacular

This year's 39th annual Spartan Spectacular, a band and color guard performance at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, had a surprise in store for its sold-out audience—one that couldn't be found in the program.

While the crowd prepared for the Wind Symphony to open with "The Circus Bee" by Henry Fillmore, the group prepared backstage for a different song with a special guest.

"No, no don't say it," said a friend of senior saxophone player and member of the symphony Kevin Bene, as he began to explain what his favorite part of the night was going to be. Nothing could pry it out of them.

The mystery didn't last for long, though.

Instead of beginning the night in fortissimo, the Wind Symphony took it down to forte and let the audience sing along to MSU's familiar fight song while Sparty, clad in a maestro outfit, directed them.

The crowd was on their feet within seconds, pumping their fists to the tune while the band directors stood backstage with knowing grins.

Spartan Marching Band Director John Madden said this scene was what the Spartan Spectacular has been all about since 1970.

"It was to invite an audience of people who love band and follow the bands," he said. "And at Michigan State, you know that a lot of people love the 'go green, go white' and the 'rah, rah, rah' that the bands provide at athletic events."

"It's kind of a band-o-rama kind of concert," he said.

The night was more than a performance of familiar MSU songs. The MSU Jazz Octet 1 also performed in the first half of the concert, taking the Cobb Great Hall back to the 1960s jazz scene with Joe Henderson pieces. Joseph Lullof, a professor in the College of Music, also performed a saxophone solo to "Catch Me If You Can" from the Hollywood movie of the same name.

"Afterward, you see how neat it is and how people appreciate the performance," senior and feature twirler Lacey Seckar-Anderson, who performed in the concert for her last time, said.

The grand finale was the marching band's half-hour performance. The entire band, about 300 students, filled the stage and played a selection of pieces from their halftime shows, allowing the audience to relive the football team's journey to an 8-0 record.

Junior Kayleigh Essiambre's favorite part was the drumline performance.

"It shows that MSU knows how to be structured and serious, but also knows how to have fun," she said.





The MSU Jazz Octet 1 prepares to take the Wharton Center back to the jazz scene. The group played pieces written by former tenor saxophonist Joe Henderson.

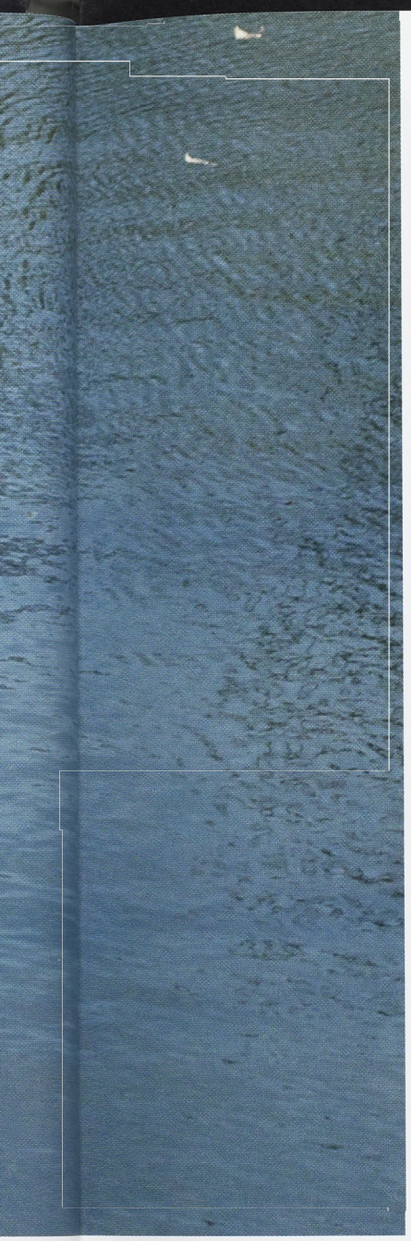
Members of the color guard put on their own performance at the Spartan Spectacular. The color guard became an official part of the Spartan Marching Band in 1976.

Riding on canoes down the Red Cedar, the Fisheries and Wildlife Club picks trash out of the river. The Red Cedar is home to many animals and the club feels that it's the students' responsibility to help keep it clean.

Every year, the Fisheries and Wildlife club pull out many bikes from the Red Cedar River during the fall clean-up. In an effort to keep campus green, volunteers clean up the Red Cedar semi-annually.



TYPE marissa russo/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN saralee gordon



The Fisheries and Wildlife Club gathers at the end of the clean-up to see what type of items were lying at the bottom of the river. In the past; they have found countless bikes and even a refrigerator.





on the banks of the red cedar

Students help the Fisheries and Wildlife Club fish out trash in the Red Cedar River

On a cold, crisp morning, warm sun peeked through the dried leaves that hung from the trees, creating a tunnel over the Red Cedar River. Oct. 31 was the perfect day for volunteers and members of the Fisheries and Wildlife Club to head out, for the ninth year in a row, to clean out the Red Cedar.

Sipping hot chocolate and discussing their Halloween costumes from the night before, 50 volunteers gathered around the Michigan State Bike Shop at 10 a.m. The dedicated students and alumni had curious expressions on their faces, as if wondering what they would find this year. After uncovering old, rusted bikes, shopping carts, a motorcycle and even a refrigerator in the past, an even higher bar had been set for finding odd objects.

Junior Genelle Uhrig, a member of the Fisheries and Wildlife Club, participated for the first time this year.

"I heard that they have found ovens, bikes and other major garbage. I am curious to see what I find," Uhrig said before heading out into the 45-mile long river.

One common myth about the Red Cedar River, also known to some as the "Red Sewer," is that it's uninhabitable. Many people don't realize that it has been tested and is said to be safe for swimming.

MSU alumni, Matt Freechack, has volunteered for the past five years and says he plans to continue to help clean the Red Cedar.

"You get to walk the banks of the river and ride canoes; it's really rewarding. MSU has a beautiful campus. We want to keep it that way," he said.

Handfuls of big, black garbage bags were passed out to each of the volunteers. People eventually slipped into rubber waders as the director of the club divided the river into four sections. Each group was put in charge of making their section spotless.

After four and a half hours of pulling out rusted bicycles, shoes and even a table, the volunteers called it a day, pulling their canoes up to shore and stepping back onto dry land.

Back outside of the Bike Shop, volunteers rummaged through the overflowing bags to see what had been collected. Several people expressed concern about the amount of garbage thrown into the river. Settling down after the exhausting day, they rewarded themselves with some pizza.

Senior and president of the Fisheries and Wildlife Club Marco Sanchez said he feels it's important for people to show respect for the river.

"This is a way to show people the great resources we have on campus. People need to care and should appreciate the river," Sanchez said. "It is actually really clean and there is life in it."

Sophomore Ian Cooley becomes a crazed and blood thirsty actor on the night of the Haunted Auditorium. Cooley was just one of about 30 theatre majors set up throughout the building to provide a thrilling Halloween scare.



Amid an eerie red glow, masters student Emily Young plays the part of a seemingly innocent child playing with her toys. The majority of the props for the Haunted Auditorium came from the Department of Theatre's play "Evil Dead: The Musical," which they performed earlier in the year.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO ellina stein/DESIGN saralee gordon



stage fright

At the Haunted Auditorium, theater majors make nightmares real

Amongst superstitious actors, uttering "Macbeth" in a theater is believed to bring about a spiral of unlucky events for the cast and crew of a play. But on Halloween weekend at the MSU Auditorium, the taboo title of that Shakespearean play was just the catalyst for far more frightening events that brought new meaning to the term "stage fright."

As anxious groups of students, parents and children began their adventure into the Department of Theatre's second annual Haunted Auditorium, an actor "mistakenly" uttered the taboo word, placing a curse on the theater itself.

And that was when an undead horror of a man came at the audience from behind.

"You're fixated on what's going on in front of you, but somebody's coming up behind you," senior Tyler McIntosh said.

"That's when everyone literally jumped," freshman Nicole Eigner said.

Spurred with fear at the sudden appearance of this living abomination, a contorted actress directed the audience down a spot-lit path backstage, beginning a nightmarishly thrilling chase through the unfamiliar, claustrophobic hallways of the Auditorium. The Gothic-inspired design of the 70-year-old building, along with the rumors of it being haunted by the spirit of a little boy, provided for a truly unnerving experience.

The journey through this living nightmare took about 20 minutes, and the ordeal ended with the terrified audience being chased out the side doors by a man with a chainsaw.

"This year we decided to kind of go into actually telling the story of an auditorium and what actually goes on in an auditorium," senior Brittane Rowe, a production member, said.

"There's all these different scenarios: like a costume designer strangling someone, or an actor who can't act and goes crazy—just like the extremes of what goes on in a theater," she said.

Indeed, the acting business can seem dramatic and stressful, but the department still found time to haunt the auditorium, and did it in pure theatrical fashion. They recycled props from "Evil Dead: The Musical," a play which they performed earlier in the year, enlisted their own makeup artists and costume designers, and recruited theatre majors to act as zombies, twisted clowns and other characters.

"Our teacher literally went through and was like, 'What's your back story?', 'What happened to you?', 'Why are you burned?'," production member and senior Mikayla Bouchard said.

"It's not just 'Oh, let's put on a haunted house', it's like 'Let's actually tell a crazy story'," Rowe said.

Bouchard said the theatre department had an extended budget for the event this year, and was allowed to use the entire Auditorium building. In just the first two days of the event, they topped the amount of people who came for the event in the previous year.

All of the money raised at the door will go toward funding the theatre department's second senior BFA showcase in New York in the spring, in which actors and actresses will perform monologues, songs or dances in front of New York acting agents.

"It was so believable, they were crazy," Lansing Community College student Ariella Zanoni said. "They did not hold back at all."



Senior Cara Bosco paints a gruesome burn on freshman Sara Ostrowski's face, helping her get into character for the Haunted Auditorium over Halloween weekend. This year was the second year the Department of Theatre put on the event.



Sophomore Peter Matcheck, freshman Julia Lallemand and sophomore Eric Eilersen hide in the bushes on the final night of Humans vs. Zombies at Beaumont Tower. As zombies, the group waited to attack human passers-by.



Junior Ethan Dailing prepares to take on zombies before they enter Beaumont Tower during the week's final mission. In order for humans to win, they had to prevent zombies from entering the tower.

It all started innocently enough as a Facebook event- and then the infestation spread. The walking-dead emerged from their darkened dens, advancing across the grounds of Michigan State University to consume and infect every unwitting man or woman in their path. But the harrowed remnants of the human race fought back, rallying together to combat the undead menace with as much firepower as they could muster. Thus began the campus-wide game of tag known as Humans vs. Zombies.

The game ran from Nov. 2 to the 8th, with a final mission at the end of the week in which "humans" were to secure Beaumont Tower from "zombies" from 8 to 11 p.m. in order to win the game.

According to sophomore Frank Luchini, humans win the game by starving off zombies, while zombies win by turning all humans into zombies.

"Some people have been saying they've been changing their schedules, going to class 40 minutes earlier to avoid zombies. Or leave five minutes early. Or stay late within the building," he said. "People will take the most roundabout routes to avoid specific areas of campus."

The rules of the game are quite specific, Luchini said. For example, the game only occurs outdoors between the hours of 7 a.m. to midnight. For identification, zombies are required to wear bandanas around their heads, while humans likewise wear bandanas around their arms. Zombies can "infect" humans by tagging them, while humans can ward them off with Nerf guns and clean sock "grenades."

"The original creators of the game thought this would just be a fun thing to add on to their daily lives," Luchini said. "But really, it's so much fun and people get so into it."

According to Luchini, a group of sophomores decided to bring the game of tag to campus after experiencing it in their hometowns.

"It's played all over the country. It's a massive game of tag, but it doesn't have to affect your daily life. It's something fun to add on as an extra," he said. "We're all adults now, so we're able to run around and play with Nerf guns and not get yelled at."

Sophomore Nick Stauffer agrees.

"I get to fulfill my childhood dream of chasing zombies," he said. "I fell in love with the game."

Apparently, so did MSU. Though the game was advertised solely through a Facebook event created by sophomore Jessica Oakes, 500 students decided to "attend" the event, although only 300 of them actually registered in the end.

"We probably only would have had about 30 people playing without the help of social networking sites like Facebook, and it would have probably been based around only one part of campus," Oakes said.

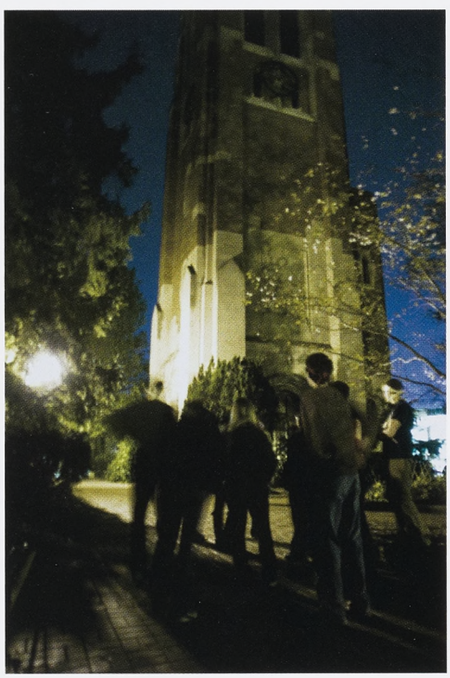
Oakes hopes to continue the game in future semesters but in a more organized fashion. She said a website is in the works and that, given the amount of positive feedback she has received from students, she is in the process of making Humans vs. Zombies a registered student organization.

"When you're simply walking down the street, you could see a human running from a zombie," Stauffer said, "and that's pretty cool."

TYPEjessica whitmill/PHOTOellina stein/DESIGNjessica halfyard



Zombies congregate around Beaumont Tower waiting for the humans. Due largely to their advantage in numbers, the zombies won the game.





Zombies create a "fire" as they wait to ambush humans on their return to their post at Beaumont Tower. The final mission at Beaumont Tower lasted for three hours.

week of the living dead

Campus-wide game of tag enacts intense battle between humans and zombies

TYPE marissa russo/PHOTO audrey aquino/DESIGN betsy eber

gearing up

Volunteers help restore bikes on campus

Row upon row of half-repaired bicycles line the basement of the old Demonstration Hall. Once the home of the MSU bike shop, the basement now houses Bike Project, a service in which student volunteers repair bikes.

"I love having the privilege to work on my own bike down here. The shop has every tool that I would ever need," said Jacob Clark, a member of the East Lansing community. He brought his BMX bike in for repairs.

Every Thursday and Sunday at the bike shop, four stations are set up for volunteers. They're instructed by volunteer coordinator and sophomore Dan Dokter. Volunteers are asked to fix bikes, some unwanted and some confiscated by MSU Police, and send them back to the Bike Shop to be rented to students and the East Lansing community.

While Jon Amcker, a senior and Clark's older brother, worked on a bike that needed new pedals and a tire replaced, he explained his passion for repairing bikes.

"I like working on bikes with my brother. He wants to be a mechanic one day and I enjoy helping him get a leg up," Amcker said.

Volunteers are expected to replace rusty chains, barely-there tires, and brakes. Many of the volunteers are not bike mechanics, but they are carefully talked through each step. Once the worn-out parts are replaced, Dokter examines the bikes.

Freshman Aidan Hunter takes time out of his busy schedule to volunteer at the Bike Shop every Thursday.

"There's over 40,000 people on this campus and it feels great to know I'm one of the few who gives back to the community in a unique way like this," Hunter said while taking a break from learning how to replace the derailleur on a Schwinn.

Dokter, who has been helping the Bike Project since he was in high school, says giving the bikes a new life is a slow process. Nonetheless, he enjoys volunteering because it helps him escape from the routine of classes and homework.

"I really enjoy being in the shop," Dokter said. "If you take a look around, you can see that it is filled with hidden treasures. You have to be a bike enthusiast to appreciate all of this."





Sophomore Dan Dokter fixes a bike brake. As the coordinator of the Bike Project, Dokter lead volunteers in fixing old and confiscated bikes so that they can be rented out to the community.



Freshman Aidan Hunter fixes the brakes and tweaks the chains of bikes at the workshop. Volunteers can be found helping students every Thursday and Sunday.



Freshman Aidan Hunter quietly observes as Dan Dokter shows him how to repair a bike. Many volunteers learned how to replace pedals, chains and brakes for the first time at the Bike Project.



Isiah "Karma Vuitton" Tweedie gets ready to take the stage at "So You Think You Can Drag." The theme of the event was "Drag Me to the Circus."

veronica nagy



Professional drag performer Cheetah Jameson applies makeup before the show Monday evening. The show included five performers, all from the greater Lansing area.

Ryan "Moltyn Decadence" Webster, an MSU alumnus performs at the fourth annual "So You Think You Can Drag" show. All tips given to the performers were donated to the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit.



veronica nagy

TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO veronica nagy,
erica treais/DESIGN jessica halfyard

so you think you can drag?

PRISM hosts fourth annual drag show for Transgender Awareness Week

Spotlights shone down on a catwalk in the Wonders Hall Kiva on the evening of Nov. 15. Four drag queens and one drag king took to the stage in all their booty-popping glory. As they sashayed down the runway dressed in lavish costumes, adorned with shimmering makeup, their audience was a seething mass of ecstatic energy- waving dollar bills at performers, clapping and waving all night long.

"I feel like every single drag queen has a different favorite part. For a lot of people it's the makeup or the hair, but I just love being on stage," Michael "Rampage" Pompey, one of the performers that night, said. "This show is one I look forward to all year. We get a great response from the audience."

"So You Think You Can Drag: Drag Me to the Circus" was just one of the many events held during MSU's observance of Transgender Awareness Week from Nov. 13 - 21, a nationwide event intended to raise public awareness of issues surrounding transgendered individuals. Organized by People Respecting the Individuality of Students at MSU (PRISM) and the Lesbian Bisexual Gay Transgender Queer (LBGTQ) caucus of south complex, approximately 300 audience members braved the cold that night to come cheer on the performers.

"The drag show was obviously very intense and to put on such an awesome program, we need awesome planning," PRISM President and junior Justin Love said. "We approached hall governments and caucuses in south neighborhood for funding and committee members."

This year, all proceeds from the event were donated to the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park. The center provides clothes, food and shelter to LBGTQ-identified youth in need of support and also offers long-term help for those who are struggling with their sexual identity. Combined with tips for the performers and donations from audience members, Love says the show raised $604 this year.

"They're a great center and do a lot of awesome work, so we wanted to benefit them and show our support," he said.

A little closer to home, LBGTQ caucuses around campus such as PRISM, RING, SPECTRUM, BRIGHT and PRIDE are attempting to do the same. Love said that in light of recent negative events in the news involving members of the LBGTQ community, these outlets are "always necessary."

"The caucuses and the resource center provide a safe space for students to go to learn more about themselves, their communities and have a fun time doing it," he said.

Pompey said, however, that a sense of self-confidence in one's identity was just as important as the presence of these resources.

"It's important for people to know there's support out there and that it's okay to be gay or a gay drag queen," he said.

Sophomore Ashley Difonzo, a member of SPECTRUM, said the idea of a community of like-minded students is what prompted her to get involved with the LBGTQ caucuses on campus.

"There are a lot of members in the community," she said. "It's nice to have somewhere to go, kind of like a safe haven in a way. My high school didn't have a lot of that, but here it's so easy to join the community."

Involving herself in a supportive community such as this one, Difonzo said, was what made her feel at ease when it came to attending events like "So You Think You Can Drag."

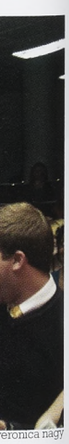
"Once you start attending the meetings and get to know everyone, going to events like this is a lot more fun. I'm not timid about it anymore."



veronica nagy



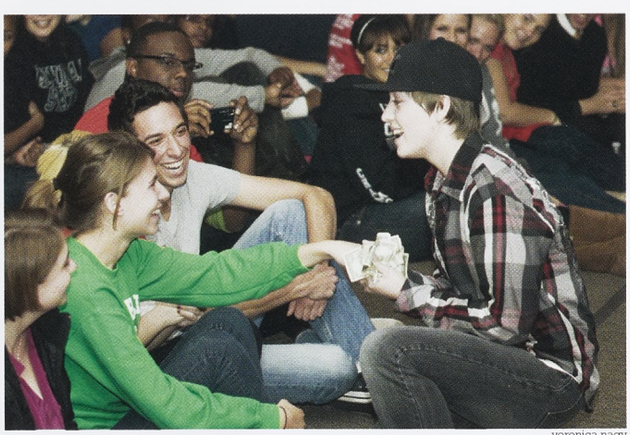
veronica nagy



veronica nagy



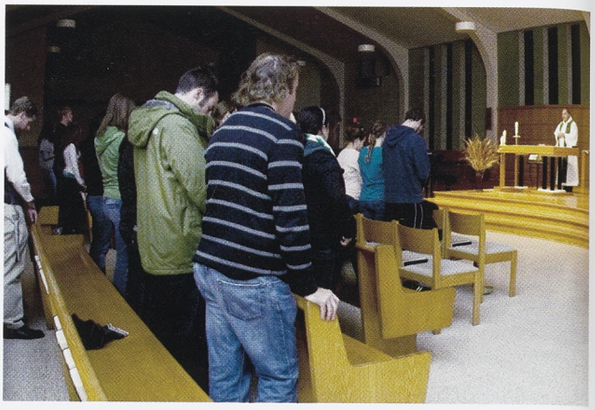
erica treais



veronica nagy

Sophomore Bailey Doolittle works the crowd during her first performance in a drag show. She danced to Justin Beiber's "Somebody to Love" under the stage name Justin Sheber.

Michael "Rampage" Pompey performs at the fourth annual "So You Think You Can Drag" show, organized by PRISM in Wonders Hall. The Wonders Hall Kiva was maxed out in attendance with 300 attendees.



Students gather at St. John's Student Center for mass before heading to Celebration Cinema for the midnight showing of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." Fr. Mark Inglot, who led the mass, has been a priest at the center for 11 years and is a Harry Potter fan himself.

Senior John Gburek mills about after 7 p.m. mass at St. John's Student Center, awaiting the midnight showing of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." Gburek decided to impersonate Slytherin member Draco Malfoy for the night.



TYPEcourtney zott/PHOTOaudrey aquino/DESIGNbetsy eber



Fr. Mark Inglot speaks to students at St. John's Student Center about lessons of good and evil in Harry Potter. His audience, about 45 students, carpooled after the mass to see "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the seventh movie in the Harry Potter series.

expecto patronum!

St. John's Student Center incorporates "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" into mass

Shuffling feet and the rustle of winter coats being shed muffled anxious whispers of excitement, which traveled across the narrow pews of St. John's Student Center as students sat for the 7 p.m. mass on Nov. 18.

However, the anticipation didn't appear to be centered on Father Mark Inglot's sermon, but rather on an impending night of witchcraft and wizardry, Bludger-beating and spell-casting, and broomsticks and portkeys. Put more simply, it was for the midnight screening of the first part of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the seventh movie installment based on J.K. Rowling's best-selling series of novels. The church caravanned students over to watch the movie after the mass.

But as the distracted congregation fiddled with hymnals and shifted in their seats, wishing perhaps for the use of Hermione's Time Turner or the ability to apparate to Celebration Cinema in Lansing, Inglot fueled their anxious fire.

"Are you excited for Harry Potter?" he asked with a grin on his face.

"Or, are you just going to go home and read the Book of Revelation now?" he quipped, referring to his reading selection for the mass that night.

As students laughed, senior John Gburek sat among them. His slicked blonde hair, Slytherin-green clothing and thin, crooked wand unmistakably branded him as the notoriously disliked, Voldemort-supporter Draco Malfoy.

So why would he side with evil for the night, especially given the unpopularity of his character among the Potter fandom?

"You know, it's a fun time to be the villain, too," Gburek said. "In your own life, you can't really be the villain all the time so, in a way, you get to dress up and live the part."

In fact, being able to live the part by dressing up as the Harry Potter characters has become a tradition on the nights the previous movies arrived in theaters. Sporting a stitched-on Ravenclaw patch and a copy of The New York Times turned Quibbler in hand, junior Michelle Leppek impersonated the eccentric, yet likeable Luna Lovegood.

"I think she's crazy, and just really cool and a lot of fun," Leppek said. "She's not scared of anything."

About 45 students gathered at St. John's to go to the movie, stopping by the basement for butterbeer—a mix of ginger ale and butterscotch flavoring— and cauldron cakes, more commonly recognized as the plain donut. Though the Roman Catholic Church and the novels have had a tense relationship in the past, the presence of these students at St. John's that night exemplified the reconciliation between the Holy See and the Boy Who Lived.

"The Catholic church, in its official statements, has said nothing but supportive words about Harry Potter," Campus Minister Katie Diller said. In fact, Inglot said the idea for the dining hall at Hogwarts came from the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

"One of the most important lessons in Harry Potter is that there is evil in the world," Diller said. "And it has to be fought against and it's not easy and it takes friends—it takes friendships and relationships to make you strong enough to fight against the darkness and temptation that is in the world."

All of the big paradigms of life—friendship, family, good and evil—are in the Harry Potter series, said Inglot, who is a fan himself.

"There's this philosophical dualism between good and evil, and what's going to win out, and the intrigue of that comes out a lot in her [Rowling's] writing."

"They're going to be classics," he said—something he also brought up during his sermon. "They'll be up there with Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings.'"

Carmille Bates, a Ph.D. student, teaches a traditional Filipino dance to a young girl. From dances to music to food, participants from all over the world shared traditions from their home countries.





Senior Toshinori Horii and Junya Sazuka of the Japanese Club teach the art of origami. Many international clubs were represented during the Global Festival.



Senior Mariana Rendon spins the wheel of flags on behalf of the International Students Association. Aside from students, many East Lansing community members attended the event.

TYPE natalie patterson/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN brendan prost



Dancers from the Persian Student Association perform for audience members at the 2010 Global Festival. Students and community members present at the event were engaged by more than 30 cultural performances.

it's a small world after all

Students, community members experience the wonders of the world at Global Festival

The MSU Union may as well have been an international airport on Nov. 21. But rather than being transported to exotic destinations by airplane, visitors at the Global Festival experienced the cultures of 31 countries without leaving East Lansing.

Once visitors stepped inside, their senses were greeted with wafts of German pork weinerschnitzel and sounds of South Korean pop music mixed with floating melodies of traditional Middle Eastern tunes. Amid the crowd were performers dressed in everything from patterned headscarves to dresses with intricate embroidery.

At the entrance to the festival, children were given a passport inviting them to collect information about each country. Much of the first floor of the Union was devoted to games and crafts geared toward younger attendees.

One of these participants was 9-year-old Jamil Muhammadi, perched on a pile of red embroidered pillows at the Afghanistan booth.

"When people come, I tell them about the carpets and costumes," Muhammadi said. "The girls wear scarves to cover their hair, and their outfits usually have beads and accessories. The rugs are used as couches and can be stuffed with feathers to be softer to sit on."

Tracee Waiee brought her children Jack and Caroline to the event. Waiee said Jack would receive extra credit for his Japanese class at DeWitt Junior High School, and that both children should have the opportunity to experience different cultures.

"It's nice to come out and get some education for the young ones," Waiee said. "They get to see and understand things they wouldn't see normally."

Tracee and Caroline waited in line to receive henna tattoos drawn by Pakistani representatives, an attraction that brought many festival-goers, including a Girl Scout troop from East Lansing High School.

The troop frequently attends global events and this is its eighth Global Festival visit. Kayla Moore, an ELHS freshman, has been coming to the event since she was in second grade.

"We mostly just come for fun," Moore said. "In our troop, we have so many different people from different places. It's good to get to know more about them and their culture."

Moore and her friends enjoyed the henna tattoos as well as the gift shop, proceeds from which went to funding scholarships for international students at MSU. Ann Merrifield, leader of Moore's Girl Scout troop, hopes the girls will use this event to glean some valuable knowledge about the world.

"These girls are exposed to different cultures every day in school," Merrifield said. "East Lansing has a lot of diversity. Events like this give them an idea of where their friends and classmates come from."

The festival also highlighted the cultures of many MSU students. Senior John Ra, a member of the Korean Student Organization, said he hoped that students attending the event would take a moment to explore the traditions of his birthplace: South Korea.

"We want to advertise Korea to non-Koreans," Ra said. "We get a lot of international students, but we want to stay connected to the community. We wanted to represent everything about South Korea: cultural artifacts, pop culture, information about what to visit, how to use chopsticks."

Merrifield said the experience gained at an event such as the Global Festival is the reason people of all ages should learn about other cultures.

"It's about acceptance," Merrifield said. "By attending, we get to see not only our differences from people in other cultures, but also how we're alike."

Westboro Baptist Church picketers brandish their signs behind police officers and fence protection. Among the three was Margie Phelps, an attorney and church member who argued WBC's free speech case, Snyder v. Phelps, in the Supreme Court.



Sophomore Cory Hanrahan takes center stage at the front of the fence facing the Westboro Baptist Church picketers. Hanrahan later manned the megaphone, hurling protests at the WBC.

Counter-protesters line Abbot Road, garnering honks and cheers from traffic. Several community meetings were held before the Westboro Baptist Church picket planning the community's response, the main goal being to avoid direct conflict and violence with the WBC picketers.



TYPE jacob kanclerz, ian kullgren/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN brendan prost

one thousand strong

East Lansing, MSU counter-protest Westboro Baptist Church picket

On Nov. 18 in East Lansing, snow threatened from the domineering clouds above. Yet, thrust against this backdrop of gray sky, a rainbow of hundreds of colorful signs let out a singular cry of unity.

About 1,000 East Lansing residents, East Lansing High School students, and MSU students and alumni gathered outside of ELHS as a counter-presence to Westboro Baptist Church's protest against the students there .

The WBC, based in Topeka, Kan., has gained national media attention in recent years for picketing funerals of AIDS victims and soldiers killed in war overseas. Their website, godhatesfags.com, states that homosexuals "pose a clear and present danger to the survival of America," and that American soldiers who died in the Middle East were killed by God "in righteous judgment against an evil nation."

The WBC protesters came in response to an e-mail they received from an ELHS student condemning their practices. Margie Phelps, the daughter of the church's head pastor and one of the three members present, was also invited to speak at a MSU College of Law panel on First Amendment rights earlier that day.

The planned protest sparked a community-wide response, with counter-protest events at the school and two nearby churches along with an organized reaction from the MSU student body. Students marched from the Union to All Saints Episcopal Church on Abbot Road, the primary site of the counter-protest.

Sophomore Cory Hanrahan and several friends arrived in the empty ELHS parking lot toting rainbow signs about an hour before the WBC members were scheduled to arrive.

"[We're] trying to be as civil as we can, but with our signs we're trying to relay our message that intolerance isn't right and we're not going to stand for it," Hanrahan said.

As the minutes ticked toward the start of the protest, steady streams of counter-protesters, news reporters and gawkers filled the parking lot at the corner of Burcham Drive and Old Hickory Lane. The area was designated for the event by the East Lansing Police Department with temporary fencing and yellow tape. The side farthest from the school was designated for WBC members. The counter-protest crowd kept growing, eventually overtaking the parking lot and both sides of Burcham Drive.

Finally, the three church members staked their claim, wielding multi-colored signs with messages such as "God Hates Fag Enablers" and "America is Doomed." Their presence was matched by a storm of chants and opposing signs from across the street.

There were also plenty of unrelated signs amidst the sea of pro-gay rights and pro-love placards. Freshman Brynne Curtis sat on a friend's shoulders carrying a sign that read "You're a wizard, Harry," in reference to the premiere of the first installment of the seventh Harry Potter movie that same night.

"We're trying to get the focus away from WBC and just show everyone who's watching that it's really not that big a deal," she said.

This approach was prevalent throughout the crowd—from "Paging Doctor Faggot" signs referencing "The Hangover" to a Jesus impersonator, complete with flowing robes and a bushy brown beard. Senior Bryan Reid carried a sign that read "Legalize Dumbledore."

"You can't get angry; you can't let them make you mad. You'd think more people would be more receptive to our side professing love and humor in the situation instead of people that hate others," Reid said.



MSU students march with their banner to the site of the counter protest at the All Saints Episcopal Church in East Lansing. MSU students, with the backing of the LBGTA caucuses, organized a march from the Union.

a conversation with

Sharmaake Sabrie sits in a dimly lit lounge in Abbot Hall, mulling over his schedule for the next few days. Sabrie, a senior majoring in international relations, is preparing to present about the effects of poverty and hunger on third world countries in his honors class tomorrow. He admits he's a little anxious about the ordeal, smiling sheepishly. The next day doesn't seem to be much of a sweat, though. He's meeting with a professor to put together a paper on how to negotiate with pirates. After all, he knows a thing or two about them.

A native of troubled Somalia, Sabrie is regarded as an unofficial expert on piracy and migration issues. Having worked with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the International Organization for Migration in Geneva, Switzerland, he has a vast network of contacts who depend on him for advice and information.

Whether it's the Detroit Free Press inquiring about current Somali affairs or a Somali man living in Canada seeking advice on how to get into college, Sabrie is a man people want to talk to. In fact, junior Matthew Salim met Sabrie after being compelled to approach him in class. Why? Sabrie looked focused, Salim said, a stark contrast to the other students who surrounded him.

Sabrie's differences from his peers extend far beyond his mannerisms. He was born in war-torn Somalia, which hasn't had a central government since 1991. He sought refuge in Kenya in 1993 and made it to the U.S. in 2005, but not before some of his siblings went missing due to the war in Somalia, a memory that shapes his outlook on life, Sabrie said.

"It made me realize the things I don't have," Sabrie said, recalling the grim events in a collected tone with a distant look of sadness. "I try to succeed and do the best I can because I see a lot of people who are in the same circumstances I was in. This is not only happening in Somalia, it's happening all over the world, and I think I could be able to help."

Since coming to MSU, Sabrie has worked with the IOM, NATO and the European Union tackling Somali refugee problems in Italy and elsewhere and researching the global impact of Somali piracy. He's used the four languages he knows (Somali, Arabic, Swahili, English) to volunteer at the Refugee Development Center in Lansing. This summer he hopes to work with consulting agency McKinsey & Company to round out his business background before hopefully attending law school, he said. After that, Sabrie aspires to work with an international organization such as NATO or the EU.

As Salim mentioned from the first time they met, Sabrie had a serious aura about him. He carries himself with the wisdom of a man much older than 23 years, which is evidenced by his careful, deliberate speaking. Yet Salim attests that Sabrie boasts a sensitive side and has a sincere passion for improving human rights that goes beyond most people of any age.

"He's a humanitarian, I swear he is. Anything he can do to help someone, he'll do it," Salim said. "He loves everybody…that's what makes him a good person."

Of course, when Sabrie talks about his hopes for the world, he desires what any sensible person wants: world peace and a sense of security for all beings. However, what sets Sabrie apart is his genuine drive to work toward those goals, part of which originated from the circumstances he grew up in.

"The average student lives in a small and sequestered world; they've faced very little adversity in their lives," said communications professor William Donohue, who is collaborating with Sabrie on a piracy negotiation paper. "He's been all over the world, he's seen all sides of what humanity does to one another, and it's that extraordinarily rich set of experiences he's been able to translate into a great deal of insight."

Sabrie's vision of success also differs from his American student counterparts. As he writes on his Facebook profile, "Success means effectiveness in the world."

"I'm coming from a place where I didn't have any material aspect. All my life I've struggled for safety and security," Sabrie said. "So the idea of becoming rich, what good will that do for you if your fellow human beings aren't rich as well? It's something that's unimaginable. One's success has a direct impact on others."



TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO elina stein/DESIGN jessica halfyard



Senior Sharmaake Sabrie displays NATO paraphernalia. Sabrie has worked with NATO in the past, having interviewed the NATO head commander on conducting a counter-piracy mission off the coast of Africa.

Senior Sharmaake Sabrie brushes up on the latest global issues. As a former refugee from Somalia, he's very interested and informed on the troubles of migrants that they face in countries they flee to.

sharmaake sabrie

silence in the snow

Students gather at The Rock to commemorate World AIDS Day amid wintery weather

The first of December gave way to the first snowy day of the year, and with the snowfall came a breezy chill that marked the harsh beginnings of winter. Although it was dark and the flurries continued to fly, a few flickering lights shone through at The Rock, where a handful of MSU students gathered there to mark World AIDS Day with a candlelight vigil to commemorate AIDS victims.

Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day, a worldwide event that spurred a multitude of gatherings, vigils and discussions around the globe about AIDS and HIV. Here at MSU, the Olin Sexual Health Advocates organized the vigil and several other events on campus.

World AIDS Day started in 1988. According to UNAIDS, the United Nations' Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, 33.4 million people across the world were afflicted with HIV as of 2009. In that same year, there were 1.8 million AIDS-related deaths worldwide.

Student volunteers signed up to tie 250 ribbons around campus trees, each one symbolizing 2,000 people that have died because of AIDS. These were to commemorate the 500,000 people that have died of AIDS in the United States. The Olin Health Center offered anonymous walk-in HIV testing all day, and the In Your Face Theatre Troupe, a registered student organization, put on skits later that night at the Brody Complex to educate students on sexual health.

The vigil had a small turnout, mostly made up of the Olin Sexual Health Advocates. Huddled together in a tight circle and clutching their candles, several announced this year's AIDS Day theme, "Universal Access and Human Rights," focusing on increasing access to prevention methods and treatment.

After a few poems were recited, the group bowed their heads in a moment of silence. To conclude, the Olin Sexual Health Advocates invited comments and stories. Angel Adelaja, a Nigerian-American student, voiced her support for AIDS awareness.

"My best friend, her cousin was dropped on their doorstep in Nigeria with HIV, and he didn't believe he had it," Adelaja, a graduate student, said. "If they don't have things like this, people won't know, people won't want to come out and support."

The Olin Sexual Health Advocates' main reason behind organizing MSU's response to World AIDS Day is to boost student awareness of AIDS and to encourage HIV testing. Part of that campaign is reminding students of the resources they already have on campus.

"We always have a great turnout for testing [on World AIDS Day], but we always offer testing, I'm not sure why the draw on this particular day," Erica Phillipich, a coordinator of the Center for Sexual Health Promotion at Olin, said. "More than anything, we just want people to know the resources on campus."

One example of these resources is senior Mandy Hoffman, an HIV counselor at Olin who talks to students and faculty about their anxieties of considering being tested for HIV.

"They tell me a little bit about their history and what they think their risks are, and then I let them know what I've learned through training and through experience what their actual risks are," she said.

Another part of the awareness involves eliminating the many stigmas surrounding HIV, including how it's contracted and where it affects people the most.

"We're living in a generation that has never known a world without it, which I think is sometimes why it's easy to turn a blind eye to it, to think it's only in Africa," Phillipich said. "It's just a gentle reminder that unfortunately it's still in our communities, it's still here, in the U.S. and in Michigan."



Members of MSU's Olin Health Center, join together for a candle light vigil to remember and support all of those who have been affected by AIDS. The girls work on campus spreading awareness about the disease and how students can support the cause.



Jamie Phillipich, wearing a red scarf to show her support for AIDS day, closes her eyes during the moment of silence for all those who have passed from the disease. According to UNAIDS, the United Nations' Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, 33.4 million people across the world were afflicted with HIV as of 2009.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN jessica halfyard





MSU students and friends gather around The Rock on the night of World AIDS Day to show support and listen to stories of those who have been affected by AIDS. The group gathered in a circle and lit candles to remember those who have passed.

Two students gather to help each other light their candles at the World AIDS Day vigil. Poems and stories were shared, following a moment of silence to commemorate the loss of AIDS victims around the world.



Junior Lisa Thompson tries to keep her Yellow Labrador, Webster, in the shot as they pose with Santa Claus at the Paws with Claus PRSSA fundraiser. Lisa has been a part of PRSSA for three years and is on the executive board as the vice president of programming.



Pet owners wait to get their dogs' photos taken with Santa at Annabelle's Pet Station. PRSSA raised $680 at the event and half of the money raised will go to the Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter, and the other half will support PRSSA.



Puppy Prince Williams sits patiently in the lap of senior Anissa Mahrougui. Prince Williams was one of over 55 canines that appeared with owners at the PRSSA event.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO ellina stein/DESIGN jessica halfyard

paws with claus

PRSSA hosts a canine photo shoot fundraiser to benefit local animal shelter

Annabelle's Pet Station in Lansing was a dog-lover's smelly and chaotic, but oh-so-loveable, paradise on the afternoon of Dec. 4.

Santa Claus came to town for the Public Relations Student Society of America's, or PRSSA's, first Paws with Claus event.

The closely packed basement of the small doggy day care and training facility emanated a combined odor of treats and dry kibble breath, as drooling messes of fur impatiently waited with their owners to get a holiday snapshot.

Over the bright green-walled play pen area splattered with "Woof's!" and black paw prints lay a large, unraveled white backdrop for the professional photographs and a hodge-podge of adults and students seated with their enthusiastic pooches.

"This is a little crazier than normal," Angela Brown, one of the owners of Annabelle's, laughed, losing her train of thought as one of her favorite Saint Bernards, Atticus, plodded into the room.

Behind her, a photographer attempted to capture the attention of Charlie, the Black Labrador, by waving a pink scarf over the camera.

But with such a successful turnout for the first event of its kind, a few sloppy kisses and excited episodes of barking could be tolerated, senior and vice president of chapter development for PRSSA Jessie Murninghan said.

And who knew there were so many canine lovers who felt their dog deserved a picture with jolly old Saint Nick, too?

"We'll probably put it on a Christmas card and send it out to everyone because we love our dog, and it's better her than ourselves," dog owner Amy Godfrey said, laughing alongside her husband.

The pair traveled from Jackson, Mich. to plop their extremely spoiled 2-year-old Pekalier named Daisy on Santa's lap.

While Christmas cards seemed to be the most common purpose for owners to tug their furry friends out to Annabelle's, some had other ideas in mind.

"I'll probably make it my Facebook profile picture—but only if it's good enough," East Lansing resident Meg Quine said with Spike, her 4-year-old Shih Tzu, nestled in her lap.

Spike and Daisy were just two of almost 55 dogs that stopped by throughout the afternoon, ranging from clumsy, 200-pound English Mastiffs to tiny, precocious 5-pound Chihuahuas.

With raffle items such as doggy gift bags and free training sessions at Annabelle's contributing to the fundraiser, PRSSA raised a total of $680. Half of these proceeds were donated to the Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter, a place chosen by Annabelle's for its success in helping mistreated and abandoned pets.

"We've never done anything like this before," senior and president of PRSSA Julia Wendzinski said. "We've been trying to think outside of the box because normally it's, you know, go to Buffalo Wild Wings and get the 10 percent donation kind of thing. So this is definitely unique to us."

And it's also something that Wendzinski and Brown would like see happen again.

"I'm hoping we can make it an annual event," Brown said. "I think that would really be a fun thing to do and at Christmas time, we always like to give back to the community."





Puppy Prince Williams nestles down in the lap of senior Anissa Mahrougui. Mahrougui heard about the event through her friend Naomi Burton, a PRSSA e-board member, and decided to borrow her friend's puppy for the event.

With over 20 dogs in one room, the animals are riled up as they wait to take their photo with Santa. There was a $10 donation to have their photograph taken at AnnaBelle's Pet Station.

the perfect storm

Students revel in snow as blizzard shuts down classes for the first time in almost two decades

On Feb. 1, The State News website reported the following day's classes would be canceled due to weather for the first time in 17 years. About 10 minutes after the first article hit the Internet, the site crashed from an overflow in traffic. Between 4 p.m. and midnight, there were about 13,000 unique page views—a normal day consists of between eight and nine thousand, editor-in-chief Justin Harris said.

It seemed all hell broke loose in the hours that followed.

As the storm rolled in, bar traffic surged with determined 20-somethings eager to celebrate, unfazed by the impending white-out. The sky smoldered reddish-orange all night as gusts of wind and rumbles of thunder assaulted East Lansing with 11 inches of snow.

Students embraced the mid-week break, forgoing studying to socialize, some taking part in hall activities organized by floor mentors. Even the library closed its doors until mid-afternoon the next day—as if even the temple of academia itself was telling students to abandon responsibility and have fun for once.

For some, the snow day was a nostalgic experience, drawing memories from harsh Michigan winters long ago. But for others it was something totally new. Freshman Janisse Martinez had never woken up to a snow day growing up in Miami, Fla.—only hurricane days in which she had to stay inside, usually with no electricity. That morning, she suited up in her snow gear, and by mid-afternoon she and several friends had already been playing in the powder for seven hours.

"My friends have been teaching me how to make a snowman," Martinez said, before she begrudgingly noted that the snow wasn't the kind that packed well.

Sophomore Joe Schmidt went to high school in Singapore and hadn't seen much snow when he was young either.

"I lived in Texas and we got about an inch, but that's it," he said.

At around 6:30 p.m., Schmidt adorned an ancient Spartan helmet and trudged with a group of friends to Munn Field, hoping to participate in a student-organized attempt to break the Guinness world record for largest snowball fight. Though attendance fell far short of the nearly five and a half thousand confirmed on Facebook, it was still by far the biggest snowball fight Schmidt had ever been a part of.

Sophomore Matthew Burr walked with a steady trickle of students across the intersection of West Shaw Lane and Chestnut Road, securing ski goggles to his face after a long day of relaxing in his dorm room.

"I thought it would be fun to throw at least one snowball today," Burr said.

For the few hundred students who did attend, the experience was a cold, collective celebration of the first—and likely last—snow day of their student lives.

Just a stone's—or perhaps snowball's—throw away from Munn Field on the outlaw near West Shaw Lane, sophomore Sarah Yahrmatter sat in an igloo she and her mentor carved out of a plowed pile of snow. When Yahrmatter heard there was a snow day the night before, she didn't believe it at first. From then on, her impromptu midweek break may have been best defined by what didn't happen.

"I didn't study," Yahrmatter said.



natalie kolb

Taking advantage of a perfect snow day, freshman Kirk Mason ricochets snowballs off of a snowskate in the Snyder-Phillips courtyard. Mason and his friends spent the day launching snowballs at one another.

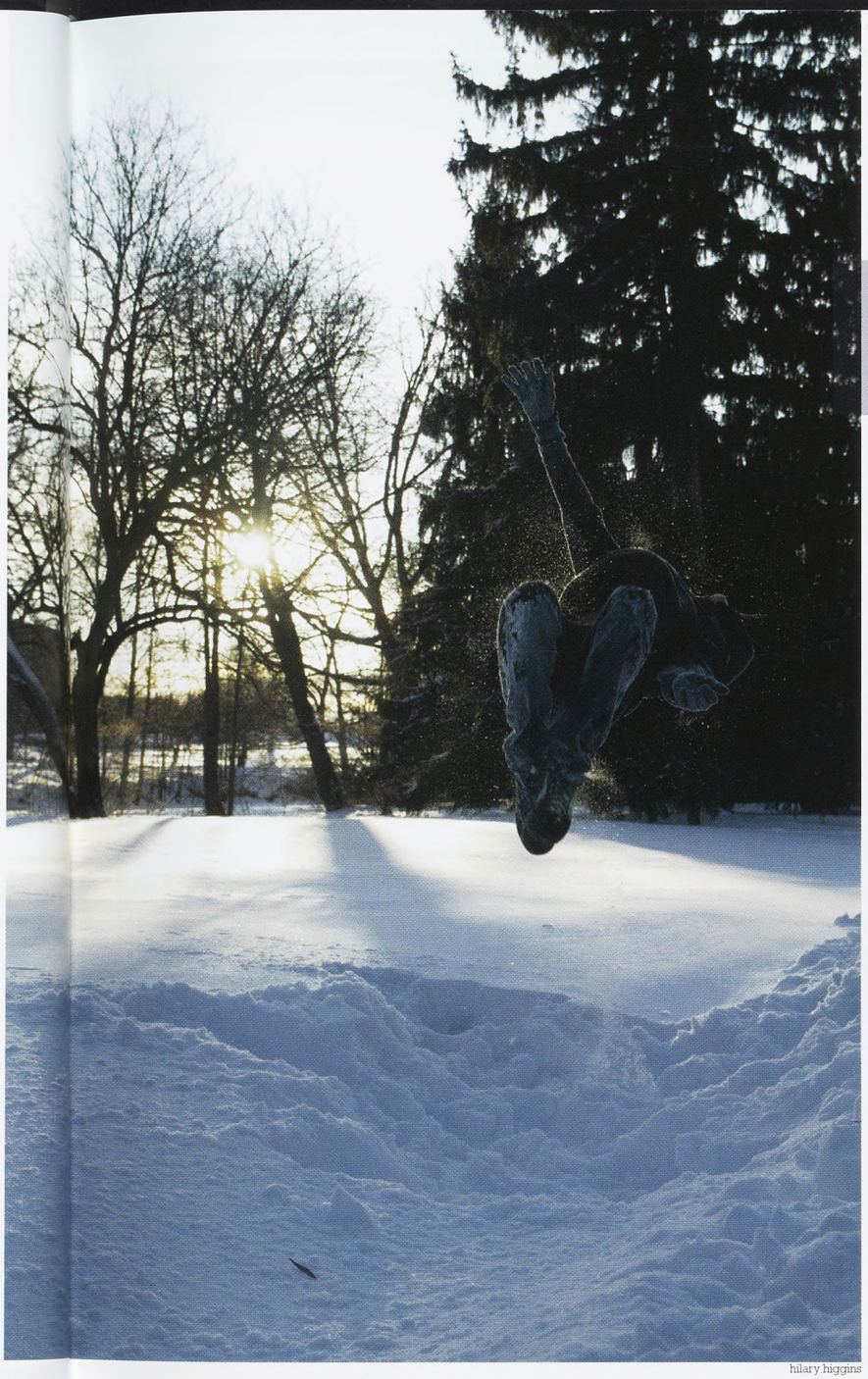


veronica nagy

Lansing Community College student Katie O'Rielly and junior Megan Adams brave the aftermath of the storm to get refreshments from Quality Dairy on Michigan Avenue and Harrison Road. At the time the roads were not plowed nor were the sidewalks usable.

TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO hilary higgins, natalie kolb, ellina stein/
DESIGN jessica halfyard

Freshman Joseph Bockstanz and his friends celebrate the snow day by doing flips in the snow. Bockstanz learned how to flip by practicing on a trampoline.



hilary higgins

Junior David Brooks snowboards onto the Red Cedar River. He and his friends took advantage of their day off to snowboard around campus.



hilary higgins



natalie kolb

veronica nagy



ellina stein



Juniors Ryan Smalley, Justin Brodie Timms-Fryer and Chris Zak hold onto a rope as they snowboard behind a car down Kedzie Street on the snowday. MSU cancelled classes on Feb. 2 due to the weather for the first time since 1994.

Juniors Sam Hitchcock and Kyle Mcintyre play a round of beer pong on their table made out of snow in celebration of the snow day on Wednesday. The East Lansing area received 11 inches of snowfall between Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday.



ellina stein

Juniors Rachel Samrah and Robert Byrnes slide down a mountain of snow celebrating their cancelled day of classes. Samrah and Byrnes were just a few of the many students eager to get outdoors to play in the freshly fallen snow.

Sophomore Jacquese Steele breaks it down in front of the crowd at the MLK Talent Show. Steele has participated in musical theatre shows and uses her vocals as a way of self expression.

Stephen Evans and his glowsticks take first place in this year's MLK Talent Show. He awed the crowd with his flailing glowsticks and trance music.

The Impulse Dance Team performs a step dance to liven up the crowd. The student-run dance group specializes in jazz and other contemporary dance styles.





some memories never fade

Students pay tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. with a diverse show of voices and talents

Just two-and-a-half weeks shy of Black History Month, students of all backgrounds gathered at the International Center to celebrate the legacy of a man who touched the minds of millions of Americans, including former Spartans.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to an overflowing crowd at the MSU Auditorium in February 1965, laying his blueprint for equality in America. Forty-six years later, the University Activities Board sponsored a talent show, aptly located in the International Center, in his honor on Jan. 15. The audience, lineup and even crop of winners—in the true spirit of Dr. King's message—were comprised of students from a variety of ethnicities and backgrounds, providing at least a shred of proof that the message Dr. King strove so hard to spread had stuck.

While some contestants merely displayed entertaining talent—like juggling, instrumental solos and a winning glow stick twirling act—others used the stage to forge a connection with the holiday itself. Senior Ralph Paulk, President of the MSU Black Poet Society, won third place with an original poem about women's rights.

"I never used history to determine what I would be," Paulk rhymed to the audience in even-keeled verse.

Paulk said he wrote the piece as an address to women, apologizing for societal and personal suppression inflicted by their male counterparts. Though it had little to do with race, Paulk said his poem still relates to the holiday's message.

"It's about treating them [women] for who they are rather than what they are; that's what Martin Luther King strived for," he said.

The evening wasn't just confined by the traditional black-white connotation of civil rights. First-time contestant and graduate student Crystal Maria Stoll-Alvarez also discussed discrimination through the art of spoken word, presenting two self-authored monologues about her experience as bi-racial female, having a mother from Argentina and a father from the United States.

"Race is still an issue," she said. "I wanted to bring those issues to light."

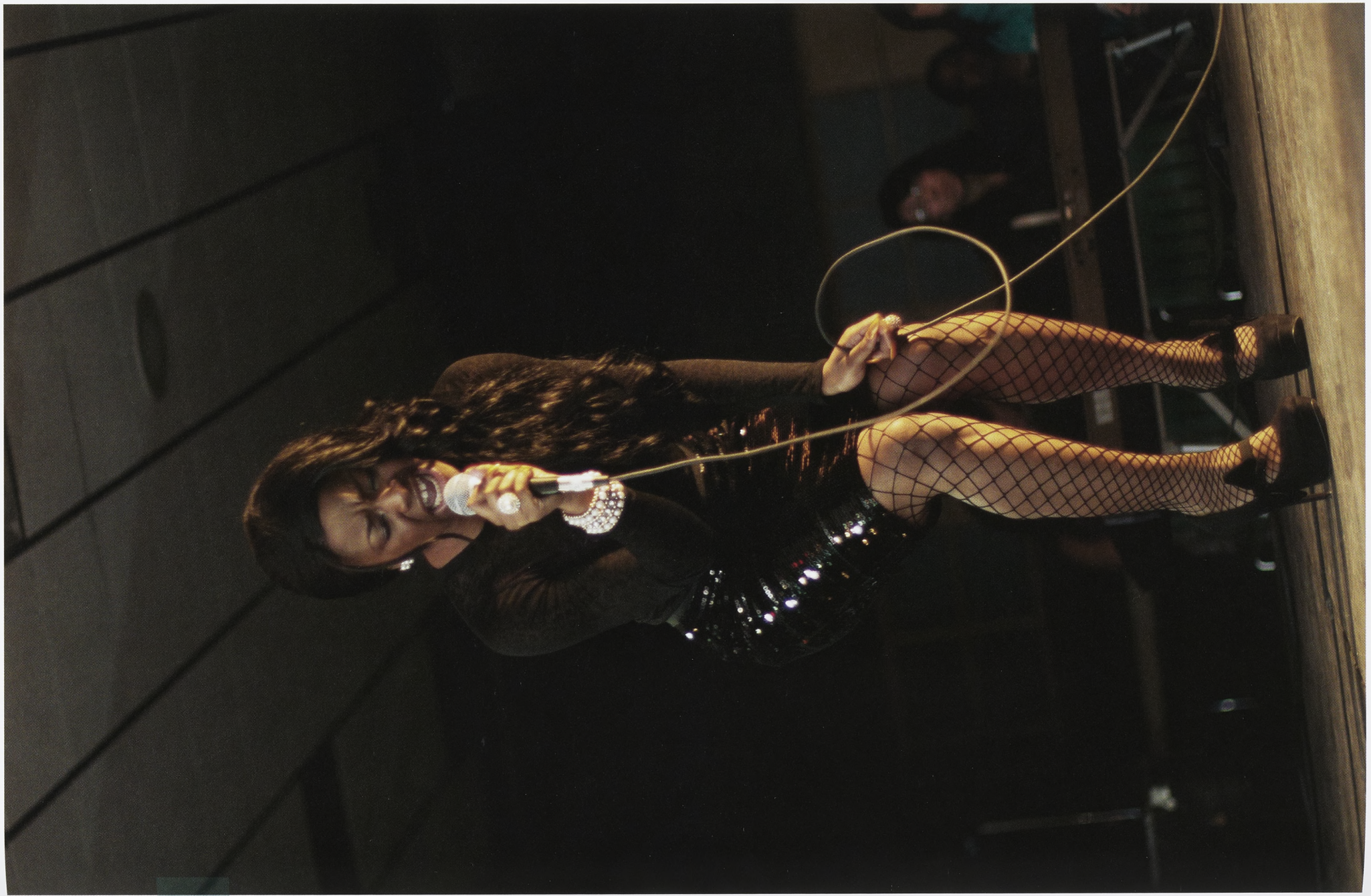
Alvarez spoke of stereotypes relating to her ethnicity, including prejudice against her parents' interracial marriage and her father's humble line of work as a commercial painter.

Showcasing a culture from far beyond American shores, the MSU Bhangra Team took second place with a synchronized Bollywood-esque dance. Their performance was a merger of eastern and western culture that blended different elements of pop music and theatrics.

However, theatrics weren't always necessary to get the message across that night. Senior Kyra Clay, who has performed in the talent show three times since her freshman year, played guitar and sang a cover of "Are We There Yet?" by Ingrid Michaelson. The song's lyrics carried a message of optimism, expressing faith in others to "deliver our silver lining" in times where we've lost our direction.

"I chose it because it has a positive resonance," Clay said. This resonance, she added, is what she felt the talent show and Martin Luther King Jr. Day are all about.

TYPEian kullgren/PHOTOaudrey aquino/DESIGNsaralee gordon



TYPE kritika bharadwaj/PHOTO anthony thibodeau, erica treais/DESIGN brendan prost

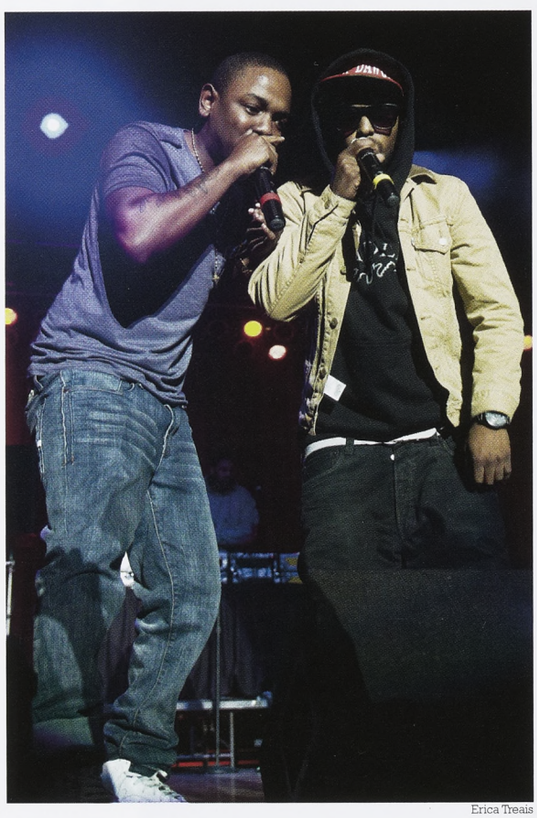
tl

Up-a



Fans from the crowd dance on stage while Washington D.C.-based rapper Wale performs at the MSU Auditorium. Wale has produced singles with artists such as Lady Gaga, Gucci Mane and Lloyd.

Kendrick Lamar and Schoolboy Q freestyle for the crowd at the Auditorium. Other opening acts included FowL and Earlly Mac.



Erica Treais

the name is wale

Up-and-coming rapper brings a "Chillingly" good performance to MSU



Erica Treais

The name is Wale. Not pronounced like "whale" with a silent "h," but more phonetically akin to "Wall-Eh."

On Jan. 14 at 6:45 p.m., students clustered outside the closed doors of the MSU Auditorium in the freezing winter, feet shifting from side to side. Many alternated restless glances between each other and the main doors, and once the wooden portals were opened at 7 p.m., the crowd darted in excitedly, bursting into different directions.

"I feel like a small minority knows and likes him a lot but there is a large majority that doesn't appreciate him," packaging junior Trent Lattimore said of the star of the night.

Born Olubowale Victor Akintimehin, Wale first made a name for himself when his song "Dig Dug (Shake it)" became popular in his hometown at Washington, D.C. in 2006. With a subsequent appearance on MTV and a mention in the Washington Post, his fame soared to greater heights. He was signed to Allido Records in 2007, which produced his debut album, "Attention Deficit".

"I started listening to him about a year ago" Lyman Briggs freshman Jamila Carver said. "Tonight, I'm trying to get an autograph for my boyfriend and me."

At 7:50 p.m., the lights go dim and the MC revs the crowd up as he yells, "MSU, ya'll ready to have a good time? Say hell yeah!" "Hell yeah!" came the response.

Opening artists such as Earlly Mac, Kendrick Lamar and FowL helped to distract the audience's excitement for Wale. While Lamar rated himself among artists like Kid Cudi and Drake, FowL seemed unstoppable with his wide-eyed expression and energetic numbers as security personnel kept the crowd from rushing to the front of the stage. He departed with a "thank you," paving the way for the main event.

At 9:26 p.m., the crowd went into a brief silence before breaking into thunderous chants of "Wale! Wale! Wale!" as the artist appeared onstage, launching straight into the show with his trademark fast-paced lyrics.

"He's an artist who's smart and motivated. He doesn't rap about things that most rappers rap about. He's a lyrical genius," Carver said.

While the rapper shared his personal heartbreak through the lyrics of "Beautiful Bliss," he also tirelessly performed popular favorites like "Black and Gold" and "Chillin'," his famous up-tempo duet with Lady Gaga. Although Gaga wasn't present, audience members swarmed around Wale, in the words of the rapper himself, like "honey on bees" when he jumped off the stage and into the audience in the midst of "Chillin.'" As the night progressed, Wale continued to stun his screaming fans with song after song. For "Pretty Girls," the artist invited 15 girls on stage as they danced, clapped and sang along, each of them anxious just to get a hug from him.

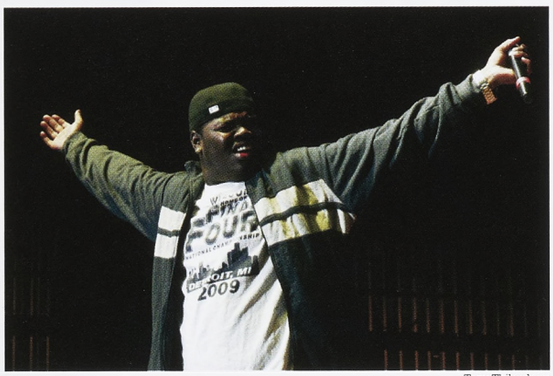
"I see him being huge in no time. He's just ordinary rap, but lyrically it's pretty good and it has a good rhythm," Lattimore said.

Wale maintained his riveting stage presence through the night, holding out the microphone for the audience to chant the lyrics of "Pretty Girls."

As the night drew to a close, fans flung themselves over the barricades, some even handing the rapper their shoes for him to sign. And once the doors were flung open for the last time, they walked away into the night with autographs on their hats, lyrics on their lips and Wale on their minds.



Erica Treais



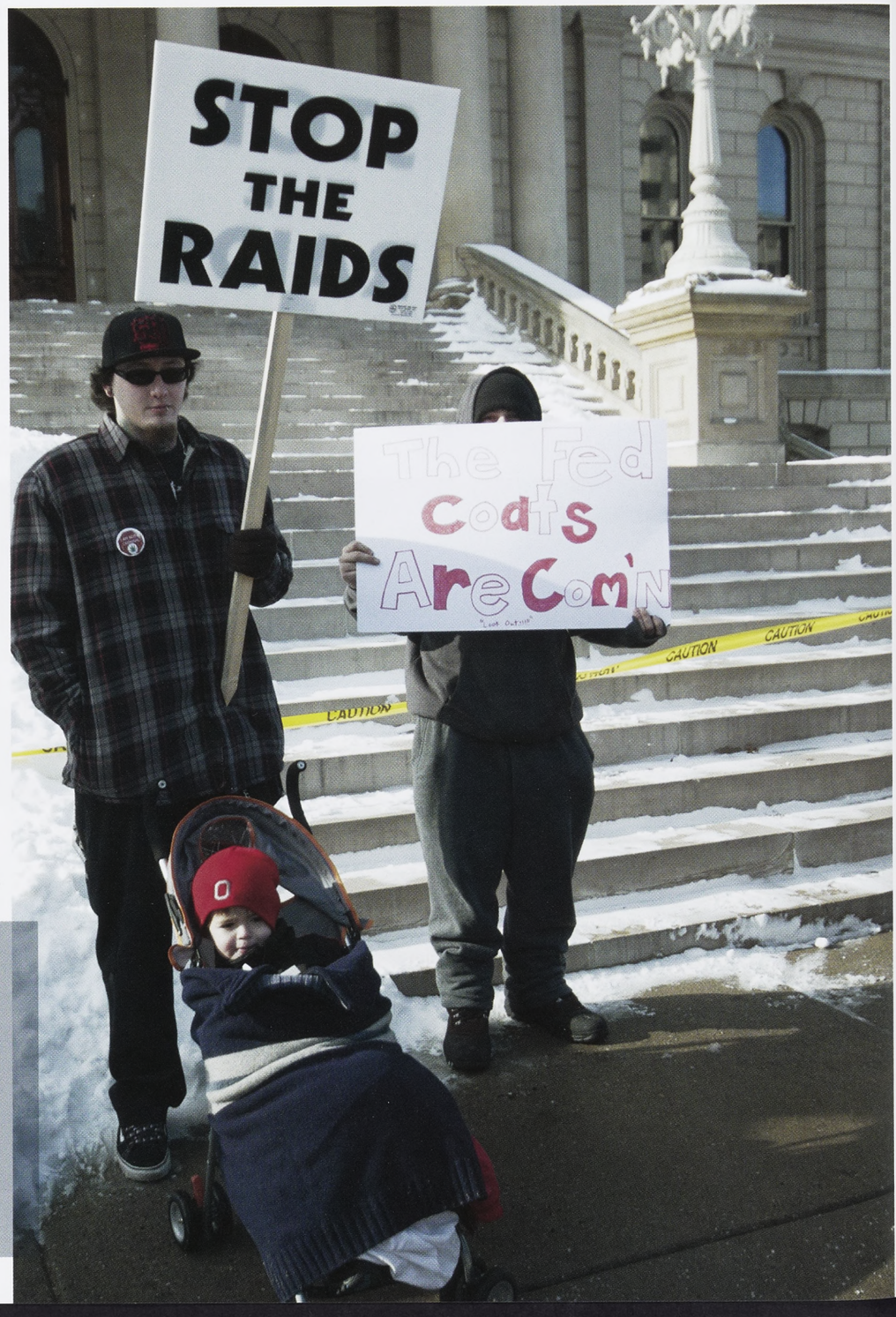
Tony Thibodeau

MSU freshman Saffal Tall, stage name FowL, addresses the crowd during his performance at the Auditorium. Tall has also opened for rappers such as Wiz Khalifa and Big Sean.

Fans sing along to "Chillin" as Wale makes his way through the sold-out crowd. The rapper performed some of his hit singles and hung out afterward to sign autographs and pass out mix-tapes.



Robert Redden, from Ferndale, MI was one of the first people busted by federal agents for growing medical marijuana. Redden planned to appeal the Michigan Supreme Court to drop charges against him.



Adam Kirst, from Jackson, MI, stands with his son and his friend Forest Wayne, from Lansing, at the Capitol. The prostesters hoped to make contact with the Attorney General and other politicians to voice their concerns over the Drug Enforcement Agency raids.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN betsy eber



Protesters held signs voicing their concerns with federal raids on local dispensaries. Many feel the government is overreaching as the Drug Enforcement Agency is requesting patient records from the state in accordance to a federal investigation.

fighting the power

Advocates campaign at the Capitol for medical marijuana patients' rights

From a distance, a small contingent of people waving signs at the base of the Capitol in Lansing looked paltry: imagine a row boat up against a tidal wave.

Up close, however, the people displayed passion and heart—and not just because they were standing outside on an especially frigid January day.

The dozen or so protesters came out on Jan. 12 to voice their opinions against a recent Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) criminal investigation that demands seven medical marijuana patients' medical records be handed over from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). The Michigan law that legalized the use of medical marijuana in 2008 includes privacy provisions that protect patients' medical records.

"The attorney general is negotiating with the federal courts about trying to give them (MDCH) immunity, in exchange for giving up the information," senior Jonathan Beagley said. He explained that Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette is attempting to allow the MDCH employees to turn over the information that the DEA is requesting.

"That's what we are protesting. We don't want our state to give out information to the federal government that it doesn't have to that interferes with the privacy provisions of the act," he said.

While marijuana remains a Schedule I drug under the DEA's Controlled Substances Act (CSA), which means it's not considered legitimate for any kind of medicinal use, many states have passed laws legalizing medical marijuana. The Michigan Medical Marihuana Program asserts that it doesn't protect anyone against federal enforcement of the CSA. Complicating the issue is the murky language of the law voted on by Michigan residents, which has led many municipalities to pass moratoriums on dispensing medical marijuana, including East Lansing.

Beagley appeared to be one of few students at the protest, but his activism in drug policy made up for it. He started MSU's chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy and helped organize the protest at the Capitol. After finding out he qualified for medical marijuana, his experience as a patient led him to advocate patients' rights.

While the protest was peaceful, many still expressed their discontent. Patients, dispensary owners and their families, and victims of raids huddled together with signs targeting Schuette and the DEA. Every few minutes or so, someone would lead a group chant such as "Let my people grow" and "Free the weed," among others.

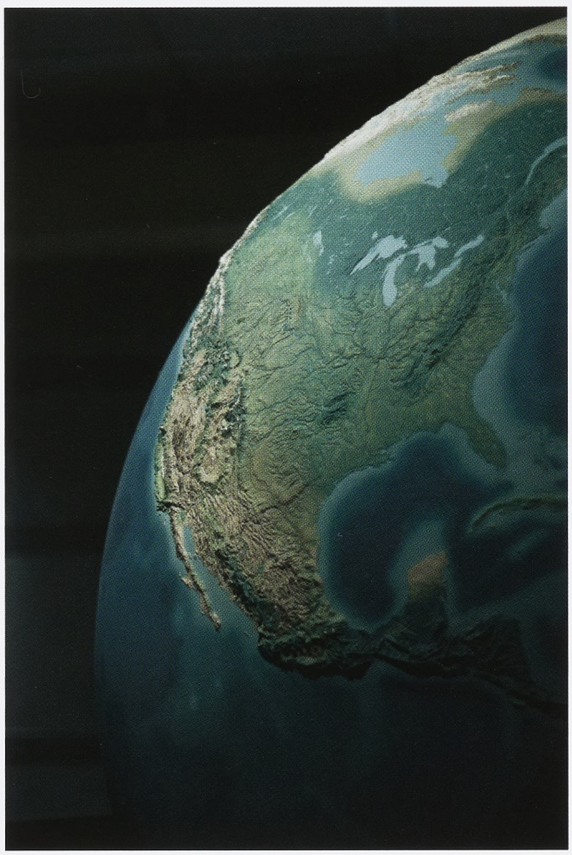
The protesters were eager to mingle, spilling their stories to anyone who would listen. Lansing resident Aaron Kowalk protested for the simple reason of keeping his family fed. His wife works at the Your Healthy Choice Clinic, a dispensary on Michigan Avenue in Lansing. Jim Garner of Mount Clemens claimed he was using medical marijuana to cure his prostate cancer. Rejecting radiation therapy for a more natural cause, he's hoping to prove that medical marijuana can help stop cancer.

One notable protester was a tall man holding large signs that arched over his head. He marched about the sidewalks leading from the Capitol to the surrounding streets, the snare drum fastened to his waist drawing crowds of fellow protesters. The Lansing resident said he was a victim of a DEA raid and requested anonymity, citing his pending status with federal authorities. The sign he wore said "The Fed Coats are coming," but he said it was more than just a play on words. He likened the current struggle to the one early Americans went through breaking from the British during the American Revolution.

Meanwhile, people who entered and exited the Capitol kept their distance and averted their eyes. Beagley and the others said they wanted to open talks with the attorney general and other politicians. It appears that row boat will continue to paddle into the storm. Whether they survive the storms ahead may depend on how hard they can push themselves to keep paddling.

Right before the show starts, participants walk through a hallway full of different space scenes that are painted on velvet and lit by black light. The room is used to help adjust everyone's eyes to the dark.

The lobby of the planetarium has two large models of the Earth and the moon that show the details to scale. Visitors spent time before the show looking at the models and photos displayed in the exhibits.





To look at the moon in full detail gives visitors an opportunity to appreciate all the small ridges and craters that they can't see with their naked eye. The to-scale models not only enhanced the experience, but made the exploration of the solar system easier.



TYPEkritika bharadwaj/PHOTOveronica nagy/DESIGNbrendan prost

a whole new world

Abrams Planetarium teaches visitors how to build a planet

Florescent yellow and neon-green astronomical paintings pan across the Blacklight Gallery's dark walls at the Abrams Planetarium. Beneath the silence, light footsteps padded above excited 'oohs' and 'aahs.' The main attraction, he Sky Theater, had astronomy trivia displayed on the ceiling, "How far is the moon from the Earth?" Tiny whispers erupted as people began to quiz each other.

"I've been wanting to come here since I got into MSU," freshman Caroline Williams said.

Though the average college student could have been out enjoying a libation or two on this Friday night, the planetarium was filled with curious minds on Jan. 28, eager to plumb the mysteries of the universe through the planetarium's feature presentation "How to Build a Planet."

"The real purpose of this show is to get people interested in what astronomy is all about. So, they are able to go out, see the night sky and identify stars," planetarium education coordinator Shane Horvatin said.

The planetarium first opened its doors in 1963 and is named after the late Talbert "Ted" Abrams and his wife Leota. Known as a pioneer in the field of aerial photography and mapping, Ted and his wife contributed a considerable donation to Michigan State University to build a center for space science education.

"We have a lot of school groups who visit during the winter and we also have university classes here every day of the week," Horvatin said. "We have about 500 students here during the week."

Approximately 3,000 square feet in size, the Exhibit Hall of the planetarium displays spectacular astronomical images, including rotating models of the Earth and the moon that hang halfway through the ceiling. The hall also offers an array of science toys for inquisitive minds to play around with.

"I started working here in 2008. Things have pretty much been the same around here," junior Jayne Harper said. With budget cuts in schools reducing the number of field trips, Horvatin said the planetarium has seen a decreased number of visitors in recent years.

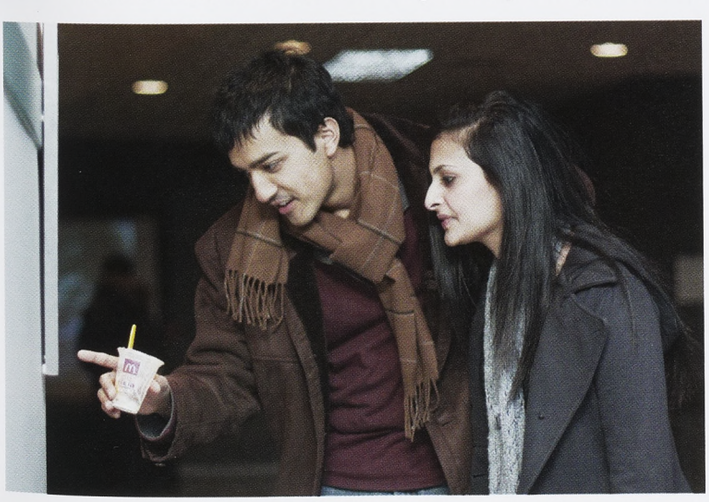
Visitors were soon lining up outside the Sky Theater for the show. As the lights dimmed in the theater, the dome-shaped ceiling was transformed into a bejeweled blanket of stars, enthralling the audience with vistas of the universe and Native American myths about ancient astronomical beliefs. The presentation, produced by Taylor Planetarium at the Museum of The Rockies in Montana, explored the many forces that shaped Earth and subsequently gave the third rock from the sun the potential to harbor life.

When highlighting the asterisms, Big Dipper and Little Dipper, illustrations of bears made it easier for the audience to understand the narration.

"The big and small bears have funny tails 'cause Zeus pulled them by their tails and swung them around," Horvatin joked. "Remember: they are not constellations, but asterisms," he added.

Projected marvels aside, however, Horvatin said it was becoming harder to find traditional planetarium shows such as this one due to the changing face of projection technology. Updating the technology used in the planetarium, he said, is something he and other staff members at the Abrams Planetarium are looking forward to.

"Right now we have a star projector which projects the night sky on the ceiling," he said. "The new system covers the entire dome but we're still five to ten years away from that right now."



Rishi Bhattacharya, a doctoral student, and Binafza Kapadia read and look at different outer space photos before the planetarium show. Those in attendance not only watched a show about "How to Build a Planet" but are also shown the night sky and what is in place for the next few weeks.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO anthony thibodeau/DESIGN betsy eber

collapsed bridge ahead

State of Michigan tightens regulations on college student use of Bridge Cards



Last year, Bridge Cards were hot. Now, they're not.

In the 2009-2010 edition of the Red Cedar Log, we covered the increased popularity of Bridge Cards among MSU students. Issued by the state of Michigan, they act like debit cards for food aid purposes. But as of April 1, 2011, individuals are now unable to apply for a Bridge Card just for being a college student.

The Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) struck down a qualifying clause in the state Food Assistance Program that allowed students who were "attending college with an approved education plan" to receive Bridge Cards. The DHS said the change was made to bring the program within federal guidelines, because it is funded by the federal government.

Christine Fecher, a media relations and online communications representative for the DHS, said the sudden switch was part of the efforts of a handful of state legislators and the new DHS director Maura Corrigan to ensure integrity in the Food Assistance Program. Corrigan was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder earlier that year as part of the new state administration.

Bridge Cards award up to $200 a month in food aid to cardholders. But students who didn't meet the traditional criteria for such assistance (i.e.: Are either caring for children, physically or mentally unable to work, or participating in an on-the-job training program), saw their aid end on April 1.

Many students were not even aware of the specific details a few weeks after it was announced. However, many thought it was a good idea to restrict qualifications for Bridge Cards, even those who used them.

"I wouldn't be terribly upset if it happened," Gus Rutecki, a freshman at Lansing Community College living at Chandler's Crossing, said. "I think it's pretty fair, especially for the people that really need it."

Most students pointed to abuse of the money by their collegiate counterparts on trivial goods as a justification for the new restrictions.

"I work at CVS and I see people who obviously don't need that money," junior Jacob Idoni said. "It's just ridiculous that you see people come in and buy things specifically to go out drinking with, with their Bridge Card, and you can see they have a ton of money left on it."

When asked about personal misuse, students weren't so quick to point fingers, although freshman Matt Dapra, a roommate of Rutecki's, admitted to spending Bridge Card money on an occasional candy bar. Besides, with multiple cardholders living under the same roof, the necessity of the full $200 per person came into question.

"I don't think I would use the full $200 on my own per month," junior Marla Trzeciak said, stating that she and her roommates only utilize the full amount when they go shopping together.

Yet, other students who depended on the Bridge Card like junior Julian Yu weren't as quick to let it go. Yu said she will have to take out more loans to help pay for rent and tuition because she receives no financial assistance from her parents.

"It's going to be a lot more difficult to get food," Yu said. "There's still a vast majority of students out there that do pay their own bills that still go to work and go to school."

Nonetheless, there didn't appear to be much overall opposition from cardholders themselves. Although junior Cathleen Zuzelski, who was interviewed for last year's Bridge Card story, was overly supportive of the program a year ago, she seems fine bidding adieu to the Bridge Card this time around.

"I'm not going to starve," she said. "I'll just have to budget more carefully for other things that aren't necessary like going out for dinner or for movies or for fun."



Freshman Gustav Rutecki looks into the coolers at Meijer for groceries. Meijer is one of several stores in East Lansing that accepts Bridge Cards.

Junior Marla Trzeciak's refrigerator is filled courtesy of her Bridge Card. New restrictions are being placed on Bridge Cards to sort out those who truly need it.

the nifty fifties

Students jive at the Munn Ice Arena for UAB's Frozen Fifties Festival

In the '50s, parties were "bashes," nerds were "nosebleeds," and "passion pit" denoted a drive-in movie theatre, not a genre-defying band. It was the decade of conformity—marked by women in pencil skirts, men in gray flannel suits and an aversion by both to anything deemed too risqué.

Though we scoff at keeping with convention now, nostalgia for the good ol' days prevailed at the University Activities Board's first Frozen Fifties Festival at Munn Ice Arena.

On the night of Feb. 19, about 70 students were reminded of old-fashioned wholesomeness as they munched on free popcorn, competed in carnival contests and glided—or stumbled—across the ice rink to the upbeat tunes of Elvis Presley, Bobby Day and the movie "Grease."

At a vinyl decorating station on the outskirts of Munn's concourse, sophomore Amanda Urena feverishly rummaged through stacks of old, black records in search of her favorite singers, crouching to read the small print at their centers.

"My grandpa always used to listen to an old '50s radio station. I would just walk in and he would greet me and we would listen to that music," she said, citing artists like Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra and Johnny Mathis.

Finally satisfied with a handful of vinyls tucked under her shoulder, Urena conjured up one word to describe the decade's music scene: jive.

In the meantime, a jumble of students clad in '50s fashion dotted the ice below, ready to compete for best costume at the end of the night.

"I was thinking typical greaser, you know, '50s dude. That's the picture I had in my head," sophomore Randy Adams said as he awaited the judges' verdict. "But later, when I walked in the cafeteria and looked at myself in the mirror, I realized I really looked like Ricky Ricardo from 'I Love Lucy.'"

Though Adams placed second to a comb-sporting Danny Zuko look-a-like, his ego wasn't too deflated.

"I just loved dressing up. I love acting and putting on a different persona," he said. "And the cash prize was an incentive as well."

While normally the attire at this event screams Las Vegas glitz and glam for UAB's annual "Dice and Ice," the group decided to switch up the theme this year.

"We had a lot of carnival supplies in our store room from past events, so we were kind of just able to pull out some old games and set them up," sophomore Amy Pochodylo, UAB's Director of Marketing, said. "It just seemed like we could do a lot more with the '50s theme."

Indeed, a line that trailed up and around the bleachers for skate rental and an empty popcorn booth littered with stray kernels proved that the switch had paid off.

While the line slowly dwindled, juniors Cassie Barnes and Jessica Mitkovski plopped themselves down on the bleachers, warily inspecting the ice. Barnes' black and red ensemble appeared in stark contrast to Mitkovski's traditional white sweater and black-rimmed glasses.

"We watched "Grease" on Wednesday night, so I'm supposed to be Rizzo and she's Sandy," Barnes said.

"I'm the good girl, she's the bad girl, can you tell?" Mitkovski asked eagerly.

For the majority of attendees who didn't share Mitkovski's enthusiasm for dressing up, however, free food and ice-skating were the major pull.

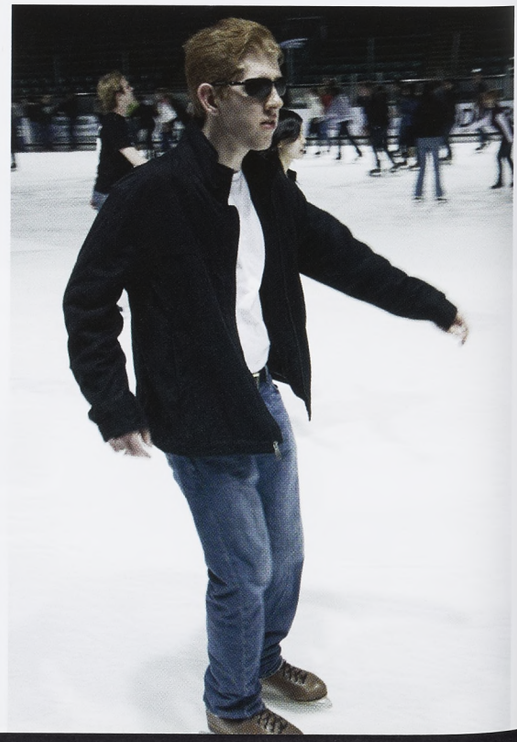
"I really like the idea of free Insomnia Cookies, and I want to try out skating sooner or later because I've never done it before," freshman John Herzog said, laughing among a group of friends.

But, c'mon guys, what about the '50s?

"I don't even know, man, it was really easygoing and happy, it seemed to me," sophomore Katherine Logan said.

"My parents were born," Herzog joked.

"I just think of 'Leave it to Beaver,'" freshman John Swartz laughed.



Freshman David Crouse glides across the ice at Munn Ice Arena. He later entered and placed in the fifties costume competition with his white tee, glasses and wavy hairdo.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO cassie allore/DESIGN jessica halfyard



Students and East Lansing residents crowded onto the ice to take part in the Frozen Fifties event. UAB and Munn Ice Arena provided free skates as well as food and other activitites.

Sophomore Alice Hu laces up her skates at the Frozen Fifties event. Students gathered to take advantage of the free ice skating and games at Munn Ice Arena.







Ice skates are lined up at Munn Ice Arena during the Frozen Fifties event. Students could rent a pair for free and take them out for a spin on the ice.

Junior Alyssa Friday ties on her skates at the Frozen Fifties event. She later won second place in the costume contest.



yes, they can talk

Through synecdoche, The Vagina Monologues benefit MSU Sexual Assault Program

Junior Hannah Stoppel is one of few students at MSU who can say she's had a violent orgasm onstage. More precisely, she had someone else's orgasm. Stoppel was one of 28 women cast in the 2011 production of "The Vagina Monologues," a compilation of nonfiction first-person anecdotes that illustrate female experiences.

In fact, vagina is said more than 200 times during the show, addressing issues like women injured during war, domestic abuse and child birth. Stoppel read a monologue titled "The woman who loved to make vaginas happy," which investigated female moaning during sex. The idea has been planted in her mind since she first saw a taped version of the show at age 10.

"Some of the monologues I heard then have influenced my entire life," Stoppel said. "It's kind of something I've always had in the back of my head."

Nearly sold out performances on Friday, Feb. 18, and Saturday, Feb. 19, capped a noteworthy year for the annual show's history. Auditions in the fall drew more than 60 women, one of the largest pools yet, co-director Nicole Beard said. This led to one of the most diverse casts of the show's 12-year run at MSU, displaying an array of nationalities, ages and areas of study.

Though most in the cast are MSU students, ages this year ranged from 18-year-olds to women in their 60s.

"We have all nationalities, all religions, but we get along so well because we're all here for the same cause," Beard said. "When we walk in here I don't see the difference."

And it's not just about acting. Beard said when casting the show, she and the other three directors tried to find women who embraced its message. The event is part of a national movement called "V-Day," in which a global network of college and community theaters produce the show near Valentine's Day as a fundraiser to stop violence against women.

At MSU, ticket proceeds benefitted the MSU Sexual Assault program, which provides advocacy and crisis intervention to victims. Some of those involved had firsthand experience with the same issues "V-day" is trying to improve. Beard first auditioned after working for Relief After Violent Encounter, a women's shelter and domestic abuse help center. Members of senior Megan Threats' family were victims of sexual assault, something that compelled her to participate after seeing the show for the past two years. Onstage, she performed a monologue about a child's experience with sexual abuse.

"Everyone having the courage to do this has been a really big moral experience for me," Threats said.

Though casts and arrangement of the monologues vary each year, some aspects remain standard. For one, each actor must carry note cards during her performance, even if she knows her lines. This is to symbolize that the story was an event in a real woman's life. While some jot down their cues, others just leave the cards blank or draw pictures.

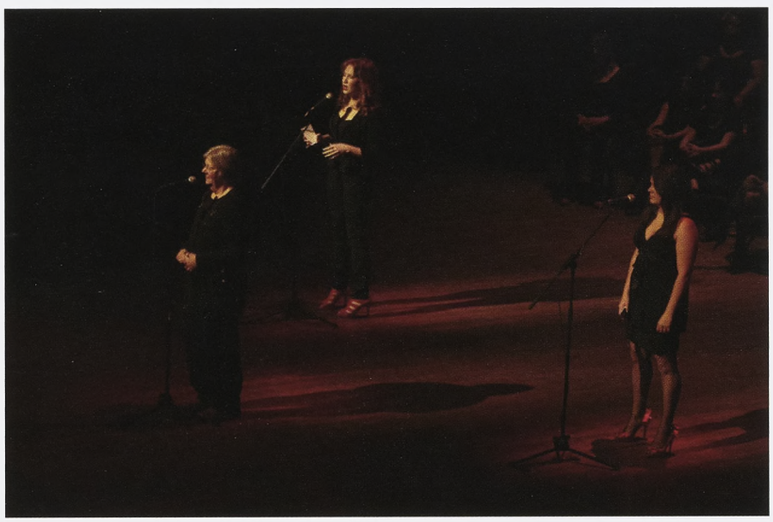
Stoppel, who has been acting since age three, said the show's structure provides a unique type of performance for the actors and audience alike.

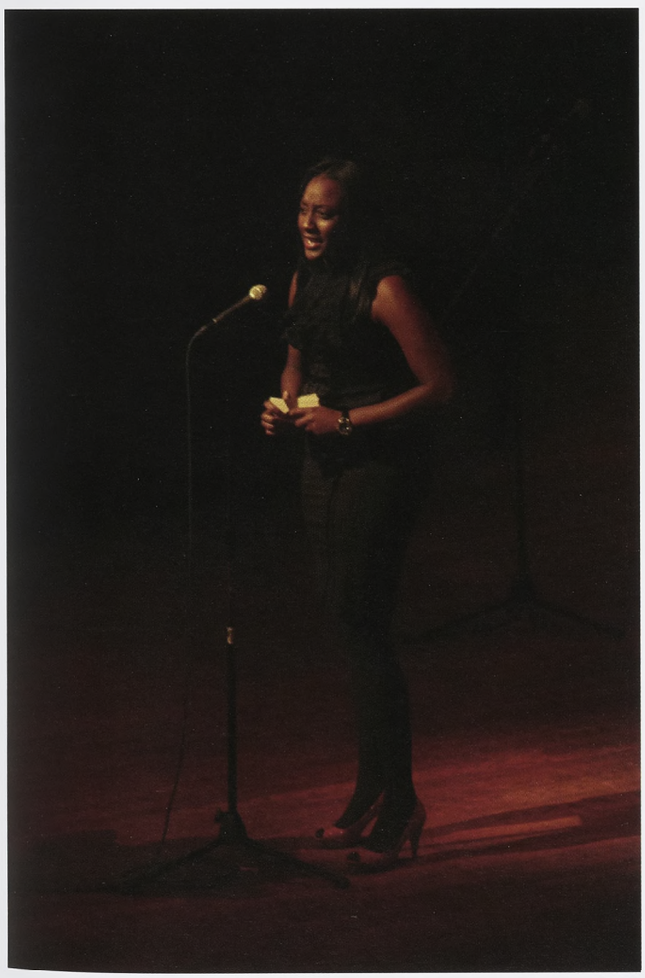
"It's interesting building a character off of what she said, instead of having other people to act off of," she said. "It's definitely a different experience."

TYPEian kullgren/PHOTOveronica nagy/DESIGNjessica halfyard

Senior Leila Chatti gets her makeup retouched by senior Shanna Moore before her performance at the 2 p.m. showing of The Vagina Monologues. Chatti preformed "Wear and Say," in which she acted what different women thought their vagina would wear and say if it were a person.

Junior Elizabeth Battiste , Irene Blanchard and senior Angie Tripi introduce the 2011 Vagina Monologues. This year the MSU Sexual Assault Program was chosen as beneficiary.



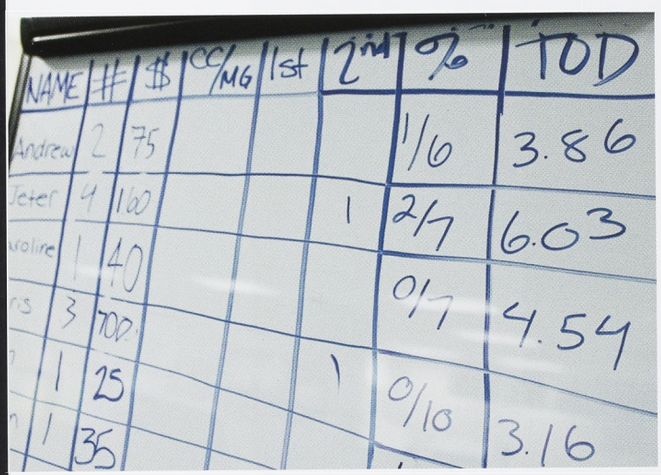




Junior Whitley Lehto recites her lines at the Pasant Theatre. The Vagina Monologues has been published in 45 languages and performed in more over 120 countries.

Performing "Hair" from the Vagina Monologues, junior Krystall Bent Jones explains the exploration of having pubic hair. The performance included fifteen monologues ranging from funny to sad and emotionally heart wrenching.

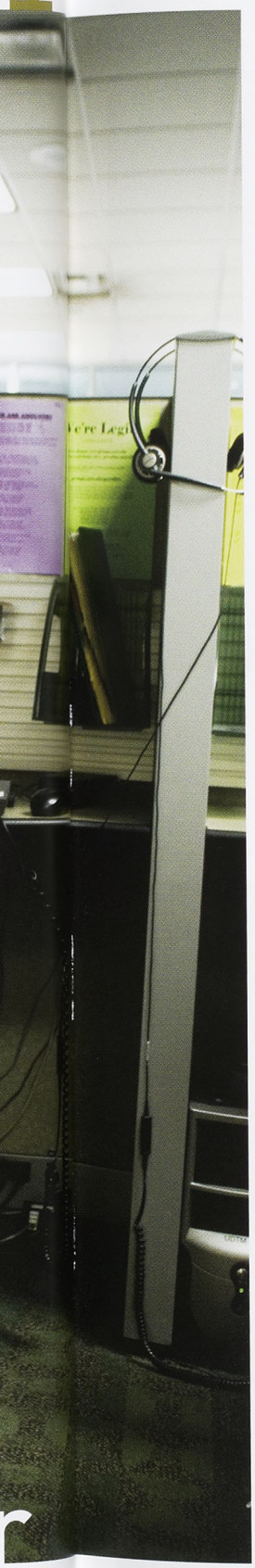
a conversation with a telemarketer



Competition is a major part of motivating the student telemarketers. Prior to set shifts, student employees can be found getting their teams together in an attempt to capture 1st place.

A standard workspace for telemarketers, each cubicle contains a computer and all the items necessary to successfully fund about $2 million a year of Michigan State's costs.

TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO chase o'black/DESIGN jessica halfyard



Twice or thrice every week, junior Sean Watkins enters the elevator inside Spartan Stadium on the way to his job, his collared shirt devoid of wrinkles and his sneakers fresh. He greets any co-workers he runs into with cheerful hellos.

"'Don't forget to smile,' I always say," he quips.

Today, Watkins enters the Stadium with a plastic bag of Twinkies tied around his wrist for an employee potluck - one of the many things, he said, that sets his job apart from a typical office desk job.

"I don't like being in a boring place," he said.

Watkins is, in fact, an MSU Telemarketer, who makes calls to alumni in hopes of convincing them to donate money to the school.

MSU telemarketers have two themed shifts per semester, in which employees bring food to share and also dress up in costume. Past themes have included "the World Cup" and "the 1980s." Watkins said employees also elect people every semester to put on a dance.

Watkins joined the telemarketers over the summer of 2010 and returned in the spring of 2011 after studying abroad. He typically works four hour shifts, making calls to alumni in hopes of convincing them to donate money to the school. Prior to his time at MSU, Watkins worked as a bill collector at home in New York.

"I find I have a little more patience when telemarketers call me after working here," he said. "But if they kept calling, the New Yorker might come out in me."

"This is easier than bill collecting, because you aren't soliciting and, plus, you already have something in common with the people you're calling."

Watkins said he has a strategy of making the call more personal so alumni don't dismiss him right away.

"I'll tell the caller how I was disenrolled last year, but scholarships from the University allowed me to come back," he said. "Basically, I let them know that there are people here at the university who care, who actually need and want the money they donate."

Money collected by MSU telemarketers is given to the Student Alumni Foundation, building renovations and campus beautification, scholarships and study abroad programs. Watkins said the calls aren't always smooth sailing.

"I've seen graduation dates of 1924 on our call list," he said. "You have to get ready to face differences because of that generation gap. One man told me he was never giving to MSU again because we support diversity."

"You don't really want to think of Spartans being like that. It was a hard phone call to shake off."

The turnover rate for employees is high, Watkins said, because some student employees just aren't properly equipped to handle the demands of the job.

"Telemarketing is almost like acting," he said. "You have to be able to listen and respond back and you can't be afraid to talk."

Fears aside, Watkins said his time at the MSU Telemarketers has enhanced his student days at Michigan State.

"If anything, this job is a stress reliever for me," he said. "You're basically doing homework, talking to your friends and making calls."

"I really like calling for the school because people on the call list aren't random. They're people who care about their school."



Telemarketers prepare for their shift to start. Some employees said in their free time, the student workers are found competing for the highest Minesweeper score.

TYPEadelina schmidt/PHOTOchase o'black/DESIGNjessica halfyard

first impressions

University Activities Board hosts post-Valentine's Day Speed Dating event

A student body over 40,000 strong makes for an intimidating dating pool, but the University Activities Board brought the number down to a more manageable size. Just over 60 students sat down to speed-date on Feb. 24.

Dim lighting, a disco ball and pop hits playing in the background set the mood as the clock struck 7:30 p.m. and the speed dating began, filling the Union Ballroom with lively chatter. Dates were seated across from one another at a table, ladies on one side and gentlemen on the other.

Each pair had three short minutes to make an impression before time was called on the mini-date, leading gentlemen to slide one seat to their left and start the process all over again. Every participant was given a nametag and a number during registration, along with a scorecard to keep track of his or her dates.

Upon reaching the end of a date, those looking to continue the conversation could check "yes" next to their partner's name. Score sheets were turned in to be sorted through by the UAB's Human Resource Committee, the host of the event.

Thrown after Valentine's Day as an opportunity for students to meet new people, Speed Dating was the first event of its kind.

"We had extra money in our budget so we wanted to put on one more event, and we've never done anything like Speed Dating before. We had no idea what to expect, we were just looking to come up with something fun, a good idea that people would like," freshman UAB volunteer Frank Liu said.

The friendly, casual atmosphere was a draw for some of the speed-daters who weren't necessarily looking to meet their soul mate.

"I'm not really expecting anything; I came out with some friends as a silly thing, like 'Yeah! Let's go speed-dating!' Why not?" freshman Jessica Leacher said.

Others, however, were hoping to make a more serious connection.

"I'm definitely looking for a girlfriend, or at least an acquaintance. For me, it's also an opportunity. Hopefully, this'll give me the confidence to get out and talk to more people," senior Michael Montpetit said.

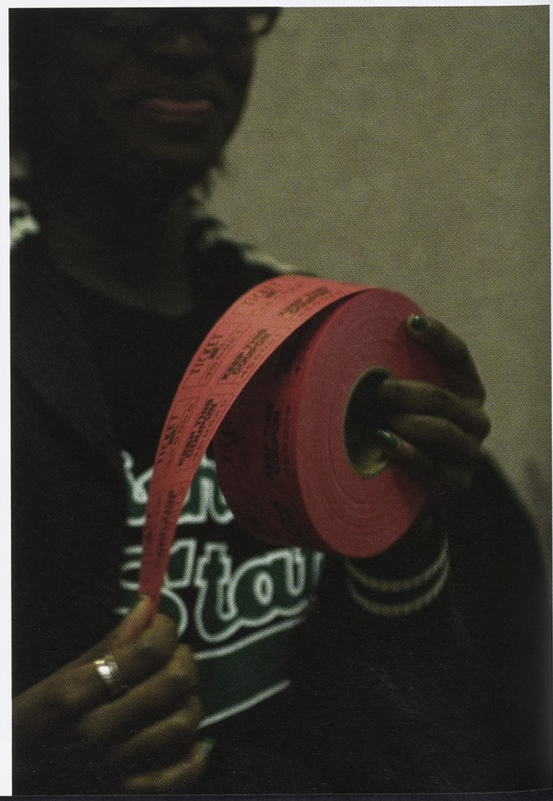
Sophomore Donovan Johnson didn't even come for himself. He came to Speed Dating in support of a friend.

"I came for my man Oskar because he's looking to meet some nice young ladies and I'd like to back him up. And if I happen to meet some people that I can chill with, that's cool too," Johnson said.

Though students may have been looking for something different, it didn't stop them from keeping the ballroom alive with laughter and conversation for two hours until the mixer started.

The post-dating mixer was a chance for those who sparked a flame to resume conversations that got cut off. It was also an opportunity to mingle with unfamiliar faces, as not everyone got paired together. Participants enjoyed punch, and were also placed in a raffle to win two movie tickets.

As the evening wound down, students were encouraged to complete their score sheets and turn them into UAB members. In two weeks, speed-daters received a list of matches from dates in which both partners checked "yes." The list, complete with names and e-mail addresses, allowed speed daters to take their connection beyond 180 seconds.



Raffle tickets were offered to speed dating participants. Raffle winners won two movie tickets for an opportunity to follow-up on an interested match.



Speed-daters sit across from their guests at the UAB speed dating event. Participants were alotted 3 minutes per table to make a first impression.



Sixty students sit across from potential matches at the UAB speed dating event. The event was held post-Valentine's Day as an opportunity for male and female students to make a connection.



vextacular

Second annual Spartan VEX Robotics Challenge extends learning beyond the classroom

Stepping into the IM Circle gymnasium on Saturday, Feb. 26, there was a breeze of energy as excited students rushed between adjacent rooms. Seated on bleachers and clad in T-shirts of support, parents cheered, whistled and applauded the competitors as though they were at a soccer match.

Yet the event here was no less than a sport. Enthusiasm bubbled through the room like gas in a shaken soda can as students carrying self-constructed robots paced around the gym, conversing with their teammates. The Spartan VEX Robotics Challenge was on.

Here, dueling red and blue alliances pit individual robots against each other on two 12'x12' fields, in two-minute matches of driver-controlled play. The teams strive to get their robots to gather and place as many plastic rings of their alliance's colors as they can onto small goalposts within the time limit.

However, this isn't exactly your average mathletes competition or science fair. Participants take pride in their teams, and show their support by donning costumes for the occasion. Shiny jewelry jingled and black capes swept the floor while others donned self-constructed Goggles – attire fit for wagers of cybernetic war.

Bob Watson, K-12 outreach and robotics coordinator at MSU, said this was the first time four out of the 25 participating high school teams are being mentored and sponsored.

"Even though the university doesn't sponsor teams, engineering students here [at MSU] volunteer to mentor and assist students with technical difficulties," junior J.T. Whitman said. "I helped with a lot of coordination and things like overseeing the preparation."

A host of other MSU engineering students like Whitman, many of whom are also part of the university's robotics team, assisted at the event as referees and score keepers.

The titular VEX, a Texas-based educational equipment company, manufactures robotic components that students can assemble into fully-functioning mechanisms. And while it may all sound just like science fiction, the roles that these robots play in the education of students is certainly no space-age fantasy. Pontiac High School robotics team coordinator Michael Martus said even students who don't win are more than happy to participate in the competition because it helps fill in certain practical areas of their education that are not usually met in a classroom setting.

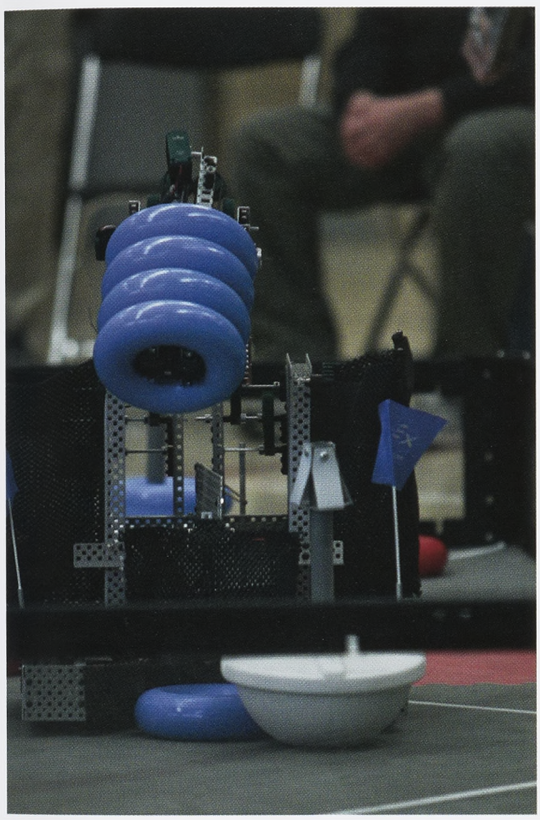
"Students might learn what a lever is but not know why it works the way it does," Martus said. "When the mechanism [robot] doesn't lift its arm, students might question why it doesn't lift its arm and apply the calculation of the lever to it."

"It [VEX] is making its way as a STEM [Science Technology Engineering Mathematics] initiative. Its curriculum base helps teachers solve the 'why' for students."

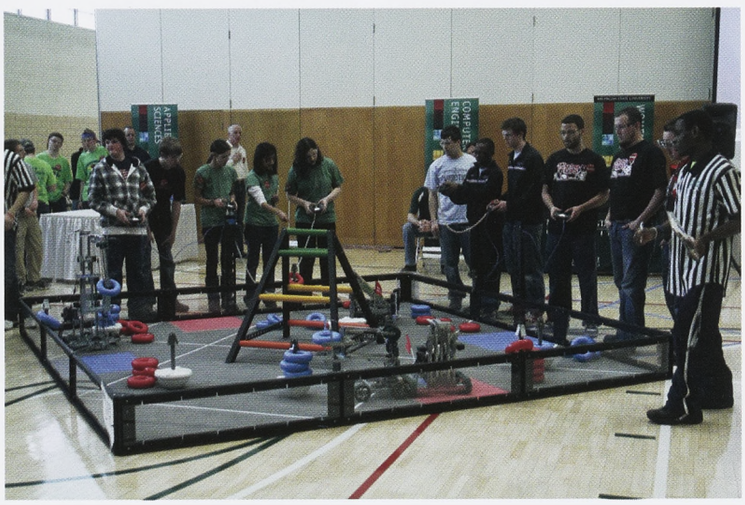
So for those less victorious at this year's Spartan VEX Robotics Challenge, there is certainly ample opportunity to return to the ring next year with a stronger and better robot competitor – and perhaps even learn a thing or two about them along the way.

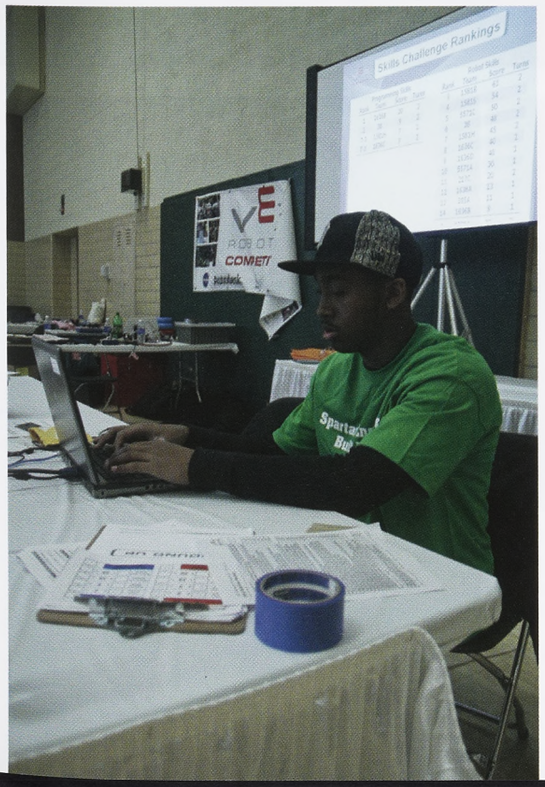
TYPEkritika bharadwaj/PHOTOveronica nagy/DESIGNbrendan prost

The robots were handmade by those who partcipated. Students used remotes to control their robots to lift the different target rings, sometimes scoring for their team, or taking away points from their opponent.



High School students from around the state gathered at IM Circle for the Spartan VEX Robotics Challenge. MSU engineering students helped keep score and referee.





The MSU College of Engineering sponsored the event and had students working the Spartan VEX Robotics Challenge. Teams raced against each other in two minute rounds.

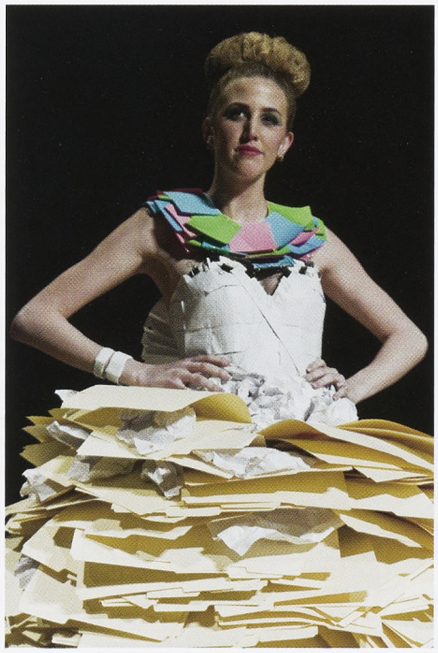
Freshman Eddie Franklin keeps the rankings up-to-date after each match. The event was sponsored by VEX, along with the MSU College of Engineering, which provided the parts needed to create the robots.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO cassie allore/DESIGN jessica halfyard

Gina Murdoch shows off the designs of senior Anna Motz on the runway. The dress, titled "Swatches" was made using found fabrics.



Jillian Carol takes to the runway in a design created by sophomore Aubrey Owada. This dress was inspired by and created entirely out of office materials.



Senior Milica Mandie poses in a military-themed dress on the runway during the show. Senior Stephanie Cook designed the army-green piece "Make Fashion Not War" and adorned her model's back with a peace sign.



pushing the boundaries

The ATD Fashion Show showcases MSU's vanguards of design

Tension saturated the stuffy air of the backstage hallway in the Pasant Theatre before the Apparel and Textile Design (ATD) Fashion Show as the colorful blurs of aspirant student designers and models flashed back and forth between tiny dressing rooms.

Their frantic pace and chatter was broken only for seconds by Professor Rebecca Shuiling's stern reminder at their doors to line up behind stage at 6:30 p.m. sharp, a cautionary "or else" implicit in her wake. As the words evaporated away, once-frozen mascara brushes rapidly finished their upward strokes while steady eye pencils completed whirling lines of exotic patterns on models' faces.

With a half hour left until show time on the night of Feb. 26, high-heeled models clicked and clacked their way into position, clad in dresses whose sole uniting feature was their outrageousness. Scraps of feathers, glitter and other unidentifiable materials littered the wooden floor in the wake of practiced struts. Beyond the curtains, a sold-out audience buzzed with anticipation for the promised shock inherent in the avant-garde—the show's purposefully ambiguous theme.

Fortunately, they weren't disappointed. First on the runway was "Your Birthday Suit," a short and colorful balloon-covered dress dipped in sprinkles and designed by sophomore Kathryn Shearer for her ATD 121 class.

"We were supposed to make a garment out of unconventional items, so nothing like regular fabric," she said.

However, "unconventional" may have been an understatement, as even "avant-garde" seemed too modest a theme for some of the ensembles that graced the stage. Yet a combination of both of these themes was the compulsory guideline for the night, laid down in December by a design committee that selected only 54 out of 104 pieces submitted.

There was "The Office," a dress with a bodice of loose-leaf paper and a train of manila folders, "Telegraphy," a dangling array of black and white telephone cords and rotary dials, and "Naturally Delicious," a tight-fitting costume made predominantly from red Doritos bags, to name just a few.

"We were really pushing over the top, beautiful, styled, really crazy, just a lot of really 'wow' pieces," senior and student director Leigh Gervasi said.

In past years, when the Student Apparel Design Association (SADA) ran the show, anyone could enter, Gervasi said. This year, her fall semester ATD 439 portfolio development class took over and put a greater emphasis on exclusivity; they enlisted a panel of judges, elected a committee to sift through entries and scaled the show down to 600 seats.

At the end of the night, four awards were given in the categories of Most Innovative, Judges' Choice, Best in Show and Best Conceptual Design. The latter was granted to one of Gervasi's designs, aptly titled "This Book Belongs to." Hard book covers bound by hinges comprised the stiff top, while pages folded into dizzying pinwheels spiraled towards the bottom.

"It's so amazing to see the dress with hair and makeup on a stage," Gervasi said. "It's just a whole different piece; it's beautiful. It's like an art piece."

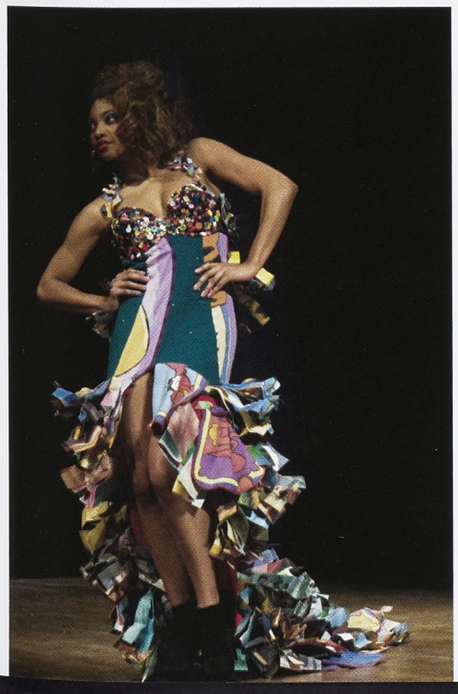
However, the fate of that which breaks with the status quo is appropriately precarious. Put more simply, it's a safe bet to say that most MSU students prefer not to attend parties looking like an art piece.

And so as the applause ceased, the destiny of the dresses became a mystery. Perhaps they would be taken to another planet?

"A lot of people have actually encouraged me to take a shower in the dress," senior designer Bethany Ginther laughed, scanning her dress comprised entirely of loofahs. "But actually, a lot of people have asked if they could wear it for Halloween."

Other designers said their creations might be displayed around campus if they got lucky, but would most likely be delegated to the closet if not. Yet, regardless of their destiny, they will remain a testament to the truly bizarre.

Till then, here's to the first year of a fashion show that awoke MSU's drowsy vanguards of design.





Senior Chrissy Shaver puts the finishing touches on junior Kerry VanDis' outfit. Designers scrambled backstage before the show to make sure their ensembles were complete.

For the sustainable-themed fashion show, Krystle McKay created her dress titled "Gaudy Disney Fantasy." Her model, Alfia Gross, made her way down the runway, stopping to pose intermittently.

shipping up to east lansing

St. Patrick's Day at MSU is an all-day festival of green-tinged fun

In the early hours of what appeared to be a regular Thursday, students emerged from their slumber to descend upon downtown East Lansing. But on this particular day, with the red-orange, green and white flag flying high over Dublin Square on Abbot Road, these students weren't heading to class right away. They were lining up in masses outside the bars, and that could only mean one thing: It's St. Patrick's Day at MSU once again.

Easily the second biggest social event at MSU after Halloween, St. Patrick's Day has become a traditional MSU party-fest. While the day itself is intended to commemorate the death of the patron saint of Ireland, it seems more akin to a dawn-to-dusk drinking marathon for many students at MSU. It didn't really matter that St. Paddy's fell on a Thursday this year, as thousands of students dropped whatever else they were doing to indulge in an all-day celebration with green beer and green garb.

Senior Shawn Cormier started his day at 9 a.m. at The Riv. Later on in the afternoon, he planned on going to Harper's, then eventually heading back to his place for a more relaxed setting with a barbeque. A veteran of three St. Patrick's Day celebrations at MSU, Cormier said he knew what it was like to be in for the long haul.

March 17 this year felt like the first true day of spring, and as the sun and warm temperatures emerged, so did the denizens of MSU from within their winter confines, with house parties spilling out onto front lawns from Harrison to Hagadorn. Each block had several groupings of gamboling greens - partygoers decked out in MSU gear and St. Patrick's-themed shirts ("Get Ready to Stumble," read one), along with those plastic leprechaun hats.

The day wasn't all about leisure, however. For sophomore and Pi Kappa Alpha pledge Kevin Wawa, some sacrifice was required.

"I had to wake up at 3 a.m. to wait in line at the bar, to save some spots for some of the actives," he said. On top of that, he had a quiz at 6 p.m., but planned on partying afterward.

Adding to the excitement of the day was the beginning of the second round of the NCAA men's basketball tournament, including MSU's matchup against the University of California, Los Angeles. That's what senior Art Nowakowski was looking forward to after his shift as the bouncer at Rick's American Cafe. Nowakowski wasn't a part of the big morning rush but figured he would see some unusual sights in his time on the job.

"(This job) desensitizes you to things," he said. "You definitely become more patient."

Though the afternoon atmosphere around East Lansing's neighborhoods was otherwise fun and carefree, the lucidity of interviewees for this story seemed to deteriorate as the day wore on. When asked about his day so far and what his plans were for the rest of it, senior Kurt Rosenberg replied with "Irish car bombs and Irish car bombs," respectively.

The men's basketball Spartans ended up losing after a furious comeback in the second half, meaning a one-and-done exit for the Spartans after two Final Four appearances. However, the festive mood of St. Patrick's Day wouldn't give way to drunken, rage-filled riots that followed tournament losses in the past. Besides, senior Oliver Lindsay predicted earlier in the day that he, along with many other of his Spartan brethren, would barely make it to the 9:20 pm. tip-off.

"I probably won't be awake for the MSU game," he said. Only on St. Patrick's Day at MSU.



Guests enjoy beers and good friends on the Harper's Restaurant and Brewpub patio on St. Patrick's Day. Harpers hosted a St. Patrick's Day Party which included green beer, free breakfast and Irish girls.



natalie kolb



natalie kolb

Seated outside of Theta Delta Chi, friends of the fraternity hold their beers up in response to cars honking at their "you honk we drink" sign. Members visiting the house were invited to sit on the roof or enjoy comfortable seating on the lawn.



TYPE **jacob kanclerz**/PHOTO **cassie allore, natalie kolb, veronica nagy**/
DESIGN **jessica halfyard**

Holding a 'You Honk, We Drink' sign, freshman Maeve McHugh parties with junior Zachary Morris Fealk and sophomore Holly Johnson on Avalon Cooperative's front porch. Like several East Lansing residences that day, Avalon hosted a house party.



veronica nagy



natalie kolb



natalie kolb



cassie allore

St. Patrick's Day participants mingle on and around 510 Park Avenue late in the afternoon. The house attracted many visitors and offered various drinking games around the outside of the house including beer pong and shot-gunning.

Spectator Jared Lee listens intently as senior Meghan Kennedy tunes her bagpipe. Kennedy, who has been playing the bagpipes for six years, played her favorite tune "Scotland The Brave."

Juniors Brita Olson and Carly St. John pause on the stoop of the Hedrick Cooperative. They linked arms and shared a celebratory St. Patrick's Day chug.

stages of freedom

Malaysian Cultural Society presents history of their home country

This year's Malaysian Culture Night included throat-slitting, European invasions and a Far East version of angel hair pasta. Taking the stage at MacDonald Middle School on Mar. 19, the Malaysian Cultural Society presented "Merdeka," a Malay word meaning independence, showcasing the country's road to independence in the most literal way possible.

After a pre-dinner of bihun goreng, a fried Malaysian noodle dish, Malaysian men and women of all ages filed into the auditorium, some draped in baju kurung, traditional female attire that includes a hijab, an Islamic headdress that covers a woman's hair and neck.

The show that followed was a linear representation of Malaysia's road to self-government, which was finally achieved in 1957 after centuries of struggle with foreign occupation. One unique aspect of the country's history, senior Aizat Rahim said, is that Malaysians achieved independence without any bloodshed. Though Malaysians differ vastly in culture and religion, common ground can be found in their system of government. Rahim likened Malaysia's culture to a "mini America"—a variety of people and ethnicities congregating in one area to form a new identity.

The play took the audience back to 1511 when Portuguese soldiers invaded the Port of Malacca, seizing power from local sultans and beginning the region's long conflict with outside powers. The set was nearly non-existent, leaving much up to audience imagination. Drawn-on curly mustaches, top hats and coattails marked the Portuguese, followed by a British general with an aluminum foil pipe.

Come World War II, a regiment of elementary school-aged Japanese soldiers wielding rising sun flags invaded, cardboard bolt-action rifles in hand and scuffed Adidas sneakers peeking out from beneath their military uniforms. Each country's occupation was a vehicle for a different kind of performance. Battles with the British brought out intricate stage combat and martial arts—kicking, punching and even stabbing with aluminum foil swords set to tribal drumbeats. Less violent moments were filled with synchronized dances by colorfully costumed women.

The show ended as most American ones begin: with a crowd-standing version of the national anthem. Aside from a crescent moon and a star in which the 50 white stars would normally sit, the Malaysian flag is identical to America's: a 14-striped and colored pattern even those with no connection to Malaysia may recognize as a symbol of freedom.



MSU students, along with local residents, perform a student-written play entitled "Merdeka." The play chronicled the history of Malaysian independence.

TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN brendan prost



"One unique aspect of the country's history is that Malaysians achieved independence without any bloodshed."

-Aizat Rahim, senior

Sophomore Nazrin Dean entertains his friend's son before the beginning of the play during Malaysian Culture Night 2011. The night was hosted by the Malaysian Cultural Society, the Office for International Students and Scholars and Malaysian Students' Department, Chicago.



Second year grad student Sarifah Syedanuar applies stage makeup to Zahrin Mohtar before the performance. The Malaysian culture was represented through a play entitled "Merdeka," a Malay word for independence.

TYPEcourtney zott/PHOTOveronica nagy/DESIGNbetsy eber

a tale of (reverse) robin hood

MSU students join residents in protests at the Capitol

Once upon a time (Nov. 2, 2010 to be exact), the Michigan majority elected Rick Snyder for governor, definitively adding the state to a bright, Republican-red swath that blanketed the nation's midterm victory map.

This new color of choice was a product of a nation-wide dissatisfaction with the economy and President Barack Obama's lack of promised change; an implication of a loss of faith in the Democratic party and a desperate quest by the masses for an alternative solution at all levels of government. Ultimately, being blue just wasn't cutting it anymore.

And so on the heels of these newfound sentiments arrived Mr. Snyder, "one tough nerd" with an ambitious goal to reinvent Michigan.

Three months later, however, a slight mix up occurred regarding just how tough, "tough" really was.

Flash-forward to the week of March 14, and the normally quiet, neatly kept lawn of the Lansing Capitol building was overrun by 3,000 schoolteachers, seniors, students and union members vehemently chanting against a governor many of them had voted for. Their mantras ranged from comedic assertions like "Rick's a dick!" to vulnerable pleas of "It's not fair!" and "That's not right!"

If one thing was certain, Snyder's recent budget proposal for the 2012 fiscal year wasn't going to fly.

"It's not even about balancing the budget," Betty Burgis, a senior from Waterford, said amid the din. "He's just trying to be Robin Hood in reverse."

Indeed, Snyder's proposed repeal of tax exemptions for seniors and low-income workers who accompanied a $1.7 billion tax break for businesses earned him notoriety among the protesters. To them, he represented the antagonist in an emerging antithetical representation of this classic English folktale. He called the concept "shared sacrifice," while they deemed it merely a paradoxical "robbing from the poor and giving to the rich" ideology.

"Frankly, it's about time Michigan got pissed off. It really is," Mount Pleasant resident Rachael Leny said, glancing triumphantly out at the crowd. "I feel like we're much too quiet with what's going on, and I'm here because we need to take back control."

Yet such simple expressions of what appeared to be blatant moral injustices had to be taken with a $1.4 billion grain of salt. In other words, Michigan's huge budget deficit could not be ignored.

Snyder's philosophy was that Michigan's businesses, especially the smaller ones, were the catalyst to rejuvenating the state's long-depressed economy. Giving companies a tax break would provide them with an incentive to expand and create new jobs, while also attracting out-of-state entrepreneurs.

However, this meant balancing the budget in unpopular ways. At the Capitol, the cries were specifically against an elimination of the Earned Income Tax Credit, a tax exemption of up to $1,000 for low-income workers, and a repeal of the tax-free status of private and public pensions for seniors. In addition, protestors denounced a 15 percent cut in higher education appropriations and a decrease of $470 per student in the public education system.

"I have a problem with it because while they're doing all that, they're giving the corporations huge, huge tax cuts and they're taxing the people that can't afford to be taxed anymore," senior Jon Vancamp said.

On top of it all, another issue that stirred angry packs of union workers, proudly donning their work clothes and citing solidarity with the middle class of Wisconsin, was the Emergency Financial Manager bill. Under the bill, financial managers are given power to override the local elected government and cancel union contracts.

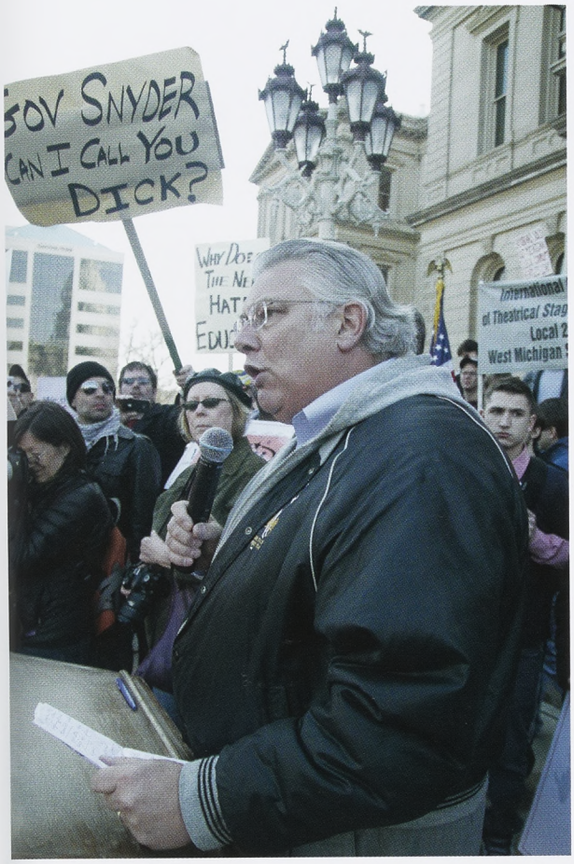
"There's no oversight under the current plan," U of M Flint student Nick Hale said. "It gives the governor an inordinate amount of control over local affairs, and I think that goes against the Federalist ideas of the Constitution."

The tale is far from finished, though. In fact, it has just begun. As the dull thuds of fists faded from the Capitol's interior walls and five steadfast protesters were taken away in handcuffs, junior Andrew Schireson would only say one thing to Governor Snyder.

In the words of Neil Young: "Keep on rockin' in the free world."

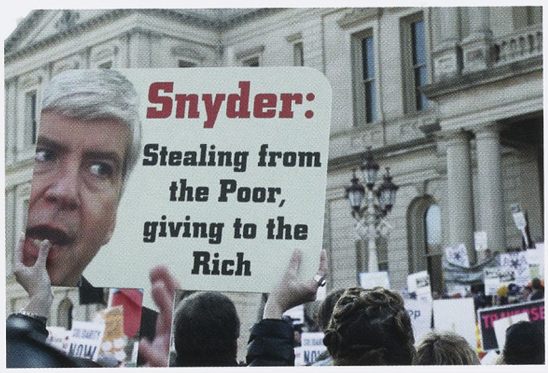






The final speaker at the Capitol, Mark Gaffney, Michigan AFL-CIO President tells the people that Governor Snyder and the newly elected Congress are not following the democratic process. He gave a statement, "The final passage of the Emergency Managers legislation package... is an affront to the bedrock principle of a representative democracy that our nation was founded upon."

Numerous protest signs gave life to the crowd of 3, 000 protesters. Signs called for the recall of Governor Synder, the injustice of cutting the education budget and that tax breaks for businesses are injust when taken from seniors and the poor.



Junior Julian Yu stands in front of the Capitol calling for all peoples to stand together for justice. The protests brought no segregation of interests, just an overall calling for the people to let their voices be heard.



passion for fashion

VIM magazine releases its second issue



When fans pour into the Stadium on a crisp Saturday morning to watch the Spartans take on a rival football team, the Michigan State Fight Song can be heard for blocks. And the energy coursing through the crowd as they yell "Spartan teams are bound to win, they're fighting on a vim," is exactly what a new fashion and design publication on campus hopes to embody with its telltale name - VIM.

"[Vim] means 'enthusiasm,' and that is how we wanted our readers to feel about fashion and design," senior and co-editor-in-chief Julie Christopherson said.

The magazine's staff took to Farm Lane on Wednesday, Mar. 16 to distribute free copies of the magazine with an enthusiasm befitting the spirit of their publication, handing out nearly 2,000 copies of VIM's second issue at The Rock between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Copies of VIM's debut issue in October 2010 were personally distributed by VIM representatives at locations like the Union, the library, and the Starbucks on Grand River Avenue on previous occasions. However, that approach didn't necessarily stir up enough vim for VIM, leading the staff deciding to hand out copies at one central location this time around.

"We'd like to be more active," senior Danielle Lauhoff, advertising director of VIM, said. "We had a lot of leftover copies last time, and hopefully this time we won't have any."

In line with VIM's goal to do more than just be another fashion magazine, the newest issue continues to expand its repertoire of content. The fall issue, in addition to the expected fashion and beauty trends, included advice on hosting a dinner party, tips on leading a less stressful life, and a top ten list of things to do before graduation. The winter/spring issue aimed for a more local angle, profiling East Lansing clothing shop DEFYE and examining fashion trends around campus. Still, to keep the audience from fashion-overload, VIM supplemented the glamorous photography spreads and make-up tips with other pieces of content, like advice on simple ways to stay happy.

Though this is only VIM's second print run since it was founded in Jan. 2010, its staff has been drumming up hype over the internet, using as many outlets as possible to reach the student body. Between deadlines, the magazine staff routinely updates the VIM Facebook and Twitter accounts. Status updates, tweets and wall posts give followers a constant stream of fashion news often supplemented with links to the VIM blog. The blog has new entries on an almost daily basis which include detailed fashion commentary, as well as photos, quotes of the day, reviews and interviews.

But the staff at VIM aim to do more than reach out to a wider audience. One of the magazine's main goals is to continue their financial success. While their first issue was sponsored by ASMSU, the campus student government, the second issue was paid for entirely by ad revenue and staff fundraisers. Even without external funding, VIM was able to cover costs and keep the magazine free for readers.

As they focus on moving beyond a niche market, VIM hopes to make the world of fashion accessible all students as the definitive source for style at State. And bit by bit, students on campus seem to be warming up to the idea of a style magazine for students by students.

"Honestly, I had no idea that State had a fashion magazine. I haven't seen it around but it seems like a cool idea," freshman Andrew Salisbury said. "It's good that they do more than just style stuff too, I feel like the broader their stories are, the more people they'll attract."



Spread out for the viewing pleasure of Michigan State students, VIM magazine featured their first and second issues in front of the Auditorium. Over 2,000 copies of the magazine we're distributed to readers on campus.

TYPEadelina schmidt/PHOTOchase o'black/DESIGNsaralee gordon

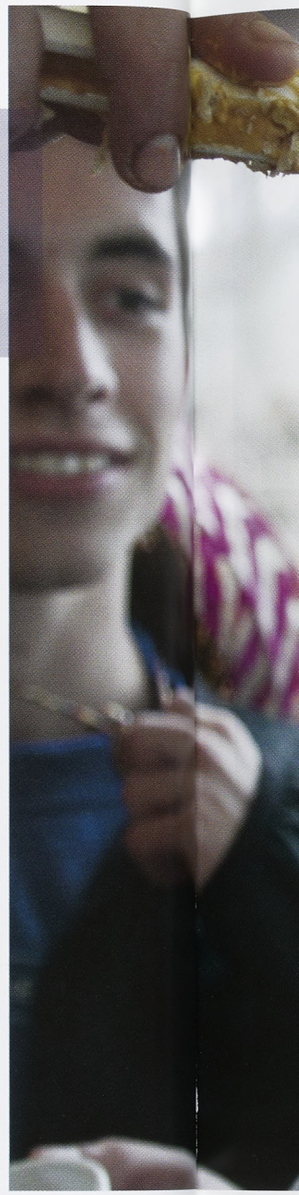




Interior design senior and co-editor-in-chief Julie Christopherson works her shift handing out this season's issue of VIM magazine. VIM's content covers both men and women's fashion trends.

Freshman VIM PR team member Olivia Mashak gives an issue of VIM to a student passing by the auditorium. VIM also uses Twitter and Facebook accounts to speak their voice.

TYPE kritika bharadwaj/PHOTO anthony thibodeau/DESIGN betsy eber



Freshman Caleb Knight receives the last of the nachos that the MSU Telemarketers had to offer. Students from all classes attended Nachofest celebrating the greatness of beer and nachos.

Junior Dominic Hense downs his beer after hitting one of the piñatas at Nachofest. The piñatas were filled with numerous gifts for the students attending the event.



nachofest 6.5

Nachofest celebrates six and a half years at MSU

Nothing more speaks of Nachofest than enormous white tents, multiple beer kegs and tables piled with nachos, salsa and steaming cheese sauce.

Located in the backyard of 235 Stoddard Ave., Apr. 16 welcomed the 11th Nachofest at MSU. Many groups could be spotted moseying along Grand River Avenue sporting sombreros and brightly colored T-shirts that read 'Nachofest makes the alcohol flow.'

What originally started as an MSU Telemarketers colleagues and friends reunion in 2005 has morphed into thousands of people coming out to enjoy a day of beer, nachos and the company of friends.

"It started as an inside joke where one of our friends would go to all these festivals. He went to this nacho festival and sausage festival, and so we decided why don't we have a nacho fest," Nachofest committee alumnus Brian Keehner said.

A little after noon, a huge crowd hovered under a tent and began cheering on the speaker for the day, Steve Hill.

"Rule one of today: don't touch my piñatas," Hill said, pointing to the paper decorations as the crowd erupted in laughter. "Rule two: today's going to be the best day of your lives."

As the brief speech ended, the crowd quickly dispersed, rushing to the long queues for nachos. Others huddled over beer kegs, anxiously squeezing themselves in to fill their cups. While some purchased the $20 party packages including the event T-shirt and a plastic mug with the Nachofest logo, regular cups were also available for those who wished to be economical.

Similar to the choice in cups, individuals had the choice of either wearing Nachofest shirts or to follow the Nachofest 6.5 theme of Power Rangers.

"There's a different theme twice every year," senior Danielle Wojno said. "Last semester it was Nachtoberfest like the Octoberfest festival. The semester before that the theme was Jersey Shore."

Amid the crackle of nachos, the pitter-patter of raindrops and sips of beer, MSU students were not the only ones present at the event. Several parents like Shelly Hill were there for what wasn't their first Nachofest.

"It is my second Nachofest. Last time, I would say there were about 800 people here. Also, I see a lot more parents here than last time," Hill said.

Despite 40 kegs worth of beer being consumed by the crowd, junior Marco Salomone said there hasn't been any trouble with the law.

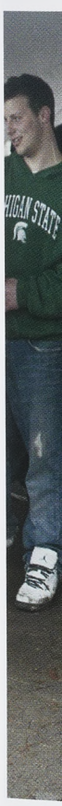
"We really want to make sure that this event is not like Cedar Fest. So we have no music, so there's no noise violation. We also haven't had any fires," he said.

Without the risk of legal intervention, drinking is not the only thing Nachofest participants look forward to. The Guac-off unites people for tasting different guacamole brought by visitors.

What makes the event even more special than the food and drink is the relationship shared between the committee members. Member Arj Johnson said more out of state MSU graduates are attending. Both committee members Dave Tomke and Brian Keehner have graduated, but make an effort to visit every Nachofest.

"I think the real purpose of this event is companionship… and to maintain our Spartan relationship," Tomke said.

And Tomke might be right. Despite wet jackets and mud-stained shoes, excited screams and warm hugs between old friends and new made this year's Nachofest all that more memorable for those present.



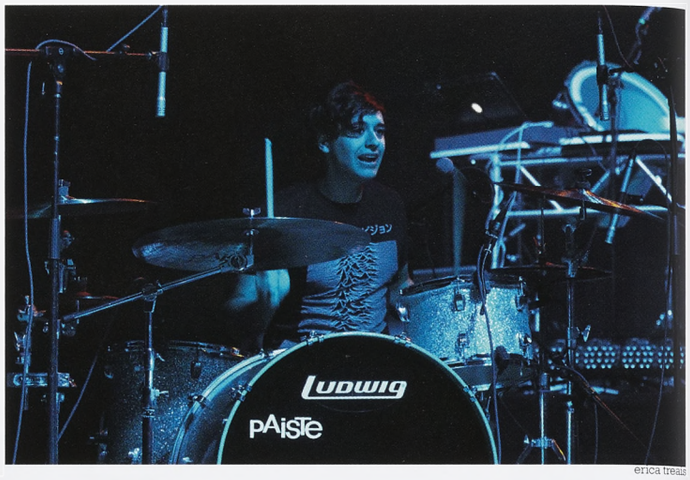






The excited crowd gathers around to watch a mud fight, which broke out in the middle of Nachofest. Rain dominated Nachofest, however this did not stop students from partaking in the events.

Seniors Alex Strauch and Brian Keehner show their excitement for Nachofest by celebrating with their pants at their ankles. The MSU Telemarketers put on this years celebration as they have in past years.



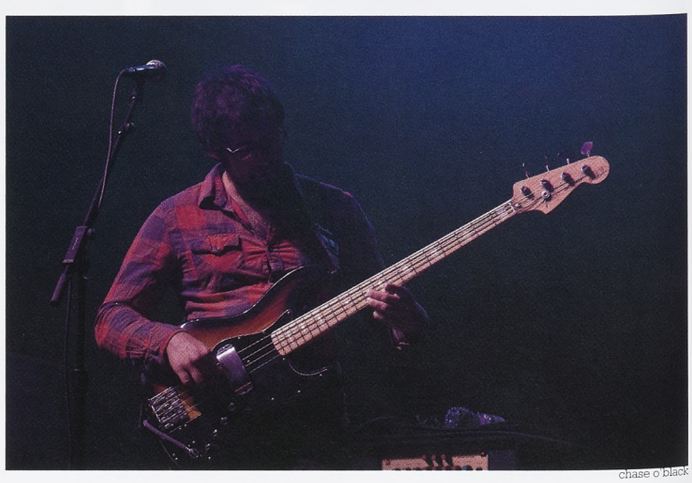
erica treas

Kelley James drummer gets the crowd hype while making up beats for James's freestyle. James and Mike Posner performed together at the MSU Auditorium.



chase o'black

Mike Posner gets personal during the singing of his hit single "Please Don't Go." Thousands of Michigan State students showed up on Apr. 13 to rock with Posner during his 2011 Tour.



chase o'black

Kelley James Band bassist gets groovy during their song "Stalker" that related to Facebook's "stalking" phenomenon. Kelley James and crew have been touring along Mike Posner for the entire month of April.

TYPEian kullgren/PHOTOchase o'black/
erica treais/DESIGNbrendan prost

homecoming

Michigan native Mike Posner performs at MSU, displaying his talents to fans and friends

The real Mike Posner is just as spring-loaded as his onstage persona. When he first laid eyes on his group of friends packed in a small dressing room backstage at the Auditorium, he sprang into a haphazard run, hugging the first person in the circle and working his way around.

Smelling strongly of generic, shaving cream-esque men's body wash, Posner had just finished a long post-concert shower—one that he may have needed very badly. Just minutes before, he had been drenched in sweat, glitter and whatever rubs off a blonde female audience member in a short skirt caressing you onstage. Thousands of students attended the Apr. 13 show—standing, dancing and singing along to Posner's string of pop-R&B anthems. For most, it was a chance to see a Michigan-raised artist recently turned superstar. But a few were just seeing an old friend.

"I've known him since sixth grade, we used to play drums together in high school," senior Andrew Weickmann said while waiting in the dressing room to see Posner after the show. "We've been friends pretty much since."

Freshman Alex Scharg has known Posner since childhood—their families are close friends, spending every Passover and Independence Day together.

"It's weird that Mike's nationally known, but it's not weird just to see him in person," Scharg said.

Weickmann said Posner's generous personality has remained constant despite his success. Last summer he went with Posner and several other friends to the Bonnaroo Music & Arts festival. Weickmann recounted how Posner greeted every fan who waited, even sacrificing his shoes to one, going barefoot the rest of the festival.

Though he is now savoring stardom, it wasn't even a year ago that Posner was an undergraduate at Duke University, much like his Spartan friends here. And the collegiate spirit hasn't left him yet.

"I still feel like one of them, man," Posner said after the show. "I kind of have a job that lets me be a professional college student to a certain extent."

Even though he graduated a Blue Devil, Posner certainly bleeds a little green and white.

"I've got nothing but love. There's no place in the world I owe more to than East Lansing," He said. "I just want to make Michigan proud."

Over an hour earlier, a stoic-faced Posner swaggered onto the stage in white And1 high tops, breaking into a wide smile at the first chorus of "Please Don't Go," the first track on his debut album "31 Minutes to Takeoff." He bounced around the stage singing over the roaring bass and synthesizer backup, shamelessly flirting with ecstatic women in the front rows. With fans calling him back to the stage for an encore, Posner performed his popular single "Cooler Than Me" wearing Kalin Lucas' signature "1" jersey, sending roars through the crowd.

Freshman Sara Hess sat poised at her computer the morning tickets went on sale, ready to strike at the 10 o'clock release time.

"He sounds different from anyone else," She said. "His songs aren't like normal mainstream songs."

But it wasn't just the audience who was pumped up to be there.

"It feels good to be home," Posner told the crowd. "This is the first place in the world that supported my music."

For Posner, playing at MSU had special significance.

"I'm speechless, man," Posner said. "To look into the crowd and look directly at the people that are responsible for me being able to live my dreams is a feeling I can't explain."



erica treais

Audience members sing and dance at the Mike Posner concert at the Auditorium Apr. 13. Posner performed with opening act Kelley James.



Junior Kammer Offenhauser takes a bite out of his Smokey Dog as he watches students walk past. What Up Dawg?, a hot dog bar, offers over eight different varieties.

TYPEadelina schmidt/PHOTOcassie allore/DESIGNjessica halfyard

stomachs of steel

Sales and Marketing Club hosts Coney Dawg Challenge

Two guys. 10 coney dogs. One time to beat.

The smell of brats and grilled onions hung in the air as sophomores Alex Turner and Michael Merfert sat side by side and tore into their hot dogs, matching each other bite for ravenous bite. Faces red and cheeks bulging, the contestants choked down mouthfuls, not bothering to stop and taste the food.

"I feel fine now, but in the middle of it [the competition], that was awful," Turner said upon finishing the last hot dog of the challenge. "If I could do it differently, I'd chew more."

Turner wasn't the only one who stepped up to the plate and fought for the glory of eating five hot dogs smothered in mustard, chili and onions as fast as possible. The "4/20 Coney Dawg Challenge," hosted on April 20 by the MSU Sales and Marketing Club and local eatery What Up Dawg?, drew more than 30 challengers vying for the grand prize: two tickets to an all-you-can-eat and drink suite at the Lugnut's Stadium.

The competition went from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and was open to anyone with an appetite. Volunteers from the club worked shifts at the restaurant, ensuring that interested competitors knew the rules of the challenge and signed a waiver before participating. Club members filled What Up Dawg? with vibrant energy, cheering on participants, shouting out times and even sharing strategies, though each contestant had his or her own way of forcing the dogs down.

"I've never done any official eating contests before; my only strategy was to eat fast. But towards the end, dipping [the hot dogs] into the cups of water really helped. The buns just dissolve and they're way easier to eat," alumni Suporn Teng, a competitor toward the end of the night, said.

While contestants perfected their techniques, the Sales and Marketing Club had its own strategy on making the challenge a fundraising success.

"We wanted something fun and relaxing, and this fundraiser was a great opportunity to partner with a new business. What Up Dawg? just opened and the owner's an MSU alum, so it was perfect," senior and club president Rachelle Beazley said. "We chose 4/20 to host our event because it's notorious as a day of 'the munchies,' so we thought we'd take advantage of that."

"We take different trips throughout the year. This year we did three sales blitzes and we took a trip to Germany, so the funds are mostly going towards covering transportation costs," Beazley added. Sales blitzes, she explained, are learning experiences tailored toward sales and marketing majors. Club members compete with clubs from other colleges in mock sales situations, earning points for their team based on net sales. The blitzes are a club highlight and a major draw for business students looking to polish their skills in sales.

Club members also got first hand marketing experience the night of the event, greeting customers the instant they got to the restaurant.

"Hey! Have you heard about the Coney Dawg challenge? Five coneys for $10; it's a discount, and you could win tickets to the Lugnut's suite! Come on, five really isn't that many," Beazely told Merfert as he entered the establishment.

"I didn't know about the competition when I got here, I was just hungry and she [Beazely] sold it to me when I walked in," Merfert said.

As the night came to a close, the challenge looked to be about over as most participants fell minutes short of the top time, 1:53, put up around 7 p.m. But by 10:45 pm, senior Chad Peltier stole the competition with a time of 1:43, eating an average of one hot dog every 20 seconds and concluding the challenge with an exciting turn of events.



What Up Dawg offers numerous "signature dawgs" in addition to customizable options. The restaurant is located on M.A.C. in East Lansing.



FEATURES

In an effort to expose the underlying issues directly and indirectly affecting the greater Spartan community, our content department dug around campus to unearth conflicts, resolutions and the unfamiliar.

From budget cuts and gender neutral housing to coal use and recapturing the 60s, seven writers become acquainted with the seemingly less explored and diverse layers of Michigan State University.



TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO chase o'black/DESIGN jessica halfyard



one day at a time



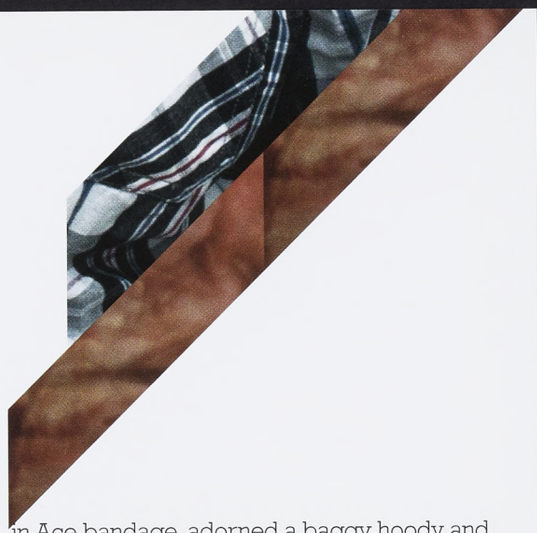
Like most guys, sophomore Allen Price likes women. He has a girlfriend who goes to Central Michigan University, so he's been learning how to do the whole long distance thing. He's not a very flashy dresser, more of the casual, laid-back type. Even so, Allen's hair is styled masterfully: intentional messy spikes in the front, sculpted with a product that preserves the natural dry look. Masses of silver rings cling to his lobes, and his sleek, thick-rimmed frames are far too stylish for the rest of his ensemble. Today he's wearing a forest green T-shirt displaying a graphic from the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference (MBLGATACC). Under it, invisible to onlookers, an entire role of ace bandage and two binders flatten his double "D" cup breasts, constricting the entire upper half of his body.

But Allen is still a man, at least today. Some days he wakes up as Shannon, his female version, the one who matches his body's God-given biological features.

Shannon never knows which gender she will feel like until the morning—it's essentially a toss-up. Every morning she wakes up and can immediately feel which one she is that day, even while alone in her room. She has two separate wardrobes in her closet. One for Shannon and one for Allen. On some male days, she even uses the men's bathroom.

"I wake up, and that's what happens," she said. "You just kind of know. It's hard to explain."

Hard to explain, because the average person has never experienced a similar feeling. But there's an important distinction: she doesn't wake up as a different person. Her gender may change, but her personality is unwavering.



Shannon isn't just a member of MSU's Lesbian Bisexual Gay Transgender (LBGT) community; she may also be the only student here who calls herself bi-gender—a term she uses to describe her identity—or a similar label. Both transgender and gender queer are broad, vague terms because they are meant to be largely self-applied, said Deanna Hurlbert, assistant director and center liaison of the MSU LBGT Resource Center. While traditional gender roles are black and white, these terms attempt to break that mold.

"One of the things that's cool about queerness is that it's not another box," Hurlbert said. "Queer by definition isn't strictly definable."

While many transgender students feel uncomfortable in their biological skin, Shannon's case is far more complicated. Her skin changes every day. Even attending a university with 47,000 students, she has never met another bi-gender student here. In fact, she has only met one other bi-gender person in her life, and that was at the MBLGTACC conference. Her transgender experience is far from a typical one, if any can be described that way. In LBGT forums around campus, she's the sole attendee who identifies as bi-gender or a comparable term. She has met female-bodied students who also bind (a verb used to describe flattening breasts with Ace bandages and certain clothing), but none who say they are bi-gendered. Naturally, she feels alone sometimes.

"I can't just talk to someone about my experience, because they don't understand," she said.

Hurlbert said she knows of about only eight transgender students at MSU who are out and organized in some way.

"And that's probably just a small piece," she said, noting there is no absolute number, and there may be many more who aren't out in the open.

Hurlbert said she has never encountered a case quite like Shannon's at MSU.

"For most people ... gender is more consistent or fluid," Hurlbert said.

Both Shannon and Allen, female and male, are attracted to women; but gender identity and sexuality are completely separate issues. A whole other can of worms, as Shannon describes it.

"I'm attracted to females, but on my female days I'll walk into a room and identify with the female gender. They are, to me, alike. On my male days they are other," Shannon said. Though she didn't fully accept herself as bi-gender until the end of her freshman year, she has known she liked women for nearly as long as she can remember.

"I had crushes on my babysitter when I was little. So yeah, I knew," she said, breaking into a smile and giving a few chuckles.

Allen, on the other hand, is a new development, name-wise at least. While she used to shorten Shannon to Shan, it didn't celebrate each gender appropriately. Now her middle name is legally Allen, which she uses on her male days—one of the boldest actions she's taken so far in her quest to find her identity.

In hindsight, Shannon's struggle had been a long one.

In third grade her teacher would have boys versus girls games in the classroom, and it would gnaw at her when she wasn't allowed to be on the boys' team some days. At her high school in Centerline, she stayed home on prom night. Her school didn't allow same-sex couples at the dance, nor did they provide any LBGT resources for students. At home, she didn't exactly get much support from her mother.

"She's accepted my sexuality, I think. But my gender identity, that's a whole other can of worms that she's just not ready to open yet," Shannon said, explaining that her mother tries to accept it, but doesn't know how to handle it all quite yet.

"She's made it clear to me she's not ready to address that just yet...It bothers me a great deal," Shannon said in a collected, matter-of-fact tone.

While Shannon's mother is still coming around, her friends are overwhelmingly supportive. She struggled with bullying in middle school, and didn't make many close friends in high school. Among a sea of faces in East Lansing, she has finally forged significant bonds.

"I wouldn't be handling everything as well as I like to think that I do without the support of my friends," Shannon said. "[Before coming to MSU] I've never actually had meaningful social connections before."

While college provides many students with an opportunity to chart a course for their career path, Shannon has used it to navigate a far more primary life issue.

"I didn't understand until I got to college that sexual orientation is separate from gender identity," she said. "It's kind of where I put a word on everything."

Figuring out how to be a male at the drop of a hat isn't easy, especially with a "very female body." But so far, she at least has a goal.

"My goal would be to be able to walk into a public place and be called 'sir,'" she says with conviction, as if she has adopted the statement as her doctrine.

One night, the first time Shannon ever tried binding, she got her wish. After looking up how to do it online, she carefully wrapped her torso in Ace bandage, adorned a baggy hoody and walked to McDonalds on Grand River Avenue. She concentrated on lowering her voice as she approached the counter and ordered. For the first time, a stranger, the cashier at the counter, responded with 'sir.' And, for the first time, Shannon truly accepted herself as bi-gender.

"I was like 'okay, this male identity is a real thing and very important to me,'" she said. "I still have the female identity, but I need to acknowledge Allen."

Since then she's been binding on her male days, despite orders otherwise from her doctor. She's careful about how tight she wraps it, and makes sure not to wear the bindings for too long. Lately though, she's been doing it less for health reasons. And even when she does, it's not fully satisfying, which has lead her to consider taking an even greater leap: changing her body to physically match Allen. Finding resources on the matter is difficult, but she knows it would involve testosterone doses and likely surgery; at least one to modify her upper half.

"I would like to have something a little bit more androgynous, because I feel like it would cause me a lot less anxiety," she said.

Even if Shannon decides to physically make herself Allen, Allen would likely be back to square one on Shannon days.

"What if I become just stuck in between both genders and I can't pass as either one?" she said. "On my female days, waking up with a beard might be kind of traumatic, more so than waking up as a guy with breasts."

However, there is her girlfriend to consider. They've talked about it briefly, and she said she isn't sure their relationship could survive the transition. Shannon understands—after all, it isn't a dilemma many significant others have to face. As it stands, her girlfriend has never even seen her on a male day. Purely coincidental, she says.

There's also another concern: male pattern baldness runs in her family. She does have one bit of reassurance on the matter, however, her father had amazing hair until he died from cancer in 2009, even through the chemotherapy. He never knew about her sexuality or gender identity struggle. But his brothers, Shannon's uncles, have essentially adopted her and are understanding of her situation, even light-hearted about it at times.

Though the future is still uncertain, hopefully by the time graduation arrives Shannon will have found a way to use her political science degree as a tool to help youth in the LBGT community, specifically reforming sex education in schools to be more inclusive. She wants to have a child, too. Just one though, so neither Shannon nor Allen have to divide their love and energy.

In the face of further state funding cuts, how will MSU weather the storm?

The relative silence of the reception area is unnerving. The busy clacking of the secretary's keyboard the only sound—a dull, rain-like patter that cuts through the weighty air. And then the silence is broken.

"President Simon will see you now."

The long hallway blurs and morphs into an expansive office, shockingly spacious and tastefully adorned with a subtle theme of green. There is a certain ironic disconnect between the luxuriance of the room and the impending topic of conversation with its occupant: MSU's financial fate after years of state funding cuts.

"Well, we were hopeful that as Michigan began this very slow recovery, that universities would be treated better than what we predicted two, three years ago," President Lou Anna K. Simon began, seated at a varnished, circular wooden table near the door.

The rest of the room is barely visible beyond a nearby set of dark leather couches. A Spartan green blanket bearing MSU's familiar "S" lies perfectly folded over the back of one, lending the immaculate space a fleeting, personal touch.

Just two months earlier, newly elected state governor Rick Snyder proposed a 22 percent decrease in state appropriations to Michigan's public universities—15 percent if institutions could avoid a tuition increase of more than 7 percent. Though MSU's largely-prepared financial cadre escaped the embarrassing episode of jaw-dropping that ensued, the cut felt no less "brutal," as President Simon commonly described it in the weeks after.

In fact, Snyder's tough love proposition was a pivotal point in Michigan's steady, 10-year neglect in support for higher education. For MSU, it would mean a staggering $42 million loss in operational funds for the 2011-2012 school year—a sum larger than the combined funding reduction for all of the state's public universities just a year before.

The slash was a harsh wake-up call after years of what now seemed like mere proddings—a brutal fiscal reality shoved in the face of an administration rapidly adapting to a life of penny-pinching.

And almost instantly, probing questions into the university's efficiency arose out of the public's preliminary stupor. Did the school really need vice presidents for every Dean? The largest non-military cafeteria in the nation? The construction of a fancy new art museum?

> "You focus on inefficiencies and you cut as much as you can cut, because every tuition dollar that goes for salary or for office operations is money, you know, that is coming out of these student's pockets."

Leaning back in her chair, President Simon addressed these months-long queries.

"What you're seeing in the press is a way that politicians make public their reasons for why they're going to cut things," she explained. In essence, perceived extravagances—such as the five-year, 41 percent swell in administrative pay recently reported by The Detroit Free Press—were being amplified at the expense of the underlying pragmatism behind such raises.

"Let me ask you a question back," she said, in reference to that topic. "What do you consider administration? You know, from a student perspective."

Anyone not deemed faculty?

"Okay, what about financial aid officers?" Yes.

"And in terms of our students, adding more financial aid officers—would that be a good or a bad?" Pause. That would be a good.

"Okay, and academic advisors?" Yes.

There are layers to administration, Simon said, unavoidably made thicker by recent increases in research ventures - the new Secchia Center in Grand Rapids and a host of temporary employees hired to implement a $100 million replacement of the university's old computer system, to name just a few. Besides, Snyder's funding cut should not presuppose a complete stop-all for investments in the campus's future.

The generation of young adults passing through the university now should not be punished for having to embark on their career paths in a recession, she contended.

A noble statement, yet many students across Michigan finally threw in the towel this year when it came to letting the big dogs go to bat for them. What had appeared to be general apathy in October during ASMSU's "Higher Education, Higher Priority" rally at the Capitol evolved into a 100-plus strong paroxysm of anger for a stop-the-cuts protest at the same location in March.

"We're getting priced out of an education, and that's not how we're going to reinvent Michigan," junior Joe Duffy, president of the MSU College Democrats, said as cheers from his comrades rose up in spurts around him.

MSU's tuition rose by 5.2 percent in the 2009-2010 school year, followed by another 5 percent the next—an increase of more than 10 percent over just two years.

"We're going to be the ones who are fixing the state and bringing the economy back together, so I don't think making us pay more is a good thing," junior Liz Starke said before a phone bank in Case Hall.

And there were many more, wholly engrossed in the cause and grasping it by the reins before it could once again return to its pre-Snyder evanescence.

Yet in the end, when the lexicon of fiscal realities is at last an outdated verbiage, it may be said that we Echo Boomers were merely victims of time—the pawns of indiscriminate coincidence who were unlucky enough to have reached our most promising years in an economic downturn. Born on the brink of the millennium, we have matured just in time to be the youth of the Great Recession, our college days mired by the discourse of funding cuts.

And whether we believe the solutions to this untimely slump proposed at the state level are unfairly draconian, morally justified or just plain stupid are judgments best left for discussion at the dinner table. It's time to think at the margin.

"Universities are just going to have to take a real look at programs and how their administration is set up, and look at what is essential and see where they can make cuts, too," senior Andrew Walker said. "At the same time the state has to make cuts, so does the university."

And it has to start implementing them quicker than ever. For example, if MSU had kept annual growth of its health care spending on employees below 5 percent over the last decade, each student's tuition bill today would be $1,000 cheaper, President Simon wrote in a letter to faculty members this year. While the cap has now been placed, the loss stands as a reminder that procrastination really does come back to bite.

"Over the course of years, you can't always necessarily make up what the student would have had if they'd gone to school, say, five years ago," Associate Director of Financial Aid Val Meyers said.

"You focus on inefficiencies and you cut as much as you can cut, because every tuition dollar that goes for salary or for office operations is money, you know, that is coming out of these student's pockets."

Program cuts and phase-outs are, in fact, being established. No longer can a freshman enlist in American Studies courses. Classical Studies has been dealt the same blow and eventually Musical Therapy too will go missing from the school's online drop-down menu. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is consolidating from 13 departments to six, and shedding a few majors along the way as well. All in all, 41 programs have been proposed for discontinuation.

> "I'm always hopeful. I'm an optimist. I think if you look around Michigan State you see a lot of energy, you see a lot of really positive things happening,"

"Now, would I like to have some of these programs we reduced continue? Yeah," Simon says. "They were good programs; we didn't cut bad things."

She rests her hand over her heart, palm down.

"We cut programs that were very good and that people cared about. So that's painful to me as an individual; it's painful to the institution."

Indeed, it is painful to us students. Is she hopeful, though?

"I'm always hopeful. I'm an optimist. I think if you look around Michigan State you see a lot of energy, you see a lot of really positive things happening," she said. "It's really growing, it has momentum; it's not dying on the vine because of the budget reductions."

Think about it like an agriculture analogy, she says, breaking out into a smile:

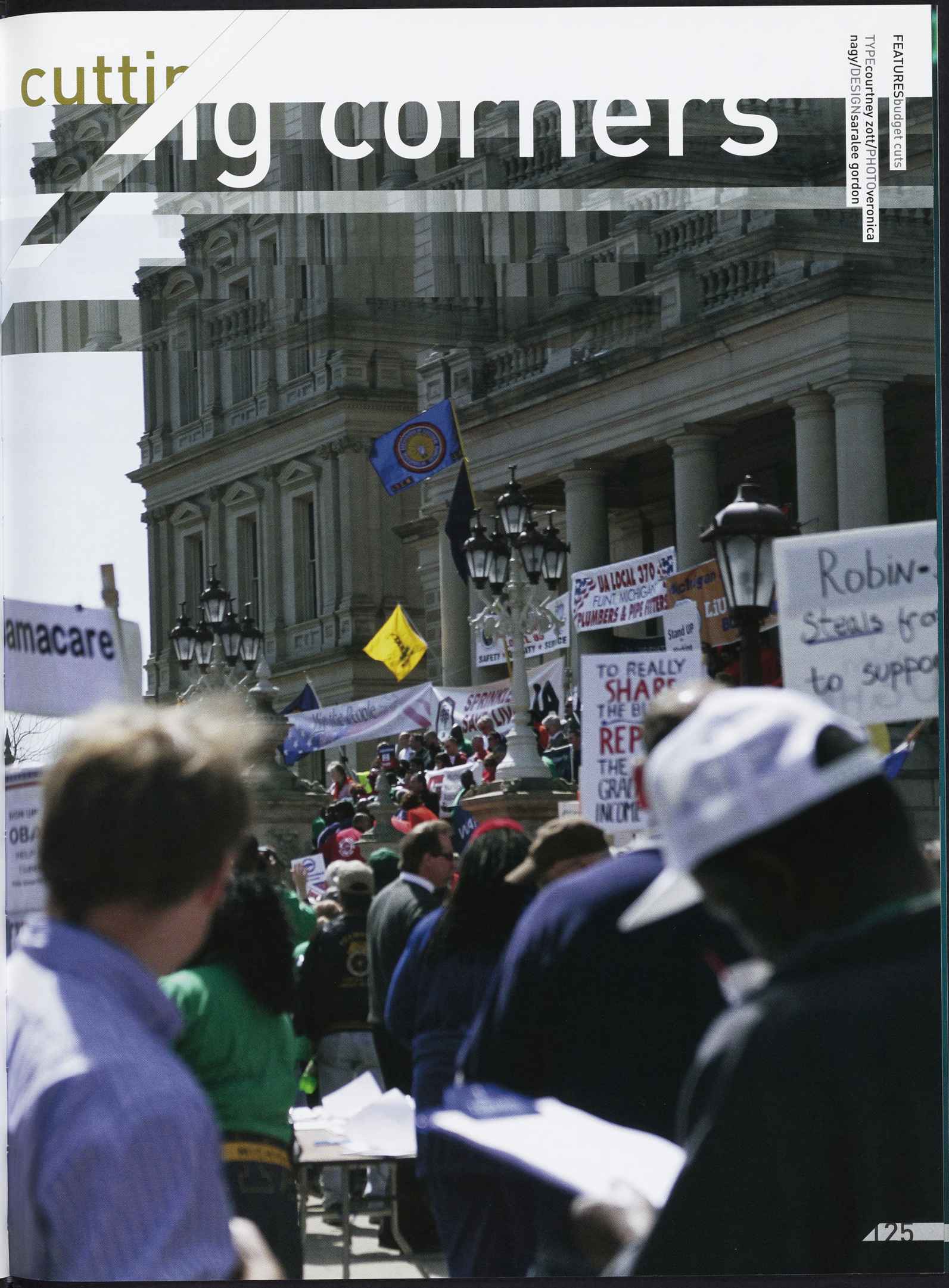
"Because of that pruning, we have very, very strong roots and we're grounded in the right values, we're in good soil. And I think we've done the trimming in a way that's more dramatic than what I would like, but the tree that's Michigan State will continue to grow strong."

Too bad money doesn't grow on trees.

cutting corners

FEATURES Budget cuts

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN saralee gordon



TYPEjacob kanclerz/PHOTOhilary higgins/DESIGNsaralee gordon

a desert mirage

MSU's undergraduate experiment in Dubai flounders after two years

Tuition money: these two words can cause a headache to MSU students. However, as many Spartans know, the money they pay to attend Michigan State is crucial to what the university can and cannot do. In East Lansing, the university has opted to raise tuition on a consistent basis to battle increasing costs. In Dubai, the absence of adequate tuition meant that MSU Dubai had to close in July 2010.

In 2007, MSU invested in a full-fledged sister campus in Dubai, located in the United Arab Emirates, after the government of Dubai approached MSU with the offer. The Dubai campus was to be equivalent to the original campus in East Lansing by offering five undergraduate degree programs at the same academic standards as MSU. The Dubai campus not only intended to draw students from the UAE and other countries, but also from East Lansing, targeting students who wanted to do a portion of their education overseas.

President Lou Anna K. Simon pushed to expand MSU's global reach, arguing that MSU needed to establish a connection to the Middle East. As she wrote in her blog on July 9, 2010, "You truly can't be connected globally today unless you are in the Middle East -- still the crossroads of the world's cultures and, increasingly, its economies."

However, the economy was to blame for the shutdown. The Dubai idea was announced in 2007 and the campus opened in 2008, right when the global economy took a turn for the worse. Dubai was plagued by the crisis just as bad as Michigan.

"The problems that Dubai had were not unique to Dubai, and a lot of places had the same financial problems," professor Emeritus Harold Sollenberger, who served as the interim director of Dubai over the summer said. "Unfortunately, two places that hit particularly hard were Dubai and Michigan, and we were at both ends of that continuum."

The decision to end undergraduate programs was announced by Simon in July. A single graduate program, in human resources and labor relations, is still offered there, and the institution remains open for research and study abroad operations.

Tuition money, however, played the biggest role in dismantling Dubai. There weren't enough students to fund the campus.

"We anticipated having a much larger student body than we had. The original plans called for several hundred students in the first year or two, and then moving up to five-six hundred students, and we never got to that level," Sollenberger said.

At the closing of the undergraduate programs, just 85 students were enrolled, the highest total Dubai had during its tenure. The low tuition funds made it hard for MSU to hold Dubai to the same academic standards as the main campus, which was a major goal. With that being the case, why didn't MSU Dubai draw enough students?

"Early estimates of the potential student body were optimistic. Also, with the financial conditions that changed, many people left Dubai because the jobs disappeared. The student pool we were trying to attract was much smaller than what we anticipated," Sollenberger said. "Efforts were made to make some changes, but we were still optimistic that we would recruit the number of students."

The university's efforts to keep Dubai afloat went up to the brink of it closing, which left students shocked when they heard the news at the same time as everyone else in July 2010.

"My sister read in the newspaper – I didn't even get a call from the university – that MSU Dubai was closing down," freshman Anzar Abbas, a native of Pakistan who had planned on starting this fall, said. "I couldn't join another university; it was too late. At that point, it was a bad situation. The worst part was that I didn't even find out from the university. It was finding out from my sister who read in the paper that my university closed down."

When asked why the decision was made so late, Sollenberger said that MSU was doing everything it could to save Dubai.

"We were trying every conceivable way of restructuring the program, reducing costs of the program, trying to get financial support from our various partners," he said. "Literally up to days before the announcement was made, I and a couple of colleagues were working on a couple of proposals to try to continue the programs."

Although the university was late on notifying Dubai students, MSU did spend a lot of energy assisting students with applications to other schools. Around 40 students transferred to East Lansing for the fall semester, with about 10 more joining in spring. The remaining students either found schools to attend in the UAE or elsewhere around the world, from Canada to Australia to England, Sollenberger said.

MSU also helped students obtain visas in the short amount of time before fall and Abbas was one of the many students who struggled with getting his on time. After missing his initial flight as a result of not getting his visa in time, he wondered if he would be able to begin classes in the fall of 2010.

"I found out that both of the people I had talked to at the Office of Admissions had left the university," he said. "I didn't know who to talk to. That's when I got in contact with mathematics professor Richard Hensh. He spoke to the U.S. Embassy about my visa processing and sped up the process. Otherwise, I would've had to start in the spring."

Abbas received his visa the day before his originally scheduled flight to East Lansing in August. Although he had to reschedule it, the university paid for Abbas' airfare. Plus, Abbas is only being charged the Dubai tuition rate of $660 per credit, lower than the rate charged to out-of-state students.

MSU isn't giving up on the global market just yet. In the same blog post that President Simon wrote about the Dubai closing, she mentioned MSU "seeking new collaborative opportunities in Brazil and India," and a "successful new office in China." However, these offices will serve more as outposts for MSU researchers and study abroad programs and won't offer degree programs.

For the time being, MSU isn't looking to start undergraduate instruction in Dubai or anywhere else, according to Eric Freedman, the associate dean of International Studies and Programs.

"I have difficulty envisioning in the foreseeable future that we would be opening an instructional site along the models of Dubai," Freedman said. "But you can never say never."

Freshman Anzar Abbas reflects on his journey to MSU. Although he wasn't planning on attending MSU right away, the Dubai shutdown forced him to leave his home in Dubai and move overseas to start his college education. Although he didn't like how the Dubai situation was handled at first, he's still managed to grow accustomed to life in East Lansing.



TYPE**natalie patterson**/PHOTO**ellina stein**/DESIGN**betsy eber**

going up in smoke

What is MSU's reliance on coal doing for the "greenest" university in the Big Ten?

Signs of green pride are all over campus. Our fight song lays it out – "fight for the only colors, Green and White." Being "Spartan Green" is a familiar description of someone who not only embodies the spirit of Michigan State, but also takes little steps to help the environment. Yet, there is still one black spot amidst this great green tradition – a sooty stain that comes from the 250,000 tons of coal burned each year to heat and power MSU's campus.

"A lot of people on campus don't even know we have a coal plant," junior Talya Tavor, president of Beyond Coal, said. "They see smoke stacks and they think 'Oh, smoke stacks.' Period."

Coal is the primary source of energy on campus because of its low cost - it is much more cost-efficient to burn and easier to transport than petroleum or natural gas. Though the campus is also equipped to run on natural gas should its price fall below the price of coal, the latter rarely happens. Still, the difference in emissions is substantial. Research conducted by the United States Energy Information Administration shows that a plant burning natural gases expels up to 70 percent less greenhouse gases than a coal-burning one.

Greenhouse gases, however, are just one of the many unwanted products expelled from a coal burning plant. Airborne pollutants are also a major issue, and the T.B. Simon Power Plant at MSU expelled a whopping 1,239.84 tons of airborne pollutants in 2007. Nevertheless, the bulk of the refuse comes in the form of combustion waste or coal ash, the likes of which are often dumped near a plant site.

Those unfortunate enough to live near a dumping site are not only uninformed of their predicament but may also face health problems. According to the Michigan Sierra Club, an NGO committed to state-wide environmental preservation; there are currently 11 coal ash dumping sites in Michigan. The United States, however, does not regulate the dumping of combustion waste, and one such site maintained by the Lansing Board of Water and Light's electric and steam generating plants was classified by the state to have caused high lithium levels in water. Waste is also dumped in rivers like the Saginaw River or special dumping ponds, where it can leak into groundwater and eventually seep into water sources such as the Great Lakes.

"Household trash is more regulated than coal ash," Tavor said. "If you live within a mile of a dumping site, your groundwater is worse for you than smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. And these people don't even know it. The law does not require the people who dump [ash] to tell the people who are living there that they're dumping."

The T.B. Simon Power Plant, like all coal burning plants, must find somewhere to dispose of its coal ash. This was once sent to a cement plant in Southeast Michigan, but once the plant was closed, the ash needed to be disposed of elsewhere.

"We send as much of it to beneficial reuse as we can," Gary Mell, a performance engineer at the Simon power plant, said. "But what can't go to centers that can reuse it goes to the Granger Landfill in Lansing."

One option for the Simon power plant is carbon recapture – capturing the plant's carbon emissions with chemicals and storing it so that it does not enter the atmosphere. But even doing so, according to Anne Woiwode, state director of the Michigan Sierra Club, would not solve the ultimate pollution problem.

"Recapture is risky and largely untested," Woiwode said. "It's a terrible excuse to keep using coal."

Still, the relatively low cost of energy production is what keeps the coal plant alive. The cost of powering a university with approximately 46,000 energy-consuming students, plus faculty and at least a hundred buildings, is astronomical. For the 2008 –2009 fiscal year, the university spent 34.8 million dollars to power the campus.



"Coal is the most economical source of power that we have," Mell said.

Michigan State has run on coal power since the 1880s, and since then most buildings on campus have been set up to run on a coal system.

"We have a centralized heating system here," Mell said. "All the buildings are connected to one heat provider. In order to heat the university, we have to burn something that generates steam."

David Johnson, a professor in the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, said that a problem with MSU was that the campus requires the production of a large amount of energy per capita.

"The Cyclotron (at the



The T.B. Simon power plant produces all the energy and heat needed to keep the campus running by burning coal. Coal is the most efficient source of energy the university can afford.

Cyclotron building) itself uses an enormous amount. Replacing that quantity [of energy] would be difficult," he said.

While switching to greener energy would be far more economical in the long run, the initial investment is too high for the university to consider without imposing a possible new "green tax" on students.

"The question is how many students would be willing to pay for a green environment," Johnson said.

Nonetheless, Mell of the Simon power plant said that the plant administration does indeed see the need to reduce energy consumption on campus for the sake of the environment. After all, when less energy is required, less coal is burnt.

"We sponsor 'Campus Dim Downs'," he said. "We encourage people to reduce their usage for just an hour; to turn off their computers, lights, keep their windows closed and turn off anything they're not using.

"It makes a noticeable difference in usage. If we did that every day, we would see huge reductions for the year."

The power plant itself, Mell said, is working on ways to reduce coal dependency by improving buildings on campus in order to keep up with the current emissions regulations.

"We have people in our department specializing in upgrading buildings on campus to be more energy efficient," he said. "We have one or two buildings on campus that are LEED certified (an internationally-recognized green building certification). EPA regulations for emissions keep coming down every year, so we're working on staying within the permitted limits."

For students passionate about lowering their negative impact on the environment by reducing energy usage, Johnson of the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife advises a number of simple methods.

"When it comes to energy, you need to stop and ask yourself: What can I do to reduce my energy? Does my phone need to be plugged in? Does the TV need to be turned on?" he said.

"A surge protector is only 6 dollars, so you can turn things off when you aren't using them, but you have to make that initial investment."

Spartans are not the only students fighting for a cleaner, greener college. Four out of the 12 Big Ten schools have pledged to reduce their coal consumption, and eventually go coal free.

"I just wonder, why not MSU?" Tavor of Beyond Coal said.

FEATUREmsu in the '60s

TYPEjessica whitmill/PHOTOnatalie kolb/DESIGNbetsy eber

the good old days

An exploration of MSU in the era of hippies, demonstrations and university expansion

We come to college to discover more about ourselves.

But in the 1960s, Michigan State University was still finding itself.

Former university President John A. Hannah (1941-69) expanded the university from 6,000 enrolled students to 40,000, leading to an extensive building program. Hannah established the International Program, MSU-Oakland and a medical program. He stepped down in 1969 and, suddenly, the world became our campus.

Hannah's successor, Walter Adams, in his pseudo-autobiography entitled "The Test," called this time period "a quest by today's youth for personalism, individuality, and identity." Students began to question national priorities, see the failure of political leadership, challenge inequities of the draft system, and address the deterioration of the environment. However, these issues took a back seat to the expanding opposition to the Vietnam War.

In 1969, students organized a march to the Capitol in protest of the war. Around 8,000 participants turned out for the march. Adams gave this account in "The Test."

"There were bearded students, long-haired students, 'way-out' types in the garb of the now generation. But there were also squares, crew-cuts, straights. There were faculty people, old and young, professors and teaching assistants, joining their students in this pilgrimage."

This past semester, students took to the Capitol to protest Gov. Snyder's budget, but English professor Bill Vincent said he doesn't see the same political drive in students as he did when he first came to MSU in 1965.

"I don't see the same kind of passion at all. I think students today are complacent. In those days, you'd have several thousand people demonstrating and marching and so forth," he said. "Now you might get a couple hundred, so the government doesn't really feel obliged to take notice of them."

And students took action in more ways than marching.

They protested the Reserved Officers' Training Core on campus in the spring of 1969 after the draft exemption for graduate students was lifted. Demonstration Hall filled to the brim with angry students shouting "Smash ROTC," glaring, pushing, shoving and hurling themselves at ROTC cadets. Isolated fist-fights broke out. Students denied Adams the chance to talk for even 30 seconds, saying, "We've listened to administration finks long enough!" But "by five o' clock—a magical hour for ending afternoon demonstrations, given the dinner schedules in the dormitories—the rally ended," Adams wrote.

Vincent recalled a more peaceful demonstration in which students across the university cut class for days in protest of the war and events like the Kent State University shootings, where four unarmed students at Kent State were shot by the Ohio National Guard after protesting in 1970.

"A lot of students stopped going to classes and built a village of tents in that area in front of Wells, between Wells and the river," he said. "They had campfires. They were just hanging out. It was hard for faculty because on the one hand we were contractually obliged to give classes, and on the other hand our sympathies were with the strikers."

Vincent said demonstrations were inconvenient to administrators, and especially the police.

"Somebody would burn an American flag and they'd be arrested, put in jail and fined. I think that's what eventually killed the demonstrations. Police kept arresting people, expelling people," he said.

Prior to anti-war demonstrations and the new, young hippie generation, MSU was rather conservative, Vincent said. It was illegal to consume or sell alcohol in East Lansing until 1968, causing students to travel to Okemos and Lake Lansing to drink.

"I can't even imagine what it would be like without all the bars in East Lansing. It seems to be the center of social life among students here," junior Barbara Schmidt said. "Alcohol is such a staple in college life nowadays: St. Patrick's Day, tailgating, Cedar Fest. People love to drink."

The fact that East Lansing was a dry city caused social activities to be primarily focused on campus, compared to the present when the university is struggling to keep students in the dorms. Students were required to live on campus for two years, and many chose to remain in the dormitories after that.

The Union was generally packed on the weekends, Vincent said. Big acts like Frank Zappa and Simon and Garfunkel came to campus. During another concert, held at the IM West pool, students had to go underwater to hear the music.

As the 1970s wore on, East Lansing transformed into what we know today. The city was no longer dry and students began to move off campus.

"It seems to me that social life is concentrated off campus now. Essentially, it's a matter of getting drunk, getting high and getting laid. Those are the things people want," Vincent said. "I think those were always motives, but maybe not as single-mindedly as now. I know the weekends never used to start on Thursday."

When Vincent began teaching at MSU, smoking was allowed in classrooms and he would often smoke during lecture. He recalled one particular class session held outdoors.

"Someone lit up a joint and started passing it around. I wasn't quite sure what to do about it, so I just ignored it," he quipped.

Vincent said the changes in student social life were disruptive to faculty but the late 60s and 70s, a period of long-haired men with beards and women in unlaundered sweatshirts and torn jeans, was an exciting time at MSU.

"There were changes in the way people dressed, what they did. They were demonstrating. It showed the students were interested in what was happening politically," Vincent said. "I think students are less interesting now than they were then, less daring than they were then."

While this time period was one full of fast-paced change at MSU, it didn't last long.

"I don't know what happened to all those hippies," Vincent said. "I think the fact that they aren't around anymore shows that it was just a mindset associated with the times instead of a strongly felt conviction."

One thing that led to the decline of the hippie generation in the late 70s, Vincent said, was a rise in oil prices, downturn of the economy and a scare that there were no jobs for college graduates. The focus of college graduates became 'You've got to get a job or you'll starve to death.'

English professor Diane Wakoski has been teaching at MSU for 35 years and said she's seen a change in the academic drive of her students since the 70s.

"Nowadays, people think college is necessary for you to succeed, and I don't think that's true," Wakoski said. "Students are here because they have to be. If all you have is this piece of paper, then the process means nothing. Because of this, it makes students cynical, makes them impatient, irritable. It's not their fault."

Vincent said it was easier for students from low-income families to go to school, and this caused them to value their education more than a typical student does now.

"There were a lot of people then who had to work really hard to go to college. Trowbridge Road on a Friday would be packed with hitchhikers trying to get home because they couldn't afford a car or bus fare," he said.

While faculty may believe students today are academically complacent, some things haven't changed all that much. From conservative farm boys of the 1910s to hippies of the 1960s, students choose to attend Michigan State to discover who they are and what they want to do with the rest of their lives. And, as the times change, so will the university.

"You don't really notice the changes until you look back. It's like when you have a kid and you notice when he doesn't hold your hand when crossing the street anymore," Vincent said. "If you knew when the last time was, you'd hold that picture in your mind, but you don't."

third culture kids

The trials of third culture kids both in and beyond MSU

America – a nation bursting with ideas, innovation and culture. Yes, culture. For many who overlook it on a daily basis, the nation hosts an enormous blend of nationalities, religions and traditions. But as the stew thickens in the melting pot, it often becomes difficult to tell what ingredients are thrown in. While an American citizen may define his or her self as Asian-American, African-American or European-American by broad descent, concepts of ethnicity and cultural traditions are easily overlooked. An environment as detrimental to the flourishing of native cultures as America tends to be often gives rise to a brand new "third culture" among certain inhabitants.

A "Third Culture Kid" (TCK) is the term used to describe every second-generation American whose ancestral family moved to the United States from another country. First coined by American sociologist Dr. Ruth Hill Useem, this term describes a person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside their parents' culture. Useem came across the idea while on her travels abroad, suggesting that such individuals adopt aspects from their birth culture [first culture] and their new culture [second culture] to form a unique, third culture.

The third culture kid, Useem claimed, builds relationships to all cultures in his or her heritage, while not having full ownership in any. This ends up strengthening his or her sense of cultural displacement, or a sense of not knowing where or how to belong.

Although exposure to different cultures, anthropology professor Adan Quan said, is becoming increasingly common as a result of globalization, the third culture kid is still a rare phenomenon. Quan explained that this was due to the term once being specifically applied to a stratified class of people, such as children of military personnel, missionaries and diplomats.

However, with progression in trade and expanding world economies, the presence of third culture kids is gradually becoming more frequent within middle-class families.

Senior Christlynn Chelladurai, one such individual, is of East Indian descent but was raised in America. Born in Kuwait, Chelladurai came to America in 1993 when her family fled the Gulf War in search of a better life. Having completed most of her schooling life in Flint, Chelladurai recalled her first experience with a cultural identity crisis.

"I went to Grand Blanc high school. It was a rich, posh school," she said. "Being a predominantly Caucasian high school, it became a serious identity issue when I was one out of the four Indian students there."

Feeling out of place, Chelladurai turned to her one interest at the time – dance. Her practice of traditional Indian dance helped her stay closer to her native roots in a strange new environment, and made her a new friend as well – another Indian girl at the school who shared a similar passion for the ancient art.

Her second experience with cultural displacement, however, occurred when her parents revealed her Egyptian heritage to her.

"I wasn't sure who I was. My father always shunned his Egyptian side and I only recently found out that I am part Egyptian," she said, explaining that as an individual who was only beginning to establish a strong connection to her East Indian identity in a foreign country, the possibility of a second Egyptian identity was a sudden interruption in her process of self-realization.

It was only over the past three years that Chelladurai has begun to understand her place in the world with respect to her cultural identity. After arriving at MSU, she became a cultural aide in the dorms. This approach, she said, allowed her to interact with people from around the world, helping her to overcome the anxiety of living at the nexus of multiple cultures.

"After becoming a cultural aide, I have begun to consider myself cosmopolitan, more of a citizen of the world. I try to understand that I'm not the only one because there is no one pure race, knowing how much the world has mixed," she said.

Senior Sneha Grandhi is another third culture individual whose parents are neither military personnel nor diplomats. Grandhi moved to America from India when she was twelve years old, and was raised in a small secluded city in Maryland. This was a result of her own choice, she said. Her father presented the choice of two towns, one more culturally diverse and one less so. She chose the latter.

"I wanted to see what it's like, what American culture was like," she said, stating that it was partly her decision to move to America in the first place.

Grandhi said she also felt the need for a sense of belonging growing up, only her approach to overcoming this issue was different. Rather than befriending people who shared the same culture and heritage as she did, she formed friendships based on mutual interests.

Steven Gold, a sociology professor at MSU, said that children from another culture who are raised in America tend to conform to the overarching American culture more strongly than they do to their own.

"With regard to United States, most immigration surveys suggest that immigrant children lose the ability to talk in their parents' language," Gold said. The fact that English is the lingua franca, he added, only encourages third culture kids and immigrant children to conform.

This phenomenon of cultural dilution, however, is not limited to immigrants who arrive in America during their childhood years. Ruslan Mursalzade, an international student at MSU, arrived in Michigan in his junior year of high school on a student exchange program. Originally from the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mursalzade said he was able to later apply to MSU due to the fact that his host family lives in Michigan.

"High school was challenging simply because in American schools there tend to be more cliques between people." Mursalzade said, adding that new high school students are more readily welcomed back in his home country.

Ruslan eventually overcame the experience when his host sister introduced him to her friends. However, he explained, there are always challenges he faces with the dual culture identity crisis.

"In the U.S., things are a little different. Whenever I go back home, people expect me to behave in a certain way. I have to change according to my environment," he said, stating that he would be expected to follow and maintain societal traditions back in Azerbaijan.

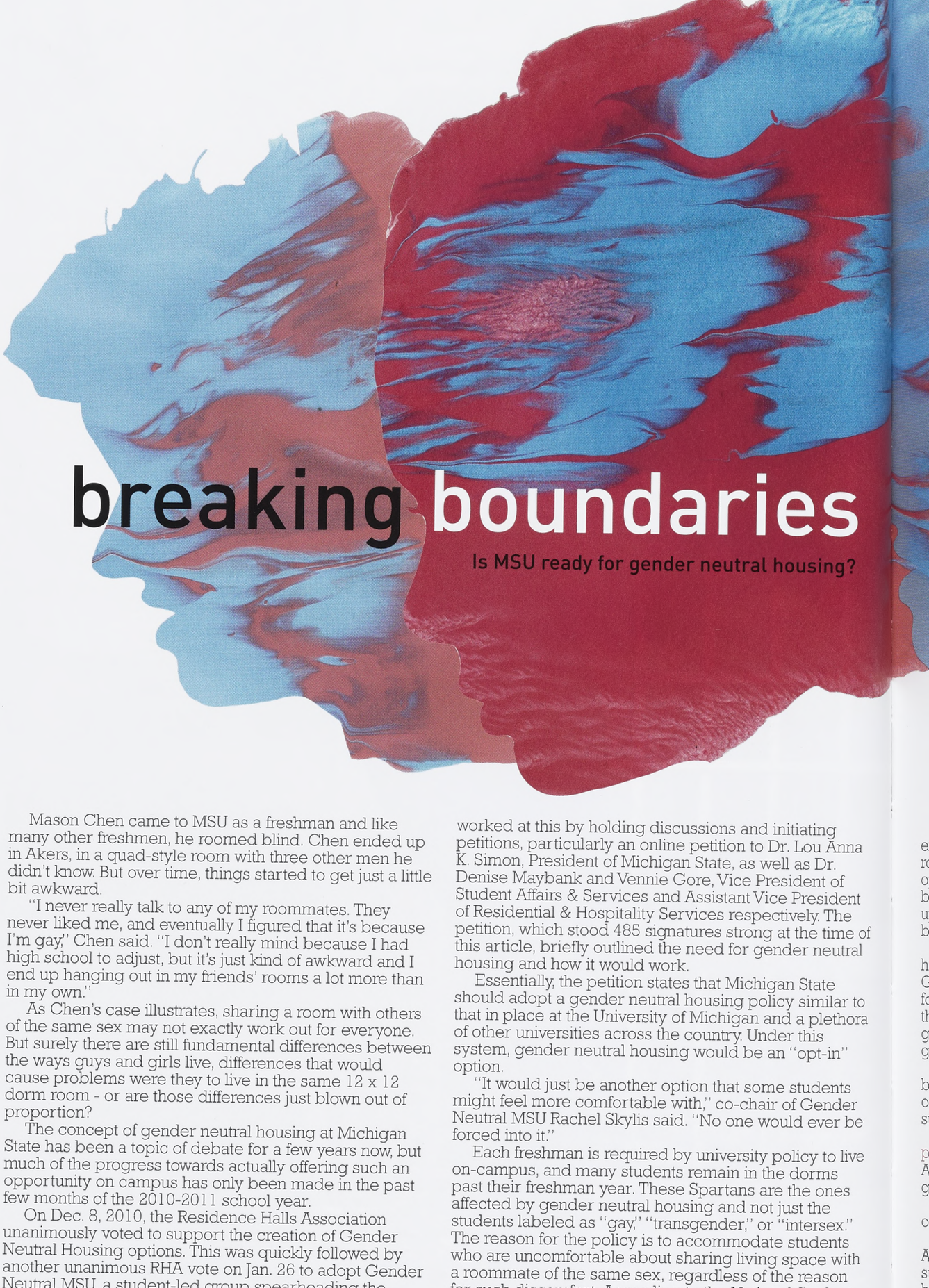
Mursalzade said he became a cultural aide here at MSU to overcome the overwhelming feelings of alienation he has since experienced, as far away from home as he has been.

"That's why I became a cultural aide," he said. "I do feel the difficulties of international students and I want to help them transition better."

The ability to adapt easily to different environments, Quan said, is a common trait among third culture kids and adults who experience similar phenomena. David Pollock and Ruth Van Reken, authors of Third Culture Kids, argue that third culture kids belong everywhere and nowhere. Their unique cultural characteristics might make it difficult for them to connect with those that haven't shared the same experience, but they also help them become more independent and cosmopolitan.

And yet, this uniqueness is also what makes them so familiar. After all, they, like many of us regardless of race, status, religion, or creed, are simply searching for a place to belong.

TYPE kritika bharadwaj/PHOTO anthony thibodeau/DESIGN brendan prost



breaking boundaries

Is MSU ready for gender neutral housing?

Mason Chen came to MSU as a freshman and like many other freshmen, he roomed blind. Chen ended up in Akers, in a quad-style room with three other men he didn't know. But over time, things started to get just a little bit awkward.

"I never really talk to any of my roommates. They never liked me, and eventually I figured that it's because I'm gay," Chen said. "I don't really mind because I had high school to adjust, but it's just kind of awkward and I end up hanging out in my friends' rooms a lot more than in my own."

As Chen's case illustrates, sharing a room with others of the same sex may not exactly work out for everyone. But surely there are still fundamental differences between the ways guys and girls live, differences that would cause problems were they to live in the same 12 x 12 dorm room - or are those differences just blown out of proportion?

The concept of gender neutral housing at Michigan State has been a topic of debate for a few years now, but much of the progress towards actually offering such an opportunity on campus has only been made in the past few months of the 2010-2011 school year.

On Dec. 8, 2010, the Residence Halls Association unanimously voted to support the creation of Gender Neutral Housing options. This was quickly followed by another unanimous RHA vote on Jan. 26 to adopt Gender Neutral MSU, a student-led group spearheading the gender neutral initiative, as an officially--sponsored university organization.

Founded in April 2010, the initial sole purpose of Gender Neutral MSU was to bring gender neutral living options to students on campus. The group worked at this by holding discussions and initiating petitions, particularly an online petition to Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon, President of Michigan State, as well as Dr. Denise Maybank and Vennie Gore, Vice President of Student Affairs & Services and Assistant Vice President of Residential & Hospitality Services respectively. The petition, which stood 485 signatures strong at the time of this article, briefly outlined the need for gender neutral housing and how it would work.

Essentially, the petition states that Michigan State should adopt a gender neutral housing policy similar to that in place at the University of Michigan and a plethora of other universities across the country. Under this system, gender neutral housing would be an "opt-in" option.

"It would just be another option that some students might feel more comfortable with," co-chair of Gender Neutral MSU Rachel Skylis said. "No one would ever be forced into it."

Each freshman is required by university policy to live on-campus, and many students remain in the dorms past their freshman year. These Spartans are the ones affected by gender neutral housing and not just the students labeled as "gay," "transgender," or "intersex." The reason for the policy is to accommodate students who are uncomfortable about sharing living space with a roommate of the same sex, regardless of the reason for such discomfort. According to the National Student Gender Blind Campaign, a movement that is currently pushing for gender-blind facilities in universities nationwide, the idea of gender neutral housing is not merely preoccupied with questions of gender or sexuality; it's a matter of "trust and personal choice."

TYPE adelina schmidt/PHOTO cassie allore/DESIGN saralee gordon



Ideally, gender neutral housing will be enacted in existing co-ed dormitories with suite or quad-style rooms to minimize. In terms of budgeting, if the housing option were to be enacted as planned, spending would be limited to advertising the housing change and updating the housing forms. Structurally, buildings and bathrooms would remain as-is.

Because the initiative to create gender neutral housing on campus has always been student-led, Gender Neutral MSU has appealed to the student body for support. On Feb. 10, the student body solidified their stance on the matter as ASMSU, MSU's student government, passed a bill supporting the creation of gender-neutral housing options.

But while turning to such a large and diverse student body for support might seem like a difficult task, the opposition to gender neutral housing seems to be surprisingly sparse among students.

"I'm all for it! I think that in this day and age, it's almost primitive not to have gender neutral housing," freshman Ayo Obayan said. "We're adults, and having the option of gender neutral housing would really move MSU forward."

Other students around agreed with varying amounts of enthusiasm.

"Why not? I don't see anything bad coming from it. And I like girls," fellow freshman Xinye Ji said, offering support in a borderline apathetic manner. When asked if he personally would live in gender neutral housing, and what he'd do to support it, Ji answered, "I guess I would. I don't think I'd really care that much and I don't really know how I could do anything to support it."

Some students, while not necessarily against the idea of gender neutral housing, question it from the basis of experience. Senior Gillis McCarter spent one of his school years off--campus living with group of female roommates, and he wasn't eager to repeat the experience.

"I didn't think it'd be a problem, but would I do it again? Never. I think living with one girl might be okay, but there was an awful lot of estrogen in that house," McCarter said. "And you don't notice all the things that are different about living with girls versus living with guys until you actually do it."

"Girls have a lot of needs, and those needs happen to be different from mine. Don't get me wrong, I'm still friends with all the girls I lived with, but for the same token, I live in a fraternity now. With guys," he continued. "Sure, the common room gets messier, but I can get drunk and not have to worry about what'll happen. It's nice."

Ultimately, each student has their own needs and personal comfort zone, and this understanding rests at the heart of the gender neutral housing issue. Ironically, much of the debate surrounding gender neutral housing focuses solely on analyzing the relationship between men and women, or questioning how sexuality and attraction might affect living arrangements on-campus. These factors may certainly play a role in the success of gender neutral housing at Michigan State and across the country, but a more important question remains: is every student comfortable?

Just ask Chen, for instance. Would it be easier for him to room with females given his sexuality?

"I'd love to live with girls!" he said. "Or at least somewhere less awkward."



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Uniting students from every identity, culture and background, student organizations provide outlets for those sharing a common cause and common interests.

Whether these interests concern environmental awareness, radio broadcasting, dance, advertising or military dedication, student organizations across campus provide a taste of culture to the greater Michigan State University community, adding a layer of diversity and cultural awareness.



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS msu democrats, libertarians, republicans

TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO anthony thibodeau/DESIGN jessica halfyard





Senior CJ Demmer speaks on behalf of the MSU College Republicans during the debate on education. Also present at the debate were the MSU College Democrats and the MSU Libertarians.

right, left and center

As a new chapter unfolds in Michigan politics, three student groups meet up to duke it out

Less than a week after freshman governor Rick Snyder gave his budget recommendation for 2012, others with budding political careers also had a chance to argue their solutions to re-invent Michigan.

The MSU College Democrats, Republicans and Libertarians held a debate on education policy—an especially hotly-contested issue on the MSU campus, as Snyder's budget proposal called for deep slashes in public education funding. True to the nature of politics, some said the pending budget was a step in the right direction; others, not so much. Yet, as is also true to the nature of politics, the debate raised issues, voices, accusations, jabs and bashes from all sides of the aisle. As they say—two's company, and three was certainly a crowd.

In a setup that illustrated the evening's thrust-and-riposte all too well, the Democrats' table was set farthest to the left, the Libertarians' farthest to the right and the Republicans' was, well, somewhere in the middle. While the Democrats mostly sported pullover sweaters and bright ties, the Republicans preferred full suits, often with American flag pins secured to the lapel. The Democrats cried for federal sta dards, the Republicans for states' rights and the Libertarians for total free market solutions. Of course, both right-leaning teams snuck in a couple of Obama slams and some pointed jabs at the federal deficit.

The Libertarians suggested abolishing student loans, saying universities can jack up costs year after year because they are guaranteed money.

"The Democrats want to solve the problem with more problems, the Republicans want to tinker with a failed system," a Libertarian representative said in a rebuttal.

The Democrats advocated federal incentives programs in education to raise standards.

"In a true competition there are winners and losers, and we can't afford to be putting out losers," a Democrat said, outlining the party's position.

Debates like these were new to campus this year. The three groups, in addition to an MSU student socialist group, held the first debate in the fall near the midterm elections in November. Senior Charles "CJ" Demmer, who debated for the Republican camp, said debates like these give insight into the future of American politics. While social issues may be important now, he said, they will take a backseat as the current college-aged generation matures.

"The real debate is going to be on the size of government and the sphere of influence on the economy," Demmer said.

Sophomore Kyle Safran, who debated with the Libertarians, said the debates can help both students who participate and attend.

"They help students who are unsure of their political leanings," he said.

But seriousness aside, politics is a game—one that can be fun for those interested, especially when there aren't yet seats to lose, careers to ruin or media frenzies to please.

For junior Dylan Miller, who debated with the Democrats, debating is an adrenaline rush— only with style.

"Somewhere between 30-40 percent of it is being able to dress up nicely," Miller said.

With just a few seconds left during the debate's intermission, Demmer rolled the sleeves of his oxford shirt past his elbow and stared at Joe Duffy, president of the MSU College Democrats.

"I will decimate you," he taunted jokingly, invoking laughs from other participants and the audience.

And as the night drew to a close, Demmer also had a few choice parting words for his opponents.

"We will meet again," he said. "Just you wait until gun rights time."



Head debate coach Will Repko introduces the MSU College Republicans, MSU College Democrats, and MSU Libertarians. Students reached out to Repko to oversee the debate because he has been a staff representative for several student debates in the past.



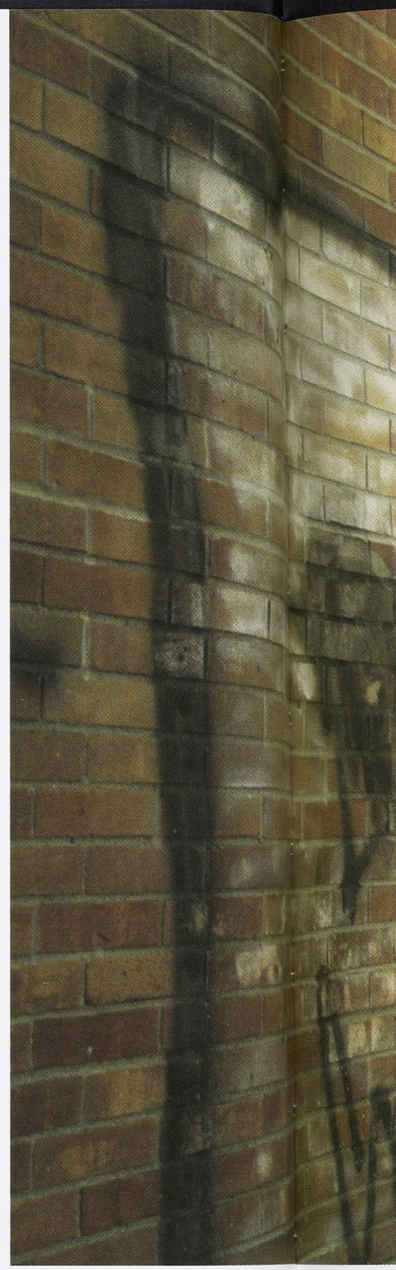


Sophomore Cody Hibbs argues on behalf of the MSU College Republicans. This was the second debate that Hibbs has participated in on campus.

Senior Andrew Walker argues on behalf of the MSU Libertarians during the debate on education. The debate focused on budget cuts for public education in Michigan.

"They [debates] help students who are unsure of their political leanings."

-Kyle Safran, sophomore



Junior William Rosetos and sophomore Julian Gimmler perform simultaneous flips off the wall. Rosetos and Gimmler were among the more experienced members of East Lansing Parkour.

a leap in the park

East Lansing Parkour practices, teaches members urban free-flow on campus

It's a gorgeous Sunday afternoon at MSU during the early fall. As most weekend afternoons go, the campus is relatively dormant, save for the small group of people scaling walls and doing back flips outside the Geography Building.

They're practicing parkour, a French sport, which translates as "covering distance." The objective in this sport is simple: Get to any location as efficiently as possible. As countless YouTube videos of the sport will show, this process involves anything from rolling, leaping and flipping over walls, ledges and rooftops.

However, Christopher Price, the founder of East Lansing Parkour (the group that practices at MSU), said such online displays are sometimes exaggerated.

"You get the people that watch the YouTube video and they're like, 'Hey, I'm going to go jump off this roof,'" Price, a senior at MSU, said. "I've been training for four years and the only time I've jumped between roofs was my first day, and quite frankly it was the dumbest thing ever."

Given that parkour requires a lot of training and discipline, Price said a lot of people either stick with it or quit early on. On this particular day, there were plenty of newcomers that showed up, and Price took them through basic warm-ups and a few laps around the Geography Building before leading them through a series of rolls and scoops (squatting down and moving with hands and feet). These proved difficult for the novices, though a lot of them appreciated the patience shown by the leaders.

"It's pretty cool so far.I like the guys that are leading, how they're so ready to teach us," said newcomer and freshman Austin Dunyak, who had previous experience practicing parkour in his hometown of Kalamazoo.

Price then led the group over to the garden west of the Kresge Art Center, where he demonstrated running up a wall and sliding across its length as he hung off it. The practical aspect of parkour, he said, was a huge draw for him.

"David Belle [one of the founders of the sport] was originally a fire fighter, so this [parkour] was to be used to get through a burning building to someone and help that person," he said.

Junior William Rosetos, a regular with the club, said police officers were also learning parkour to help them chase down suspects. He conceded, however, that parkour was much more than just a way of getting around quickly.

"Parkour originated more as an art of urban free-flow and how you move with your environment," Rosetos said. "It's not forceful, you're not fighting anything, you're more in tune with it and you just kind of free-flow through your environment."

Unfortunately, it's a little harder to free-flow through the environment if you run into it. While practicing wall vaults over a small half-wall later on, junior Julian Gimmler's knee collided with the wall in mid-vault, producing an audible scrape and causing everyone to flinch. His knee started to bleed, but the parkour veteran was only embarrassed that he messed up on a simple move. Price moved fast, though, and helped make sure Gimmler's wound was treated.

As that incident, along with the first-timers' struggles demonstrates, parkour isn't just for anyone that was impressed by a YouTube video.

"It's a very physically demanding activity, and so you are very fit and very healthy if you train for any amount of time," Price said.

Maybe if MSU students can survive the training, as well as a few menacing half-walls, they can turn parkour into a weekly fitness routine and learn some cool flips and leaps along the way.

"parkour originated more as an art of urban free-flow and how you move with your environment."

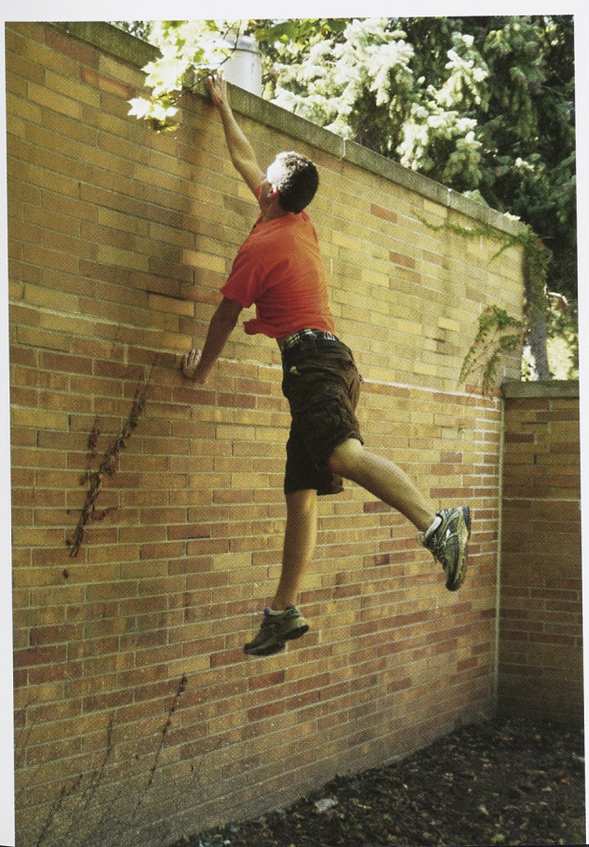
-William Rosetos, junior



Senior Christopher Price demonstrates a wall vault to one of the new members. Price spent most of the day going over basic parkour moves such as rolls and scoops.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN brendan prost







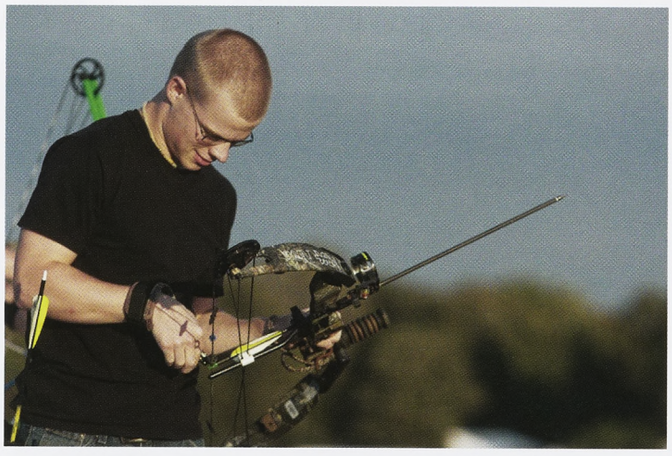
Sophomore Julian Gimmler shows off his parkour battle wound. Gimmler tried to vault over a short wall in front of the Kresge Art Center.

Freshman Austin Dunyak practices running up the wall. The jump up the wall requires the right footing and perfect timing to plant it.

Sophomore Kelly Whalen reloads her compound bow outside of the Demmer Center. The Archery Club is dominated by females, but the officers are trying to get the club to appeal to more males.



Freshman Aaron Kozikowski reloads his compound bow on the outdoor range. Club members shoot with either a compound bow or recurve bow.



Senior Angie Davison fires at one of the many targets at the outdoor 3D target range at Demmer. The Demmer Center opened its doors to MSU and the surrounding community in 2009.



TYPE jake kanclerz/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN betsy eber



Archers, many of them newcomers, line up to take their shots inside the Demmer Center. The club always welcomes new members and many of the officers are certified trainers.

right on target

Archery Club at MSU expands rapidly thanks to Demmer Center



Despite the Archery Club's long history of success, which includes a lengthy list of All-American athletes and National Championship winners, it certainly didn't feel like an actual sports club to junior Cara Easterbrook when she joined in her freshman year.

"We were shooting downstairs in the basement of IM West in a hallway, next to a basketball court that had a stairwell down at the other end, and hissing pipes in the other end," Easterbrook, now a club instructor, recalled with firm distaste in her voice. "It was just like shooting in a pit. It was horrible."

"The problem with our club was that it was only individuals that would practice by themselves. To me, that was so stupid. I wanted practices. I wanted meetings. I wanted community. I wanted new people to teach," she said.

The debut of the $3.5 million Demmer Center in October 2009, however, opened doors to bigger and better things for the organization. Named in honor of alumni John and Marnie Demmer, the complex was designed to house both the Archery Club and the Rifle and Pistol Club, as well as serve as an indoor and outdoor range open to the community beyond MSU.

With an appearance at this year's Sparticipation, as well as Easterbrook's and junior Jennifer Shelden's presences as certified instructors, the club's popularity is expanding. Despite having their first meeting on a Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. after the big football win against Notre Dame on Sept. 18, 15 interested people still showed up. That number grew to 24 during the following week's meeting.

Though the Archery Club largely consists of members interested in practicing shooting, they also prepare a competitive team. The MSU Archery Team competes out of the North Region, which sports a sparse population of archery teams, and is the only group in Michigan that competes at a collegiate level.

"The northern regions would have Purdue, us and three people from Ohio State, so it's mainly 20 archers at most," Easterbrook said, describing the turnout at the annual regional tournament held at Purdue. "Everywhere around the country it would be 100 archers."

Despite MSU's small stature in archery, there may still be potential for big talent. The team sent three archers to the U.S. Intercollegiate Archery Championships last year in Texas, where Easterbrook finished 14th, sophomore Eric Beaudry finished in the top 30, and Shelden made All-American status.

The goals of the club, however, still remain very basic. Easterbrook and her officers are in the process of recruiting and training as many new people as possible, hoping to improve commitment to the team. Still, beginners won't just be relegated to the practice squad. With the exception of the USIAC, regular members of the club are welcome to compete at the Regionals at Purdue and the Indoor Nationals held at the Demmer Center.

"If they are comfortable shooting, everyone is welcome to participate," junior Sam Bowles, a regular member and club officer, said. "We don't have tryouts."

Right now, Easterbrook hopes she can salvage the gold mine of talent available at MSU and restore glory to the archery program.

"We took this club, which was nothing, literally underground, and brought it to Demmer," she said.

> "we took this club, which was nothing, literally underground, and brought it to demmer."
>
> -Cara Easterbrook, junior

"it was **intense** going into a shootout... it was a really exciting game."

-Alex Gammicchia, sophomore

Sophomore Chris Harnadek takes a breather on the bench during the season opener against CMU. The game was very fast paced, forcing the players to use strength and teamwork to win.

Junior goalie J.J. Griffith and junior Andrew James guard the goal from the Chippewas. Griffith and James played for the A-Team, which defeated CMU.





rockin' and rollin'

Inline hockey team emerges victorious at season opener

After a slow first half, it was down to five shots to determine the winner. As both teams set their players up to shoot, a nervous silence fell across the arena. The stadium wasn't packed with fans, but a surge of excitement shot through the bleachers as the final penalty shot slipped past the goalie and into the net. With three shots into the goal, the Spartans had won their season opener.

There weren't any announcers or high profile sponsors, but on the evening of Oct. 1, MSU's own inline hockey team brought Demonstration Hall to life as they battled the Chippewas of Central Michigan University on home turf and walked away victorious.

The team, which consists of 13 men – 4 players with a goaltender at any one time - usually plays out of state. But this time, their first game of the season was played right here in East Lansing.

"We like to travel, but it's better to play here," junior Gordon Johns, who plays defense for the A-Team, said. "We have a really slippery rink, so when other teams come they're sliding all over. It makes us a much better team."

After an intense opening, the team won their game at the season opener with a score of 6-4.

"We started strong, but were down three to nothing," Johns said. "We came back to tie the game, and it went into a five-man shootout."

The team had only had a few practice sessions before their first standoff with the Chippewas, but were brimming with confidence, thanks to great camaraderie and a history of success—including two Midwest Collegiate Roller Hockey League (MCRHL) championship wins under their belts.

"This was the first test of our team," sophomore Alex Gammicchia said. "It was intense going into a shootout, but we played really well. It was a really exciting game."

But this match was only one of many exciting games the team has had in its past.

"We got a $900 bid to go to Nationals last year," Johns said. "We usually play regional, but that game was in California."

Still, even at the lower-profile games, the action can get pretty fast-paced.

"Games can actually get pretty competitive," Gammicchia said. "It's fun to both watch and play."

The season opener at Demonstration Hall may not have been a national competition, but there were certainly a fair number of enthusiasts sitting in the stands. Gammicchia said he hopes to see even more MSU students coming out to support their team in the future.

"We get more fans every year," Gammicchia said. "But the more who know about it and come out, the better."

TYPE natalie patterson/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN saralee gordon





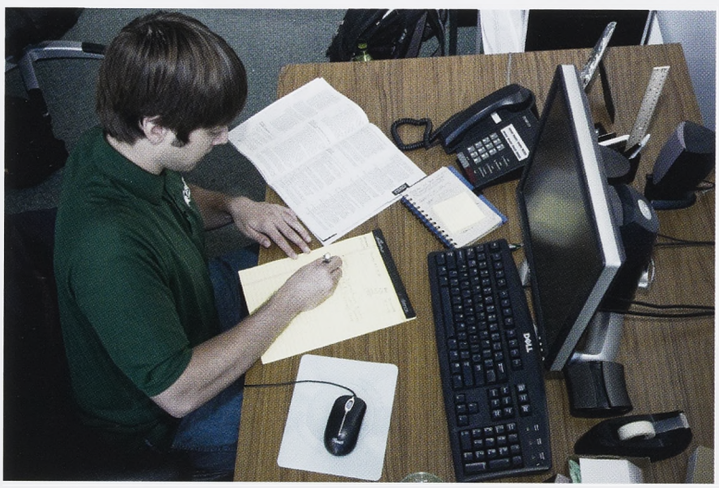


Senior Joseph Boardman speeds toward the puck to keep it in the hands of the Spartans. Boardman and his teammates generally travel out of state to play other teams in the region.

Senior Steve Koch guards the goal for the B-team. Only the A-team was victorious over the Chippewas in the season-opener at Demonstration Hall.

"i think that's a great thing, as a student, to have the resources to argue a case and go up against the university if they need to."

-Bryan Beck, junior

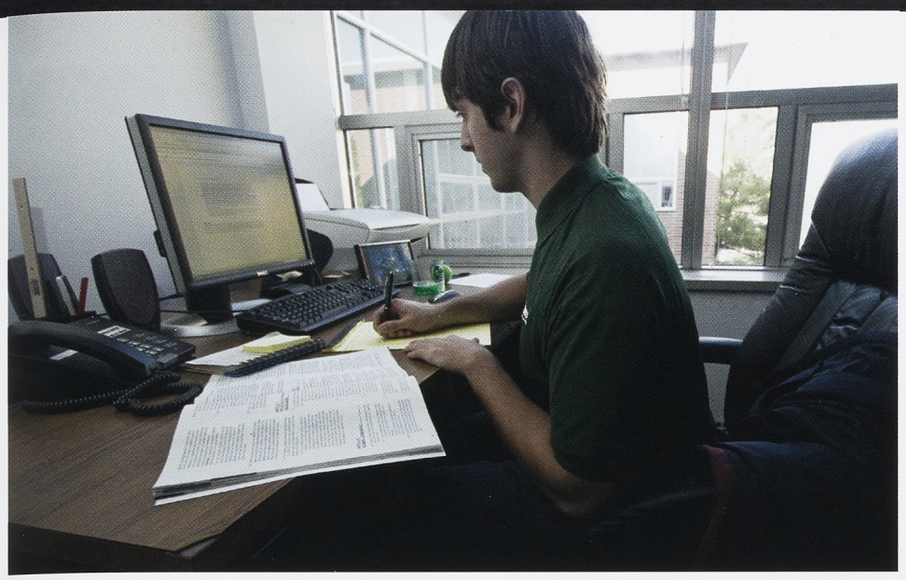




Director of Student Defenders and senior James DeMates researches a case. The Student Defenders are allowed to prepare clients for a judicial board hearing and show up with them at the hearing, but are not allowed to speak on behalf of their client.

Andrew Block, associate director of the Student Defenders, works on a case. The department usually carries around six defenders, and most of them draw their experience from their pre-law or James Madison backgrounds.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN brendan prost



Senior James DeMates, director of Student Defenders, prepares for a case. The Student Defenders meet with their clients to work out the best possible way to settle a case, whether that be a settlement out of court or an actual hearing in front of a judicial board.



justice for all

Student Defenders assist students in hearings despite limited abilities

While the Student Defenders' goal is to help students facing a conflict with the University, the counsel's activity is restricted in one key area: at the hearing the student has to address the judicial board alone.

The Student Defenders, a department in the Associated Students of MSU, is comprised mostly of pre-law students from James Madison who are trained to help students facing a charge from the university. These university cases involve issues such as academic integrity and grade disputes, among others. The defenders help students through the process, prepare them for the hearing and work on reaching a settlement.

However, if the case is heard in front of a judicial board, the student is required to speak on his or her own, as the defenders are not allowed to plead the case to the judicial board on behalf of the student, a rule made by the Judicial Affairs Office, which oversees the judicial board hearings.

Senior James DeMates, director of the Department of Student Defenders, said this can be intimidating for students who aren't used to the judicial process.

DeMates explained that if a student is accused of drinking in a dorm, the hall director would be the one to press charges, meaning that the student goes up against someone who has been through the process before.

"They've done this a hundred times; they know exactly what they're doing," he said, referring to the example of the hall director. "Who are they against? Two students, maybe like you, who have no interest in public speaking and no real way to defend themselves. It's putting a seasoned opponent against novices."

Rick Shafer, the associate director of Student Life oversees Judicial Affairs and disagrees that the counsel is limited, arguing that the disciplinary process is meant to teach students to be responsible citizens. However, the Judicial Affairs' legitimacy behind their mission statement may be questioned due to the way they carry out their hearings.

Junior and student defender Bryan Beck said that at individual hearings, the judicial board is usually unfair to students.

"I've personally had cases where the student would try to go up against the board, especially when it's a grade dispute, and the teacher ends up being on the board, and that's a little biased. When that person's on the board itself, it kind of makes it difficult to sway the board's opinion," Beck said.

The Judicial Affairs Office has come under fire for its infractions of student civil rights in the past. In 2008, ASMSU found that Shafer was permitting "unauthorized judicial boards" that "were convening disciplinary hearings and sanctioning students," according to a press release on the ASMSU website. Shafer attempted to cover up the unauthorized boards by shredding "student judicial files," but was told to stop after MSU administrators and ASMSU officials opened an investigation. Shafer would not comment on the situation.

Although DeMates said most cases brought to the Student Defenders are usually settled without a hearing, he believes Judicial Affairs prevents the Student Defenders from doing their jobs, which is to help students.

"It's kind of like an attorney being hired for somebody, but the attorney can't do anything, and the person who hired the attorney has to say everything on their own," Beck said.

Despite its limited role, the group works to prepare students for hearings. Beck said the Student Defenders are still the best option for students looking for help.

"It's a great idea for students and people who really don't know where to go," he said. "I think that's a great thing, as a student, to have the resources to argue a case and go up against the university if they need to."

"as spartans, we're a family. that's why i chose to come lend a hand."

-Courtnie Coppernoll, sophomore

students helping students

The MSU Food Bank helps feed students living off campus with donations from local vendors

The Olin Health Center's cafeteria can get quite chaotic every other Wednesday. Green plastic bags piled on tables nearly to the height of the students who placed them there. An abundance of fresh food and students crowding into the tiny room to collect donated groceries.

The scene is, in other words, just another typical evening at the MSU Food Bank. Located inside Olin Health Center, the food bank has been providing students with essential groceries since 1993.

"A group of students and some of the staff at Olin saw a need for supplemental food support among students," Nate Smith-Tyge, director of the food bank, said. "The food bank has been student-run since it started. It's a way for other students who don't have financial concerns or who live in a residence hall to help other students."

Smith-Tyge said that the food bank was initially set up for graduate students with financial issues, but is now being taken advantage of by students of all levels. Approximately 250 students come to the food bank on any of its fortnightly distribution days, he said, to collect an assortment of groceries, including pasta, cereal, fresh produce, bread and nonperishable goods.

The operation purchases most of its food from the Capitol Area Red Cross, but also depends on donations from the greater Lansing and MSU community. The MSU Dairy Store provides cheese, the Lansing Garden Project provides fresh produce, while delicatessens Panera Bread Co. and Breadsmith provide grain products.

According to Food Bank Operations Manager and senior Samantha Hansen, students simply need to be currently-enrolled and live off campus to qualify for aid from the food bank. She also pointed out that the food bank is completely student-operated.

"It's a win-win with student volunteers," she said. "The volunteers get a good feeling and they know they're helping someone else out, and that they could be in their situation."

Students have an opportunity to volunteer at the food bank during the fall and spring semesters, according to Smith-Tyge. Several student groups, including the Food Science Club, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Spartan Civilian Club, the Psychology Club, Lambda Chi Alpha, and the MSU Pompon Team have already volunteered at the food bank, or plan to do so sometime during either semester.

"It's all about building a community amongst students, from international students to undergrads to grads," Smith-Tyge said. "We're all in this together."

First-time volunteer and sophomore Courtnie Coppernoll held a similar viewpoint.

"We understand that some aren't as privileged as others," she said. "But as Spartans, we're a family. That's why I chose to come lend a hand."

The main goal of the food bank, Smith-Tyge said, was to provide supplemental support to help people get by from week-to-week.

"I just hope to ease some financial pressures so students don't have to worry about the basics of life," he said. "That gives students more time to focus on the primary reason why they're at MSU: academics."

Indeed, senior Kelly Smith, a regular visitor at the food bank, certainly has no complaints about its mission.

"The food bank just really helps me out grocery-wise," she said. "We're college students. We're all poor."



Volunteers hand over green grocery bags to various students inside the Olin Health Center cafeteria. Students of all ages come to the food bank.



TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN brendan prost



Bread at the MSU Food Bank is donated by Panera Bread Co. The food bank also provides fresh produce, cereal, and nonperishable items.

Freshman Sydney Johnson and seniors Jessie Altizer and Mary Balog volunteer at the food bank. Some volunteers are regulars, while others volunteer sporadically.



Jaime Peoples, junior, and Vikash Taneja, a local community resident and volunteer, bag groceries at the MSU Food Bank. Director Nate Smith-Tyge said about 250 students come to the food bank per distribution day.



Doctorate student Rami Halloush and senior Faread Jamalifard enjoy the catered food at Aladdin Night. The boys sat under a tent set up by the Arab Cultural Society in Auditorium Field for the party, or "haflah" in Arabic.



"i feel like when people think of arabic they don't associate it with parties, but honestly, **arabic parties** are the best parties i've ever been to."

-Joey Khalil, junior



Freshmen Navmeet Dhillon and Ashley Wilson sit under the tent set up in Auditorium Field for Aladdin Night. The party was the final celebration of the Arab Cultural Society's new educational month this year.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN brendan prost

out with awareness, in with embracement

The Arab Cultural Society turns a week of education into a month of celebration

Last year, the Arab Cultural Society, or ACS, spent a week in October promoting Arab awareness on campus. This year, the society took the entire month to embrace Arab culture.

"You say AIDS awareness or cancer awareness, and we're not a plague," senior and chairperson of the group Shereen Hamed said. "We changed it to Arab Culture Month because that's what we're doing, we're embracing the culture."

To kick off the month's festivities, the society handed out Arab breakfast food at The Rock and hosted an Arabic language night. ACS also invited filmmaker Jackie Salloum to show her documentary about the Palestinian hip-hop movement.

But the grand finale of ACS's new celebratory month was Aladdin Night, a party, or "haflah" in Arabic, under a tent in Auditorium Field on Oct. 22. The party is coined Aladdin Night not because it's themed after the Disney movie, but because the character is memorable and sticks in student's heads, said junior and member of the society's executive board Joey Khalil. This was the fourth year the group put on the party.

"It brings everyone together. It's not the usual party where everyone's getting trashed," senior Emin Yelizarov said. "Music, food and people, what else do you need?"

Yelizarov and a friend, senior Manzur Moidunny, were amongst a large group of people overflowing out of the party's small, packed tent. Amid a fog of strawberry smoke and scents of tabouli, kibbeh and fattoush, a crowded mess of Arab and non-Arab students, alumni and faculty, mingled and danced to DJ Dani, a well-known DJ in the Dearborn area.

An estimated 120 people came and went throughout the night, said Khalil, who is Lebanese.

"I feel like when people think of Arabic, they don't associate it with parties, but honestly, Arabic parties are the best parties I've ever been to," Khalil said.

"They have these notions in their mind of what it is, and I feel like when people actually come to these events and see what we're about, people will start to see that what you had was a perceived notion was actually not the case," he said.

Khalil said Arab culture actually encompasses a range of religions and nationalities, despite the common conception that Arabs are solely Muslim and from one or two countries. Many people in the group are Christian and come from all around the Middle East, he said.

And on this night, the Arab community and non-Arabs gathered as one to celebrate ACS's educational month.

"It's just to create diversity and promote a sense of cultural understanding," Hamed said. "You know maybe if we can find it for ourselves, maybe other people and other Arabs on campus can find the same thing."





Freshman Natalie Yousif, sophomore Lana Raouf and sophomore Farah Dubaybo eat and mingle at Aladdin Night. Though the night wasn't themed after the Disney movie, it uses the popular character's name in order to be memorable to those who attended.

Students and faculty grab some food to celebrate Arab culture on Aladdin Night. The night, hosted by the Arab Cultural Society, was in its fourth year running.



Junior coxswain Meagan Meldrim shouts orders to a men's crew as they slash through the water on Grand River during the team's fall regatta- the Head of the Grand. All of MSU's boats had different names, such as The Resolute, Blind Faith and Bucephalus.

"we've stepped right up into contention with every team and i feel like that gives us more hype."

-Marc Mens, senior

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN jessica halfyard





James Bosko, sophomore Tyler Sylvester and Harrison Ehrlich slice through Grand River in synchronized fashion with their team. Though the men did not win their annual Head of the Grand Regatta, they placed boats in second and third against top-notch rowing teams like the University of Michigan.

Sophomore Bradley Despins warms up on the water with his team before a race. Teamwork is one of the most essential parts of having a synchronized and successful crew.



down on port

The MSU Crew Club hosts the Head of the Grand Regatta

Man O' War's black hull cut through the flowing waters of Grand River as oars splashed in tandem along its sides. Named after one of the greatest thoroughbred racehorses of all time, the sleek, black shell is one of the MSU Crew Club's best boats and piloted by the varsity men's heavyweight crew.

On the morning of Oct. 17, the crew launched Man O' War into the Grand River in Grand River Park for their annual Head of the Grand Regatta, a 4,000 meter race. Though the race is normally an initiation for the team's novices—those in their first year of rowing—the University of Michigan, Grand Valley State University, Michigan Tech University and Northern Michigan University came to compete this year, drastically raising the stakes.

"Michigan and Grand Valley are usually really high society schools—leaps and bounds ahead of us. But just in the last year we've narrowed that gap by a lot," senior Marc Mens said, adding that their own boat beat Grand Valley's last year.

"So, we've stepped right up into contention with every team and I feel like that gives us more hype," he said.

The team has definitely improved a great deal since head coach Mike Bailey came in and "turned the program around," Mens said.

Bailey came from a successful crew program at the University of Wisconsin, where he was an assistant coach intermittently for 20 years. He said he tries to implement the techniques from his old program into the MSU team. Personally, Bailey said he puts in almost 70 hours a week: team practices are held daily at 6 a.m. and again in the afternoon.

"Well, every coach is supposed to say you're supposed to win, right?" Bailey said. "We just want to take our program from where it was, which was a little bit down in the past few years, with kids not being as successful, to making it to finals."

Bailey said that in 2009, the team put four boats into the finals at the Dad Vail Regatta, the largest intercollegiate rowing event in the country, despite having put in just one the previous year. They also put in seven boats, a full squad, at the Club National Rowing Championship that same year.

These two races are the biggest events of the year for crew clubs and are the best yardsticks for club improvement, so in terms of competitiveness, Bailey said his team had a great past season. If the team consistently places boats in the finals this year, he said, the wins will start to come.

More important than winning, though, is the cooperation that gets a team to the finish line. In a sport where being level, smooth and synchronized are the main goals, crew members said that working together is key.

"Everyone relies on everyone else—it's a team thing. If one person gives up it affects everyone else," sophomore and novice team member Kaitlyn Beels said.

"You spend a lot of time with those same people, because a lot of it is teamwork—you're all pushing each other—and a lot of it is learning each other's flow and stroke and learning each other's balance and tendencies," Mens said. "All in all, I think our team is a really big family."

feeling the vibe

Students and organizations get together to share different cultural dances

While many students may have tripped over their two left feet, fallen on their friends and occasionally even on their faces, the dance instructors flowed through each step and twist with practiced ease.

Such was the scene at The Vibe, a saltatory free-for-all at the old Abbot Cafeteria on Oct. 21, where various student organizations showcased a plethora of dance styles. Attendees included members of the Breakdance Club, Culturas de las Razas Unidas, the MSU Ballroom Dance Club, and the Capoeira Club.

Approximately 40 students gathered in the cafeteria to watch the performances, perhaps with hopes of picking up a few new moves for weekend parties. Devin Evans, a cultural aide at the Snyder-Phillips residence halls, however, had some thoughts of his own for the event.

"I hope people will start to respect other peoples' ways and cultures. We wanted to represent different cultures at the event and give students a multi-cultural experience," he said.

One of the more fascinating performances that night was Capoeira, a Brazilian dance-martial art hybrid. An art with a uniquely infectious style, Capoeira was created by slaves to help them escape from slavery. To disguise what they were really up to, they integrated combat moves into a dance form.

"Music is a key component to the Brazilian dance," Kevin "Forca" Hendrickson, the Capoeira group instructor, said. "You cannot perform a dance by yourself; you need people to dance with, people to play instruments, and people to clap."

Hendrickson also explained to the students that Capoeira is a national sport in Brazil and has since been embraced across continents and cultures. Dance moves associated with Capoeira have even translated into many of the moves seen in hip-hop dancing.

"It's a great way to build strength, balance, and grace," Hendrickson said.

The MSU Ballroom Dance Club showed the crowd how to do the Mamba, Rumba, and Salsa, and coached the crowd with easy steps such as, "Back, side, together."

While some students still tripped up despite the instruction, others glided smoothly across the dance floor with ease and grace.

Junior David Clatterbuck, a club member, thought The Vibe was a good way to learn and connect with fellow classmates on the dance floor.

"*Dancing with the Stars* is a popular show on TV, and people watch it. We thought it would be cool to come out here, put on a similar performance, and teach everyone a few steps," he said.

Evans took over the dance floor towards the end of the night to showcase a few different styles of the famous Hustle. As though connecting to something familiar, the crowd perked up again for one last dance, as Evans put a twist on the steps by setting it to the John Legend hit, "Give Me the Green Light".

Freshman Molly Lester said that she enjoyed experimenting with different dance styles.

"I was pretty good at ballroom dancing because I used to do it when I was little. I kept hitting people in the face when trying to do the Capoeira, and the Hustle was something I already knew," she said.



A member of the Break Dance Club displays some cool and technical moves to the students. The Break Dance Club performed at The Vibe, and although many students are familiar with this form of dance, some say it was the most difficult.

"it's a great way to build strength, balance, and **grace**."

-Kevin Hendrickson, Capoeira instructor

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS ballroom dance club, breakdance club, capoeira club, culturas de las razas unidas

TYPE **marissa russo/PHOTO audrey aquino/DESIGN brendan prost**







While wearing the traditional outfit, one of the cultural aids running the event performs a form of the Salsa called Aquascalientas. The Vibe displayed and opened up many different cultural dances to the 40 students who were eager to learn.

The Capoeira Club starts off their performance in a still and stiff stance. They performed at The Vibe to help display a cultural-based dance and help students understand the message behind Capoeira.

Junior Jesse Wiza DJs for the Impact. Wiza described her favorite part of working for the Impact as meeting and interviewing local musicians.



impact media

Student radio station provides campus with an alternative to mainstream music

"here, you have the freedom to pursue your own personal interests and see within yourself your ability."

-Autumn Maison, senior

Winning the title of the Michigan Association of Broadcaster's Number One College Radio Station of the Year 10 years in a row isn't easy.

Yet Michigan State's campus radio station, Impact 89FM, has done just that.

According to general manager and telecommunications professor Gary Reid, the Impact has had profound success due to their motto: "diversity in programming, professionalism in presentation and education."

Student radio began at MSU in the 1950s. Reid stepped in as general manager in 1989, and the Impact we know today was born. Today, a variety of music and talk shows are broadcast to campus and the greater Lansing area.

"We've always prided ourselves on professionalism. After 10 years, I think it becomes a culture of success that everyone tries to uphold," he said. "We're not just kids screwing around."

The Impact airs 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year. The station has 47 DJs on air and 50 to 60 students behind the scenes. However, what's unique about the station is that it's completely student run and organized.

"My job is to allow them to do what they want to do. I make sure it's legal, but I challenge the students to be the best they can," Reid said.

Music director and senior Autumn Maison began at the Impact as a sophomore with a shift from 2-6 a.m. on weeknights.

"It was kind of stressful, yes. I was tired a lot, yes," she said. "But I stuck with it because I loved it and I knew that this was an opportunity to work with the equipment and people who were passionate about radio."

Talk radio is featured six nights a week, with a different focus for each day.

On Tuesday nights, the Impact reflects on MSU events and student issues, including a piece called Sexposure. Through a partnership with Olin Health Center, the show features an open discussion about sexual health.

"The host for every show gets to decide what they want to talk about. They have complete control," Maison said. "Here, you have the freedom to pursue your own personal interests and see within yourself your ability."

Maison, who hosts the show, said Impact's music is selected with the help of a music review team and the station's listeners on the Sunday night show Sit or Spin, in which a music panel and viewers vote on music to be played.

The Impact upholds its motto of diversity with various programs. Asian Invasion, broadcast on Monday evenings, features popular music from China, Japan and Korea. Other music shows throughout the week focus on blues, folk, electronic, metal, hip-hop, punk, new wave, ska and indie music.

"All the music is filtered through a lot of people with different musical tastes," DJ and junior Jesse Wiza said. "Then the music is put into a huge digital log that selects the songs to be played that day. It's just like a real radio station."

Local bands are often featured on the station in a special segment called The Basement. Additionally, bands such as Frontier Ruckus, The Hard Lessons and Chris Bathgate have performed live in the Impact studio, according to Maison.

Reid hopes that, with a motivated staff, the Impact will be able to survive and conquer through a new age of digital music media.

"The biggest issue is remaining relevant," he said. "Our desire is to be a trusted friend that provides new music; music that's going to be the next big thing. We like to think of ourselves as impact media."

TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN betsy eber

Senior David Yuan works with the soundboard on a Monday night. All the DJs at the Impact are student volunteers and the organization is completely student run.



swashbuckling sword-wielders

MSU Fencing Club- a national force to be reckoned with

Behold an MSU sports team that finished fourth in the nation two years ago, lost 10 of its 18 starters, and yet, improved to third last year. It's not one of the big three revenue sports, or any of the other varsity sports. The MSU Fencing club team is the source of this success, and the highly regarded fencing program has only gotten better in the past few years.

Fencing used to be a varsity sport at MSU, but it was dropped to club status in 1997 as part of a national movement of universities devoting more money toward larger sports programs. Now the club relies on open tryouts, which bring in primarily people who are new to fencing. According to the MSU Fencing website, 78 percent of the traveling team last year had no experience before joining the club. So, how does the fencing team turn novice fencers into national contenders in the scope of a year?

"We've been blessed with a seriously excellent coaching staff in the past couple years," senior Will Bonner said, the men's foil squad captain as well as the men's overall team captain. "How many basketball teams lose half their roster and improve? So, hats off to our coaching staff for helping turn decent fencers into good ones."

The fencing club is led by the team captains, one for each of the three weapon squads (saber, epee and foil) for both men and women. The captains lead drills and dictate practice, but the five coaches give one-on-one lessons with fencers to further improve their skill and simulate fencing bouts. The coaches are current fencers in the United States Fencing Association and all have high marks for each weapon, as rated by the USFA.

Head Coach Dan Bock and his staff began two years ago, leading the club to its fourth place finish at the Club Fencing Championships. MSU was the No. 1 club team in the Midwest Fencing Conference that year, beating varsity teams such as Ohio State and Notre Dame, which sometimes feature Olympic athletes.

While MSU Fencing has an impressive history—once coached by Charles Schmitter for 45 years, who was considered the first American master of fencing—the last few years have really seen a jump up for the club.

"I would say we sort of modernized the technique here," Bock said, an MSU College of Law graduate and a former captain of the fencing team at Michigan. "They have really stepped up and done a lot of research to modernize practice."

Bock said part of this modernization included students competing more outside the club in USFA circuits, which initiated the use of electronic scoring equipment for competitions.

The fencers hit the gym in IM West four times a week from 8-10 p.m., but often stay later to hone their craft. After 30 minutes of performing various exercises that leave them sweating, they don the insect-like masks and white-clothed body armor—a tradition dating back to when a touch on an opponent would be marked by the charcoal smear from the weapon. They practice a series of drills and mini-bouts to help to improve their footwork, which Bock estimates is 95 percent of being a good fencer.

"Compared to our other competition, we're pretty athletic," Bonner said. "We do a lot of footwork exercises. We win a lot of bouts with people that are more experienced or better than us by trying harder, working harder and getting a little lucky."

While Bonner doesn't want to rule out the inevitable thought of reaching a national championship this year, he's still worried about the improving strength of other clubs and his team's overall consistency between the different squads. However, in the fencing world, there's no question that MSU's club is commanding respect from its peers.

"I'd like to think that we're a respected club team, and maybe a little feared," Bonner said.



Freshman Zach Girouard and sophomore Kendra Siegersma go head-to-head during fencing practice. While most of the practice involves specific drills, fencers get the chance to square off, often hooking up to an electronic scoring system used in competitions.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN saralee gordon



Sophomore Chelsea Champlin warms up the women's epee squad. Many of the fencers described epee fencing as the marathon of the three weapon categories because the bouts last longer and it's harder to land hits.

The MSU Fencing Club warms up with a variety of exercises to improve conditioning and footwork. The coaches of the club say that footwork is 95 percent of fencing.





"i'd like to think that we're a **respected** club team, and maybe a little **feared**."

-Will Bonner, senior



TYPEnatalie patterson/PHOTOnatalie kolb/DESIGNbetsy eber

The flag of Israel stands on a table at Israel Fest. Participants were immersed in many aspects of Jewish and Middle Eastern culture.

Freshman Mia Gordon and Freshman Danny Fresh experience the tastes of Israel. Along with food, students were able to learn about Israel's environmental achievements and snag some Dead Sea products.



"it's for everyone to see **all the good** parts of israel- not just the problems."

-Sam Appel, junior



Freshman Katie Bean gets a Henna tattoo from sophomore Sarah Silver. The Henna booth was a popular attraction for students to learn about Jewish culture.

culture and kabobs

Israel Fest introduces students to Jewish traditions

Students who attended Israel Fest were offered free music, food, T-shirts and fun. But beyond material goods, they were also given the opportunity to explore a culture much different than that of the United States, as well as to talk with other students who have a passion for sharing the richness of that culture.

Junior Sam Appel, coordinator of Israel Fest, was one of these students. The goal of this event, he said, was to highlight the many cultural accomplishments of the nation of Israel.

"We want to inform the MSU community of all that Israel has to offer," Appel said. "Its culture, its technology, its environmental achievements; there are so many great things that people don't know much about."

"We put on this event so people can enjoy good food, fun times, and maybe even learn a little bit," he said.

The year 2010 marked the sixth annual event put on by the MSU Hillel, a Jewish student organization, and the Associated Students of MSU. For seniors Jared Hocking and Zach Simons, who formerly worked for Hillel and helped to put on the event, Israel Fest's message was much more than a simple showcase of Jewish culture.

"Each booth represents a different part of Israel," Hocking said. "Everything from Israel's environmental accomplishments to free beauty products and food; there's a lot to experience."

Though Israel's population is 76 percent Jewish and the event was sponsored by Hillel, Israel fest appealed to a broad spectrum of students. One booth offered free Henna tattoos, and another was giving away Dead Sea beauty products.

At another booth, students interested in Israel's green contributions were able to learn more about a study abroad program to Israel in the summer, focusing on creating a sustainable environment and environmental stewardship - a movement pioneered by Israel decades ago. Israel was one of the few countries in the world that entered the 21st century with more trees than they had at the start of the 20th, and at one table at the event, students received seed cards to plant in the ground and help mark Israel's "One Hundred Years of Green."

Aside from helping to plant trees, students were also able to write prayers, wishes, and hopes on note cards to be taken to the Western Wall in Jerusalem, where students traveling there on a Birthright trip will place them at the wall. Birthright gives foreign-born Jews who have never been to Israel the chance to travel there for 10 days in order to strengthen their identity in the Jewish faith and to witness important cultural landmarks, such as the Western Wall, for themselves.

"It's the belief that if you put a note in the wall, what you wish for will come true," senior Jackie Schwartz, who handed note cards to passing students, said.

But one of Hillel's own wishes is that through this event, students will broaden their understanding of Israel and see other aspects of it, as opposed to solely focusing on its many political issues.

"We want to encourage all people, not just Jews, to experience this event," Schwartz said. "It's for everyone to see all the good parts of Israel – not just the problems."

"i held her hand and i said 'baby, you can do this. i've been living with this for a long time.'"

-Felix Sirls, Detroit Department of Health





Erika Gardner, standards chair for Alpha Kappa Alpha, says a few words before introducing the first speaker of the evening. The event was part of her sorority's "Skee-Week" that included community uplifting programs each night.

After reading her slip of paper aloud, an audience member shares the clear liquid in her cup with another nearby. The game was meant to show how easily HIV can spread without proper precaution.



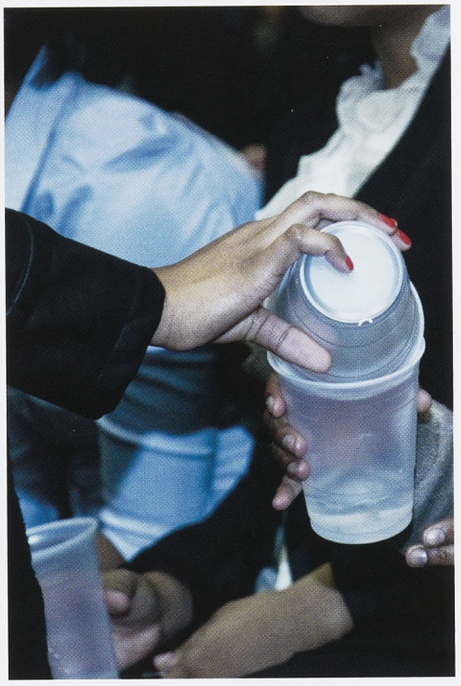
keeping clean

Alpha Kappa Alpha unites students to learn about HIV/AIDS prevention

TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO audrey aquino/DESIGN brendan prost



Felix and Paula Sirls speak to the crowd about their personal stories of living with HIV. Since their diagnoses, the two have regularly presented at HIV awareness events.



After reading a scenario aloud, an audience member transfers the clear liquid in her cup to another's nearby. Though only three people started with with the chemical that would turn pink singaling an "HIV positive" in the game, nearly evenyone's cup changed color after the revealing agent was added.

Freshman Ricky Hernandez nervously paced outside Union parlor 2B, waiting for news which could change the rest of his life. Finally, the door swung open and freshman Max Olivero emerged. The wide grin on his face and a breathy chuckle gave Hernandez the answer he had been hoping for.

His partner was HIV-free, but now it was his turn to find out if he was infected.

Hernandez returned after less than a minute with an equally elated expression. After two weeks of waiting on HIV test results from the Lansing Area AIDS Network, the couple finally found out they were both clean.

"He was so nervous he wouldn't even hold my hand," Olivero said, still smiling after receiving the news.

The two of them had arrived early to Alpha Kappa Alpha's "AKAknowledge Your Status" HIV prevention event to receive their test results. They decided to get tested to make sure neither of them was infected from previous partners.

"You never know, people could lie to you," Hernandez said.

Matt Hulbert, a prevention coordinator at LAAN—and the man who gave Hernandez and Olivero the good news—spoke at the event about ways to prevent spreading the virus, primarily through safe sex practices and regular testing.

Hulbert cited that black patients comprise 59 percent of all HIV cases. As one of the "Divine Nine" fraternities and sororities on campus dedicated to advancing the status of black students, the message of prevention was especially pertinent to Alpha Kappa Alpha's mission.

"Being aware of your status, per se, is important in any race or organization," senior Erika Gardner, standards chair for sorority, said.

The sorority hosts a "Skee-Week" each semester, where they organize community uplifting programs for each night of this specific week. Though "Skee-Week" has addressed other health issues in the past, this is the first year where the sorority has confronted HIV prevention.

Felix Sirls, an HIV counselor for the Detroit Department of Health, and his wife Paula spoke at the event about their personal experiences of living with HIV.

"We're here to tell you this is what HIV looks like," Felix said. "You can't tell who has it, who doesn't."

Felix said HIV prevention efforts are especially important on college campuses because many students, especially younger ones, are adjusting to new responsibilities.

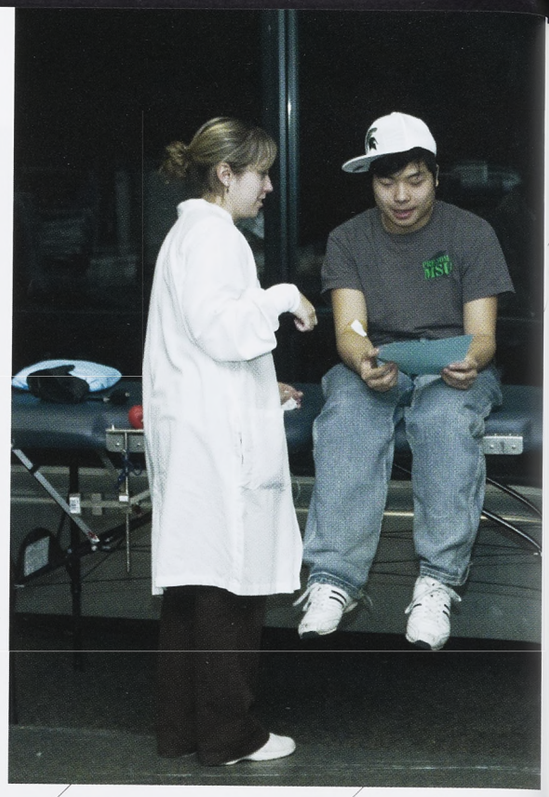
"They're away from home, a lot of them are having new experiences," he said.

Both Felix and Paula shared accounts of growing up with the pain of abuse. Felix, a child orphan who was eventually reunited with his father through the court system, was regularly beaten and forced into sexual activity with his 15-year-old babysitter. This led to a misguided promiscuous lifestyle as an adult, during which he contracted HIV. Living in San Francisco, he witnessed the pandemic gain momentum first-hand and watched as it eventually spread across the country.

Paula was scarred by sexual abuse as a child, later staying with her husband for 20 years while he sold drugs and disappeared every weekend, having affairs with countless women. It wasn't until she mustered the courage to leave that he told her he was HIV-positive.

The crowd was captivated as the couple shared their journey. The two regularly speak at awareness events, and Felix has made a career counseling newly-diagnosed HIV patients and setting up support groups.

"[The first time we met] I held her hand and I said 'Baby, you can do this. I've been living with this for a long time,'" Felix said.



Freshman Michael Nguyen reads over the restrictions and requirements for getting his blood drawn before donating to in the American Red Cross Campus Challenge. Volunteers can give blood no more than every 56 days.

Freshman Hunter Jelsch completes paperwork at the snack table after donating blood. Though MSU lost the American Red Cross Campus Challenge to Penn State this year, students donated 2,008 pints, a record amount of blood.



saving lives, almost beating penn state

MSU students bleed more than green for the American Red Cross Campus Challenge

One of Kelly Weber's most vivid memories upon becoming MSU's donor recruitment representative for the American Red Cross last year was listening to a man speak to the Greek community.

Amid a crowded blood drive at East Holmes Hall on Nov. 4, Weber retold the story while stray students ate free snacks post-donation and listened in. Weber said that when the man's son was born, he immediately needed a blood transfusion to stay alive. He was able to get it with donated blood.

Twenty-eight days later, however, his son passed away. The man said, though, that even knowing his little boy for the short time was better than never knowing him at all, Weber recalled.

Weber continued to say that when the man's second son also needed a blood transfusion at birth, he was able to get one. The difference, however, is that he is still alive.

"That story stays with me," she said. "It's truly one of the amazing stories I've come across at the Red Cross."

It's because of stories like that that MSU and Pennsylvania State University face off annually for two weeks in November for the American Red Cross' Campus Challenge. This year, 34 blood drives were organized across campus in an effort to break MSU's four-year losing streak.

"It's embarrassing—it really is," sophomore and member of Fiji fraternity Matt Gross said about MSU's track record. "I mean, there's no reason we shouldn't be beating them in everything."

Beyond this typical competitiveness that arises between Big Ten schools was the overarching fact that students were saving lives by taking an hour of their time to donate blood.

"It feels good to know that you could be saving someone's life—it's a gift," sophomore Abbey Debniak said after donating blood.

"It's absolutely the most important thing you can do, other than giving your life," Sal Wilson, a supervising nurse at one of the blood drives, said.

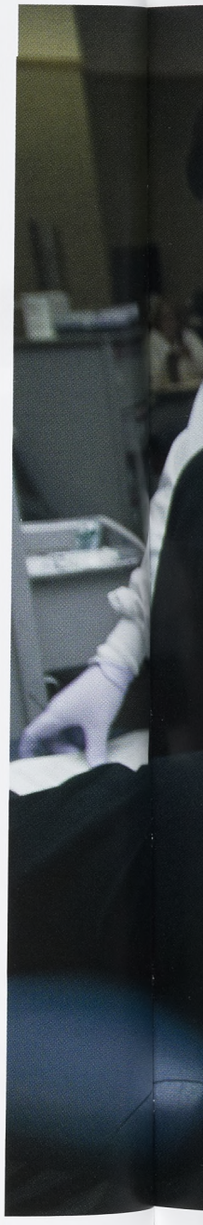
"We're short of blood all over the United States and blood is a product that saves lives," she said.

In fact, American Red Cross says three lives can be saved per pint. Blood can be broken down into three different components: platelets, red cells and plasma, according to Wilson. Depending on what a person needs, the three different components could go to three different people.

"If you can give blood, you should," sophomore and volunteer Siman Mand said, "because you never know when you could save a life with the blood that you donate."

While Penn State was announced as the winner of the campus challenge at Beaver Stadium on Nov. 27, with 2,019 pints and MSU close behind with 2,008 pints, the competitiveness was left at the football field. What truly mattered in the Red Cross' challenge was that together, both universities potentially saved over 12,000 lives.

"It's not one of those things where you necessarily need or want the recognition," Gross said. "If people know about it, so what, you know, at the end of the day, we're still giving back to the community."



Sophomore Courtnie Coppernoll applies pressure to her right arm after successfully donating blood as nurse Michelle Brennan packs up. Each unit of blood donated by students has the potential to save three lives.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN saralee gordon

"it's **absolutely** the most **important** thing you can do, other than giving your life."

-Sal Wilson, American Red Cross



TYPE marissa russo/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN betsy eber

The Spartan Dischords perform "California Gurls" by Katy Perry on stage at the Fairchild Theatre. Wilson Shaner, the soloist for the song, captivated the audience with his vocal range while performing.

The Women's Glee Club performed at the Fairchild Theatre singing songs in Latin, English, and African. The group was energetic and enthusiastic, displaying hard work in preparation for the performance.



"i love singing. so anytime i get up on stage and sing in front of a group of people, it's great."

-Shelby Smith, freshman

noteworthy tunes

The MSU Men and Women's Glee Clubs sing the night away

Swarms of audiophiles who had come to hear the beautiful voices of the MSU Men and Women's Glee club milled about the Fairchild Theatre on Nov. 2, packing it almost to full capacity.

As soon as the red curtains lifted from the stage, the Women's Glee club organized themselves onto the stage into five rows of 20 girls. Their long, black dresses just barely skimmed the ground and the women stood straight-spined and patient. A hush fell over the theater, and then the music began.

The singers started singing in a voice that was just above a whisper and soon came to a crescendo, that echoed off the theatre walls. The first song performed was "Hodie Christus Natus Est." Latin lyrics escaped the o-shaped mouths of the choir as they harmonized in unison, "On this day, Christ the Lord is born," captivating the attention of the audience with melodic strains.

The Women's Glee Club practices twice a week for an hour and twenty minutes each session, and the fruits of their labor truly showed that night. Shelby Smith, a freshman and member of the club, said that she initially found it difficult to learn the pronunciation of the new languages.

"I love singing. So anytime I get up on stage and sing in front of a group of people, it's great. It's fun to share music," Smith said.

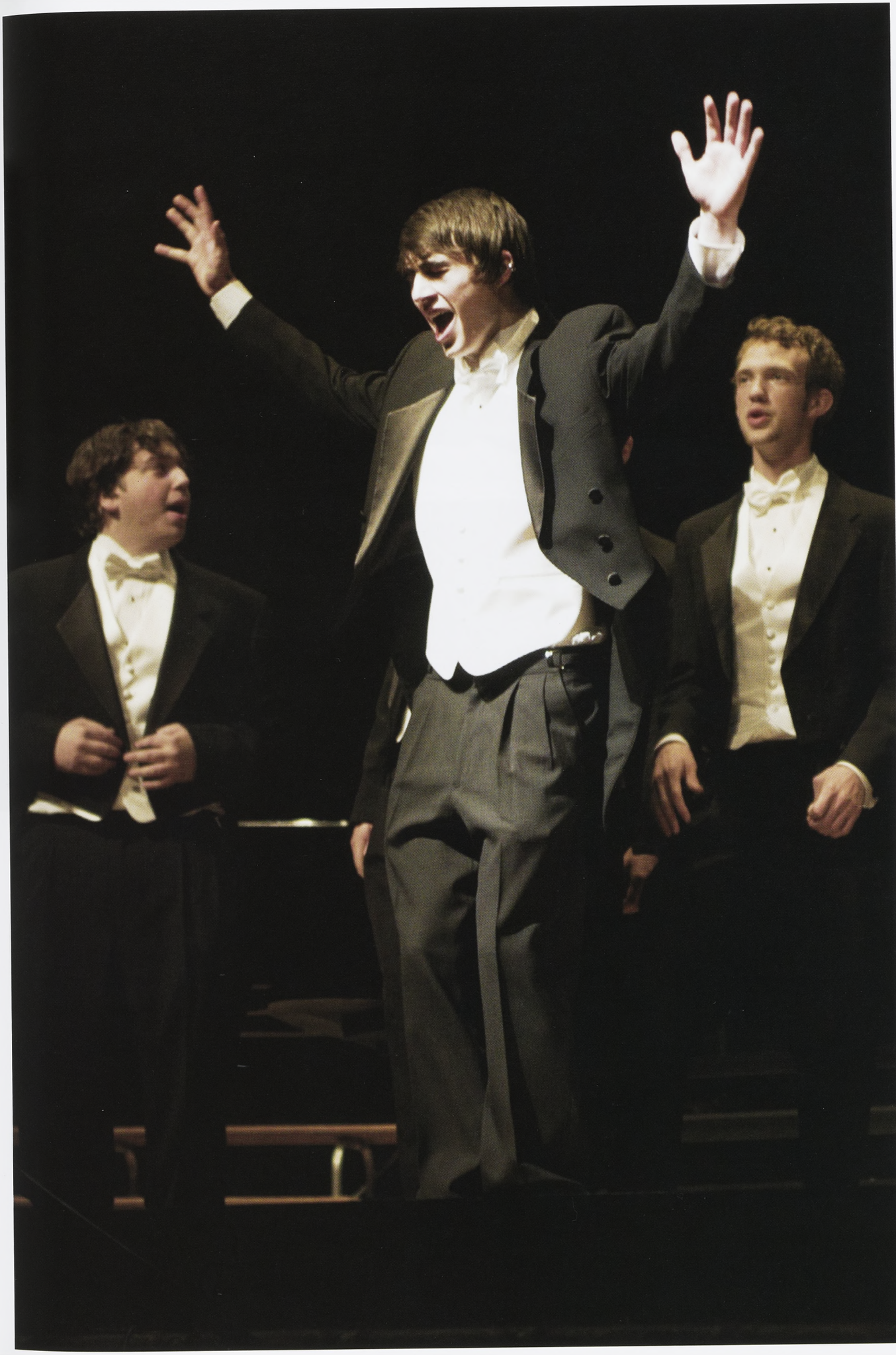
Once the Women's Glee club finished the last note of "Music Down In My Soul," the Spartan Dischords came on stage, bringing a more upbeat tone to the proceedings with familiar songs such as "Love the One You're With" and "California Gurls." The all-male group received a lot of laughs from the audience members due to the little jokes it incorporated into the songs.

Ladies First, a sub-group of the Women's Glee Club, arrived on stage soon after. They sang lively renditions of modern-day hits like Beyonce and Lady Gaga's "Telephone" and Aerosmith's "Dream On," working up the crowd and getting them to clap and sing along to their energetic routines and soulful voices.

After a brief intermission, the Men's Glee Club started its performance within the midst of the audience itself. They started with no accompanist, but as they worked their way through the audience and onto the stage, the instruments started to join in.

The Men's Glee Club sang an array of songs with a somber sense of harmony that night, performing timeless, beautiful melodies from the days of the Civil War, followed by old musical favorites from Jamaica, the Americas, and Africa. They capped off the show by inviting the alumni onto the stage to join them in singing another time-honored tune: the Michigan State Fight Song.

"My favorite song was the Jamaican song, 'Yellow Bird.' We had a lot of fun performing with the props," senior and Men's Glee club member Travis Pechota said.



TYPE isaac hee/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN brendan prost

A hand-crafted box for donations sits alongside cans of food and donated clothing on a table that the Phi Beta Sigma set up for the event. Though the fraternity only raised around $200 in proceeds from the event this year, they obtained more donations of clothing than they did in the previous year.

Phi Beta Sigma brothers wait alongside the tables they set up for the event on Grand River Avenue. The fraternity camped out in the north MSU Union courtyard and slept out in the cold without sleeping bags or blankets if they were tired.







out in the cold

Phi Beta Sigma brothers sleep out to collect donations for the homeless

The evening of Nov. 5 was the kind of Friday where the biting cold pierces straight to the bone, and partygoers and pedestrians stride by scrunched up, trying in vain to hug the chill away.

It was also the night that the intrepid men of Phi Beta Sigma slept out on the streets to raise donations and awareness for those who are less fortunate with their annual event "Sleep Out for the Homeless."

"You find different ways to keep yourself occupied so you don't think about the cold," senior Clyde Martin, a four-year veteran of the sleep-out, grinned. "If you're standing still though, you're definitely going to freeze no matter how many layers or gloves you've got on."

Behind him, a stereo system started pumping out rap, and a couple of fraternity brothers whooped and ran up to it to keep warm by dancing along, waving and cheering to passers-by.

On the pavement along Grand River Avenue near the MSU Union courtyard, fraternity brothers took turns approaching visibly chilled passers-by for contributions. Cans of beans and instant pasta sat on a nearby table alongside a cash-filled box with the word "Donations" scrawled on it in pen.

"We have this on the first Friday of every November," said senior and fraternity president Shaun Whitehead. "We sleep out from 7 p.m. till dawn, and we collect donations—monetary, clothing or food, that the Lansing Rescue Mission can go with and use."

"Last year, we raised almost $400 (in proceeds), so hopefully we can get to that range again on top of all the clothes and food that we raise," he said.

Martin said that he felt him and his fraternity brothers got better at raising donations every year.

The fraternity only raised approximately $200 in proceeds this year, but gained more donations of clothing than they did previously.

"I've learned that the best way is to just be honest and have fun with it," he laughed. "When you come out here and tell people about what you're doing, they often like to give more than they normally want to."

"The best part about this event is the people," he said. "We get to see so many people go by that we never get to see outside of a classroom. We've also met homeless people who come and support the program even though it's not going directly to them."

Bundled up in six layers of clothing, Whitehead, a three-time veteran of the event, said that the peak period for donations was usually between 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

"Past 3 or 4 a.m., when the bars let out and everybody's going to their last stops for the night— that's when things start to slow down," he said. "Some people come early in the morning to drop off stuff, but most of our general stuff comes before 2 a.m."

Waving good-bye to some students who stopped to ask about the event, senior Steve Bolton, the community service chair of Phi Beta Sigma, said that this program was what first caught his interest in the fraternity and convinced him to join.

"I have an opportunity to be blessed and sleep in a bed and a warm room every day," Bolton said with a smile. "I'm more than happy to donate one day out of 365 to a cause like this."

Will he be able to get any sleep tonight out here in freezing-point temperatures?

"Last year when I was here, I slept on that bench for about six hours," he laughed. "So it isn't a problem for me to fall asleep."



Devin McAfee, an MSU alumus and former Phi Beta Sigma member, shows sophomore Kristin Rozanski the annual "Sleep Out for the Homeless" cake. The fraternity sleeps out on the streets for on the first Friday night of November every year to raise donations for the homeless in the Lansing area.



Sophomores Kevin Ginnebaugh and Zachary Ryckman chat with a Phi Beta Sigma brother about the goals of the sleep-out. Members of the fraternity approached passers-by on Grand River Avenue all night to solicit donations, which will go entirely to the Lansing Rescue Mission.

"i'm more than happy to **donate** one day out of 365 to a cause like this."
-Steve Bolton, senior

TYPEjacob kanclerz/PHOTOaudrey aquino/DESIGNbetsy eber



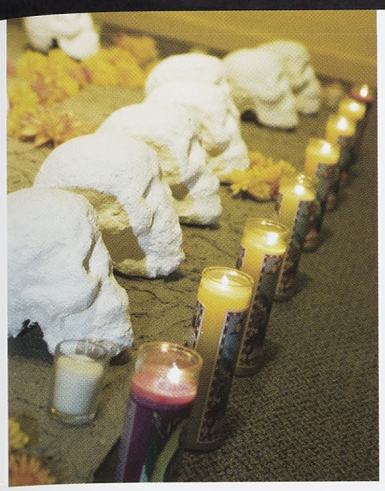
Junior Shelby Hatfield admires the Mexican prints on display at the MSU Museum. The prints were part of an exhibit called "Broken Dreams, New Seeds: Ofrenda For Immigrants," created by Gabrielle and Javier Pescador.

Cristina Moreno, senior Ruth Verdin, junior Gabriela Alcazar, Xavier Gonzales, junior Shelby Hatfield and Mexica Torrez-Miner pose in their Day of the Dead decor. These students and other community members were participants in the traditional Aztec dancing that took place at the RCAH Theater.



"the word 'hispanic' completely **negates** our indigenous ancestry. that's a european word from spain."

-Javier Gonzalez, senior



Skulls and candles line part of an art exhibit by artists Gabrielle and Javier Pescador. The exhibit, called "Broken Dreams, New Seeds: Ofrenda For Immigrants," was on display after the Day of the Dead celebration concluded at the RCAH Theater.

a final resting place

Day of the Dead celebrates ancient heritage, discusses issues in Latino communities



For students and community members who celebrated the Mexican and Chicano festival Day of the Dead, the festival transcended way beyond the honoring of lost loved ones.

El Dia de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, commemorates the lives of those who have passed on. On Nov. 2, MSU held its own Day of the Dead initiative at Snyder-Phillips Hall and the MSU Museum, organized by the Residential College of Arts and Humanities, Latino student group MEXA, and a variety of other volunteers. The event was dedicated to Latino immigrants who died trying to come to the United States.

"Because of the tradition of the holiday, we tend to focus on our own family members, but we've tried to broaden the spectrum and really make us think how the deaths of all these people have affected us," said senior Ruth Verdin, a member of MEXA. MEXA is a Latino student activist group that works to improve the lives of Latino students.

The broadening of this spectrum has been consistent with the evolving history of the Day of the Dead celebration, which dates back to pre-Spanish days in Mexico. In his opening speech on the background behind the ancient Mexican celebration, history professor Javier Pescador said that Chicano activism in the 1970s brought the Day of the Dead out from private rituals in homes and into the streets. It eventually became a celebration of Mexican and Chicano culture and heritage for immigrants in the United States – a culture that existed long before the Spaniards arrived in South America in the 16th century.

"It's important to me personally to learn of my indigenousness because that is something that has demonized us," senior Javier Gonzalez said. Gonzalez performed traditional Aztec dances along with other MEXA members and volunteers that night.

"The word 'Hispanic' completely negates our indigenous ancestry. That's a European word from Spain. I'm not a Spaniard. So, I feel like this is something that needs to be kept alive, it's a part of who I am," he said.

The event also served to inform about pressing issues with immigration reform. Students from MEXA gave a passionate presentation on the plight of immigrants in the U.S., urging that immigration reform be approached from a different point of view. They also informed visitors of the controversial Arizona immigration law that passed earlier this year as well as the proposed Dream Act, which would make higher education more accessible to immigrants that reach the U.S.

"We're not just immigrants, we're not just these people hopping over the border trying to take people's jobs," freshman Kary Askew said, who joined MEXA this year. "There are people who are looking for a better life and to support their families. We're trying to show the rest of America that we are people and we need to be respected."

"It would be a step in the right direction of approaching comprehensive immigration reform that takes into account the humanitarian aspect of the crisis," Pescador said on the impact of passing the Dream Act, which has gone back and forth in Congress the last 10 years. "We want them to understand the suffering and the travails of immigrants who have to cross the border under such excruciating circumstances.

"The crisis on immigration is not only affecting immigrants, but families in the United States that have ties to these immigrants' communities. The U.S. is a nation of immigrants, and all of this is separating families, dividing families and fragmenting families," he said.

TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia DESIGN betsy eber



Nick Mallory shops for a new coat. The sale was a chance for club members to buy new gear before the club's annual trip out West to Park City, Utah.



gearing up, strapping in

MSU Snowboard Club partners with local shop to prepare for upcoming season

Just two days after the first snow flurries of the year flickered across campus, the MSU Snowboard Club began gearing up for the approaching season with an exclusive "After Hours" sale at Modern Surf and Skate in Lansing.

For two hours after the store had closed to the public, club members were given a 15 percent discount and the privilege of privately perusing racks of this season's outerwear, shoes, boots, snowboard decks and bindings.

Sophomore Alex Mlynarek didn't anticipate being a big spender at the sale, but one glance at the Capita Ultrafear FK snowboard deck was all the persuasion necessary for him to bring out his credit card. Mlynarek said he hadn't seen the board in stock anywhere else, as Capita is an up-and-coming company boasting innovative deck designs highly sought after by gear-savvy snowboarders.

"If anyone knew about this it would be gone," he said. "I guess I got lucky."

His luck came in more ways than one—the discount lowered the deck's sticker price from around $450 to just over $380. Mlynarek said he partly bought it in preparation for the club's annual trip out West, which is to Park City, Utah this year. On the night of the sale about 120 people were signed up for the winter break excursion.

Senior Chad Sturgis, president of the MSU Snowboarding Club, said the sale was oriented to give members a chance to purchase necessary gear before leaving for Park City, which is the club's only official trip and the high point of their season. Though the club itself usually only puts together one major trip per year, Sturgis said members often use it as a means of meeting others interested in coordinating smaller weekend trips throughout the season.

"It's awesome to go there [out West] with 55 randoms and come back with 55 of your closest friends," Sturgis said.

And there's certainly plenty of time to bond riding charter buses halfway across the country.

Sturgis, who has been a member since his freshman year, says that interaction between athletes and local shops is an important part of keeping the culture alive.

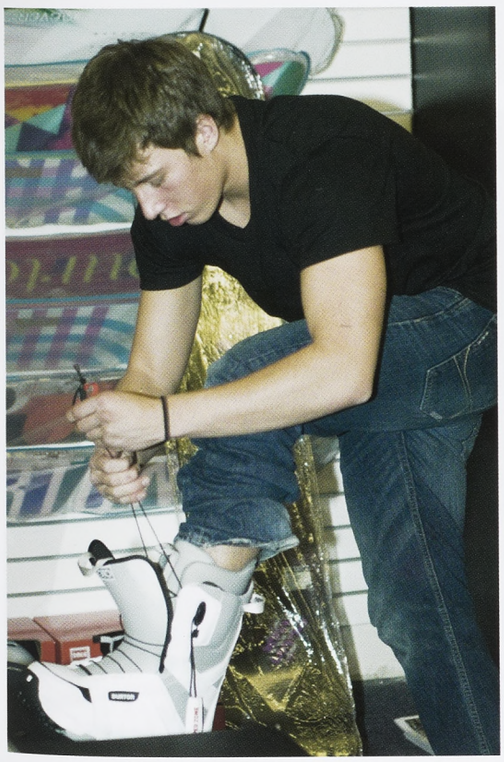
"There's so much more personality with them [local shops]," he said. "It's kind of sad, because the Internet has taken over."

Senior Lindsay Johnson, a member of the MSU Snowboarding Club and a sales associate at Modern Surf and Skate, said the two entities often partner up for other small events throughout the year. As the club's only local sponsor, Modern Surf and Skate often lends out snowboarding DVDs for viewing events and recently helped it coordinate with Red Bull to take part in a promotional event in East Lansing. Later in the season the two will team up again for the annual "Railjam," where veteran riders take on a terrain park built on mounds of snow in downtown Lansing.

Sturgis said the biggest benefit of buying in-store has to do with tangibility; actually seeing what you're buying before you purchase it. As Mlynarek knows, this can make all the difference.

"It was totally impulse," he said, walking away from the register holding his new deck, a grin stretched across his face. "Modern is the raddest shop around."





Modern Skate and Surf employee Zach Barry aligns the trucks on an old skateboard. The shop carries a variety of skateboarding gear year-round, in addition to snowboard gear during the winter months.

Senior Mitchell Hulyk tries on a pair on a new pair of Burton snowboard boots. Snowboard Club members recieved 15 percent off their total purchase that night.

"there's so much more **personality** with them [local shops]. it's kind of sad, because the Internet has taken over."

-Chad Sturgis, senior

In the face of a national disaster, the Indonesian Student Association's Indonesian Night came at what seemed to be tragically fortunate timing. On Nov. 13, the night became both a celebration and a vigil—a coming together of a resilient culture that, though restricted to a stuffy gym in a Lansing Christian Church, echoed happenings on the world stage.

A somber recognition of the death toll Indonesia had suffered from recent two-week long volcanic eruptions of Mount Merapi under laid the celebratory cultural dances, bright Indonesian fashion show, good food and smiling faces present throughout the night.

"It was really sad to hear, because all of my family lives in Indonesia," junior Stella Jogisaputra, president of the Indonesian Student Association (PERMIAS), said. "I cannot do anything because they are too far away. I keep asking myself, 'Why do these things keep happening?'"

This powerless feeling common with natural disasters was helpfully abated for the night, however, with the small efforts of monetary donations at the doors of the First Christian Church and a humbling, deeply personal performance of "Lilin-Lilin Kecil," or "Little Candles," a popular Indonesian song, in English.

"I can relate to what they are going through," MSU graduate Kay Abbas said, recalling the 2003 floods in his home country of Pakistan. "I was almost in tears when the song came on."

In fact, it was a moving moment for many of the approximately 70 people present, as the slow song permeated the hearts and minds of those in the small gym.

"The singer sang better than he has ever sung before," MSU graduate and former president of PERMIAS Putri Jati, said. "Everyone was silent."

For guitarist Yudi Wicaksono, images of his brother ran through his head as he played the piece.

"My little brother is a volunteer in the Java area," he said. "They were telling people to stay 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) away from the volcano, and he was only two kilometers away from this area when the volcano erupted again."

"He had to be hospitalized because of the ash," he said. "But as soon as he got out, he was volunteering again. I almost forgot the chords when I was playing, because it was very personal for me."

After the performance, however, the night continued on in good cheer. Three girls in Indonesian dress performed the "Renggong Manis," a dance representing the beauty and gaiety of young girls. This was followed by a traditional fashion show and another dance—the "Saman," or "Thousand Hands" dance, a highly synchronized dance in which the performers use only their hands.

"We want to show everyone about our culture and how rich our culture is," Jogisaputra said. "Maybe if they know more, they will want to visit Indonesia."

"Our culture is so broad and wide. We have so many diverse people—Muslims, Christians, Buddhists—we are all different."

Indeed, with over 17,000 Indonesian islands to represent, PERMIAS could not fit the vast expanses of tradition and history present in their culture into one night. Instead, the student organization seamlessly combined facets of its renowned cultural diversity within a vast array of traditional performances in perfect accordance with the spirit of their nation's slogan, "Bhinekka Tunggal Ika" (Unity in Diversity).

"For some, this will be the first and last impression of Indonesia they will have in their mind for their entire life," graduate student Zubair Shafiq said. "I would like to see more of this around the world."



little candles

In the face of tragedy, Indonesians display the unity of their culture



Students dressed in traditional Indonesian clothing serve their native cuisine to hungry guests at Indonesian Night. "Es teh manis" - iced tea and fried bananas were just some of the dishes.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN saralee gordon



Graduate student Sara Qanti poses for the camera, resplendent in traditional Indonesian dress. Indonesian students showcased traditional costumes that night to an appreciative crowd.

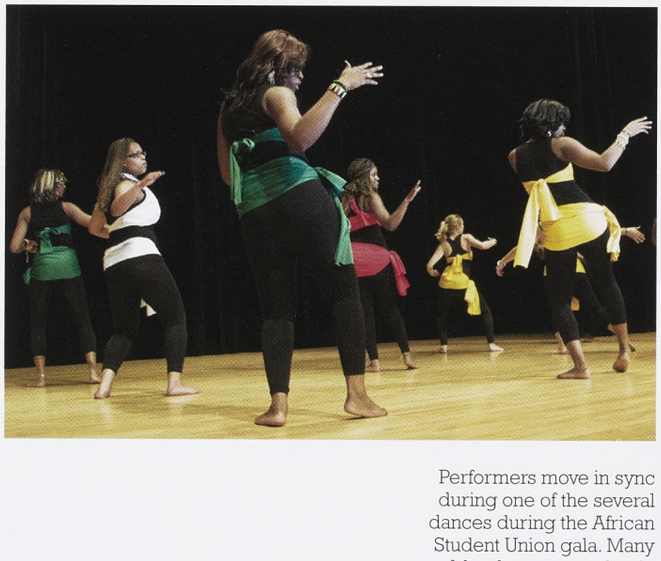


The gym of the First Christian Church in Lansing was packed on Indonesian Night, a celebration of Indonesian culture put on by the Indonesian Student Association (PERMIAS). Members of the group performed the traditional Renggong Manis and Thousand Hands dances popular in Indonesia.

"for some, this will be the first and last impression of Indonesia they will have in their mind for their entire life."

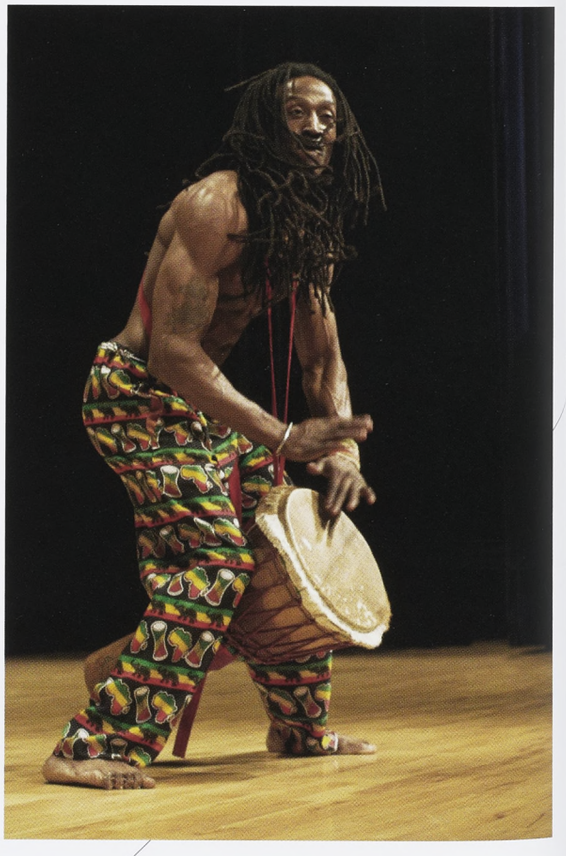
-Zubair Shafiq, graduate student

Sophomore Nwakuso Atagbuzia shoots a look on her way offstage. It was part of one of two fashion shows that the gala featured, allowing ASU members and other performers to give their best modeling impression.



Performers move in sync during one of the several dances during the African Student Union gala. Many of the dances seamlessly blended current hip-hop dance with traditional African forms.

Ayinde Ananda, a member of the group Omowale, plays the djembe. Ananda currently teaches Detroit youths at Aisha Shule.



TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN brendan prost

"so what we learn from here, not just education but also **ideas** about **culture** and **music**, take it back home and benefit the place you came from."

-Valentine Nsofor, senior

a taste of africa

African Student Union hosts annual gala to celebrate, promote culture

It was a big year for African students at MSU: The African Studies Center and the African Student Union turned 50 and 25, respectively, and the continent successfully hosted its first FIFA World Cup in South Africa. When it came time to hold its annual gala on Nov. 13 at MacDonald Middle School in East Lansing, ASU knew it had to do it up big.

And indeed it was big, from the nearly 10-foot tall man on stilts who danced emphatically along with drummers to the African Acrobats International group that dashed beneath flaming poles. The show featured a variety of acts including hip-hop infused African dance routines, fashion shows and solo singing performances. The gala, called "Love and Futbol," followed a loose story of a fictional American-born African character who visits his friends in Africa to learn more about his culture.

Learning about African culture was a central theme behind the gala, as well as one of the primary goals of ASU itself.

"The gala is very significant because it's the chance for the community at MSU to experience an authentic African culture," senior Valentine Nsofor, the president of ASU and a co-writer of the gala, said. "They get a chance to see a positive aspect of the continent. They get a chance to see that this continent is more than just one culture; it's several diverse cultures."

The process of organizing the gala is time-consuming and begins as soon as the new executive board is elected in the spring. ASU and its E-Board spend the summer booking the location, fundraising and coordinating the performances. The gala was the grand finale of African Culture Week, which ASU puts on with other events, one of which was African food tasting at Owen Hall.

Besides boosting awareness and celebrating African culture, ASU has other goals, which include welcoming incoming African students to MSU.

Brooke Cutler, an international admissions counselor at MSU, said the adjustment for African students is tough because of the shift from the tight-knit communities in African countries to the individualistic society here. However, ASU is proactive in recreating that community.

"When students arrive here from Africa, they are usually picked up by an ASU member or advisor and we take them to events and introduce them to other students from Africa," sophomore Bethel Ayalew, an ASU member who was a part of a skit and other performances during the gala, said.

"We have a mentor program, where somebody who is fresh from Africa comes over here, and one of us that's been in America long enough, we mentor them, we tell what's going on in school, how school works, how to keep focus," Chinonye Madu, a senior and vice president of ASU, said.

Besides acclimating new students to life at MSU, the student union hopes to prepare student leaders to improve the African continent, according to the ASU website. Besides keeping informed on issues and events in Africa, the students try to see how they can apply their knowledge back home.

"I plan on going back home to Nigeria and use what I've learned here in America. I'm studying engineering, so I plan on going there and either teaching it or utilizing other people around me to build better infrastructures," Nsofor said. "So what we learn from here, not just education but also ideas about culture and music, take it back home and benefit the place you came from."

At the gala, as the final song was performed by a soloist by the name of Lady O, members of the ASU filed on stage and stood behind her, arms around each other as one community during the final chorus. The scene conjured up thoughts of a bright future for Africa, something the ambitious students hope to be a part of as they look forward to the next 25 years and beyond.

putting out smoke

Spartans Fighting Cancer host public BBQ to raise awareness of lung cancer

"The only smoke you should see around here is from the barbeque," members of Spartans Fighting Cancer (SFC) yelled out to the MSU students who passed by The Rock on the afternoon of Nov. 18. The organization's high energy and blaring music, (not to mention the tantalizing aroma of freshly-grilled chicken deliciously sizzling on a nearby portable grill), captured the attention of passing students, reeling them in for an interestingly informative lesson on lung cancer.

SFC, the student-run MSU chapter of the American Cancer Society's Colleges Against Cancer nationwide program, promotes cancer-awareness at MSU. Members of the organization offered free lunches, prizes, and information to students who stopped by at their event, "The Great American Smoke-out," that day to raise awareness about lung cancer and one of the disease's chief causes—smoking.

A real-life "Wheel of Fortune" took place right before the grill, where students waiting for free chicken gathered around in hopes of winning t-shirts, buttons and pens. Students spun the wheel and landed on one of the three prizes, where an SFC member would ask contestants questions such as, "If a non-smoker lives in a house with a smoker, what are his or her chances of having lung cancer?"

"At first I stopped by for the free chicken, but although I have heard most of these smoking facts before, it is refreshing to hear it again and be reminded," sophomore Eric Foster said, signing a white ribbon to show his support for SFC's cause.

"My grandma died of leukemia so I'm anti-cancer, and I appreciate what they are doing here."

Bubbles floated through the crisp afternoon air and music filled the chill-numbed, reddened ears of students who stopped by out of curiosity. Red table cloths were draped over five tables, which contained informative displays on what smokers could be buying with money that they would otherwise spend on cigarettes. One of the displays said that at the cost of smoking a pack and a half of cigarettes every day for a year, you could save up enough money to take an extravagant trip to New York City.

"Instead of pulling out a cigarette and smoking, blow bubbles. It gives you something else to do and something else to focus on," senior Adeline Culver, the SFC Cancer Education Chair, said. "Not to mention bubbles are inexpensive compared to a pack of cigarettes."

Past the chicken and the bubbles sat a table with "Quit Kits" that also held displays sharing some of cigarettes' deepest and darkest secrets, such as "What's really in a cigarette?" The answer: toilet cleaner, rocket fuel, sewer gas and rat poison, among other equally-unsavory ingredients. Pictures of smoking's effects on the lungs at that same table were also effective eye-catchers. The "Quit Kits," on the other hand, contained information on how to stop smoking as well as helpful aids for those who plan on quitting: a rubber band to snap, a paper clip, a stress ball to keep the quitter busy, candy, a toothpick and chewing gum to keep idle mouths occupied.

"I am hopeful that people will come check out this event and quit smoking," freshman Fred Jolicoeur said. "Maybe they will realize how much smoking affects not only them but also the people around them."



Sophomore Devin Amez reads a question about the negative effects of smoking to a student. If the student answers correctly, they are eligible to walk away with a free shirt, pin or sticker courtesy of Spartans Fighting Cancer.



Spartans Fighting Cancer volunteer, senior Kelly Knupfer, makes an adjustment to one of the many signs advertising the SFC event held on Nov. 18 on the sidewalk near The Rock. The event was promoting the adverse effects of smoking, and the signs were designed to look like cigarette packs.

TYPE marissa russo/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN saralee gordon

"instead of pulling out a cigarette and smoking, blow bubbles."

-Adeline Culver, senior



Sophomores Vita Ferranti and Rachel Kunka operate the "Wheel of Fortune" during the Spartans Fighting Cancer event on Oct. 18. "The Wheel of Fortune" provided a chance for students to win free swag, as well as insight on the dangers of smoking.





The student-run Spartans Fighting Cancer put on an event opposing smoking at The Rock on Nov. 18. Students lined up to get free chicken wings, free bubbles and free information about lung cancer.

Junior Anna Yanke writes in loving memory of someone she lost to cancer during cancer awareness month. The ribbon was open for anyone to sign during the Spartans Fighting Cancer event held on Nov. 18.

"there's so many people with bigger problems that we thought we could help."

-Samantha Ruiz, junior

a fundraiser for miracles

Spartan Competitive Cheer Team donates money to Sparrow Superstars



Sonya Webster's tiny frame was dwarfed by the immense wooden chair in which she sat at the Hannah Community Center on Nov. 17.

Between bouts of restless fidgeting spurred by her need to explore the expansive banquet hall, the 5-year-old member of Sparrow Superstars, a T-ball team for handicapped children, was occupied by tilting her head back and pouring Parmesan cheese packets like Pixy Stix into her mouth.

"I don't think you'll meet anyone who loves Parmesan more than Sonya," her mom, Samantha Webster said to another T-ball family, laughing as she told her daughter 'that was enough.'

As Sonya reluctantly turned to her unwanted portion of Fazoli's spaghetti and breadsticks, Ms. Webster explained that her daughter was born with Cerebral Palsy.

"She has to wear braces on her legs to help her walk," she said.

"Yeah, but I'm not wearing them tonight!" Sonya chimed in happily, forgetting about her meal again.

Indeed, the night was special for Sonya, but not just because she was walking without her leg braces.

The Spartan All-Girl Competitive Cheer Team hosted a spaghetti dinner and silent auction, in part to raise funds for their own team, but also to donate 10 percent of their proceeds to the construction of the Sparrow Superstars T-ball home field, an entirely handicap-accessible park that will be called Miracle Field.

The field is being built in Valley Farms Park in DeWitt Township through a nonprofit branch of Case Credit Union known as Case Cares. Chairperson Kathy Devine said it will be constructed entirely from a specially synthesized rubber to make it easier for the T-ball players to run or wheel themselves around the bases.

"There's so many other people with bigger problems that we thought we could help," junior and vice president of the cheer team Samantha Ruiz said, "while our biggest problem is only money."

In fact, since the all-girls cheer team formed eight years ago, members have had to pay $2,000 each year for the expenses of traveling to their competitions. This year, the team traveled to Indiana for Jamfest Nationals, Georgia for Cheersport Nationals and Florida for their most important competition, the National Cheerleaders Association, or NCA Nationals. The money from the spaghetti dinner went directly to the girls on the team who needed it the most, president Megan Roberts said.

"Last year was the first time we made it to the NCA finals," Roberts said. "And we placed seventh in the nation, which is a big deal for a club sports team." Roberts said she hoped to place in the top five this year.

It was seeing Sonya and another T-ball team member who has a muscle weakening disease that gave the cheer team inspiration for their approaching season.

"I know how much sports have meant to me in my life and helped me get through hard times in my life," Ruiz said, "and I think it's inspiring that they go out there and play also."

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO audrey aquino/DESIGN saralee gordon



Freshman Lauren Force and members of the Spartan Competitive Cheer Team set up the silent auction table. Items up for auction included an MSU hockey jersey signed by Coach Rick Comley, a football signed by the Detroit Lions and tickets to a Pistons' game.

Thirteen-year-old Katie Frayer finishes her spaghetti dinner at the fundraiser. The cheer team donated 10 percent of its proceeds to the Sparrow Superstars T-ball team.







Spaghetti was the main staple of the night at the Spartan Competitive Cheer Team's fundraiser at the Hannah Community Center. The funds raised by the girls were put toward their travel expenses and uniform costs.

Five-year-old Sonya Webster plays on the floor after finishing her spaghetti dinner. Webster has Cerebral Palsy, but plays for the Sparrow Superstars, a T-ball team for physically handicapped children.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO ellina stein/DESIGN vicari vollmar

"We'll probably put it on a Christmas card and send it out to everyone because **we love our dog**, and it's better her than ourselves."

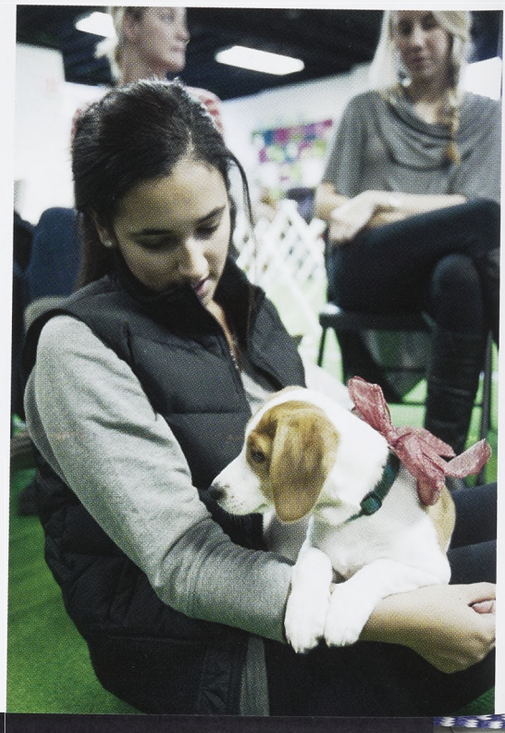
-Amy Godfrey, dog owner



Junior Lisa Thompson tries to keep her Yellow Labrador, Webster, in the shot as they pose with Santa Claus at the Paws with Claus PRSSA fundraiser. Lisa has been a part of PRSSA for three years and is a member of the executive board as the vice president of programming.



Pet owners wait to get their dogs' photos taken with Santa Claus at Annabelle's Pet Station. PRSSA raised $680, half of which will go to the Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter, while the other half will support PRSSA.



Puppy Prince Williams sits patiently in the lap of senior Anissa Mahrougui. Prince Williams was one of over 55 canines that appeared with owners at the PRSSA event.

With over 20 dogs in one room, animals and owners wait in a crowd to take their photo with Santa. There was a $10 donation to have their photograph taken at AnnaBelle's Pet Station to benefit the Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter and PRSSA.



paws with claus

Loveable canines pose with Santa for the holidays

Annabelle's Pet Station in Lansing was a dog-lover's smelly and chaotic, but oh-so-loveable, paradise on the afternoon of Dec. 4.

Santa Claus came to town for the Public Relations Student Society of America's, or PRSSA's, first Paws with Claus event.

The closely packed basement of the small doggy day care and training facility emanated a combined odor of treats and dry kibble breath, as drooling messes of fur impatiently waited with their owners to get a holiday snapshot.

Over the bright green-walled play pen area splattered with "Woof's!" and black paw prints lay a large, white backdrop for the professional photographs, priced at $10 a piece, and a hodge-podge of adults and students seated, leashes in hand, with their enthusiastic pooches.

"This is a little crazier than normal," Angela Brown, one of the owner's of Annabelle's, laughed, losing her train of thought as one of her favorite saint bernards, Atticus, plodded into the room.

Behind her, a photographer attempted to capture Charlie, the black labrador's, short attention span by waving a pink scarf over the camera.

But with such a successful turnout for the first event of its kind, a few sloppy kisses and excited episodes of barking could be tolerated, senior and vice president of chapter development for PRSSA Jessie Murningham said.

And who knew there were so many canine lovers who felt their dog deserved a picture with jolly old Saint Nick, too?

"We'll probably put it on a Christmas card and send it out to everyone because we love our dog, and it's better her than ourselves," dog owner Amy Godfrey said, laughing alongside her husband.

The pair traveled from Jackson, Mich. to plop their extremely spoiled 2-year-old pekalier named Daisy on Santa's pet-friendly lap.

But while Christmas cards seemed to be the most common purpose for owners to tug their furry friends out to Annabelle's, some had other ideas in mind.

"I'll probably make it my Facebook profile picture—but only if it's good enough," East Lansing resident Meg Quine said with Spike, her 4-year-old shih tzu, nestled in her lap.

Spike and Daisy were just two of the almost 55 dogs that stopped by throughout the afternoon, ranging from clumsy, 200-pound English Mastiffs to tiny, precocious 5-pound chihuahuas.

With raffle items such as doggy gift bags and free training sessions at Annabelle's contributing to the fundraiser, PRSSA raised a total of $680. Half of these proceeds were donated to the Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter, a place chosen by Annabelle's for its success in helping mistreated and abandoned pets.

"We've never done anything like this before," senior and president of PRSSA Julia Wendzinski said. "We've been trying to think outside of the box because normally it's, you know, go to Buffalo Wild Wings and get the 10 percent donation kind of thing. So this is definitely unique to us."

And it's also something that Wendzinski and Brown would like see happen again.

"I'm hoping we can make it an annual event," Brown said. "I think that would really be a fun thing to do and at Christmas time, we always like to give back to the community."



Puppy Prince Williams sits in the lap of senior Anissa Mahrougui. Anissa heard about the event through her friend Naomi Burton, who is on the e-board of PRSSA and decided to borrow her friend's puppy for the event.



"I'm the type of person who studies a lot at the library. Late at night I find it's a good source for a lot of students."

-lisa wright, sophomore

As a member of Alpha Phi Omega' State Walk, sophomore Laura Damon walks sophomore Hao Chen, to the CATA bus stop on Grand River Avenue. State Walk is a volunteer program run by the co-ed fraternity who walks with anyone, anywhere on campus from Sunday night to Wednesday night.



Sitting between sophomore Colin Texter and junior Katie Gaffney, sophomore Amanda Degraaf makes cards for soldiers in the National Guard while the three wait for students who wish to be walked home.Alpha Phi Omega is a community serviced based fraternity that not only runs State Walk and making cards, they also volunteer at a men's metal health nursing home.

TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO veronica nagy/
DESIGN jessica halfyard, vicari vollmar

in the dead of night

Alpha Phi Omega's longstanding program skyrockets in popularity, continues to protect late studiers

From its exterior, Alpha Phi Omega might look like one big contradiction: a non-Greek, co-ed, homeless fraternity. But these brothers and sisters aren't trying to be like the rest of the lot. While other fraternities and sororities tend to regard community service as a mere appendage of their purpose, such service is in fact APO's raison d'être.

Though the fraternity has had a presence on the MSU campus since 1937, APO might now be best known through State Walk, a service where volunteers offer students studying late at the Main Library escorted walks to anywhere on campus. Founded by the East Lansing Police Department 15 years ago, the program was handed over to APO several years ago as a volunteer opportunity.

"In comparison to last year it [State Walk] has grown drastically, and continues to grow by the week," Junior Britt Hughes, vice president of service for APO, said.

While members recall as few as two walk requests in entire semesters past, the number rose to 63 during the Fall 2010 term—a record high. The fraternity boosted its publicity for the program this year, courtesy of the efforts of State Walk's co-chair, sophomore Lisa Wright. Wright arranged to have the service mentioned on the library's main website, Facebook and Twitter pages, and also secured advertising spaces on University Activities Board table tents as well as the university television channel. She said her desire to spread the word came from a personal connection with the program's mission.

"I'm the type of person who studies a lot at the library," she said. "Late at night I find it's a good source for a lot of students."

Sunday through Wednesday nights from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. (2 a.m. during finals week), a large yellow sign states, "We'll walk anywhere on campus from the main library." As the semester progresses, more and more students seek out the service, especially near midterm and final exams, volunteers say.

There was one lone request on a cold Wednesday night near the start of the Spring 2011 semester—sophomore Hao Chen, a timid Chinese international student, needed to walk to a CATA bus stop on Grand River Ave. Freshman Abagail Gray and Sophomore Laura Damon, also a co-chair for State Walk, bundled up for the trek.

"My friend told me another Chinese student got—how do you say the word? Stolen?" Chen asked in a heavy Mandarin accent.

"Mugged," one of the two walkers offered.

"Yes, mugged," Chen said. "Purse stolen and everything."

Most of the girls' conversation fell within the realms of typical small talk. The days were too short like usual for late January, the weather was a little warmer than the preceding week and a new clothing store had just opened on Grand River Avenue (a lot like Urban Outfitters only cheaper, they agreed).

Yes, APO members do sometimes escort vivid personalities. Damon once escorted a sixth-year senior who shared details about every class she had ever taken. Wright once got a walk request from a girl so strung out from the side effects of her prescription that Wright made her stay with the library workers, fearing she would attempt to drive her car home. This walk, however, was pretty typical.

Arrival at the CATA stop near the corner of Abbot Rd. and Grand River Ave. was met with disappointing news - the bus had stopped running for the night. But the volunteers kept with the promise on the easel, and walked with Chen as far east as Bogue St., apologizing that they could not continue any farther.

"It's okay, walking here is safe," Chen assured the walkers when the corner was in sight. They parted ways just under the illuminated Michigan State University sign; the first of many walks that will likely occur throughout the semester.



Sophomores Amanda Degraaf and Amanda Oppenlander sit and work on homework with junior Katie Gaffney as they wait for students to walk home. The past semester for the fraternity has proven to be a success with 63 students who used the free service.

"it's expressive. You sort of move from an internal space outward."

-Kimberly Forte, senior



Students participate in the practice of ecstatic dance, based on the five rhythms: flowing, staccato, chaos, lyrical, and stillness. Five Rhythms is a movement meditation practice created by Gabrielle Roth in the 1960s.

TYPE Ian kullgren/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN jessica halfyard

Before dancing, junior Augusta Morrison and senior Kimberly Forte lead the group in a tune-in. The dancing sessions take place in the Orchard Street Pump House, a public space located in East Lansing.



a different kind of thursday party

Gatherings at Orchard Street Pump House bring students together through dance, meditation

It's part dance class and part theater performance, minus the audience. But for members of the Orchard Street Pump House Ecstatic Dance and Movement, the label doesn't really matter. Their only goal is to experience the five rhythms: flowing, staccato, chaos, lyrical and stillness.

The 5 Rhythms movement is practiced across the country at official "Moving Center" schools and private groups. For participants, it's a lot more than dancing: it's a form of meditation where they get to know themselves and others.

The movement is derived from several eastern practices, including shamanism. The experience is highly personalized, as there is no set choreography or definition for each rhythm, making the experience a free dance. The practice was brought to East Lansing three years ago after three MSU students learned it at an eco village in Scotland. Since then, the group has remained self-sufficient, changing venues as needed with different cycles of membership.

Senior Kimberly Forte has been a participant since the group's inception, hardly ever missing a session. She was hooked right from the beginning.

"I totally lost myself in the rhythm," Forte said. "It's expressive but it's also very intrapersonal. You sort of move from an internal space outward."

The combined five rhythms compose the "Wave"—a word participants use to describe the entire experience. It starts with a "tune-in" where the group sits in a circle holding hands, lights dimmed, taking deep breaths and exhaling with vocal "Ohm" warm-ups.

After the "tune-in" on this particular Thursday night, each individual slowly rose as the music began and started moving at their own pace, some stretching first, others immediately dancing to the aboriginal beat. For the next hour and a half, each person's movement visibly reflected the tempo of the music. Faster electronic beats yielded faster footsteps and more energetic interaction, from simple hand movements to contorted yoga-like feats, highlighted by the occasional burst of spontaneous laughter. During mellow points with forest sound effects, some participants produced vocal animal calls of their own.

The theatrical element became especially apparent when the audio track broke, and participants compensated by making their own music. Vocal melodies soared above hand-clapping drumbeats until one of the members was able to fix the track.

The mixtapes are usually created by the group's own members. Ian Eberhart, a 22-year-old Lansing resident, produced the track that night based on a combination of free samples from the Internet and sound effects ripped from vinyl records he bought from the $1 bin at Flat, Black & Circular on Grand River Avenue. Eberhart said he tries to coordinate the flow of the music with the five rhythms, characterizing it as an emotionally-driven process.

"I just think about what those things feel like," he said. "It's a very unconscious thing."

After a long history of hopping around to different gyms and yoga studios, the group finally landed at the Orchard Street Pump House this past summer. The quaint, neoclassical brick building with white columns was constructed in 1934 to pump well water to surrounding residents. It is now used as a free space for a variety of neighborhood activities, including a regular concert series. The New England town hall atmosphere of the building is a stark contrast to the group's bohemian free form, but it suits their uses well.

The best part may be the fact that they no longer have to charge, encouraging more people to experience their art.

"It's a very diverse crowd and it's so cool," junior Augusta Morrison said.

Of course, the dynamic depends entirely on the individuals involved.

"Every time you come to dance, people bring with them the stuff they've been experiencing," Forte said.

TYPE natalie patterson/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN brendan prost

Sophomore Liyanna Aziz practices compressions on a mannequin. Learning basic CPR was one of the stops on participant's activity sheets, which needed to be fully completed in order to be eligible for prizes.

The Olin Health Center stands ready for the incoming event participants. Students attended the Halloween event at Olin to learn how to have fun and stay safe.

"beauty comes in every shape and size, and i need to remember that real people have **real beauty.**"

-Nicole Russell, freshman





learning to love your body

Campus group brings self-esteem and image issues to light

According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, plastic surgeries account for an industry worth $10 billion in the United States. Low self-esteem and an unrealistic aspiration for beauty is what drives some women to go under the knife, according to Ronda Bokram, advisor for Respecting and Understanding Body Image, a group that tackles self-esteem issues on campus.

"It comes from the culture," Bokram said. "Every time you pick up a magazine or watch television or a movie, you see examples of unrealistic portrayals of beauty."

In a study done by the American Counseling Association in 2009, 85 percent of college-age females age 18 to 25 believe that they are slightly or seriously overweight. This negative view can lead to eating disorders, depression and increased use of diet pills and exercise. According to RUBI president and senior Erin Gahagan, many of these problems go overlooked and undiagnosed.

"If not treated, it can grow and develop and pass from peer to peer," Gahagan said. "One person can say something negative about themselves, and it causes friends to question their own appearance."

To combat this issue, RUBI sponsors 'Roll Out of Bed' days where girls are encouraged to literally come straight to an event from their bed without putting on makeup or real clothes. The group also hosts a 'Fat Talk Free' event at the Olin Health Center open house in October, where students sign a pledge to not talk poorly about their body for one week.

"When we say 'I look so fat!' it's about putting ourselves down," Bokram said. "We use fat as another word to say how you feel inside. Fat rarely means overweight; for most people it's a word used to say 'I'm sad' or 'I'm angry' or 'I'm depressed.'"

Bokram said the media may be one of the foremost sources of such unrealistic images, but it's not the only avenue.

"The environment you are raised in can be a source," Bokram said. "If you're raised in a house where everyone talks negatively about their appearance, it can cause you to question."

Girls with low self-esteem can also be targets for sexual assaults and abusive relationships, which can lead to long-term struggles with self-worth, Bokram said.

"When you don't feel good about yourself, you let people treat you in a way you don't deserve," she said. "They might not get all they can out of life. They won't challenge themselves, and it can ultimately affect them for the rest of their lives."

As a young adult female, freshman Nicole Russell has experienced many of the feelings Bokram and Gahagan described.

"We're bombarded with unrealistic images given by the media," Russell said. "It gives us an unrealistic view of what is beautiful. You have to love yourself first before you can listen to what someone else says about you."

Russell's advice for staying positive and learning to love your body for what it is, rather than what it could be, is to recognize real beauty.

"I try to look at people around me; real people," Russell said. "Beauty comes in every shape and size, and I need to remember that real people have real beauty. I try to look past looks to validate my view of myself, and stay active to be the best person that I can be."

And when someone hears a negative message, whether from the media or from a friend, Bokram believes the best way to combat it is by standing up to it.

"You have to say something to make a difference," she said. "Be okay with how your genes are—you can't change them. And when someone asks 'Do I look fat?' respond with 'Why are you asking?' Body image isn't what you are: it's what you think you are."





Registered medical technologist Laura Mann waits to disperse tasty "contaminated urine" and "blood samples" to students. Tables like Mann's were set up to give students facts about their health and the consequences of certain activities.

Senior Ashley Billings peeks through a microscope at the Olin Health Center Halloween open house. Students received information on nutrition, sexual health, body image and drug and alcohol use at the event.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN brendan prost

echoes of egypt

MSU students fight hard as a rock for Egypt's freedom

It's February 1 and the rock next to the MSU Auditorium stands proud bathed in dark green, red and white. It reads: SPARTANS FOR A FREE EGYPT. As other MSU students were only starting their Tuesday morning, students Dena Elian and Yasmine Abdulhamid along with few others eagerly exchanged placards, billboards and signs with brightly colored slogans. They were ready to protest for the freedom of Egypt at the rock located on Farm Lane. Some billboards displayed controversial catchphrases like 'You can't say Mubarak without Barack,' while others more typical of a protest stated 'Democracy over dictatorship.'

"For the past 30 years, the people of Egypt have been fighting for their freedom. The bare minimum we could do is to show we're standing with them," International Relations junior Dena Elian said.

Although more students continued joining, Elian, the protest's organizer, said that at this point quantity (of people protesting) didn't matter. "Whether it's five or 500 people, we all hope the same things – freedom, prosperity and life."

The crowd's chants built a continuous, rhythmic crescendo as hordes of signs crammed the rock. "Obama, Obama don't you know, Hosni Mubarak's got to go," the protestors yelled. While the group mostly consisted of students of Arabic descent, non-Arabic students like Tyler Karty also joined in.

"We're all in this Arabic language program together and we found out about this through the Arabic chat club and through other people," comparative cultures and political science major, Tyler Karty said. Karty along with Elian's (event organizer's) sister Randa Elian and friend Sixtine proudly held their 'Viva Egypt' signs.

As students roared enthusiastic cheers, rosy cheeked infants stood by and watched their mothers, capturing the protest in action and shouting Arabic chants. One such mother was Lansing resident Rehab Abdellatif. As her baby lay bundled in a blanket in the stroller, Abdellatif said, the situation in Egypt is terrible. "He (Mubarak) should listen to the people. Almost 300 people have died."

The Facebook page created for the cause showed 224 attending the protest. Although the three-digit figure wasn't present at the rock, the group still grabbed immense attention. While some hopped straight into the dip of snow, and were instantly handed a board or sign, others on foot stopped to watch. Hordes of student onlookers had their eyeballs eagerly glued to the bus' windowpanes.

"Oppressed so hard, they could not stand. Let my people go!" proved to be a popular chant, turning many heads in the vicinity. Although many present there speak English as their first language, they didn't hesitate to try uttering the words to the national anthem of Egypt. Simultaneously, easy, short chants like "1,2,3. Egypt will be free!" echoed as far as Shaw Hall.

For many students, the two hour protest was far from the end of their cause. Along with other MSU students, Elian also showed her support outside the Egyptian Embassy in Washington D.C. on Saturday, Feb. 5. She is actively and regularly updating her peers through Facebook status updates like 'had an awesome time in DC! Now it's back to reality as we wait for Mubarak's next move.'





A group of East Lansing residents and MSU students come together at The Rock to protest the unfair treatment of citizens in Egypt. The event gained a lot of attention from passers-by who joined in on the protest.



East Lansing resident Dina Moussa shows her support for Egypt. Residents and students from all over East Lansing came out to The Rock in the hope of showing their support and love for the people suffering in Egypt.



Raeuf Roushangar, a junior transfer student from Ciaro University thrusts the Egyptian flag high into the air, showing his pride and support for his country. Roushangar leads the group in chants such as, "The people united will never be defeated" and "One, two, three, Egypt will be free!"

In an attempt to spread knowledge about the incidents in Egypt, junior Nehal Amer chants words of freedom. Amer and other students gathered at The Rock with signs and flags.

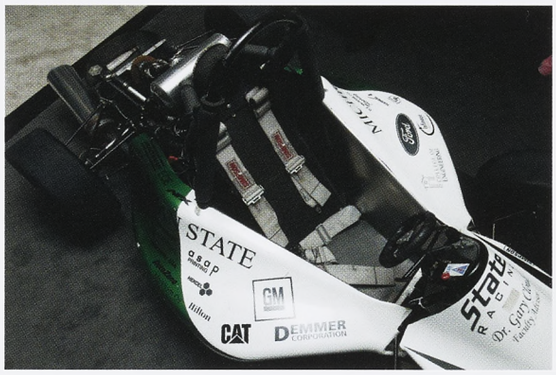
"Opposed so hard, they could not stand. Let my people go."

"normal students have to balance school, work and friends, but on the team, you have school, formula racing and not much else."

-Josh Frontiera, junior



Junior Trevor Shane answers questions for spectators attending the North American International Auto Show on Jan. 15. Shane said car 71, pictured here, is the team's lightest car because of its carbon fiber body.



Car 9 broke a record for acceleration said Trevor Shane. Car 9, along with Cars 51 and 71, were shown at the North American International Auto Show at the Cobo Center in Detroit.

Attendees of the North American International Show ask junior Trevor Shane questions about the MSU Formula One Racing Team. Shane said all of the cars can go 0 to 60 MPH in 3.4 seconds.



TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN saralee gordon

race to the motor city

Formula One Racing Team heads to Detroit for the 2011 North American International Auto Show

Engines roar. The smell of burning rubber fills the crisp, May air and fans scream as race cars peel down the track. It's no NASCAR. It's Formula racing.

Every May, the Michigan State University Formula Racing Team participates in the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Collegiate Design Series at the Michigan International Speedway. Schools and universities from across the country compete against one another, the goal being to design and develop a formula-style car.

And then they race.

Team member and junior Trevor Shane said the team creates one car per year, and then "races it for 12 months."

He said the cars are judged on cost, design and business presentation.

"You gotta sell it," Shane said. "The judges are also very interested in seeing what you've taken from previous cars. You have to explain why you did what you did in terms of design."

This is the fifth year that the Detroit Auto Dealers Association (DADA) has invited the MSU Formula One Team to the North American International Auto Show. DADA also acts as one of the main sponsors for the team.

From Jan. 15–23, the MSU team had three cars on display at the Cobo Center: Car 9, Car 51 and Car 71.

Project manager and junior Josh Frontiera said Car 51 came first in design out of 120 cars in 2008; Car 9 broke a record for acceleration; and Car 71 is the team's fastest car because of its light, carbon fiber frame. Shane added that each car can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 3.4 seconds.

"People [at the auto show] have been really surprised because we build these cars from the ground up," Shane said. "It's cool too because most of the people that come to the auto show are really into cars. People get excited. They want to know details. I mean, these cars are small, but they're fast."

According to Frontiera, members put 50–60 hours of work into the cars each week.

"We have a joke on the team," he said. "Normal students have to balance school, work and friends, but on the team, you have school, formula racing and not much else."

Freshman Brennen Hitchcock decided to join the team out of his love for cars, and has found the experience to be a rush, both on the track and off.

"When you compete, everything is so fast. When something breaks on the track, you have to fix it right away," he said. "I thought I knew a lot about cars, and then when I joined my knowledge just exploded. You pick up so much."

Shane agreed, calling it a "truly hands-on engineering process."

"You have to design everything, solve problems, fabricate it, test it out," he said. "We put in so much time for free because we love it."

The team welcomes students of all majors to join the team. No engineering experience is necessary.

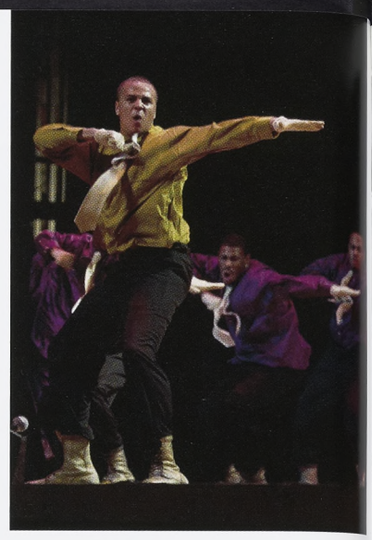
"You don't need a really strong background in anything specific," Frontiera said. "As long as you're willing to put some time in, you're going to learn from others on the team as opposed to listening to a professor tell you how to build a racecar."



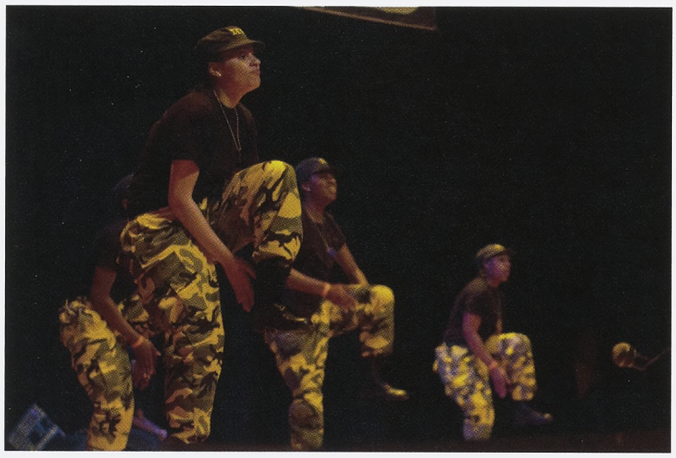


Freshman Brennen Hitchcock said he decided to join the racing team out of his love for cars. He is one of the youngest members on the team.

The MSU Formula One Racing Team displayed three racecars at the North American International Auto Show at the Cobo Center in Detroit. The show lasted from Jan. 15–23.



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. open the show with a gospel-inspired stepping performance. Members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council of MSU participated in the third annual Stomp the Yard competition.



Members of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. show off their steps in the Stomp the Yard competition. Out of the nine organizations competing, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. won the competition.

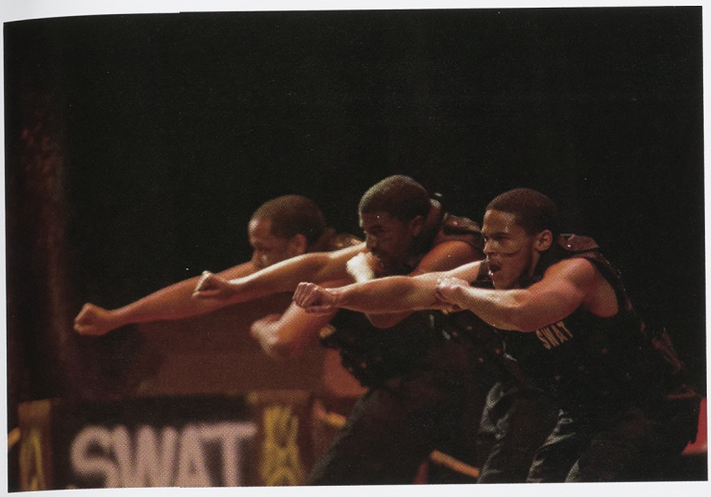
A member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. competes in the third annual Stomp the Yard competition. The sorority was founded in 1920 on the campus of Howard University.



"you can compare it to a dance competition. They are judged on how well their routine goes, the videos, crowd participation, and preciseness of movements."

-Angela Eaddy, senior

TYPE kritika bharadwaj/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN betsy eber



Members of the Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. close out the show with a SWAT team themed performance. The fraternity placed second in the competition.

who stomps the yard?

National Pan-Hellenic Council hosts the third annual step competition

On Jan. 21 at the Auditorium, the stomping was in high demand. The third annual Stomp the Yard performance was presented by the National Pan-Hellenic Council, or NPHC, which consists of nine African-American Greek organizations.

"This type of entertainment dates back to African rituals and African culture. We're basically putting a modern twist on it," president of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority DeJanea Gray said, describing the high-energy step competition.

Fraternity and sorority members waited in anticipation, showing off their brightly colored outfits and jackets adorned with Greek letters. Feeding off the audience's enthusiasm, MC Josh eagerly yelled out, "Is MSU in the building?" The once hushed crowd roared in reply, forming a mixture of robust calls and high-pitched squeals.

"There's stepping, clapping, chants. They also have little videos, which are usually something funny," senior Angela Eaddy said excitedly. The videos range from describing the theme of the performance to a lighthearted comic skit.

"You can compare it to a dance competition. They are judged on how well their routine goes, the videos, crowd participation, preciseness of movements," Eaddy added.

Dressed in bright yellow and purple robes, Omega Psi Phi fraternity brothers took the stage as the first performers of the night. Using a preaching approach to inform the audience about their history, the group coordinated fast-paced claps and stomps while singing soulful, mellow songs.

Their performance was followed by the shrill chant of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority's supporters. The sorority sisters creepily appeared in tattered, green sweaters from behind gravestones on stage while attracting immense applause. "We will still be the first and the finest!" yelled one of the performers as their routine came to a close.

Echoes and resounding chants contributed to a transcendental energy, which only became more elevated as the night went on. While Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity used various stunts to win the crowd's appreciation, the Delta Sigma Theta sorority sisters created a personal version of "The Wizard of Oz" scene in which Dorothy visits Deltaland. "Who wouldn't wanna go there?" Dorothy said, skipping smilingly on her way to Deltaland.

Showstoppers like the men of Kappa Alpha Psi put a comic spin on their performance, shaking their shoulders. However, the ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho remained stone-faced in their black shirts and military pants as they marched their routine.

"The purpose of this event can be looked at in two different ways. One was to show the campus what Greek-letter organizations do, with the stepping portion. Also, we get our names out there. To show ourselves in a positive light," Gray said.

MC Josh frequently gave the audience short, entertaining breaks. On one such occasion, he asked the audience, "How much swag MSU got?" Almost immediately, the crowd rose up like a giant wave swaying to the wild beats of hip-hop music. Several fraternity and sorority members danced through the cramped rows, excited to demonstrate their pride, loyalty and culture.

As the clock struck 10 p.m., the nine groups rushed to the stage to hear the results. Amid the deafening laughs and chatter, MC Josh along with Brionna Blackwell, president of NPHC, announced the results. While Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Gamma Rho were winners, in second-place, Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta sorority erupted in powerful embraces with each other.

"It's a celebration of your organization. It's why we do it. It brings all the nine organizations together," Gray said.

Students and faculty in affiliation with the School of Social Work participate in the annual MLK Day march. The march starts at the Union, passes through Adams Field and ends at Beaumont Tower.



"I think that he would be satisfied with the fact that there is progress, but there's always going to be ways to improve, to get us to where we want to be."

-Jarreau Jackson, senior



Students, faculty and residents march to Beaumont Tower from the MSU Union in honor of Martin Luther King Day. The march was led by members of Alpha Phi Alpha and ended with a speech by Dr. Lee June and James Cole of Kentucky.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO erica treais/DESIGN saralee gordon

what would dr. king think?

Alpha Phi Alpha honors the Civil Rights Movement with a march

On Feb. 11, 1965, just three years before he was assassinated, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke in the MSU Auditorium to a crowd of more than 4,000 people.

He issued three challenges to the students and faculty spilling out of Fairchild Theatre's closely packed quarters. The first, achieve a world brotherhood perspective. The second, abolish the notion of superior and inferior races. The third, develop massive action programs to rid the world of segregation.

Forty-six years later, the extent to which these ideals have come to fruition at MSU and throughout the world remains a topic for debate. Though the term "segregation" appears to have been delegated to the realm of taboo in the United States, and notions of racial superiority have seemingly diminished in our new political climate, we still ask ourselves: what would Dr. King think?

In fact, this speculative question undertoned much of the 31st annual celebrations and honorary events for Martin Luther King Jr. Day at MSU this year.

"That kind of question always gets brought up every year," senior and Alpha Phi Alpha member Jarreau Jackson said, "and I think that the underlying message through all his [Dr. King's] preaching is that he wants progress. I think that he would be satisfied with the fact that there is progress, but there's always going to be ways to improve, to get us to where we want to be."

Jackson and the rest of his Alpha Phi Alpha brothers were an integral part of the MLK celebratory weekend that began on Jan. 15. After a leadership conference and resource fair, a talent show and a concert spanning Saturday and Sunday, the men concluded the events by leading a march from the MSU Union to the Beaumont Tower on the afternoon of Jan. 17—a tradition their fraternity began even before MSU officially cancelled classes to honor Dr. King in 1998, Jackson said.

Marching in itself is a symbol of unity, but for the brothers, it was a way to commemorate the Selma to Montgomery marches in Alabama of the Civil Rights Movement in which Dr. King took part. And despite the crisp January cold, about 100 students, faculty and community members participated with them.

"Me and my friends were talking about how this is probably how it felt for the marchers," freshman Cherisse Woolard said. "And the whole time we just tried to think about how the marchers were feeling when they were actually doing it."

"I get chills knowing that I'm doing something that a lot of people ten, twenty, thirty years ago did and the reasons for why they did it, you know what I mean?" Jackson said.

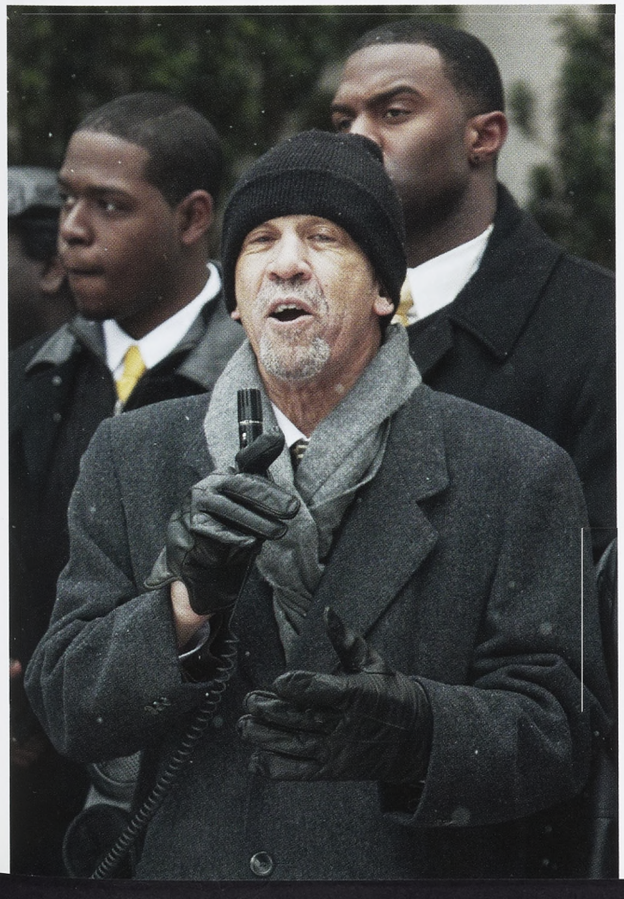
Indeed, the march injected a dose of history into the weekend, which mainly focused on the modern day phenomena of globalization and the cross-cultural networking capabilities it has provided for society.

"The march is important because our generation hasn't had to deal with the hardships and the fight for equality that our grandparents and great-grandparents did, so it's a way to symbolically honor and remember them," recent alumnus Bryan Cotton said.

Though we're fortunate that history hasn't repeated itself this time, think back to Feb. 11, 1965: would you have pocketed your iPhone or BlackBerry to listen to Dr. King's challenges?

"We've come a long way," Cotton said," but I think Dr. King would still say there's a lot more to do."

The question remains, how much?





Dr. Lee June and James Cole of Kentucky recite Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the conclusion of the march. Cole and his mother have traveled to Michigan on multiple occassions to attend the march.

Former Vice President of Student Affairs and Services Dr. Lee June speaks of the history of Martin Luther King Day. His participation in the commemorative march dates back to before the university would recognize MLK Day as a university holiday.



thanks for believing in us

Student organization SCOUT BANANA does great things for Africa, thanks to one MSU alumnus

SCOUT BANANA may be an internationally recognized non-profit organization, but it all started right here at MSU thanks to the work of alumnus Alex Hill.

Sophomore and MSU chapter coordinator Jade Nehra said Hill first conceived the idea through an Eagle Scout project, and expanded on it during his time at MSU.

"His goal was to provide medical transportation to a health center in Uganda," she said, stating that Hill raised an astonishing $70,000 worth of donations towards that cause during his time at MSU.

The organization holds events throughout the year that not only help to raise money, but also raise awareness about issues faced by people living in African countries. On this particular Tuesday of Jan. 25, members secured a spot by The Rock to hand out hot chocolate and inform passers-by of their organization.

Currently, any money SCOUT BANANA (Serving the Children of Uganda Today Because Africa Needs a New Ambulance) raises through campus events goes right to VVOCF, a South African organization whose acronym translates to "our children's future," junior and chapter coordinator Joey Whelan said.

"We give the organization the money we raise directly. They know what's best," he said. "Others just throw money at the problems and nothing really gets done."

During the fall semester of 2010, the members of SCOUT BANANA raised $1,500 as a whole to fund after-school programs for kids in South Africa between the ages of 6 to 18. Kids enrolled in the program receive English, math and art classes with meals on the side, and the organization has been involved with this program for three years now.

"Usually we switch the projects out every year, but they [the program coordinators] asked us to stick around because we are their main source of funding," said Emily Jones, senior and former SCOUT BANANA president.

Yet despite the range of projects that the organization focuses on, Jones said the group's overarching mission is to support grassroots movements in Africa.

"There is no requirement that says we have to give X amount of money to one particular cause," she said. "Our philosophy is that we don't live there; we don't know what's best." Jones added that the organization typically trusts their on-scene partners like VVOCF to build sustainable solutions to problems faced by the locals.

Jones said MSU students in the organization are linked up with South African student pen pals, allowing SCOUT BANANA members to receive indirect updates about the after-school programs while keeping in touch with new friends on foreign shores.

"My pen pal really wanted me to send a picture of me and my family because she said she didn't have any photos of her family and wanted to be a part of mine," Jones said. "She even drew me a family tree."

"Other kids make us posters that say 'Thanks for believing in us.' Things like that make all the hard work we do throughout the year worth it for me."

TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO anthony thibodeau/DESIGN jessica halfyard

Sophomores Grace Kim, Jade Nehra and Emma Baker help to get a new batch of hot chocolate up and running. Kim, Nehra and Baker are members of SCOUT BANANA, which aims to raise awareness for the lack basic health care in Africa.

The representatives of SCOUT BANANA stand together, preparing for eager students to come to their table to receive free hot chocolate. SCOUT BANANA provides support to projects and organizations working in communities to effectively reach people in need in Africa.



"his goal was to provide medical transportation to a health center in uganda."

-Jade Nehra, sophomore





Junior Ayesha Yalamarthy takes a pit stop in her walk home to grab a cup of hot chocolate in support of SCOUT BANANA. The organization was giving out free hot chocolate in order to promote their organization.

Sophomore Grace Kim hands a freshly poured cup of hot chocolate to a supporter of SCOUT BANANA. The organization's representatives were busy handing out hot chocolate to MSU students at The Rock.



Sterling Raehtz builds a hiding place in the woods where members can store their belongings during a mission. During outdoor training the students are divided into two groups to work against each other and see who can complete the mission correctly, first.



Cody Kubiak and Sterling Raehtz set up a course used for training for new ROTC members. Kubiak pulled out a machete he thinks will benefit members in completing the course.



ROTC members set up their flag and wait for further instructions. Members learn that they must work together in order to succeed.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN brendan prost



Senior Cadets Cody Kubiak and Grant Cleberg work to set up obstacles and outdoor training challenges. Kubiak tried to decide which weapon would be most useful in the current situation and which should be left behind.

step in line

ROTC program prepares the Army's leaders of tomorrow

Chances are most students' degree program don't feature a weekly lab involving rappelling lessons or forcing them out of bed at 6 a.m. four times a week to do rigorous physical training. Unless, of course, they signed up to don the camouflage with the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).

Known as the Spartan Battalion, the ROTC is MSU's four-year program that transforms college students into trained U.S. Army officers. With classroom components, plenty of workout time and a slew of groups and organizations within the program, it becomes a way of life for its cadets.

"I think of it as a job more than an extracurricular," senior and battalion commander Meghan O'Malley said. That job includes a stipend too, as well as chances for scholarships, but only if you pledge to join the Army afterward.

In addition to classes focused on leadership development and learning about the Army, cadets participate in weekly hands-on labs for actual field training. The program also requires most of its members to perform physical training four days a week. There are a variety of extracurricular programs that demand additional commitment. Oh, and let's not forget that all of these cadets are also students earning a degree.

"Waking up at 4:30 in the morning to go do a ruck march (fast-paced marches with full equipment and backpack) when you're tired and you've been up since 3 doing homework isn't the greatest feeling," freshman Alec Schaffer said. "But by the end of it, you realize the reward."

The reward for those who choose to contract with the U.S. Army is graduating as a commissioned second lieutenant, the intro-level officer class. For the few who go through the program and don't enlist (which is permissible, O'Malley said), there's still much to take away from ROTC.

"I've seen a lot of people come into this program who are intimidated and afraid to make decisions. What we force you to do is get out of your comfort zone and be able take charge of a group and accomplish a task," senior Sterling Raehtz, who came back to MSU for graduate school and to join ROTC, said.

The program exhibits the fruits of its labor by allowing senior ROTC members like O'Malley and Raehtz to plan the content for the weekly labs and a variety of other events throughout the year. One of those events includes the annual Military Ball, a part-formal dinner event, part-informal dance planned entirely by the seniors.

The seniors also are in charge of the various ROTC extracurricular programs, which allow for additional training and recreational fun for the cadets. The Endurance Club prepares for the Army's 10-mile run event, held annually in Washington, D.C. The Ranger Challenge Team is a club sport of sorts, which competes against other schools.

Ranger One is designated for cadets who are interested in serving actively as infantry combat officers, with the opportunity to train more extensively toward that goal. The camaraderie that results from that common aspiration is what makes it the best extracurricular offered by ROTC Schaffer said, a member of Ranger One.

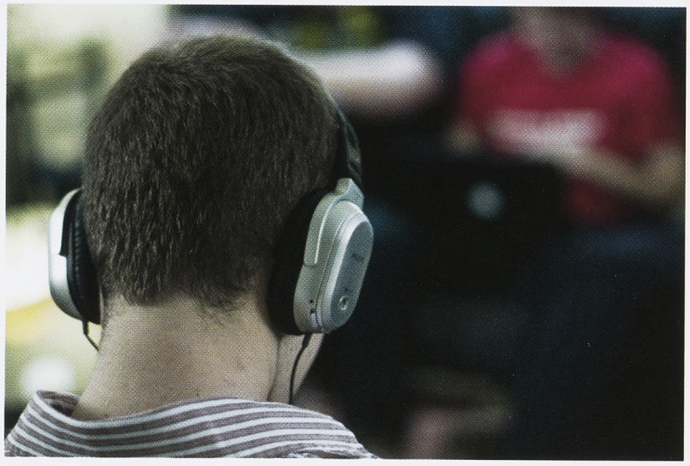
"It's this one big brotherhood, this whole fraternity of people that frankly, would die for any of the others," he said. "It's not for the faint of the heart, and more for the career officer."

Whether you're hell-bent on serving overseas or interested in getting in better shape, the ROTC can benefit just about anybody who joins its ranks. Despite the grueling physical and mental demands, those moving onto a military career are passionate about the program.

Freshman and Ranger One member Mackenzie Sims offered his strategy on how to survive ROTC. "You've just got to Ranger up and do it," he said.

> "Ranger One is this one big brotherhood, this whole fraternity of people that frankly, would die for any of the others."
> -Alec Schaffer, freshman





Freshman Kirk Mason films while the Telecasters actors act out the scene where sophomore Phil McGuigan tells junior Scott Long and sophomore Taylor Cunningham about his eHarmony profile. In the film, McGuigan said he used a picture of Denzel Washington as his profile picture.



Holding the boom, freshman Katie Nopar waits for the next scene to start while freshmen Kirk Mason and Jack Burk set up the shot on the camera. The living room was packed with several crew members, studio lights, cameras and wires.

TYPEjacob kanclerz/PHOTOveronica nagy/DESIGNbrendan prost

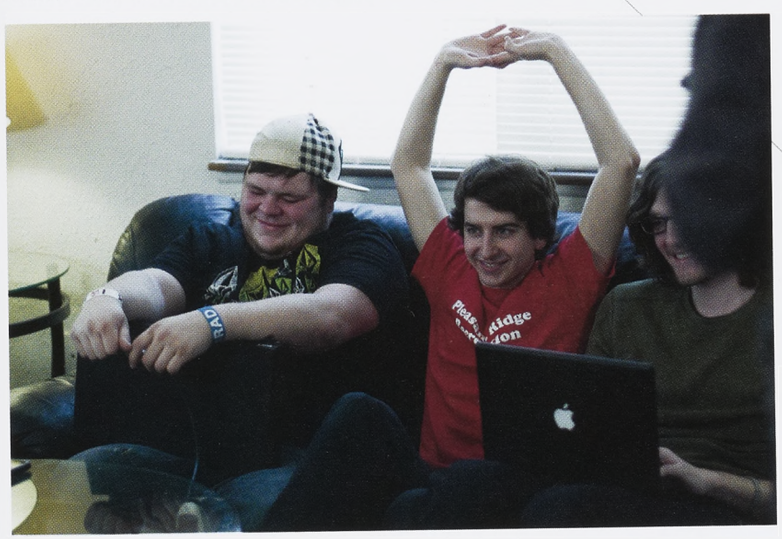


"you're not blonde? get off my porch!"

-Phil McGuigan, sophomore

Freshman Katie Nopar, junior Noah Gebstadt and senior Andy Kozlowski mock and laugh at the others after completion of one of their unsuccessful takes. The Telecasters were filming a short film on a man who found a potential date on an online dating website.

Junior Scott Long and sophomore Taylor Cunningham stop between takes to laugh and discuss how their take just went. The guys were filming in Long's house, which is nicknamed "Giraffe House."



lights, camera, giraffe

MSU Telecasters' short sketch comedy show provides film experience, filled with fun

Nestled in a cozy red house, a group of friends lounged about joking and laughing, sharing random videos on YouTube and enjoying each other's company. It looked like a typical Saturday afternoon hang-out, except for the studio lights, cameras and various cords and wires snaking around the home.

These particular friends are actually the cast and crew of the "Giraffe House," a mini-sketch comedy written, edited and produced entirely by students for the MSU Telecasters. The crew's association with the Telecasters grants them the necessary equipment to produce T.V. programs that are aired locally and on the Internet.

Included in the Telecasters' lineup is "The Show," the longest running college sitcom in the U.S. "SideShow" is MSU's own brand of Saturday Night Live-styled sketch comedy. On the other hand, "Giraffe House," mysteriously describes itself as "One house, four boys, one giraffe, infinite possibilities" on the Telecasters' website.

While the show does not feature a giraffe (the name originates from a wooden giraffe that once stood outside the red home where the crew films; it was eventually stolen), it does feature a different spin on comedy in a modern format. While the other shows shoot longer segments geared for T.V., "Giraffe House" tailors its episodes to a YouTube format, often going for a quick, outrageous gag in two minutes or less.

On this particular day, the crew is filming a skit poking fun at online dating services. Tall, gangly sophomore Phil McGuigan, one of the four co-stars of the show, attracts an online date by claiming he resembles a young Denzel Washington. His date, however, persists in accepting McGuigan for who he is, saying she'll "fall in love with his personality." The big day comes, an eager McGuigan opens the door, and stops dead at the sight in front of him before screaming incredulously, "You're not blonde? Get off my porch!"

The sketch, after it is chiseled down by the editors, might last a minute at most. Yet with take after take of hilarious bloopers, the actual filming lasted at least a half hour. Much of this is due to improvisations the actors make as they film, as well as tweaks to the dialogue by producers.

"The Denzel Washington thing just came up today," freshman Kirk Mason, a new editor on the crew, said. "In the script it said something like he was a 6' 10" body builder, but they didn't think it worked for Phil, so they changed it."

Each sketch is initially conceived at the weekly writers' meetings, where old episodes are critiqued as the writers pull together new ideas. Scripts are then written independently and e-mailed to the rest of the crew. On Saturdays, everyone comes together to shoot the sketch, and after that the editors will trim the episode down to the final product.

Shenanigans and inside jokes aside, the crew members enjoy being a part of something that gives them practical experience in film production.

"I'm a media arts and tech. major, and as a department, we really don't get involved with cameras or anything until the end of our sophomore year," freshman Jack Burk said, one of the head editors after just two semesters on the show. "But with Telecasters and 'Giraffe House,' I'm getting involved with cameras and editing from the start."

Despite the laid back atmosphere and the crude humor that the actors and crew themselves admit to using, an experience like this can pay off. The show lost a producer from last semester when he got a gig as a videographer on the latest Ozzy Osbourne tour. So while the show's description of having one house, four boys and a giraffe isn't entirely accurate (it's all there, save for the giraffe), the infinite possibilities clause still holds true for its cast and crew.

calling a foul on sexual violence

The Coalition Against Sexual Violence protests against MSU Basketball

For the Coalition Against Sexual Violence, the saying "forgive and forget" is not a part of their vocabulary.

On Jan. 27, almost five months after two MSU basketball players allegedly sexually assaulted a girl in Wonders Hall, ten members of the coalition thrust their signs into the night air outside the Breslin Center before the Spartan men's basketball team took on the Wolverines, calling for a "rape free Izzone" and for MSU to "stop ignoring rape."

"We hope to raise awareness about this issue and let people know that we're not just going to stand by and let rape be acceptable," senior and coalition member Cortney Bouse said. "It's not acceptable. These guys should have been punished. Something should have happened and it disgusts me that it hasn't."

The story, however, is far from black and white. Two members of the MSU basketball team were accused of assaulting a freshman student in their dorm room on the evening of Aug. 29. The three allegedly began a game of miniature basketball in which anyone who missed would have to remove an article of clothing. The victim claimed that when she wouldn't remove any more clothing, the two men turned off the lights, blocked the door, and assaulted her.

Though the MSU police categorized the case as Criminal Sex Conduct I, Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunnings III decided not to prosecute on the basis of a lack of evidence. Unsatisfied with the way this case was handled, a number of concerned MSU students formed the coalition in September of 2010.

The coalition started off protesting at Midnight Madness, the Izzone campout and Dunning's office in Lansing, but have now progressed to talks with MSU officials regarding ways to eliminate a "rape culture" that they see forming on campus.

"It just seems really conspicuous that there hasn't even been so much as an investigation and it's been kind of hushed up," senior Joel Reinstein said with a sign stating "Expel Rape" in hand.

Bouse attributed this inaction to the notion of rape by negligence, which places blame on the victim for putting him/herself in a dangerous situation. She said the group has also noticed a climate at MSU that "perpetuates rape myths and victim blaming."

"We have a culture that sort of propagates rape through the media, through the kind of jokes that people tell—you couldn't point to any one thing," Reinstein said.

However, not everyone thought it proper for the group to protest before the game. One woman approached the members to voice her opinion that it was inappropriate, telling them that her best friend had been a victim of rape and didn't need to be reminded of it.

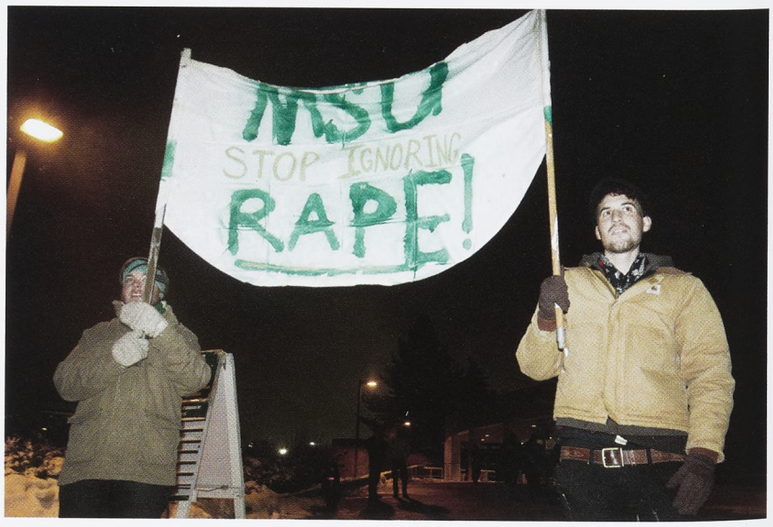
"I can understand that our actions can be triggering," Blair Walker, who made the trip all the way from Detroit to protest, said in response.

"Obviously this is going to bring up those incidents [of rape], so I understand her perspective. But at the same time, her perspective leads to a cycle in which we don't talk about things, in which people don't address these issues."

Indeed, some basketball fans there for the game that evening agreed.

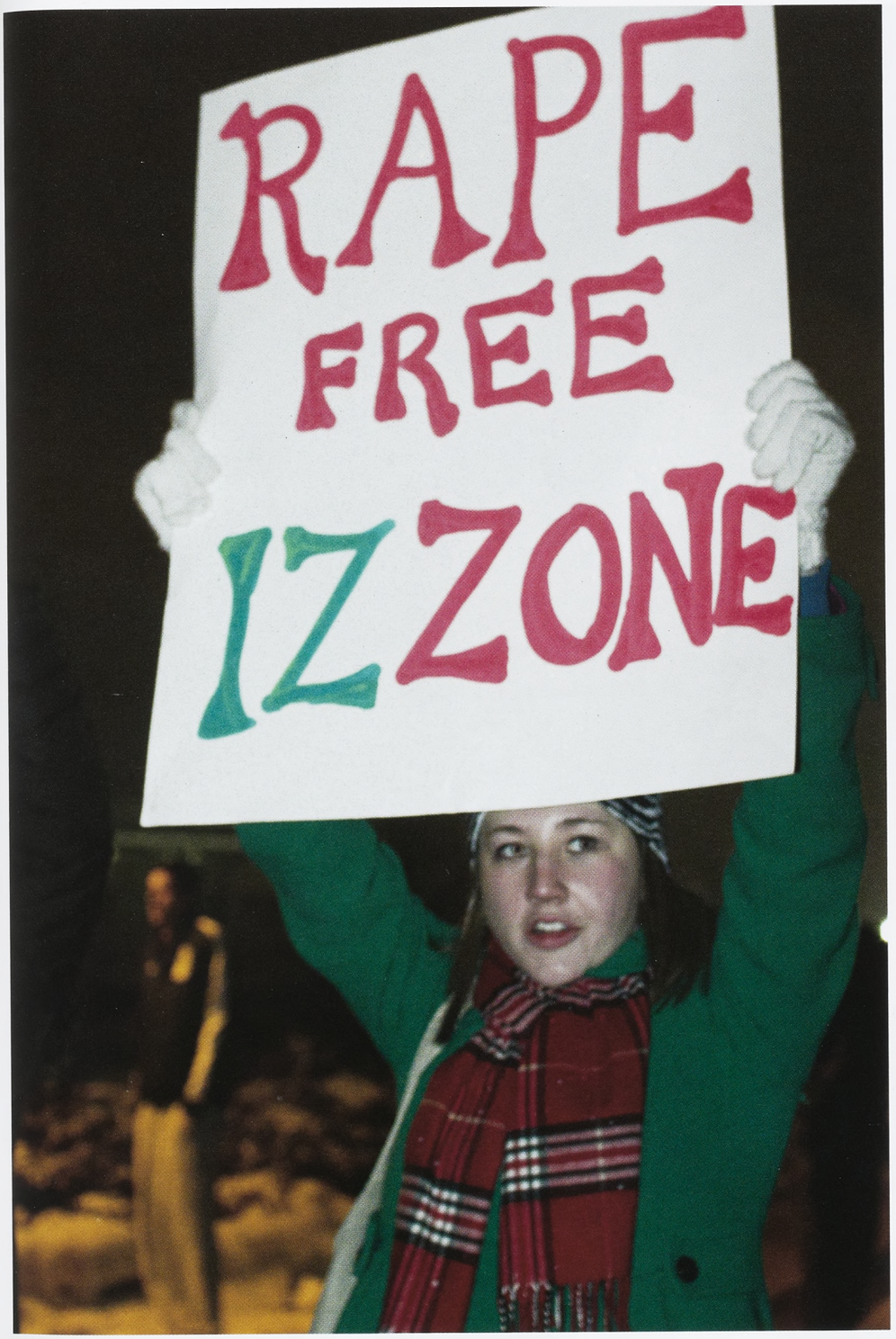
"I think it's fine that they're here," Lansing resident Norb Kurtz said. "I was shocked when I heard about it [the alleged assault], and I thought those two should be expelled."

Reinstein said it wasn't about settling the case or bringing justice down upon the alleged assailants—the time for that was long past. Instead, the Coalition merely wanted the MSU community to be educated, to not forgive and certainly not to forget.



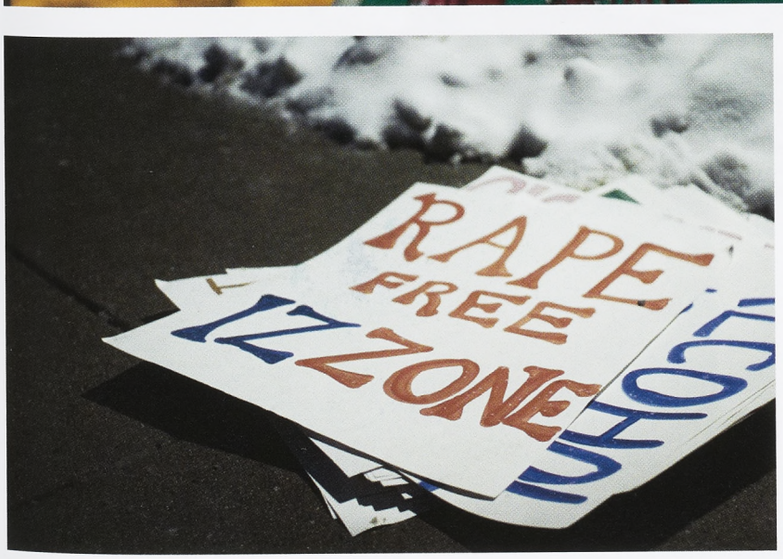
Detroit resident Blair Walker, along with other members of the Coalition Against Sexual Violence, gather outside of the Breslin Center to protest the men's basketball game. The Coalition was protesting throughout the year in regards to allegations of rape brought against two members of the men's basketball team.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN betsy eber



"we hope to raise awareness about this issue and let people know that we're not going to stand by and let rape be acceptable."
-Cortney Bouse, senior

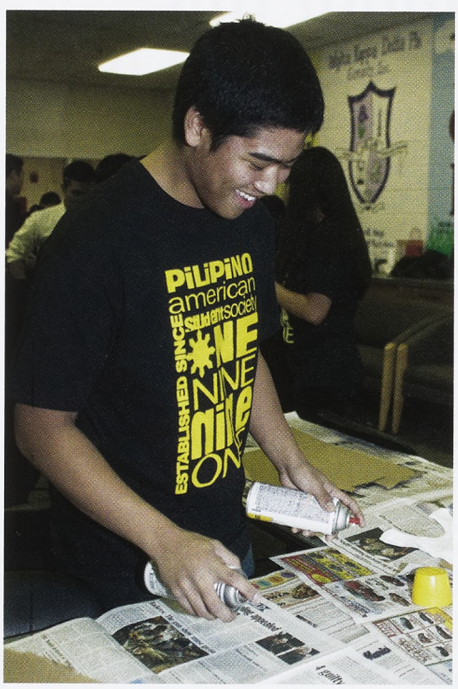
Senior Cortney Bouse protests the men's basketball team outside of the Breslin Center. Bouse has attended several protests since allegations were brought against members of the team back in September.



Members of the Coalition Against Sexual Violence create signs to support their protest efforts. The signs call for a "Rape Free Izzone" and for MSU to "Call a Foul on Rape."

Freshman Xavier Deguzman and senior Seungmin Kim spray paint the famous Pilipino yellow star to show their Pinoy pride and also their MSU pride. The Pilipino American Student Society is a student group funded in 1991.

Sophomore Christian Dioso begins to spray paint jerseys for the bowl game against U of M. He was confident that MSU would beat U of M in their second meeting.





A student begins to spray paint the inside of a rice bowl with green and white paint at the PASS Spirit Fest. During the event, PASS members decorated T-shirts, created cheers for the competition and decorat ed the rice bowl.



TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO audrey aquino/DESIGN brendan prost

taking down the big house

The Pilipino American Student Society gets pumped for the Rice Bowl

While most agree that MSU's notorious rivalry between the maize and blue Wolverines should be settled by a scoreboard, the Pilipino American Student Society, or PASS, likes to make it a bit more personal.

Each year, the group competes in the Rice Bowl—a hard-fought battle that requires strength, agility and most importantly, a strong stomach—against the University of Michigan's Filipino American Student Association. The competition combines athleticism and appetite in events such as football, basketball, volleyball, dodge ball and a food-eating contest.

"You kind of have a sense of belonging to your high school. You can go to football games, cheer on your team and you know the players. But here, when you go to football games there's so many students and it's a lot different," junior and president of PASS Brieanne Mirjah said. "Rice Bowl is so exciting because you know everyone that's playing and you really feel a sense of belonging to the team, you have a connection to it."

However, before making the journey to enemy territory on Jan. 22 this year, PASS had a few preparations to make. On the night of Jan. 20, the group held its annual Spirit Fest to rally the troops before the events began for the fifth year running.

Loud hip-hop music, cases of Powerade, boxes of Wheaties and the shiny, silver Rice Bowl itself set a tone of victory. A mixture of about 40 Filipinos and students from other Asian cultures shuffled into the Vincent Chin Memorial Room in the basement of Holden Hall. At the door, sheets were set out for group members to sign up for the Bowl events.

"We have yet to win the Rice Bowl at Michigan," Mirjah said, "so we want to get everyone pumped up and excited and ready to beat them."

First on the agenda, personal PASS cheers had to be made for the competition, followed by T-shirt decorating and most importantly, the painting of the Bowl from U of M's dark blue to MSU's bright, Spartan green.

Coming off of a close comeback win at home last year, in which an excitingly off-pitch round of karaoke was the deciding factor, most of the PASS competitors were confident that the losing streak at the Big House would be broken.

"Of course we are going to win, because, you know, since I've been here, we are 1 and 0," sophomore Christian Dioso said, good-naturedly describing himself as a lucky charm.

But does the competition get as intensely hostile as the Spartan and Wolverine football face-off in the fall?

"You know, we'll tease each other and stuff when we play basketball, but at the end of each event we're all friends," junior Jeremy Timacdog said. "It's a friendly rivalry."

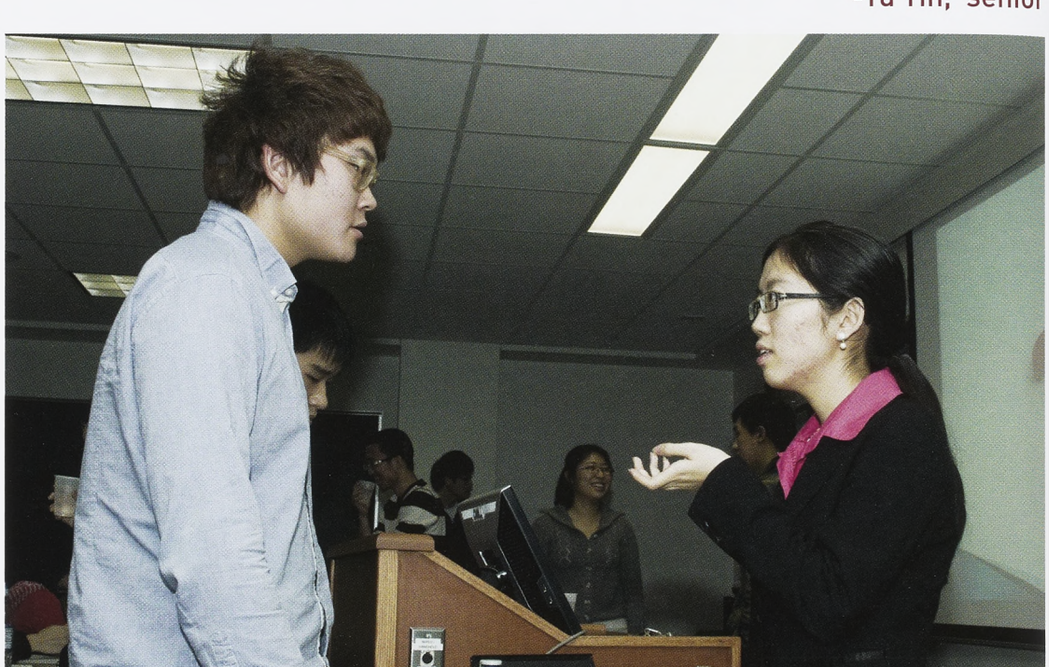
> "you really feel a sense of **belonging** to the team, you have a connection to it."
> -Brieanne Mirjah, junior



PASS members join together in the annual 2011 Rice Bowl event and sign up for activities like basketball, football and karaoke. PASS members intend to spread awareness and appreciation of Pilipino culture on and off campus.

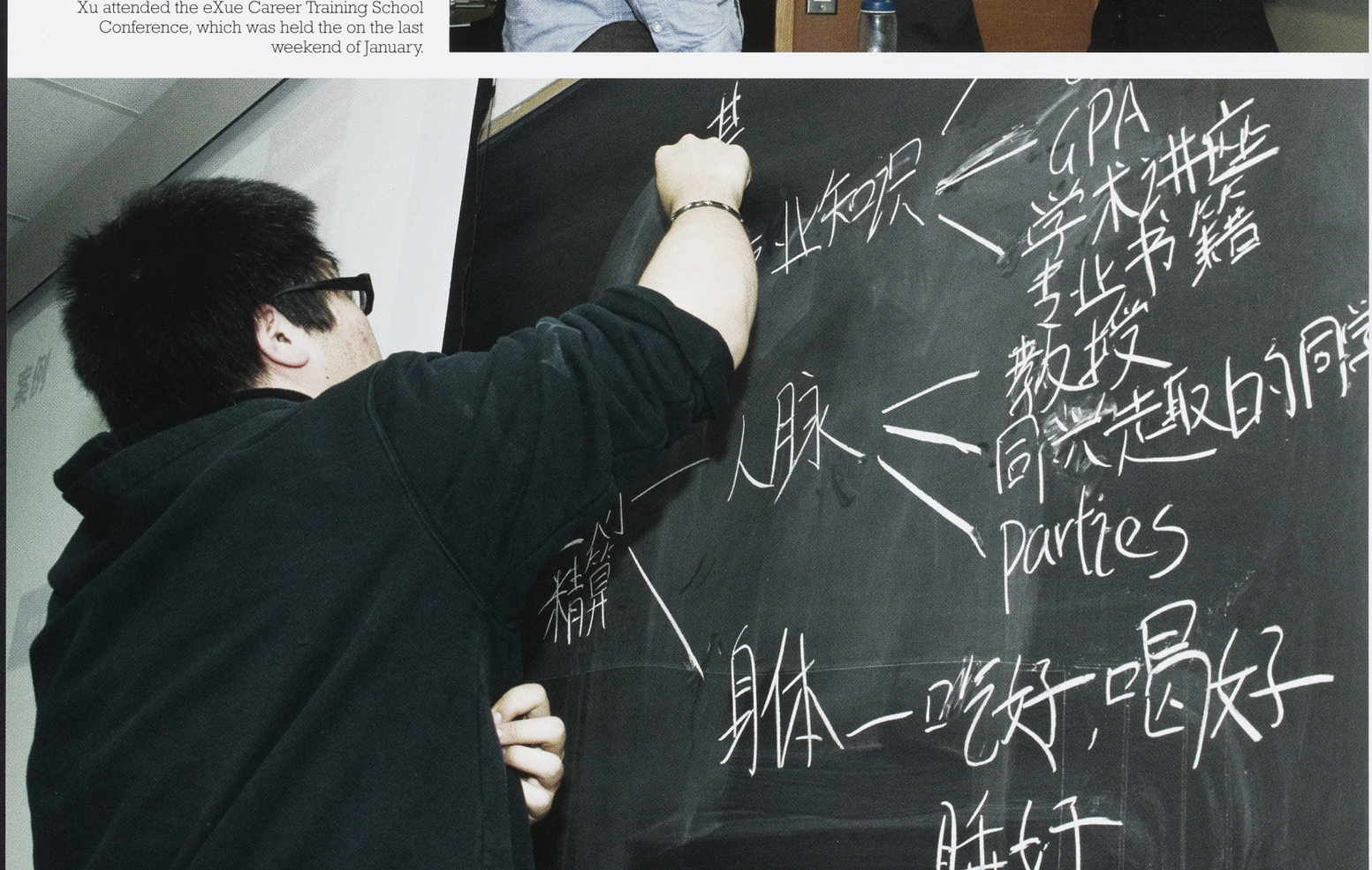
"just because it's hard doesn't mean it's **impossible.**"

-Yu Yin, senior



Senior Yu Yin, organizer of the eXue Career Training School, talks with Yangcheng Chen about specifics of his resume. The eXue Career Training School Conference aims to advance the careers of Chinese students.

Xiaoxiang Xu depicts the numerous opportunities available to students at MSU. Xu attended the eXue Career Training School Conference, which was held the on the last weekend of January.



TYPE isaac hee/PHOTO anthony thibodeau/DESIGN saralee gordon

Students enjoy a short break during the eXue Career Training School conference. The organization is aimed to advance the professional careers of Chinese students.



building bridges

Seasoned Spartan entrepreneur trains Chinese students to market themselves

The audience shifts nervously in their seats as Yu Yin brings up a chart highlighting the 2009 American unemployment rate by state. With one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, Michigan's position at 15 percent is difficult to miss.

"As you can see, finding a job here in Michigan is going to be very hard," Yu warns in Beijing-accented Mandarin. "There's going to be a lot of competition."

"But," she glances around the room with the severity of a schoolteacher, "just because it's hard doesn't mean it's impossible."

Her audience of mostly freshmen and sophomores are students from China. They gave up this particular weekend of Jan. 29 and 30 to learn how to market themselves to American employers here in the Snyder-Philips Complex.

This is the eXue Career Training School, a for-profit weekend seminar founded by Yu in spring 2010 to help Chinese students at MSU bridge the cultural divide and get the most out of their American college lives.

The enterprising Yu, a finance senior, has interned for Honeywell (a Fortune 100 company) and launched two successful business start-ups over her years at MSU. Yu said she decided to teach these seminars based on common questions she received from Chinese students about adapting to college life in America.

"The transition is very hard for Chinese students," she said. "They're not sure of all the opportunities around them and they want to do something, but nobody tells them how."

When asked what he felt was his greatest roadblock as a student, freshman and seminar attendee Zhang Yangtao said having to adapt to life in America was a major issue.

"The second language, the style of lectures, Americans everywhere – I'm still trying to get used to this environment," he said.

Roadblocks like these, Yu said, were what she hoped to overcome through her seminars.

"I'm trying to show them [Chinese students] how life could be," she said. "And how they can do more to reach out."

Throughout the weekend, Yu covered topics such as building effective résumés and cover letters, networking resources, and ways to stand out to potential employers at career fairs. While she encouraged her audience to work a variety of part-time jobs to build their skill sets, she also warned them not to turn their noses down to unpaid positions.

"Employers aren't going to ask whether you were paid when they consider internships listed on your résumé," she said. "Don't avoid those even if they don't give you any money."

Yu also dedicated time to topics such as dining etiquette, dinner interviews and professional dress codes. She gave pointers for job interviews and detailed how international applicants could present their apparent shortcomings as employable strengths.

"Oh, and the most important tip about interviews?" she grins cheekily, "Don't cry, no matter how nervous you are." A chuckle ripples through the audience.

Sophomore Gu Yu said the seminar inspired her to make more American friends and involve herself in student organizations on campus.

"I transferred here recently, and I feel I haven't been communicating enough with others," she said. "I need to work on that."

But Yu has bigger dreams for these seminars that extend beyond a mere on-campus operation. She plans to export this start-up back to her native China, hoping to fill a void in the market there.

"We have a lot of agents in China who help prepare students for SATs and TOEFLs, but they don't train students to adapt to life in America."

"What I'm doing here is taking care of everything in between and trying to teach them all the skills they need," she said. "And in teaching them, I myself learn more about where I stand."

Junior Daniel Normandin and sophomore Matthew Steplitus try their luck at amateur poker. Though the tournament was geared towards students, poker players from around East Lansing also showed.



"every other friday, clubs go to the schools and fill backpacks full of food for kids who are on assisted food programs."

-Jack Cogswell, senior



Juniors Brock Veenhuis and Andrew Gardner were among the 450 MSU students who participated in the tournament. The buy-in was free, though students were encouraged to donate non-perishable food items in support of the Mid-Michigan Food Bank.

TYPE adelina schmidt/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN betsy eber

The chips were stacked high during the Hold 'em for Hunger Charity Poker Tournament. The winner of the tournament received a grand prize of $2,000 from the MSU Federal Credit Union.



fighting hunger, one chip at a time

MSU Rotaract Club hosts second annual Hold 'em for Hunger tournament

Getting out of bed to trek across campus on a brisk Sunday morning might seem like a daunting task, but on Feb. 13. Hundreds of students reported to the Union at 10 a.m. where they were joined by poker enthusiasts from the Greater Lansing area.

A warm, welcoming atmosphere filled with relaxed chatter greeted patrons as they filed up the steps to the second floor of the Union, ready to take on the second annual Hold 'em for Hunger Poker Tournament.

With no buy-in, Hold 'em for Hunger drew crowds of all ages and experience levels. The winner of the tournament received a $2,000 check, courtesy of the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union. The next 75 placeholders were also eligible for a variety of goods and gift cards donated by local vendors.

But there was more at stake than gift cards that weekend. Each participant was encouraged to donate at least one non-perishable food item in an effort to fight hunger by raising food for the Mid-Michigan Food Bank.

The MSU Rotaract Club, a community service group, opted to raise awareness and supplies for the food bank as part of a larger initiative called the Backpack Program. The Backpack Program, a project supported by other off-campus rotary clubs, goes beyond federally funded, free or reduced-price school lunches to meet the needs of hungry children around the clock.

"Basically, rotary clubs in the area sponsor five different elementary schools. Every other Friday, clubs go to the schools and fill backpacks full of food for kids who are on assisted food programs," senior and Rotaract Club elected board member Jack Cogswell said.

"They do it when the other kids aren't around, so it's subtle. This way, the kids have food for the weekend and after school."

Through the Backpack Program, the Rotaract Club connected with other clubs to fight child hunger and malnutrition close to home by raising non-perishable provisions and awareness about food shortages in Michigan. At the first annual Hold 'em for Hunger tournament last spring, the club raised over 1,000 pounds of food and hoped to match or surpass the amount this year.

While the poker games were held to benefit a worthy cause, the charity aspect of the tournament didn't stop participants from hitting the cards hard. Tension crept into the air as more players were eliminated and the prize round approached. Slowly, the crowd thinned as the tournament stretched into the afternoon and evening hours. Still, even eliminated patrons had no complaints to offer on the tournament set-up and execution as they left. The MSU Rotaract Club worked hard to ensure that Hold 'em for Hunger ran as smoothly and efficiently as possible, and the effort paid off.

"The tournament was very well-organized, and I had a lot of fun playing. Obviously I wish I had done better, but some of it's luck," recent MSU graduate Jason Dargo said.

"Really the only difference between a usual tournament and this was the number of rookies and the adjustment from a typical buy-in," Dargo added. "With smaller amounts, the game goes faster; I just wasn't used to it, but it's good for this number of people."

"Venice is probably the most **romantic** place, and a Venetian-themed ball makes you think of love."

-Kelechi Edozie-Anyadiegwu, ISA assistant director of public relations



Couples Emery Way, freshman Catherine Morgan, junior Maxwell McGowan and freshman Kaylee King groove the night away at ISA's Valentine's Ball. The five-hour event provided nonstop entertainment with the MSU Ballroom Dance Club and live DJ performances.

ISA president senior Ruslan Mursalzade conducts the segment of the night where couples, or friends could open up and share a secret, or a loving thought. The ball was Venetian-themed and guests were provided dinner.



TYPE kritika bharadwaj/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN betsy eber, saralee gordon



Roses, candles, masks and balloons gave the romantic atmosphere to ISA's Venetian-themed ball. Free masquerade masks were given to those who attended and didn't bring their own.



valentines in venice

ISA brings Venetian charm to East Lansing for its annual Valentine's Day Ball

Strains of classical music emanated from the brightly lit University Ballroom at the Marriott Hotel. Amid the golden arched walkway and red heart-shaped balloons, streamers shimmered above young men and women dressed in their finest suits and gowns as they walked toward the ballroom.

On Feb. 14, the celebratory day of love and affection between beaus, the International Students Association (ISA), threw its annual Valentine's Day Ball. Titled this year as "Venetian Nights," the ball, according to ISA programming board representative Mariana Rendon, is the organization's biggest event.

Kelechi Edozie-Anyadiegwu, ISA assistant director of public relations, said a summer trip to Venice, Italy, gave her the idea for the theme.

"In Venice I went to a play where they were talking about a Venetian-themed ball," she said. "Venice is probably the most romantic place, and a Venetian-themed ball makes you think of love."

The masks on partygoers' faces were not the only indication of the Venetian theme. In a corner of the ballroom, four MSU music students played classical pieces on their violins - a selection from the works of Mozart and Haydn, said performer and graduate student Erin Lawson. The musicians also included musical numbers for a pair of dancers from the MSU Ballroom Dance Club who were asked to perform for the ball, as the two of them waltzed across the wooden dance floor.

"We're going to start with the waltz because it adds that royal feel that goes with the theme, and then we'll switch it up to tango," club member Prashanth Rajarajan said. "The contrast in light and dark can be seen, as the waltz is a light dance while tango is dark and mysterious."

While international students struck up conversations around the many tables inside, couples could also be seen holding hands, occasionally sharing a kiss. An hour and a half into the night, however, the mellow classical music came to an end and the party scene kicked in. Old favorites like "Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" and "Sweet Caroline" proved to be as popular as new songs like "Cupid Shuffle" and "Carry Out." The dance floor was packed with shaking hips and swaying shoulders.

While many present at the event were single, others professed their love to each other openly. "I love you very much," Houssem Ben Lazreg announced to his companion Agnes Lusito during the shout-outs in several languages, including German, French and Spanish.

"We got a wider audience this time. With this event, we've been a lot more organized unlike previous years where things just happened on the spot," ISA student assembly representative Dushyant Barpaga said.

ISA treasurer Gaurang Shrikhande agrees.

"In our first week, we sold 500 tickets. We didn't take as much time to sell the tickets [compared to last year], which is our biggest achievement."

The event's success was evident by the lack of space in the ballroom. Some couples, like Barpaga and his partner, Rendon, could be seen gazing lovingly into each other's eyes. "Baby, te amo [I love you]," he declared with a grin on his face.

"I joined the e-board on Sept. 27 and we started dating in November," Rendon, who is from Honduras, said.

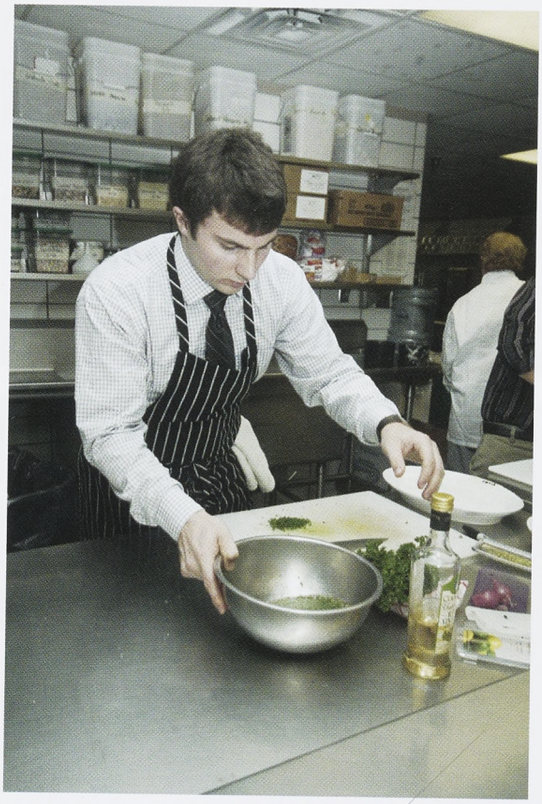
Singles, however, were not left out from the fun.

"Please do mention that I'm single," senior Ashiq Rahiman joked. Others like sophomore Xia Chen were happy enough just being there.

"I am here just to have fun, know others and make friends," she said.

Juniors Nathan Redner and Freddie Wurster shuck oysters for the Spartan Enology Society oyster and wine tasting. Shucking an oyster involves prying the top and bottom shells apart, and then cutting the oyster free from its shell.

Junior Nathan Redner stirs up a traditional mignonette sauce in the Kellogg Center kitchen. Redner volunteers to prepare food for the Spartan Enology Society in order to get hands-on experience for his major.





Seniors Kathryn Weeks and Kathryn Wahl pass around a tray of oysters at the oyster and wine tasting event put on by the Spartan Enology Society. The event was held in the Olympus Room at the Kellogg Center and guest speaker Erik Liedholm presented information about various oysters and the traditional wine that is served alongside them.



oysters and wine

The Spartan Enology Society gets educated in fine dining at the Kellogg Center

Members of the Spartan Enology Society certainly don't drink their wine from a box. In fact they don't drink from anywhere, because it's a dry club. Administrators keep a watchful eye to make sure no alcohol is consumed, but it doesn't really hinder their objective. For this group of mainly hospitality business students, wine is more of a science than a social lubricant—one that involves a lot of studying, and occasionally eating fresh seafood.

As it turns out, oysters and fine wine aren't like apples and oranges. Both are common in upscale restaurants and come in a variety of strengths and flavors. It takes a trained palate to pinpoint the differences.

"Each oyster has a particular flavor—the salinity, if it's really briny, if it's light in flavor—that's the same thing with wines," senior Kathryn Weeks said.

Weeks was one of 12 students who attended a society-sponsored presentation at the Kellogg Center on Jan. 10. As an introduction, several courses of oysters were passed around the stately wood dining table and their differences in taste were discussed; one of the few times when etiquette calls for leaving silverware untouched.

Guest speaker Erik Liedholm stood at the front of the room with a gold pin attached to the lapel of his suit—credentials of his trade as a sommelier, a certified wine guru. Following the oyster tasting, he gave an almost sermon-like lecture on the grapes of the Loire Valley region of France. For those learning the ins and outs of all things wine, this is the place to start, he said. Once you know French wine, the rest comes easy. And for those with a budding career in the restaurant or hotel industry, such knowledge is necessary.

"If you're into food and beverage, your profit is in wine," Liedholm said.

Senior and co-founder Brian Weber formed the society as an educational opportunity for hospitality business students. It gives students in that field a chance to learn a new skill applicable in a variety of hospitality business careers.

"As a club we really want to focus on the education," Weber said. "Because in this industry if you really want to make it you're going need to sit down with a cup of coffee and read a book."

Weber said the society's ultimate goal is to help students achieve sommelier status, a process that requires extensive studying and a class to pass a standardized test. Weber is a level one sommelier, the first rung of the wine ladder, and wants to encourage others to pursue the same path.

"Eventually the School of Hospitality Business at Michigan State will be known for producing sommeliers," he said.

Junior Tim Wickes, part of the small circle that launched the society, said he is confident the experience will make him more marketable in his chosen career path.

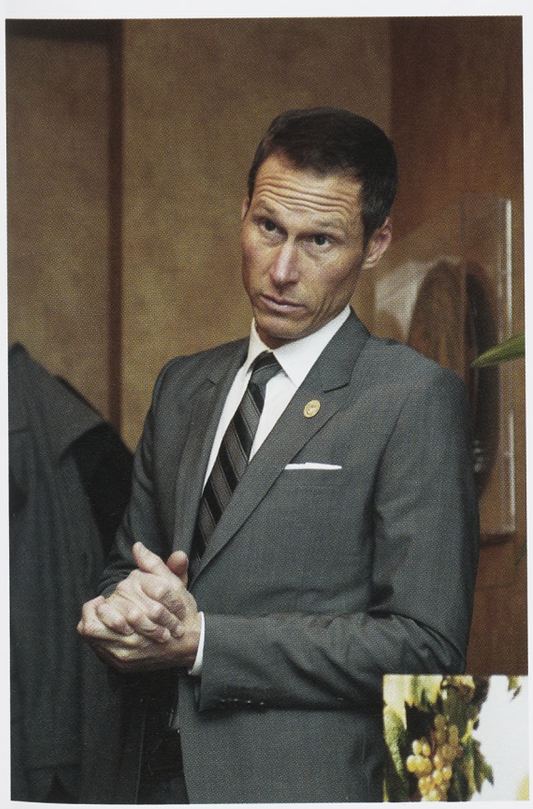
"I want to own my own restaurant someday, and I want to pick out the wine list. I want to trust myself to do that," Wickes said. "It absolutely gives you an edge."

TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN jessica halfyard

"if you're into food and beverage, your profit is in wine."

-Erik Liedholm, sommelier







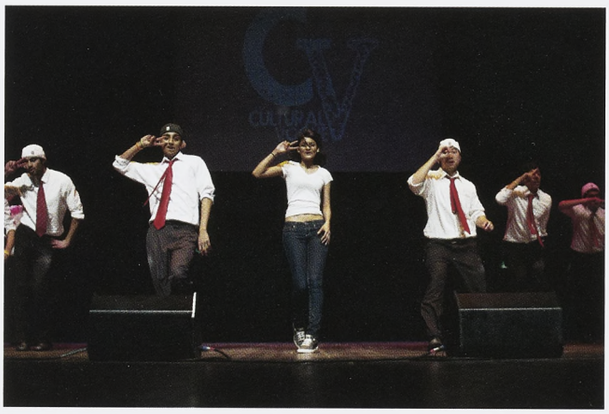
Senior Spence Fogarty shovels oyster meat into his mouth during the oyster tasting event put on by the Spartan Enology Society. At the event, five varieties of oysters were sampled, including Wianno, Island Creek, Nonesuch Belons, Fanny Bays and Kumamoto.

Company wine director and proprietor Erik Liedholm presents to the Spartan Enology Society at the Olympus Room in the Kellogg Center. Liedholm's presentation, "The Loire Valley," dealt with oyster and wine tasting.



Junior Steve Tzeng, better known as Just Steve, performs a classical piano piece during the Cultural Vogue pre-show. Tzeng started playing classical piano when he was 6 years old and began composing music in middle school.

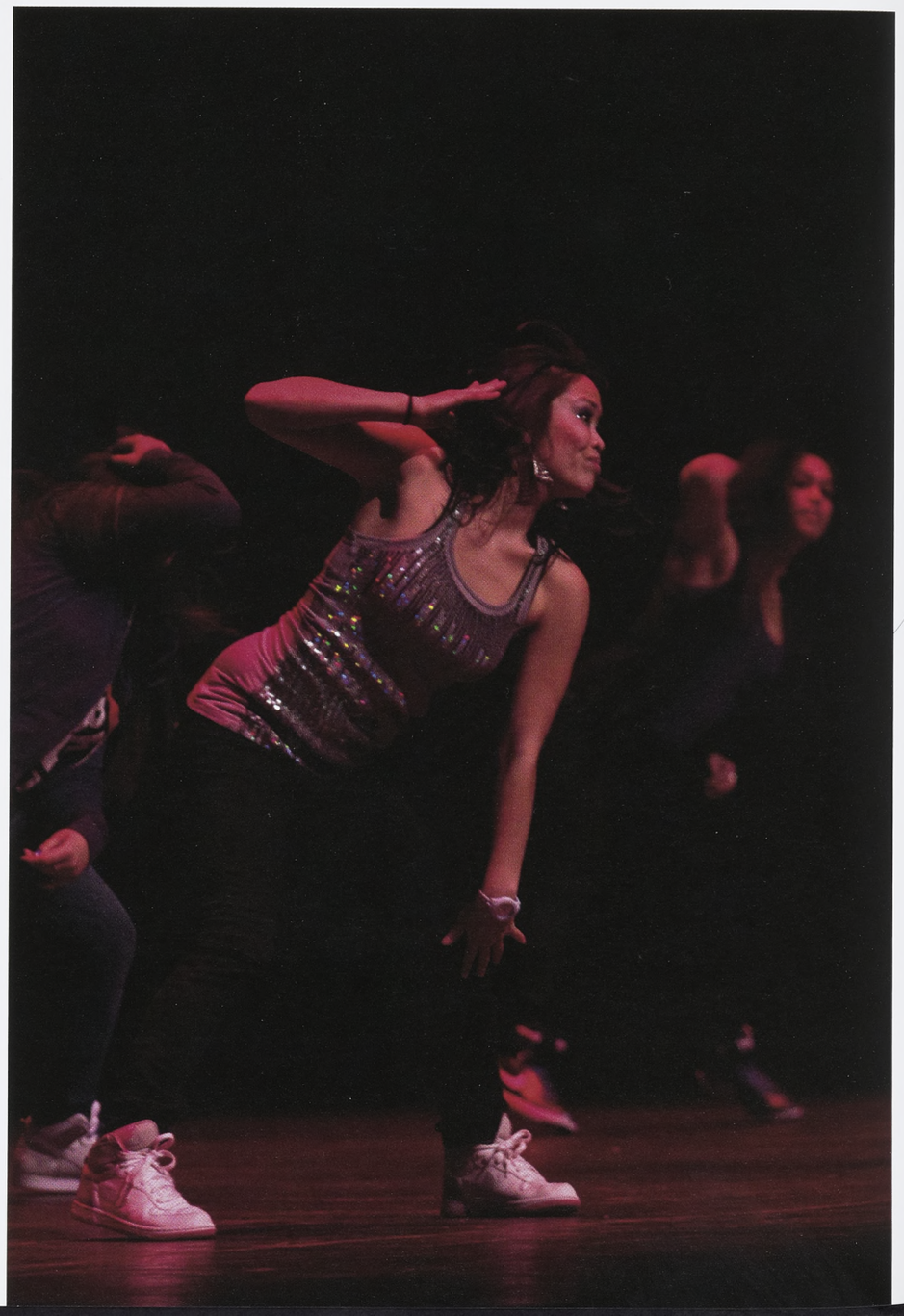
Members of Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, Inc. perform a traditional stepping and modern hip-hop dance during Cultural Vogue. The fraternity aims to promote South Asian culture, instill unity, and aid the greater community.



Senior and one of the MCs for the night, Theresa Tan, along with other members of the Pilipino American Student Society (PASS), give a modern performance during Cultural Vogue. PASS aims to generate a greater awareness of Pilipino American culture at MSU.

"while the cultural dances show a sense of roots, the modern dances show our integration in american society."

-Stephanie Raymundo, senior



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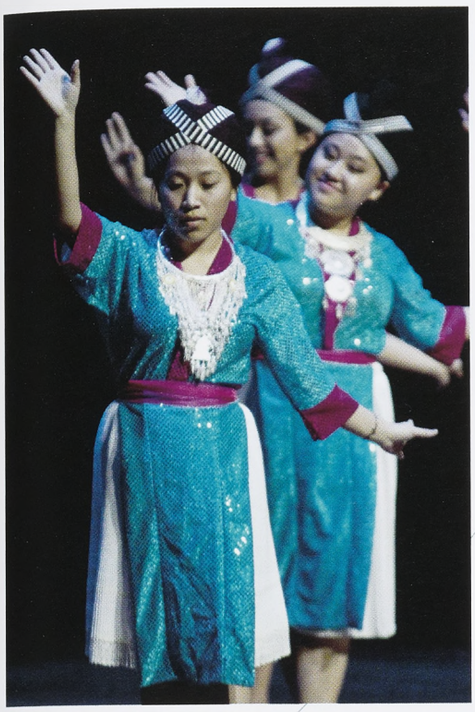


Members of the Hmong American Student Association perform a cultural dance. Founded in 1996, HASA aims to provide support and a communal atmosphere for Chinese students.

Members of the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) end the show with a dance in billowy costumes. VSA provides Vietnamese-themed educational, social, and cultural activities for MSU and the surrounding community.



cultural kaleidoscope

The Asian Pacific American Student Organization's 11th biennial Cultural Vogue returns

On the evening of Feb. 19, a group of eager students entered the Wharton Center, geared up to attend the 11th biennial Cultural Vogue event. As volunteers smilingly ushered in people, the scene was a little different backstage.

Chaos, embraces and high-fives infused the dressing room. Amid the intermingling of cultures, a whirlpool of brightly colored traditional costumes and an explosion of energy, performers silently practiced their routines in a corner.

Cultural Vogue was launched in 1990 by the Asian Pacific American Student Organization, or APASO. The organization presents cultures and social identities through stage performances for the MSU community.

"What Cultural Vogue does is help Asian organizations perform and promote to the community something they don't see regularly," senior and president of Vietnamese Student Association Quoc Le said. "This is going to be my last performance, so it means a lot to me."

While Le took the stage for the last time at the event, Greek letter organizations like Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity were only beginning to get their name out there.

The fraternity performed, as senior and member Mark Parayil mentioned, two years ago and was in the pre-show. Included in the main show this time, the fraternity, along with a step routine, danced to a Korean pop song, breaking cultural boundaries.

Like the Greek letter organizations other cultural groups incorporated videos before their performances, adding a flair of originality not seen before this year, senior APASO co-president Stephanie Raymundo said.

With lung-shredding screams, the crowd welcomed one of the first performers of the night, Frequency. Although part of the pre-show, the dance group left the audience impatient for more with their energetic, hip-hop moves. Four pre-show performances followed the group before the main show commenced.

While each out of the 10 groups brought something original to the table, the cultural dances of the Korean Student Association (KSA), Pilipino American Student Society (PASS) and Hmong American Student Association (HASA) attracted the most audience attention. The women from KSA, clad in white dresses and masks, left the audience spellbound as their kimono-style sleeves flowed softly in the air while their masks contributed to an eerie atmosphere.

Though not Korean by descent, senior and KSA member Erin McCaul seemed to be at extreme ease with her group.

"I'm studying Korean right now and I'm a big fan of the language and the culture. Our slogan is: 'To promote Korean culture on campus for those who are not aware of it'," she said.

PASS featured couples hopping and skipping over rows of bamboo sticks being controlled by performers crouched on the stage. The women of HASA donned shimmering light blue and white dresses and dark purple turbans and performed a rhythmic dance with intricate hand and arm movements. The song's catchy tunes, reminiscent of Thai, Chinese, and Laotian culture, left the crowd awe-struck and mesmerized.

Despite the strong influence of cultural dances, the modern dances dominated the stage with intense energy and presence. When MC Bobby Cordero shouted out to the audience, "If you wanna see modern cultural performances, scream!" the crowd responded in an ear-splitting "Yeah!"

Like Alpha Kappa Delta Phi Sorority, PASS's modern dance was also hip-hop inspired. However, what made the former different was a sequence of sharp, captivating actions with glow sticks. And like the cultural performances, the modern dances have a deep significance, too.

"While the cultural dances show a sense of roots, the modern dances show our integration in American society," Raymundo said.

TYPE adelina schmidt/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN betsy eber

a cappella for canines

Alpha Phi Omega hosts charity a cappella concert for future leader dogs

A hush fell over the audience as 14 singers took to the stage in the Erikson Kiva, ready to captivate listeners with nothing but their charming personalities and, more importantly, their voices. RCAHpella, the first group to perform, set the stage for the following acts, which included MSU's State of Fifths, Capital Green, and the Acafellas. Together, they serenaded their eager audience with an evening of song for a decidedly canine cause.

The annual Have a Heart A Cappella Concert began at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 19. The show started after a brief introduction driven by the enthusiastic energy radiating from the talented student performers.

The four a cappella groups showcased their skills by delivering rich, powerful melodies and mesmerizing patrons with their incredible versatility. The concert covered a variety of musical genres, moving from RCAHpella's rendition of Lady Gaga's pop hit "Just Dance," to slow, soulful ballads like Dana Glover's "It's You (I Have Loved)," delivered by the State of Fifths.

While the music was a major draw for some concert-goers, the show was more than an opportunity to enjoy a cappella performances. The groups donated their voices for a larger cause: Leader Dogs for the Blind, a program that provides guide dogs to those who are blind or visually impaired. All ticket sales and donations collected at the concert that night went to benefit the charity.

Event coordinator and junior Jamie Forte said Alpha Phi Omega, the co-ed service fraternity that hosted the event, chose to raise money for Leader Dogs because of the fraternity's close ties with the program.

"We do different charities every year, but we chose Leader Dogs this year because we have two trainers [of leader dogs] in Alpha Phi right now, and it's just such a great cause," Forte said.

"You can see exactly where the money's going; it's going to train dogs who'll help those in need."

By supporting the Leader Dog program, APO will aid the charity in its efforts to match puppies with qualified trainers. These trainers will raise the little canines through the first year of their lives. Trainers are responsible for socializing their wards and exposing them to as many different scenarios as possible.

"Basically, I'll take care of her [Ivy, a four month old Golden Retriever] for another six months," leader dog trainer Noel Houghton said.

"After the year she spends with me, she'll go back to Leader Dogs for formal training with a harness. She'll do that for four months before she's matched with a blind person, who lives at the training facility for 26 days and learns how to use a leader dog," Houghton added.

Houghton and a few other trainers attended the concert in support of the cause with their canine wards in tow. A few four-footed friends even contributed to the chorus, chiming in with barks and whines during Capital Green's performance.

The show ended on a high note as the audience laughed, cheered and threw their hands up in time with an enthusiastic mash-up of Ke$ha's "Your Love is My Drug" and Taio Cruz's "Dynamite." The song was delivered by the all-male group, the Acafellas, who wrapped up the concert with a Beatles medley.

"I'm a part of Alpha Phi Omega, so I came out to support and I volunteered to clean up after the show, but the singers were absolutely amazing," freshman Darcie Moran said. "I didn't know a lot about a cappella before, but they blew me away."

> "you can see exactly where the money's going; it's going to **train** dogs who'll help those in need."
>
> -Jamie Forte, junior



State of Fifths member senior Kristen Seymour plays with Oakley, a four-month-old guide dog in training. Oakley is the sixteenth guide dog to be raised by trainer, Carole Power, and will be fully trained in about a year and a half.



Acappella group State of Fifths performs at the Have A Heart event. The group sang amongst three other groups to raise money for the Leader Dogs For the Blind program.



Acafellas members and seniors Michael Samsky and David Hart at sing "Your Love is My Drug/ Dynamite" mash-up at the Have A Heart concert on Feb. 19. The male a cappella group sang to an audience underlined with the yelping of guide dogs in training.



Ivy is a four-month-old guide dog in training. Leader Dogs are provided to clients free of charge thanks to the funds of generous donators.

The crowd gets down on the dance floor at Club Rush to some traditional cultural Arabic music. The dance floor exploded after the conclusion of Ameera Paone's belly dancing show.

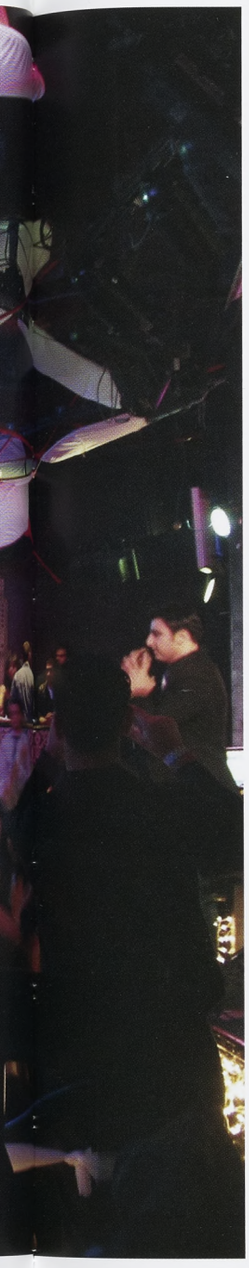
Attendee's of the 6th Annual Arab Cultural Society Hafla were encouraged to eat some of the cultural Middle Eastern food. Falafel, shish kabob, rice, hummus and pita were among many of the traditional foods served at the Hafla.





Sophomore Lynn Castillo, freshman Maria Estrada and sophomore Sarah Black hang out at Club Rush in the basement of Harper's waiting for the Hafla to begin. Estrada said she heard about the event through some of her MSU friends who are a part of the Arab Cultural Society.

TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN jessica halfyard



hafla down

While revolution rages overseas, the Arab Cultural Society puts on one of its most important events of the year

Junior Sarah Sharawi had plenty to celebrate. Less than two weeks prior to the Arab Cultural Society's annual Hafla on Feb. 17, she sat waiting as her family was nearly 6,000 miles away at their home in Cairo, Egypt amid an attempted government overthrow. Thousands of Egyptians crowded Tahrir Square, demanding that president Hosni Mubarak step down after a 30-year reign. As matters escalated, nobody knew whether the fragile peace would hold.

"It was the worst two weeks of my life," Sharawi said.

Finally, after 17 days of relentless public pressure, Mubarak gave in and resigned, a monumental moment that opened the floodgates to a rush of Egyptian national pride.

"It got to a point where he had to resign; it's for the better," Sharawi said.

The wave of revolution in the Middle East started in Tunisia in December, where citizen protests incited a similar shift in government. On the night of the Hafla, protests broke out in Libya, which made headlines as military forces loyal to the ruling Colonel Muammar el-Gaddafi attacked protesters. As the events of the last several weeks unfolded, some students in the Arab Cultural Society, especially those with ties to Africa and the Middle East, felt a unique sense of pride watching their generation make history.

"It's not old people bringing this on," senior Shereen Hamed, chairperson of the Arab Cultural Society, said. "The young people have this whole new mentality. It's very liberating; it makes me very proud to be an Arab."

Hamed said her parents' generation—her mother is from Syria and her father from Egypt—grew up following athe saying that translates to "the walls have ears and eyes," referring to the all-powerful domain of the government. Now, however, her peers overseas are challenging that assumption.

"It wouldn't have been possible without this information age where we have Facebook and social networking," she said.

Despite turmoil on the home front, nothing could bring down the energy on Hafla night. After all, the event is aimed at bridging the cultural gap between Arabs and Americans with something college students here and abroad know how to do—party.

"Hafla," literally means party in Arabic. Kind of like "fiesta" in Spanish, Hamed said.

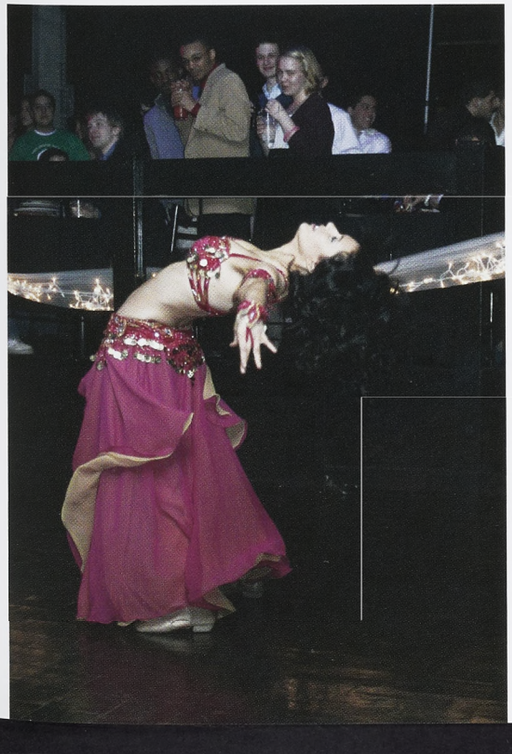
This year, the sixth in a row, both members and non-members dressed to the nines and piled into Club Rush —suit coats, ties, high heels and a few animal print cocktail dresses displayed in full force. Attendees danced to Arab music, watched a belly dancer and sampled traditional cuisine on the buffet line – from lamb and pork kabobs sprinkled with parsley to pita bread and hummus (which, technically, is still a traditional dish).

Junior Joey Kahlil, vice chairperson for the Arab Cultural Society, said the group tries hard to encourage a blend of members and non-members for the Hafla each year. One of its main goals, he said, is to dispel negative stereotypes about Arabs.

"You can never really understand something unless you experience it," Kahlil said. "Hopefully we can show people we [youth of Arab decent] are about having fun too."

Hamed said the Arab Cutural Society has grown in recent years, especially with non-Arab members. As a result, the Hafla has gained momentum through grassroots support, filling Club Rush for one of the first times ever last year. Just after the doors opened at 8 p.m., she said that they were expecting another full night—550 people were confirmed attending on the Facebook event page, while the club's capacity is only 450.

Apparently, the same tools can bring people together in very different ways, even from halfway across the world.





"it makes me very proud to be an arab."
-Shereen Hamed, senior

The first two hours of the Hafla consisted of traditional Middle Eastern food, drinks and socializing. Various tables were reserved for VIP members to bring and entertain their guests.

Ameera Paone bellydances for spectators who attended the 6th Annual Arab Cultural Society Hafla. Paone is a professional belly dancer having been in the business for four years and is a trained Middle Eastern/American Cabaret belly dancer.





VARSITY SPORTS

Displaying heart, strength and drive on the courts, fields, mats, track and pool, our Spartan athletes' outstanding acts of athleticism in their 2010-2011 seasons have fulfilled an expectation of greatness.

The seasons concluded with Big Ten Championship titles for football, women's basketball, women's cross country, women's golf and men's baseball, as well as excellent showings in rowing, crew, track and field and softball.

Looked upon as our sports heroes and heroines, varsity sports athletes nestle upon a layer of excitement and comradery at MSU.

Scoreboard

Michigan	**W, 9-3**
Michigan	**W, 5-4**
Michigan	**W, 82**
Iowa	**W, 7-2**
Iowa	**W, 7-1**
Iowa	**L, 19-7**
Minnesota	**W, 4-2**
Minnesota	**W, 2-0**
Minnesota	**W, 6-4**
Ohio State	**W, 5-4**
Ohio State	**L, 9-8**
Ohio State	**L, 10-5**
Illinois	**W, 8-5**
Illinois	**L, 5-2**
Illinois	**L, 11-8**
Penn State	**W, 5-4**
Penn State	**W, 5-4**
Penn State	**W, 10-5**
Purdue	**W, 11-4**
Purdue	**W, 5-3**
Purdue	**W, 6-5**
Indiana	**L, 7-4**
Indiana	**L, 13-12**
Indiana	**L, 8-6**
Northwestern	**W, 3-0**
Northwestern	**W, 10-1**
Northwestern	**L, 6-5**
Purdue	**W, 7-1**
Illinois	**L, 4-1**
Minnesota	**W, 6-3**
Illinois	**L, 9-1**

Roster

Torsten Boss	**SO**
Tony Bucciferro	**J**
Andrew Carpenter	**SO**
Trevor Cousineau	**SO**
Stephen Doty	**S**
Brandon Eckerie	**S**
Michael Ferry	**J**
Joel Fisher	**F**
David Garner	**F**
Jeff Holm	**S**
Jared Hook	**SO**
Cody Huge	**SO***
Bryce Jenney	**J**
Andy Johnson	**J***
Ryan Jones	**SO***
Jordan Keur	**SO**
Jeff Kinley	**F**
Ryan Martin	**SO***
John Martinez	**SO**
Grant Newsome	**F**
Chad Nielsen	**J***
Trey Popp	**J**
Andrew Rademacher	**SO**
Chase Rihtarchik	**F***
Taylor Robson	**J**
Justin Scanlon	**J**
Tim Simpson	**J***
Mike Theodore	**F***
Andrew Waszak	**SO**
Andrew Webb	**S**
Tony Wieber	**SO**
Zak Wilkerson	**F**
Seth Williams	**S**
Kurt Wunderlich	**S**
Joe Zwierzynski	**SO**

*IRS

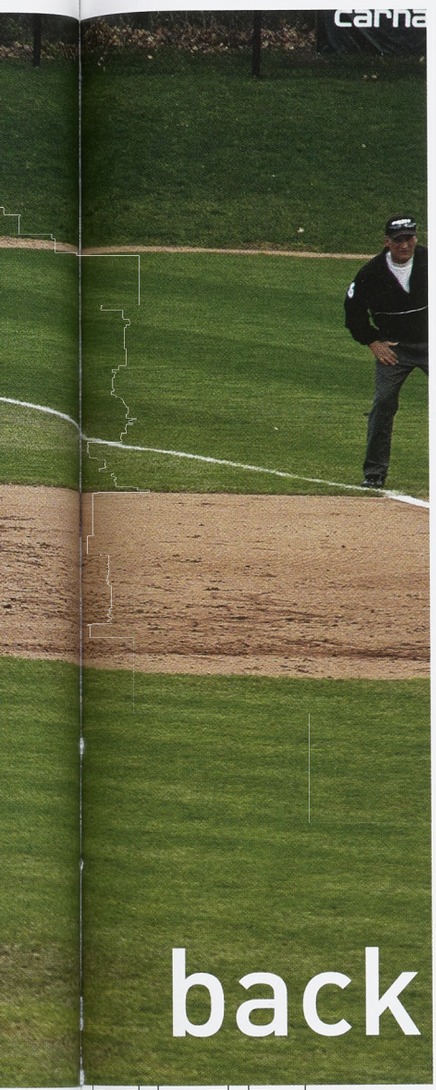


Sophomore Andrew Waszak hurls a two-seam fast pitch towards home plate during a home stand against the Penn State Nittany Lions. Waszak threw six innings and allowed four runs during a 10-5 Spartan win.

Sophomore Andrew Waszak throws a strike against Penn State at MacLane Baseball Stadium. Waszak went 4-3 during 12 appearances on the mound for the Spartans.



TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO chase o'black/DESIGN jessica halfyard



Michigan State participates in a some successful defense against Penn State during game three of a three-game series in East Lansing. Michigan State went 12-5 at home this season.



back in business

MSU Baseball team seeks success it hasn't seen in 32 years

When asked the last time the MSU Baseball team made the NCAA Baseball tournament, Coach Jake Boss Jr. fired the answer back instantly: 1979. Apparently it's not a number that sits well with him.

That was also the last year the Spartans won the Big Ten, and they hadn't won the regular season or the Big Ten Tournament since. But after this season, these Spartans found themselves in an unfamiliar spot. Finishing 36-21 and 17-11 in the Big Ten, they captured the Big Ten Championship for the first time in 32 years.

This success was just the latest burst of progress made by the program since Boss Jr. took over in 2008. He raised the team from 23-31 in 2009 to 34-19 last year, and they've been centered on a different set of expectations in the Spartans' clubhouse ever since.

"When I was at Eastern Michigan [coaching] we played Michigan State and I felt like they quit once they got down, and we pounced on that," Boss Jr. said. "So we had a little bit of an idea going in that might be a problem, so just the attitude of expecting to win and seeing yourself holding that Big Ten Championship trophy at the end of the year, realizing that it is a possibility."

Boss Jr. said the Spartans boast good starting pitching and defense, arguably the most important elements for a championship baseball team on any level. The Spartans rely heavily on starting pitchers senior Kurt Wunderlich and junior Tony Bucciferro. Wunderlich went 10-2 with a 3.19 ERA and Bucciferro went 8-3 with a 3.38 ERA. As for the rest of the defense, the middle of the infield was patrolled well by second baseman sophomore Ryan Jones and junior shortstop Justin Scanlon, who helped turn the bulk of the team's 51 double plays. Senior Brandon Eckerle hauled in 185 putouts in centerfield, the most on the team among the outfielders.

"You gotta go out there and attack the hitters, and just let the defense do the work," Wunderlich said. "I think we have the best fielding team in the Big Ten. I trust those guys to make the play behind me and they've bailed me out before."

Thanks to that simple formula, the Spartans churned out a series of highlights throughout the season, including wins in both of their showcase games. They captured the Crosstown Showdown against the single-A minor league Lansing Lugnuts on April 5. They also laid claim to winning the first collegiate baseball game ever at Comerica Park on April 20 in Detroit against Central Michigan. More important though were two critical three-game sweeps of Minnesota and Michigan.

"The Michigan series was special because it was on the road, and it's tough to sweep a team regardless of where you're playing," Boss Jr. said. "You look at the Minnesota series, and we just played extremely well against the defending Big Ten champions." The highlight of the series against the Golden Gophers came in the middle game, when Bucciferro pitched a complete game shutout.

However, the last half of the season remained the most critical for the Spartans. MSU still needed to get through Penn State, Purdue and Indiana, all of whom represented the remainder of the top four in the Big Ten standings at the time along with MSU.

With the bulk of the schedule at home, the Spartans passed their late season tests with flying colors. MSU swept both Purdue and Penn State in three games each, and the Big Ten-clinching win came with a 10-1 drubbing of Northwestern on May 20.

The Spartans weren't able to claim an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament though, as they lost twice to Illinois in the Big Ten Championship tournament. However, considering how long it took to get to that point—32 years to be exact— the Spartans could still finish the season with a sense of accomplishment.

"It's tough not getting an automatic bid, but there's so many positives that we can take away from this year," senior first baseman Jeff Holm said. "I'll always remember this year. When I'll look down on my hand and see that (Big Ten Championship) ring, it's going to make it all worthwhile."

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN betsy eber



Scoreboard

Minnesota	**W, 71-62**
Northwestern	**W, 65-62**
Penn State	**L, 66-62**
Wisconsin	**W, 64-61**
Northwestern	**W, 71-62**
Illinois	**L, 71-62**
Purdue	**L, 86-76**
Michigan	**L, 61-57**
Indiana	**W, 84-83**
Iowa	**L, 72-52**
Wisconsin	**L, 82-56**
Penn State	**W, 75-57**
Ohio State	**L, 71-61**
Illinois	**W, 61-57,**
Minnesota	**W, 53-48**
Purdue	**L, 67-47**
Iowa	**W, 85-66**
Michigan	**L, 70-63**

Roster

Keith Appling	**F**
Russell Byrd	**F**
Alex Gauna	**F**
Draymond Green	**J**
Anthony Ianni	**J**
Mike Kebler	**S**
Korie Lucious	**S**
Kalin Lucas	**S**
Derrick Nix	**SO**
Adreian Payne	**F**
Delvon Roe	**J**
Garrick Sherman	**SO**
Durrell Summers	**S**
Austin Thorton	**J***

*|RS

Junior forward Draymond Green is fouled by Bowling Green as he attempts a shot. MSU defeated Bowling Green 74-39.

Coach Tom Izzo rushes toward junior forward Delvon Roe after he injures his knee during the last moments of the game against Penn State. MSU beat Penn State 75-57.

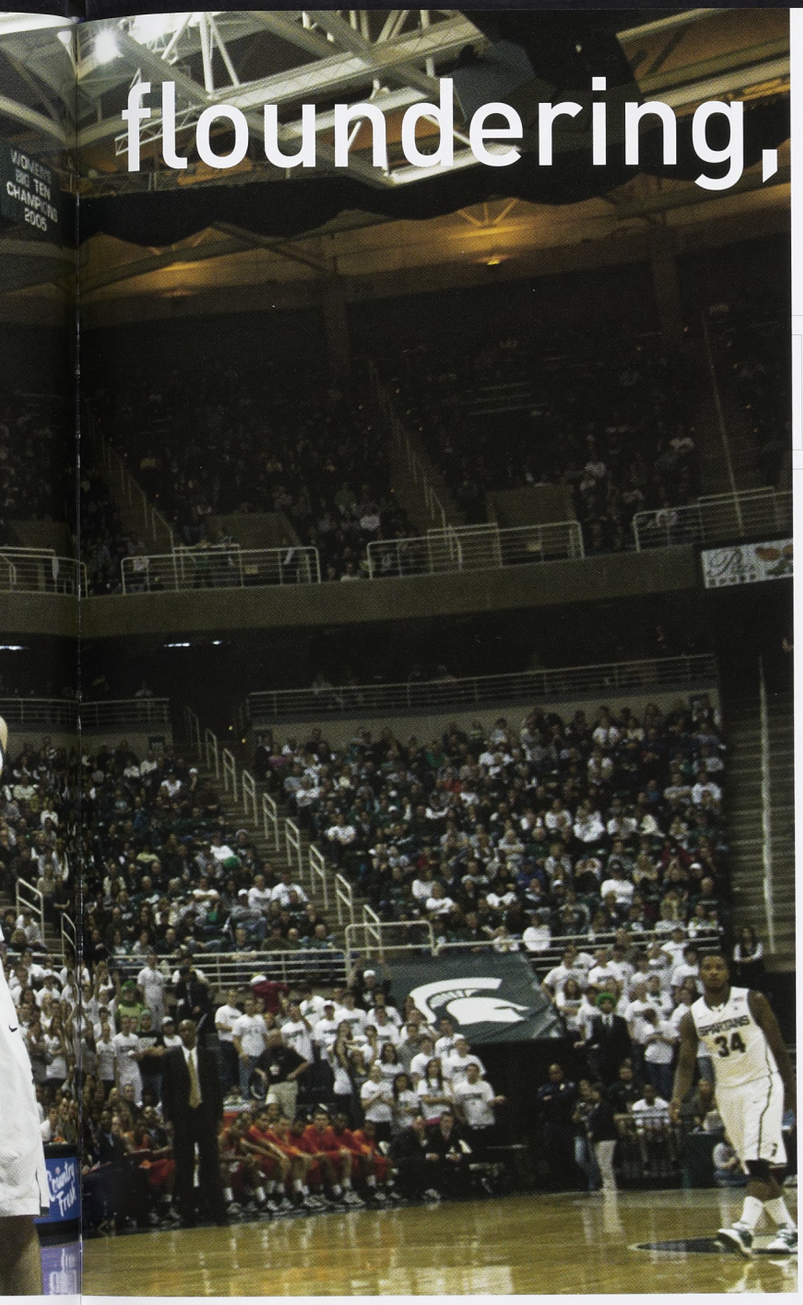


Senior guard Mike Kebler rushes the net against Prairie View A&M. MSU won the game with a final score of 90-51.



Junior forward Draymond Green assists junior forward Delvon Roe as he goes up for the shot against Penn State. MSU defeated Penn State 75-57.





floundering, flustered, frustrated

Men's basketball team's consistent struggles lead to a season below expectations

Fans must certainly have felt that the tumultuous period that was the 2011 men's basketball season was like a nightmare that they couldn't wake up from. A 9-9 Big Ten finish (19-15 overall) and a first round exit in the NCAA Tournament were a heart-wrenching far cry from the Spartans' previous two outings, where they reached the Final Four twice and the National Championship game once.

The Spartans just couldn't get any momentum going after barely surviving a brutal non-conference schedule. MSU had to make its way through eventual national champion Connecticut, last year's winner Duke, perennial powerhouses Syracuse and Texas, and came up short in each of those games. But the Spartans weren't playing sound basketball by their standards either, going into the Big Ten play hobbled by consistent turnovers, poor shooting and defense.

The conference schedule didn't offer much of a respite for the Spartans, as they continued to snooze through their slump. After their win against Northwestern on Jan. 15, MSU wasn't able to win more than one game in a row until the Big Ten Tournament. They were swept into their season series against Purdue and, even worse, Michigan. They were blown out by the Iowa Hawkeyes 72-52 on Feb. 2, and an 82-56 loss against Wisconsin four days later only added salt to the wounds in their pride.

The Spartans were riddled with off-the-court distractions as well. Coach Tom Izzo served a game suspension in December after the university wrongly employed an individual associated with a potential recruit during a summer camp. Junior Korie Lucious was abruptly dismissed by Izzo in January for conduct detrimental to the team. Two unnamed basketball players were accused of committing sexual assault on campus in August, a case which Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunnings III declined to take up because he couldn't find evidence of coercion, The State News reported.

MSU ended up being carried through by senior Kalin Lucas, who was the one consistent bright spot amidst the gloom. Lucas started all 34 games, led the team in scoring at 17 points a game and made the second All-Big Ten team. Delvon Roe was a defensive specialist, often enlisted by Izzo to guard the opposing team's best players. Roe made the all-defensive team for the Big Ten. Keith Appling and Adreian Payne formed a formidable freshman duo that provided a glimpse of the future of Spartan basketball this year, coming off the bench to provide depth and occasional scoring.

However, the Spartans failed to develop consistency, and no onAs March crept closer, many hoped Coach Izzo would work his magic and take his team for a deep run into the NCAA Tournament. For a while, that looked possible. Beating Iowa and Purdue with convincing wins in the Big Ten Tournament helped the Spartans crawl into the Big Dance, because they had been on the bubble before, finishing the season 17-13.

The Spartans were seeded 10th and slated to play against the University of California - Los Angeles Bruins. However, as in many games that season, MSU fell behind quickly and had to race to catch up. The Spartans were down 42-24 at half and at worst down by 23. However, thanks to missed free throws by the Bruins and persistent three-pointers from the Spartans, MSU stormed back and was within one point with 4.4 seconds left – with the ball in hand, too. However, Lucas traveled trying to escape a triple team, ending the comeback effort.

The call put the Spartans' season to bed. And though the team came close to finally waking up right before the terrible ending this year, they ultimately didn't stir fast enough.



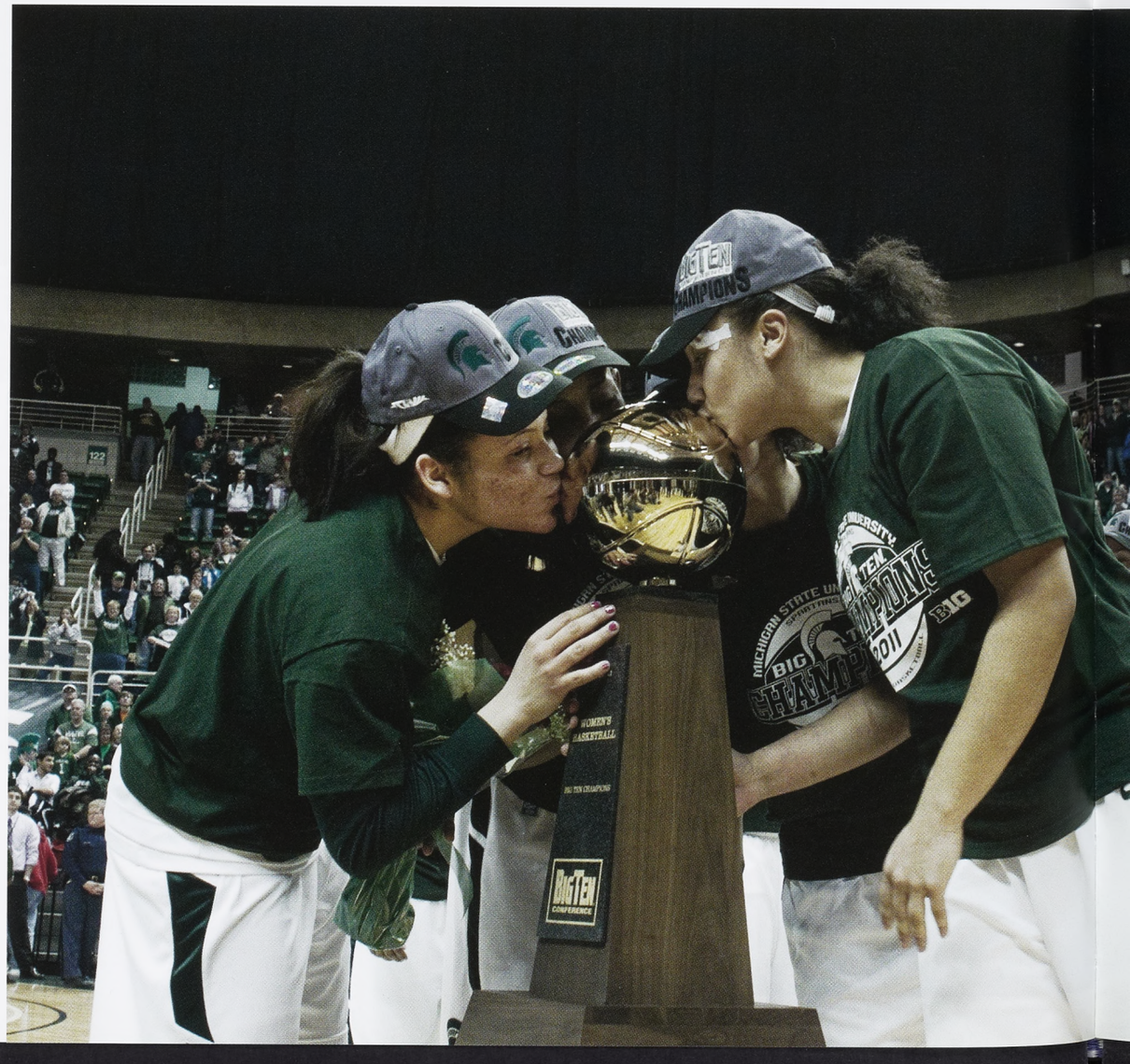


Senior guard Durrell Summers dunks the ball against Prairie View A&M. Summers scored a total of 25 points throughout the game.



Senior Cetera Washington throws up a shot for two points against Ohio State. Washington played a total of 19 minutes against the Buckeyes.

The seniors of the Spartan women's basketball team show their respect to the Big Ten title trophy while their teammates look onward. The game was the last home game the seniors played at the Breslin Center.



Scoreboard	
Illinois	**W, 70-57**
Wisconsin	**W, 62-43**
Michigan	**W, 63-56**
Iowa	**W, 63-60**
Ohio State	**L, 67-53**
Indiana	**W, 69-50**
Minnesota	**W, 66-54**
Iowa	**L, 66-64**
Wisconsin	**W, 73-70**
Purdue	**W, 76-57**
Penn State	**W, 60-49**
Michigan	**W, 69-56**
Northwestern	**W, 74-60**
Illinois	**W, 69-56**
Ohio State	**L, 54-53**
Minnesota	**W, 65-51**

Roster	
Taylor Alton	**J**
Klarissa Bell	**F**
Bryonna Davis	**F**
Jasmine Holmes	**S**
Lykendra Johnson	**J**
Kalisha Keane	**S**
Tracy Nogle	**SO**
Annalie Pickrel	**F**
Porsché Poole	**J**
Courtney Schiffauer	**SO**
Kelsey Smith	**F**
Brittney Thomas	**S**
Jasmine Thomas	**SO**
Cetera Washington	**S**
Madison Williams	**F**

*IRS

TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO anthony thibodeau/DESIGN jessica halfyard

Senior Jasmine Holmes cuts the net down as part of the post celebration for winning the Big Ten title. The game was the last time Holmes and fellow senior teammates would play at the Breslin Center.



Junior Taylor Alton surveys the court while an Ohio State Buckeye guards her. The Spartan women's basketball team fell to Ohio State.





a slam dunk

MSU women's basketball team wins Big Ten title

Drawing serious attention this past season, the MSU women's basketball team displayed outstanding technical skill, strategy, power and heart. While men's basketball head coach Tom Izzo's usually acclaimed team struggled, scraped and skirted by all season—finally falling to UCLA in a tragic two-point loss in the first round of the NCAA Tournament—Suzy Merchant and the women's team reached an ultimate high.

For five days after the male Spartans fell, the women gallivanted on, claiming some of the headline space that the men let slip away. Their numerous historical imprints this season even outshined their loss in the second round of the Tournament—a lukewarm end to a season that, holistically, shined brighter than a freshly polished court.

While the team shined throughout their season, it closed with individual recognition as well. Senior Kalisha Keane was crowned Big Ten Player of the Year, the first ever at MSU. Junior forward Lykendra Johnson was named the conference's best defensive player. To accompany it, Merchant now sports the title of best coach.

Though the stand-alones shined, in the end it's always about team synergy. And they definitely had a lot of it. The team definitively captured the Big Ten title, a coup-d'état that ended Ohio State University's half-decade reign. But their biggest triumph may have been at home. On Feb. 13, for the first time in history, a women's basketball game sold out the Breslin Center, nearly 15,000 fans packing the arena.

The team triumphed over the visiting team—University of Michigan—by a 13-point margin, marking a decade span since they last lost to their rival in East Lansing.

making strides

MSU cross country teams finish strong after a long season

The fall 2010 season proved to be successful for both MSU's men and women cross country teams.

Ranked 16th nationally according to U.S. track and field polls, the women's team now also holds the best ranking in the Big Ten championships.

While cross country assistant coach Lisa Senakiewich described freshmen Sara Kroll and Julia Otwell as part of a talented group who raced fearlessly, runner Emily MacLeod has a lot to celebrate with her accomplishments. MacLeod was named Big Ten runner of the week at the Wisconsin Adidas invitational. She was also named Big Ten women's cross country athlete of the year completing the third-best 6k time in Big Ten Championships history. Her success brought a positive outcome to the whole team as it received the Big Ten title for the third time in program history since 2001.

"It has been a really great experience. I've been working hard since I've been here and that's my main goal," she said.

Apart from MacLeod, the other two team leaders, Senakiewich said, are Carlie Green and Rebekah Smeltzer. Green, like MacLeod, is a fourth-year senior with a year's eligibility within the team. Being a number two runner for the past season, Green believes that group dynamics are the reason for the team's achievements.

"We're a young team but older athletes like us have grown into our roles, been more mature and interactive," she said.

Senakiewich agrees.

"None of them [athletes] are in it for individual accolades. They are racing for each other while supporting their peers along the way."

Though winning the Big Ten, said Green, gave the team the experience they never had, the men's team didn't fall short of any expectations either.

"Where we finished was significant. Even with our best guys down we can still do well," Senakiewich said.

The team's main asset, Patrick Grosskopf, became a runner in the season-ending race for the second consecutive season since 2001. Among other team contributions was freshman Travis Borchard who was named the Big Ten runner of the week along with sophomore Kristen Smith. The men finished the race fifth with a score of 148.

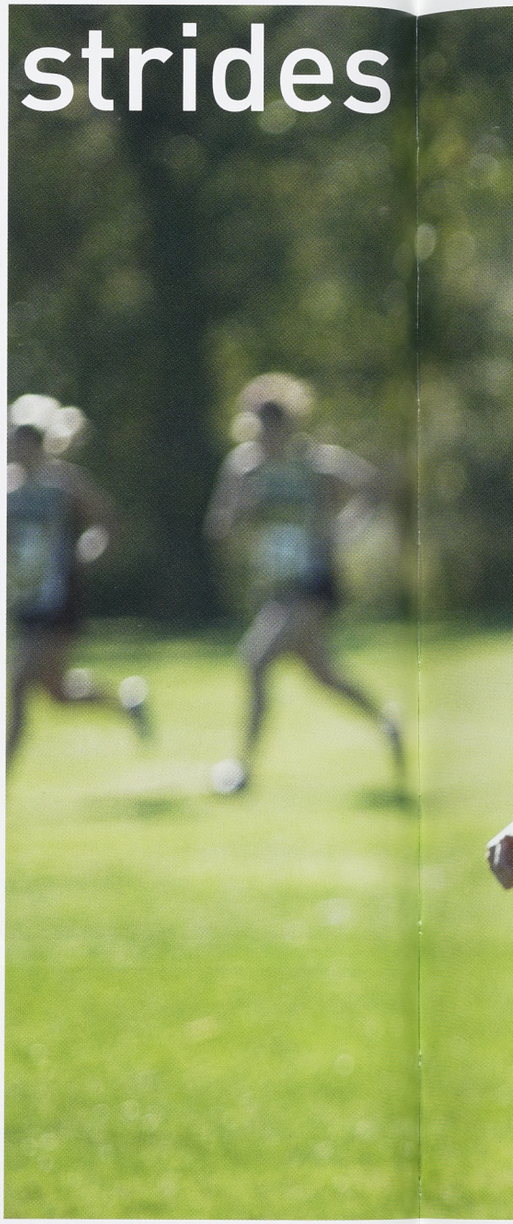
The philosophy for both men's and women's teams, Senakiewich said, is to continue to compete at our best. And while the men's team didn't win a championship this season, both teams have worked tirelessly to reach their respective successes.

"We've all been working hard. We're all in this together and we all turned out well," MacLeod said.

Feeding into MacLeod's positive enegery, Senakiewich ends on an encouraging note.

"It is moments like these which are a test to the team and the coaches of what we can do. Our philosophy involves how we can get to winning."

Team members such as Green are excited to win once more. To go back, Green said, and make it better is her belief on being one step closer to victory.





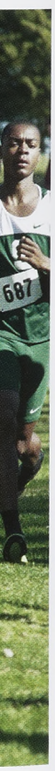
Freshman Veronica Wilson removes her shoes after the race. Wilson was the second to cross the finish line with a time of 18:51.3



Freshman Sam Aklilu and sophomore Shaka Dukes lead the way in the Michigan Intercollegiate Championships. Aklilu was the second male to cross the finish line and Dukes was the fourth.

TYPE kritika bharadwaj/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN jessica halfyard









Senior Spencer Beatty clocked in a time of 24:45 at the Spartan Invitational. The Spartan men landed seven spots in the top ten.

After competing in the men's 5K, freshmen Travis Borchard and Sam Aklilu hit the sidelines. Borchard was the top Spartan in the Michigan Intercollegiate Championships with a time of 26:50.3.

The women's cross country team represents the Spartans in the Michigan Intercollegiate Championships in Rochester, Mich. Sophomore Kristen Smith was the top runner for the women in the 5K race with a time of 18:17.4.

Sophomore Blake Treadwell, senior Marcus Hyde, sophomore Tyler Hoover and senior Eric Gordon take the field after halftime. The Spartans recorded 11 wins of 13 games in the 2010-2011 season.



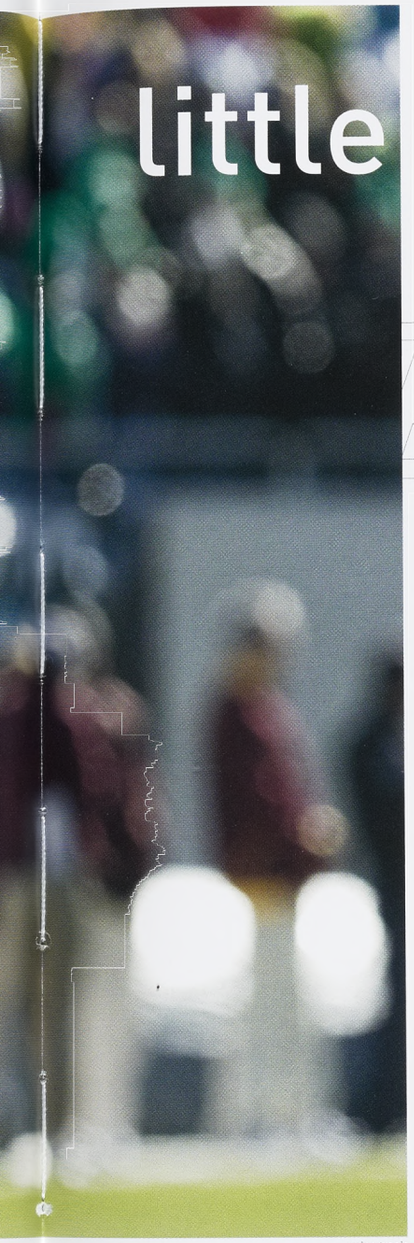
ellina stein

Sophomore Edwin Baker runs the ball in for a touchdown in the Nov. 20 game against Purdue. Baker scored the second touchdown of the game helping Michigan State beat the Boilermakers 35-31.

Scoreboard

Western Michigan	**W, 38-14**
Florida Atlantic	**W, 30-17**
Notre Dame	**W, 34-31**
Northern Colorado	**W, 45-7**
Wisconsin	**W, 34-24**
Michigan	**W, 34-17**
Illinois	**W, 26-6**
Northwestern	**W, 35-27**
Iowa	**L, 37-6**
Minnesota	**W, 31-8**
Purdue	**W, 35-31**
Penn State	**W, 28-22**
Alabama	**L, 49-7**

TYPE jacob kanclerz/
PHOTO ellina stein, erica treais/
DESIGN jessica halfyard



erica treais

little play big result

Trick play in overtime wins a pivotal point in Big Ten championship season

After a tightly-contested 60 minutes against Notre Dame, the Spartans found themselves down by a field goal after the Fighting Irish's score in overtime. MSU had their own possession to equal or best the score, but their drive stalled at the Notre Dame 29 yard line. Their only option, it seemed, was to force double overtime with a field goal.

The play clock nearly ticked to zero when senior punter and placekick holder Aaron Bates took the snap. But instead of holding it there, Bates stood up, scrambled to the right and lofted a pass to senior tight end Charlie Gantt. Bewilderment turned to raucous cheers, as the touchdown sealed the win for MSU.

"We knew that if we won that game it could springboard us into a special season," junior quarterback Kirk Cousins said. "The famous play 'Little Giants' got called, and it worked, and ever since then it became a magical season."

The astounding win over the Irish was just the beginning of that magical season, which culminated in MSU's first share of the Big Ten Championship since 1990, making 2010 one of the best seasons in Spartan history.

There was the pivotal win over Wisconsin, the Badgers' only loss of the season. There was the Spartan-dominated rivalry game against Michigan, landing the third annual win in a row against the Wolverines. There was the comeback against Northwestern, spurred by another trick play utilizing Bates' throwing talents on a fake punt. Finally, there was the Spartans' first win at Penn State since 1965, in the season finale that clinched this year's Big Ten Championship.

MSU won a record 11 games, and had their first undefeated season at home (7-0). Coach Mark Dantonio won Big Ten Coach of the Year, despite a heart attack which sidelined him for weeks after the Notre Dame win. The Spartans finished 14th in the Associated Press' poll of top 25 college football teams and flirted with top 10 Bowl Championship Series (BCS) rankings the entire season.

In the latter half of the season, the football team was able to pull itself out of potential disasters, storming back to claim victory against Illinois, Northwestern and Purdue. Cousins attributed that to the experiences of last year's 6-7 team, which found itself on the wrong end of many close games.

"We felt that if we use could just use that experience we gained in that season to our advantage, we could win those close games," Cousins said.

Despite the thrill of the Big Ten Championship, the season was not without letdowns. Had the Spartans not lost to Iowa, there was the possibility that they could have won the Big Ten outright and gone to the Rose Bowl. They were instead picked to play in the Capital One Bowl against last year's BCS National Champion, Alabama, who brought the Spartans to a crippling 49-7 loss.

"We learned we aren't quite there yet with the nation's elite," Cousins said. "The bowl game showed us there's still more to go. I think that will inspire our off-season work now. If there was any chance of sitting on our success from this past season, I think the bowl game eliminated that."

That's good news for fans demanding continued progress. Though still winless in four bowl games under Dantonio, MSU will remember that crazy night against Notre Dame as a catalyst for a new era of Spartan football.

"That play will go down forever as one of the great plays in Spartan football history," Cousins said.



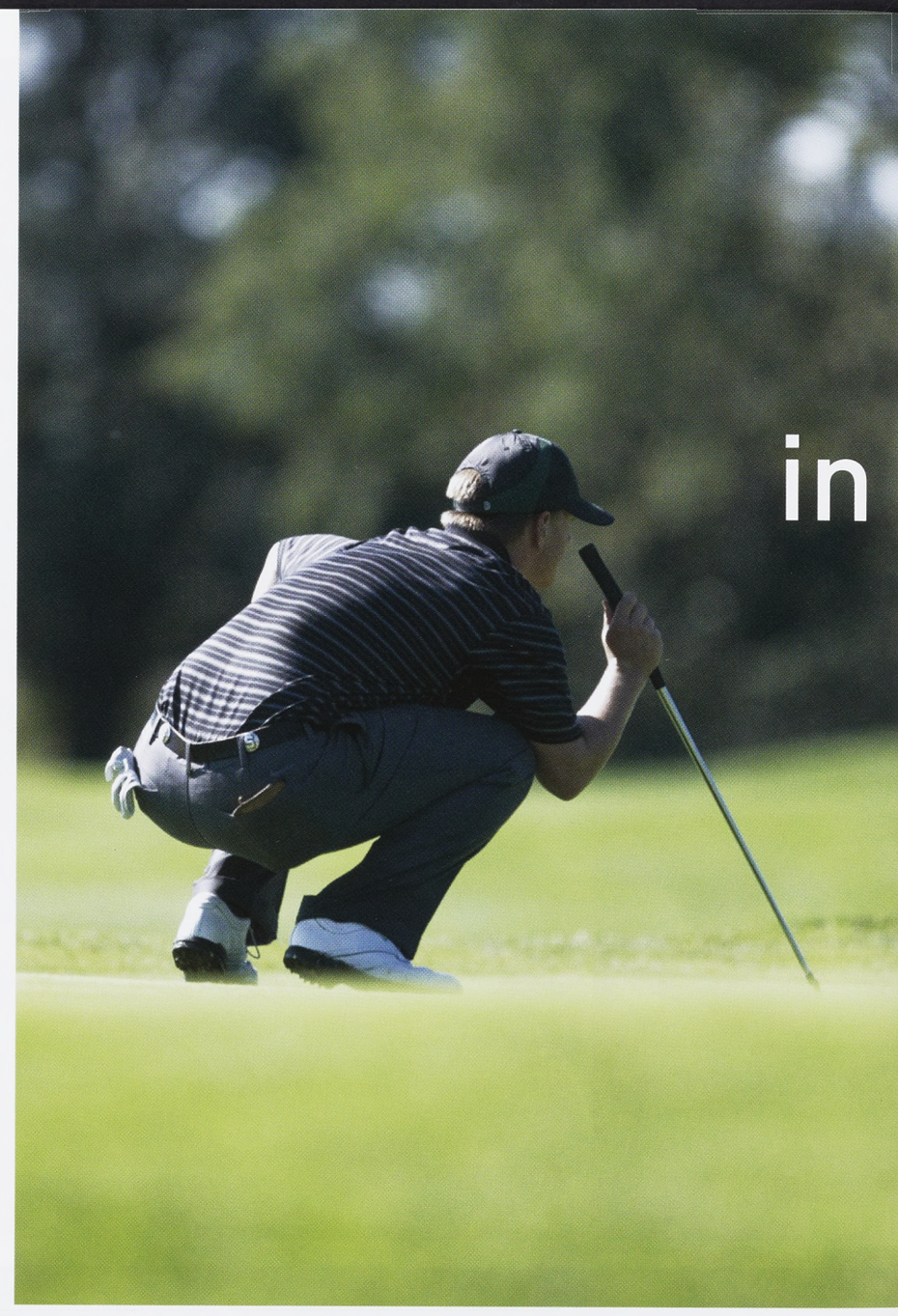
ellina stein



ellina stein

Senior Marcus Hyde breaks up a Northern Colorado pass. The MSU defensive line held the Bears to one touchdown.

Freshman running back Le'Veon Bell dodges a tackle for a Michigan State touchdown against the University of Northern Colorado. Bell scored three touchdowns in the 45-7 win over the UNC Bears.



A member of MSU's men's golf team crouches down to inspect ball positioning during the Fossum Invitational at East Lansing's Forest Akers West Course. MSU's men's golf team finished 10th as a team at the Big Ten Championship.



Freshman Gareth Blease putts during the Fossum Invitational on Sunday, Sept. 12. Blease finished the season with a best score of 71.

Scoreboard	
Mary Fossum Invitational	**1st (591)**
Adams Cup of Newport	**12th (923)**
Rees Jones Intercollegiate	**5th (934)**
The Prestige at PGA West	**15th (935)**
UNCG Bridgestone Collegiate	**14th (889)**
Pinehurst Intercollegiate	**6th (891)**
FAU Spring Break Championship	**T8th (894)**
UK Bluegrass Invitational	**6th (894)**
Illini Spring Classic	**7th (604)**
Big Ten Championship	**10th (1210)**

Roster	
Gareth Blease	**F**
Carson Castellani	**F**
Jimmy Dewling	**J**
Dan Ellis	**J**
Dave Ellis	**J**
Will Morris	**SO**
Chris Mory	**J**
Matthew Moselet	**SO**
Chenai Mushiri	**SO**
Conor O'Neil	**F**
James Ross	**SO**
Derrick Williams	**S***

*|RS

TYPE adelina schmidt/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN jessica halfyard

the rough

MSU Men's Golf faces turbulent year

As torrents of rain washed over the greens of Forest Akers, the Michigan State men's golf team sat atop the first round leaderboard with an 11-stroke advantage in their first tournament of the season.

The 43rd Annual Fossum Invitational, hosted by MSU on Friday, Sept. 11, was suspended on the first day of play due to excessive rainfall, leaving both the fairways and the golfers soaked.

The unsuitable conditions wore on and the tournament was rescheduled to start the next morning, leaving the Spartans with a score of 6-over par 294 and a four-way tie for first place. Junior Chris Mory and freshman Carson Castellanie were among the golfers tied for the individual lead after the first round, both sitting at 1-over par 73.

The battle for first place raged on as the second round of golf resumed on Saturday. Mory was still the tournament frontrunner, but sophomore James Ross came from behind to contest for the title, matching Mory stroke for stroke. With the last holes approaching, the teammates fought to break the tie, but both finished the tournament at 2-over par 146.

The Fossum Invitational went into playoffs to determine the champion, as Mory and Ross replayed the course. With nerves and anticipation rising, Ross finally took the upper hand, beating Mory with a par on the 10th hole and taking the individual title, his first collegiate title.

As a team, the Spartans finished the second round at 9-over par 297, totaling for a score of 15-over par 591 (294-297), leading the golfers to their fourth consecutive Fossum Invitational title and the 11th in MSU history.

Opening the season with a tribute to the legacy of Spartan golf, the year grew more difficult for the athletes as they took on stronger programs across the country. The team placed 12th of 17 teams the following weekend at the Adams Cup of Newport, and fifth of 10 teams the weekend after at the Rees Jones Intercollegiate Tournament.

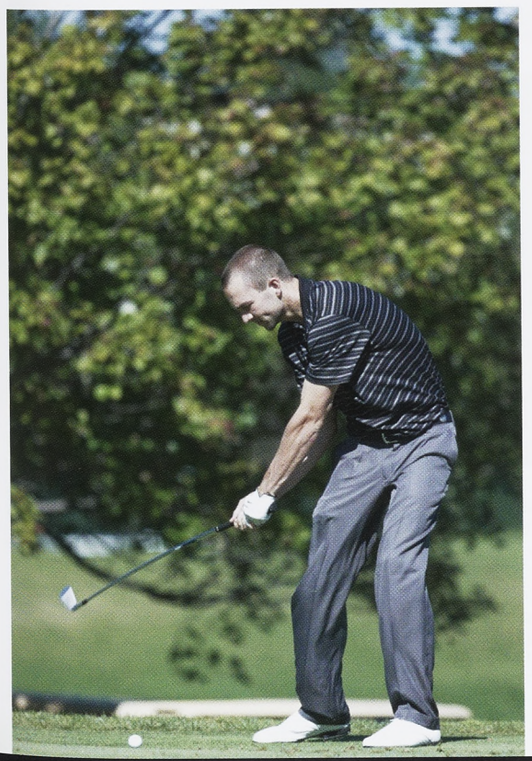
Traveling west, the Spartans competed in The Prestige at PGA WEST in La Quinta, Calif., putting the MSU program to the test against top-tier west coast golfers Stanford and California State. MSU finished the first day in 13th place of 15 teams, due in part to the top Spartan of round one, freshman Conor O'Neil, who shot a 2-over par 74 to sit in a tie for 24th. However, day two spelled disaster as the team slipped into 15th place with a three-day, 54-hole total of 71-over par 935 (306-315-314).

The team took to the tees for the last time against 14 teams in 2010 at the Bridgestone Tournament, struggling to make par as they ended the match in 14th place.

However, a new year gave the Spartans a fresh start as 2011 brought a season turnaround in the Big Ten Match Play Championships. Day one of the championships, the team faced Purdue and suffered a 5-1 loss. But the Spartans made a comeback, chalking up wins against Penn State and Wisconsin in the next two matches.

From that point on, the team placed in the top half of the remaining invitational tournaments. The Spartans took sixth of 16 teams in the Pinehurst Intercollegiate Tournament, eighth of 18 teams in the Spring Break Championship, sixth of 18 teams in the UK Bluegrass Invitational and seventh of 14 teams in the Illini Spring Classic.

Working their way up from a mid-season slump, the golfers prepared for the Big Ten Championship, which marks the end of the regular season and the beginning of postseason preparations for NCAA tournaments. Though the team finished 10th of 11 teams in the Big Ten, Mory became the Spartan spotlight of the tournament, tying for second after the first day of play and ending the tournament tied for fifth place individually.



Freshman Gareth Blease tees off during the Fossum Invitational on Sunday, Sept. 12. Blease, whose hometown is London, England, finished the season with a best score of 71.



veronica nagy

A member of the Spartan women's golf team completes a putt. The team placed third in the annual Fossum Invitational.

Scoreboard

Mary Fossum Invitational	**3rd (896)**
Tar Heel Invitational	**6th (870)**
The Landfall Tradition	**7th (903)**
Regional Challenge	**6th (906)**
Central District Invitational	**5th (888)**
Bryan National	**11th (930)**
Liz Murphey Invitational	**9th (905)**
Lady Buckeye Invitational	**1st (918)**
Big Ten Championship	**1st (1180)**
NCAA East Regional	**11th (894)**

Roster

Michelle Bowles	**SR**
Natalie Brehm	**SR***
Allyssa Ferrell	**FR**
Maddi Massa	**JR***
Lindsey McPherson	**FR**
Christine Meier	**FR**
Gaby Muller	**FR**
Bea Murray	**FR**
Liz Nagel	**FR***
Aimee Neff	**SR**
Caroline Powers	**SO**
Lindsey Solberg	**JR**

*IRS

TYPE adelina schmidt/PHOTO veronica nagy,
ellina stein/DESIGN betsy eber, brendan prost

par

MSU women's golf team celebrates a triumphant season

Entering the final round of the Big Ten tournament on April 24, the Michigan State women's golf team held a two-stroke advantage over Purdue, the fourth-ranked and three-time defending Big Ten champions. The Spartans kept the lead heading into the back nine the following day when the competition tightened, landing MSU in a five-stroke deficit.

With four holes left to play and anticipation in the air, Spartans clawed their way back up the leaderboard, recording four birdies and 12 pars between the four scores that counted out of MSU's six players. Over the same four holes, Purdue's Boilermakers shot 4-over par, ending the four round tournament at 33-over with a total score of 1185 (303-296-294-292).

The Spartan's finished at 28-over par with 1180 (306-290-295-289), winning the tournament by five strokes and bringing home the ninth women's golf Big Ten Championship. The title added to a long history of Spartan excellence, marking the third championship win in the last decade and the eighth consecutive year that Michigan State has placed in the top three at the Big Ten tournament. MSU's team score of 1180 was also the best ever 72-hole score in Big Ten history.

Ending the regular season on a high note underscored the team's progression through the eight month season, which opened in September with MSU hosting the Mary Fossum Invitational on Forest Akers, MSU's on-campus golf course. While the Spartans placed third in the tournament against Kent State and Notre Dame, they continued to take advantage of the Forest Akers course, improving their game throughout the year.

Forest Akers, along with the indoor Paul J. Rearick Golf Complex and a host of off-campus facilities, gave the team the opportunity to build its skill, perfecting drives and putts regardless of outdoor conditions.

As the team practiced throughout the harsh winter in East Lansing, it also looked south, traveling to North Carolina, Florida and Georgia to compete in invitational tournaments throughout the season.

Come Feb. 14, the team also traveled to Palos Verdes, Calif., for the first tournament of 2011. The Spartans golfed against 13 other teams in the Regional Challenge hosted by Ohio State University, coming out of the tournament in sixth place. At the three-round tournament, Senior Aimee Neff led MSU with a 10-over 223 (74-74-75), tying for 15th place overall while sophomore Caroline Powers shot a 224 (76-76-72) to tie for 16th. Both golfers were named to the All-Big Ten First Team upon the end of the regular season.

The Regional Challenge paved the way for the next three months, as MSU hosted the Central District Invitational the following weekend, taking fifth place behind Iowa State, Louisiana State, Texas A&M and Texas Christian.

Working into March, the team played in the Bryan National tournament, taking 11th overall. From there the Spartans finished 10th in the Liz Murphey invitational before making a sweeping comeback at the Lady Buckeye Invitational. By a landslide of 17 strokes, the team won the invitational, with Powers leading the way. Powers ended the tournament with 10-over 226 (75-72-79), winning the first tournament of her collegiate career while making a solid contribution to the team victory.

On the backend of two impressive wins, the Spartan's look forward to a promising post-season as they await a release from the NCAA listing the regional qualifiers, where golfers may qualify for the NCAA National Championships.



ellina stein



ellina stein

Senior Aimee Neff checks her lie in the Fossum Invitational. Neff placed sixth overall and shot a team-best 74 in the final round.

Freshman Christine Meier tees off in her first Fossum Invitational. MSU women's golf team placed third in the annual invitational.

Scoreboard

Green & White	**NTS**
Iowa	**4th, 191.850**
Michigan	**4th, 191.850**
Western Michigan	**4th, 191.850**
West Virginia	**L, 194.000-192.575**
Pittsburgh	**L, 192.175-191.175**
Minnesota	**L, 194.450-191.400**
Western Michigan	**L, 194.625-191.825**
New Hampshire	**2nd, 193.425**
Alaska	**2nd, 193.425**
Brown	**2nd, 193.425**
Ohio State	**L, 195.200-192.675**
Illinois	**L, 195.225-195.000**
Alaska - Anchorage	**W, 195.450-190.525**
Washington	**L, 195.075-193.075**
Oklahoma	**L, 196.875-194.800**
Big Ten Championships	**7th, 194.425**
NCAA Regionals	**3rd, 194.525**

Roster

Nicole Argiros	**SR**
Jackie Berg	**JR**
Alyssa Brennan	**SO***
Sarena Bumbarger	**FR**
Gillian Carr	**FR**
Daneen Haba	**JR**
Laura Jollie	**FR**
Jessica Leadbetter	**FR**
Dani Levy	**FR**
Kathryn Mahoney	**SR**
Kelsey Mazur	**FR**
Kelsey Morley	**SR**
Taira Neal	**FR***
Alex Pace	**FR**
Selina Rodriguez	**JR**
Shanthi Teike	**SO**

*IRS







The MSU gymnastics team kicks off the floor routine with a choreographed flip during the Minnesota meet. The Spartan team rang in the season with a total season high score of 195.450.

Spartan freshman Danielle Levy competes on the balance beam against the Alaska-Anchorage team. Levy polished off the season with an all-around career high score of 39.125.

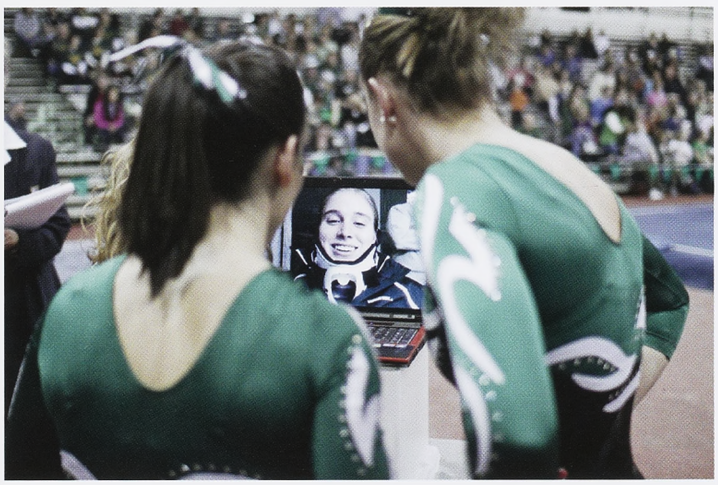
TYPEadelina schmidt/PHOTOnatalie kolb/DESIGNbrendan prost



Concentrating on her beam routine, freshman Alexandra Pace competes Jenison Field House during the Minnesota meet. Pace ended the season with a beam high score of 9.800 and a floor high score of 9.675.

back in the game

MSU Gymnastics experiences trials and triumphs



MSU teammates Skype with injured teammate senior Kathryn Mahoney during Senior Night at the Jenison Field House. Teammates moved the computer throughout the meet so that Mahoney could watch. Mahoney suffered a C6 vertebra fracture during a practice vault session, but is making a speedy recovery.



Horizontal and uneven bars, beams and a trampoline fill the third floor of the Jenison Field House. With the thick smell of chalk and sweat in the air a testament to its frequent use, the room is more than a place for the gymnastics team to practice; it's home.

Day in and day out for nearly three months, the Big Ten Division I gymnasts file into practice and take on another day of training. With pop hits blasting over the loud speaker, warm-up begins.

It was at just such a routine practice that senior and four-year team member Kathryn Mahoney suffered a fall on vault. The accident left her paralyzed with a fractured C6 vertebra.

The devastating injury occurred at the start of the season. A shocking blow to team morale, the disaster set the stage for a challenging year.

"It was, in all of our eyes, the most difficult season we've ever had to face, both as athletes and as coaches," Head Coach Kathie Klages said.

The injury of a strong, experienced competitor, as well as a friend and leader, took its toll on the gymnastics program. The team competed in six dual meets throughout January and February, losing each one.

"We struggled. We've had the worst record that I've ever had at Michigan State, and we had losses to teams we've never lost to before," Klages added.

After Kathryn's injury, three other gymnasts sustained less severe setbacks, adding to the chaos surrounding the season.

Despite the seemingly endless misfortune, each athlete contributed to pulling the gymnastic family back on track. With effort and willpower, the team managed to rekindle its fighting spirit.

"Kathryn was my teammate and my best friend. It was a challenge competing this year without her, but it was definitely one of my biggest accomplishments too—coming out, competing for her and in her honor," senior Nichole Argiros said.

Rather than let the accident cast a negative shadow on the year, teammates turned to Mahoney for support and motivation. Before each meet, Mahoney kept in touch with her teammates via Skype, email or text message, offering encouragement and a pep talk.

Slowly but surely, attention shifted to getting Spartan gymnastics back in the game with a competitive edge. In daily practice, drills focused on fundamentals to eliminate sloppy mistakes. To combat existing injuries and prevent new ones, the team concentrated on staying healthy. Coaches stressed that each gymnast reach her full potential. The team also relied on the support of underclassmen, especially freshmen, who took to the stage in place of teammates who were temporarily unable to compete.

The team also found support outside the MSU gymnastics family, even among other competitors. At the Big Ten Championship, athletes from other teams wore green and white ribbons and tattoos during routines in an effort to support Mahoney.

The meet also tested how far the gymnasts had come since the beginning of the season

"Big Ten was great because we realized that our gymnastics are just as good as everyone else's," Argiros said.

With a total score of 194.425, the team placed 7th at the meet. More importantly, they earned a score high enough to advance to NCAA Regionals, scheduled for Apr. 2 in Corvallis, Ore.

The invitation to compete at Regionals marked the gymnasts' triumph over a season that pushed them to emotional and physical limits.

"They finally started to compete like we knew they were capable of." Klages said. "The confidence came. The trust in each other came. The team believed in themselves, and that made the difference."

Scoreboard

Michigan	**L, 3-2**
Central Michigan	**W, 4-2**
Duke	**W, 1-0**
California	**W, 4-3**
Pacific	**W, 10-0**
Stanford	**W, 3-2**
Providence	**W, 1-0**
James Madison	**W, 1-0**
Kent State	**L, 2-0**
Boston University	**W, 6-1**
Iowa	**W, 1-0**
Michigan	**L, 2-1**
Ohio	**W, 6-4**
Penn State	**L, 4-1**
Wake Forrest	**W, 3-1**
Ohio State	**L, 5-1**
Northwestern	**W, 2-1**
Indiana	**W, 2-0**
Northwestern	**W, 3-2**
Northwestern	**W, 3-1**
Ohio State	**L, 2-0**
Virgina	**L, 3-2**

Roster

Corey Block	**SO***
Sara Burnosky	**F**
Molly Cassidy	**F***
Chelsy Coll	**SO***
Camille Dagorn	**S**
Elizabeth Heiffrich	**F***
Kristen Henn	**SO**
Abbey Huck	**J**
Amanda Huck	**S**
Katherine Jamieson	**F**
Christie Jones	**SO***
Camille Lambeeau	**F**
Adelle Lever	**SO**
Jessica Linder	**SO**
Angela Lucik	**J***
Julie Mackay	**S**
Meghan Magee	**S***
Mallory McDonagh	**F**
Angela Pagura	**S**
Holly Sherman	**J**
Jantine Steinmetz	**S**
Sabine van de Assem	**S**
Joelle van Ireland	**S***

*IRS



TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN betsy eber

Freshman Katherine Jamiesonplaces the ball for a penalty shot during a game against Wake Forest. The Spartans beat Wake Forest 3-1.

Sophomore Elizabeth Helffrich brings the ball down the open field, bringing MSU to a win. Helffrich was red-shirted in the 2009 season and was happy to be back in the game for the 2010 season.



a new identity

MSU Women's Field Hockey team redefines itself

It was overtime—that unforgiving block of minutes when second chances are never so appreciated, but even the team with the strongest heart may not prevail.

The women's field hockey team drew the first penalty corner shot as the clock ticked in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, a game-winning opportunity similar to a free kick in soccer or a technical free throw in basketball.

The ball was pushed into play from the back line to senior midfielder Sabine van den Assem, who sent it rolling to senior forward Jantine Steinmetz. Steinmetz gathered strength and hit the ball toward the net, sending with it her teammates' season-long hopes for a NCAA victory.

Upon seeing the ball fly past the Virginia Cavalier goalie, Spartan fans rose to their feet and the girls rushed the field in celebration.

But two inches would break their hearts.

In field hockey, if the ball is hit into the goal, as opposed to a flick, scoop or push, it must fall below 460 millimeters before crossing the line. Steinmetz' hit flew just above that mark.

"We would've been in the elite eight right there," assistant coach Molly Maloney said. "Two inches kept us from going further."

"Although we lost, it was exciting to know that nothing was left on the field," she added. "They gave everything they had to try to win that game."

Their efforts didn't go entirely unrewarded. With the top scorers having graduated and redshirt freshman Molly Cassidy stepping in to her first year as goalie, the season had been a month-long quest to redefine the team's style of play. The loss to Virginia was an ironically satisfying culmination of this journey.

"We came into our own team and our own identity, and I think at the beginning of the year we struggled with that a little bit," sophomore midfielder Kristen Henn said, citing the team's 3-3 record in the Big Ten conference. "As soon our schedule started getting tough, we started coming to know each other and we had our own definition for our team."

But what has always been uniquely definitive of the field hockey team is the combination of European and North American styles of play. Head coach Rolf van de Kerkhoff is a Holland native, and assistant coach Helen Knull is from Scotland. This made for a diverse recruiting process, with the foundation of the team being women from Kentucky, California, Canada and even the Netherlands.

"The field hockey culture in the United States isn't as strong as it is in Europe or Canada," Maloney said. "They grow up playing field hockey at a much younger age, so they come from a completely different background of experience. But then there's also the American dynamic of how we perceive the sport, which is much different.

Americans in general are more into training and mental toughness, so we have these kind of two different schools of thought that come together to help really lift the game," she said.

Henn said the European field hockey culture places a stronger emphasis on skills and showmanship, while in America, fundamentals are the key to the game. The mix of the two creates a style of play unique to MSU.

And next year's season may prove to be even more of a defining adventure. With van de Kerkhoff taking a new position at the University of Delaware, former assistant coach Helen Knull will step in and take over.

"So far it has been a very smooth and fun transition," she said. "The team is excited and ready to get a new chemistry."

Scoreboard

Western Ontario	**L, 5-3**
Maine	**T, 4-4 (OT)**
Maine	**W, 3-2**
Alaska	**T, 1-1**
Alaska	**W, 4-1**
Alabama-Huntsville	**T, 4-4**
Alabama-Huntsville	**W, 2-1**
Western Michigan	**L, 4-3**
Western Michigan	**L, 3-1**
Ohio State	**L, 4-3 (OT)**
Ohio State	**W, 4-0**
Notre Dame	**L, 6-2**
Notre Dame	**L, 4-2**
Ferris State	**L, 3-0**
Minnesota	**W, 5-2**
Wisconsin	**L, 4-1**
Ferris State	**W, 3-2**
Ferris State	**L, 1-0 (OT)**
Michigan	**L, 5-0**
Colorado College	**L, 5-4**
Michigan Tech	**W, 5-3**
Michigan	**W, 4-3**
Michigan	**L, 4-0**
Lake Superior State	**W, 4-0**
Lake Superior State	**T, 2-2 (OT)**
Miami (Oh)	**W, 7-4**
Miami (Oh)	**L, 4-0**
Ferris State	**L, 2-1**
Michigan	**W, 2-1**
Ohio State	**W, 2-0**
Ohio State	**L, 4-2**
Northern Michigan	**L, 4-2**
Northern Michigan	**L, 6-5**
Alaska	**L, 4-1**
Alaska	**W, 6-2**
Bowling Green	**W, 2-1**
Bowling Green	**W, 2-0**
Alaska	**L, 3-2**
Alaska	**L, 4-3 (2OT)**

Roster

Tim Buttery	**JR**
Dean Chellos	**SO**
Jake Chellos	**FR**
Matt Crandell	**JR**
Chris Forfar	**SO**
Dustin Gazley	**SR**
Zach Golembiewski	**SO**
Derek Grant	**SO**
Matt Grassi	**SO**
Anthony Hayes	**SO**
Zach Josepher	**SO**
Torey Krug	**SO**
Daultan Leveille	**JR**
Kyle McMahon	**JR**
Mike Merrifield	**JR**
Trevor Nill	**JR**
Drew Palmisano	**JR**
Brett Perlini	**JR**
Lee Reimer	**FR**
Chris Sandmeyer	**FR**
Joey Shean	**SR**
Brock Shelgren	**JR**
AJ Sturges	**JR***
Kevin Walrod	**SO**
Greg Wolfe	**FR**
Will Yanakeff	**FR**

*IRS



a new era dawns

Despite a turbulent season, the MSU men's ice hockey team looks forward to next year as change comes to the rink

A rough season ending with a track record of 16 wins, 20 losses and 4 ties hasn't dampened the hopes of the MSU men's hockey team, who are looking forward to next year with high hopes as their new coach takes them under his wing.

"This season was very up and down," sophomore defenseman and team captain Torey Krug said, adding that it was quite the roller-coaster ride. "It started off on a high note and then things spiraled from there."

The team started off the regular season with two wins and two ties against Alaska and Alabama-Huntsville before falling short before Western Michigan, Ohio State, Notre Dame and Ferris State. At the Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA) showcase over Thanksgiving break, the Spartans emerged with a 5-2 win against Minnesota. In a two-game series with Ferris State, however, MSU won the first match with a score of 3-2 and then subsequently fell 1-0 in overtime.

From late December to the end of February, the Spartans participated in the Great Lakes Invitational, winning nine games out of 18. Junior forward Trevor Nill said playing Michigan at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit during the invitational was one of the defining moments of the season for him. The team played a total of four games against Michigan this year, losing twice and winning once before that fateful game gave the Spartans a much-needed turnaround.

"It was huge for the team to win that and tie up the series, especially after a 5-0 loss in Ann Arbor just a month prior," Nill said.

And though the team didn't exactly walk away from this season as triumphant as they would have liked, Krug said he took their performance this year as a learning experience.

"Being a young captain, I learned a lot about myself and about my team. I learned how to lead a group of guys that are older than me," he said. "We were finding out who we are."

Nonetheless, the appointment of Tom Anastos as new head coach of the hockey team has certainly given the Spartans new hope. A former Spartan himself, Anastos played hockey under former coach Ron Mason from 1981-85, before serving as an assistant to Mason from 1990-92. Previously the commissioner of the CCHA for the last 13 years, he will be the sixth coach in over 70 years of MSU hockey after former head coach Rick Comley's retirement this season.

"He used to play hockey for MSU, he's very passionate about MSU, passionate about winning and has connections all over the hockey world," Krug said of Anastos. "I know he's going to bring a lot of fire to the team and make sure the guys are motivated."

"It brings something new into the program, to play for someone who has been in your shoes, someone you can relate to on another level," he added.

What's more, athletic directors from Big Ten schools will announce their intention to establish men's ice hockey as an official conference sport for the 2013-14 academic year to the Big Ten Council of Presidents/Chancellors in June 2011. Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Ohio State, Penn State and Wisconsin are participants in this initiative, and the proposal includes plans for an inaugural Big Ten hockey tournament to be held in March 2014.

Exciting times for Spartan hockey, indeed. But before they can descend to a rink awash with new possibilities, Nill said the team still needs to take things slow and steady at this point in time.

"We always want to achieve as much as we possibly can. We have to set the bar high, but take it one game at a time until we get the process right," he said.

Krug added, "I think our first goal is to win the CCHA championship and bring excitement back to MSU hockey, to fill more seats at Munn.

TYPEjessica whitmill/PHOTOellina stein, anthony thibodeau/DESIGNsaralee gordon



Sophomore defense Matt Grassi carries the puck out of the defensive zone. In the 2010-2011 season, Grassi recorded 10 assist and one goal for the Spartans.





Junior forward Daultan Leveille fights for the puck in front of Alaska's net. The Spartans ended the game with a 1-1 tie.

Sophomore Dean Chelios takes a shot at the net. Chelios scored eight goals and achieved six assists in the 2010-2011 season.

TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO submitted by jamie baldwin/DESIGN vicari vollmar

pushing

MSU Women's Rowing Team cruises past the competition in the 2011 season

Small but mighty. That's the team motto that pushed women's rowing through this season. It's rather intimidating being the smallest competitors—while most rowers are over six feet tall, these women only have one person that size on the whole team, and only two above five feet ten. But they make up for their shortcomings in other ways, like rigging their boats and oars to accent their personal strengths and habits. They've also embraced a new training program this year with new workouts and practice techniques. They even got new shoes this year (the very same ones used by the U.S. Olympic team), which can be adjusted specifically for each person.

"We focus on technical power more than power," junior rower Jocelyn Smith said.

And their tactics have paid off. Going into the Big Ten Championships the Spartans were ranking eight in the nation, in between number seven Washington State and number nine Yale. But like most successes, the road there was an upriver one. The team struggled in their second matchup of the season against Princeton and Brown, numbers one and six respectively, going into the Big Ten Championships. However, facing such tough opponents early in season may have been beneficial for the ladies in green and white.

"That was a really a learning experience for us," junior rower Bre Walkowiak said. "It opened our eyes to where we needed to be."

Three weeks later, the Spartans were on top on the world again after a win against the University of Virginia, which won the national championship the year prior. They also triumphed over University of Southern California, ranked fourth before the Big Ten Championships. The second varsity eight boat won all three races, beating Texas as well.

For the women's rowing team, those victories were somewhat of a dream come true - literally. During practice, the team often imagines their selves racing against "ghost boats"—make-believe competitors used for motivational purposes. This year's phantom crafts were, you guessed it, USC and Virginia.

The accolades, however, didn't stop there. The Spartans went on to finish seventh as a team in the 2011 NCAA Championship Regatta, the highest-finishing of the four Big Ten teams that qualified for the event. MSU's varsity eight finished sixth in the Grand Final race of the regatta, matching the prowess of the 2006 and 2008 crews, who also finished sixth in their respective seasons – the highest-ever Spartan finish for the varsity eight.

Graduating senior rower Laura Cowal was also named Big Ten athlete of the year, in the wake of the MSU varsity eight's unprecedented fourth consecutive gold medal in the Big Ten Championship. Indeed, the ladies in green and white have shown this season that size really doesn't matter.

"It's really been [about] pushing out confidence and making our race plan suitable for us," Walkowiak said.

Roster

Nicki Bade	J
Stephanie Bochenek	S
Brie-Anne Breton	SO
Michelle Campbell	F
Monique Carter	S
Hannah Champ	F
Abigail Christiansen	J
Amelia Clary	F
Laura Cowal	S
Kristina DeJong	S
Alicia DiMauro	SO
Alyse Egner	S
France Evely	F
Theresa Geelhoed	SO
Lydia Hawthorne	J
Heather Holliday	SO
Brianna Lakanen	J
Kellie LaPoint	SR
Kathleen Leighton	J
Anna Ludes	F
Alexandra Maibusch	S
Amanda McGeachie	SO
Roberta Molter	F
Shelby Motoligin	SO
Michelle Neuder	SO
Samantha Palmer	SO
Rose Pawlowski	F
Camille Press	J
Alex Reinink	J
Shelby Rockwell	SO
Jesse Shynal	J
Jocelyn Smith	J
Michelle Sosa	J
Clare Vandelinder	S
Breanne Walkowiak	J



The 2011 women's rowing varsity eight sport their gold medals for winning the Big Ten Championship. The women's rowing team has won the championship for four consecutive years.

upriver





The 2011 women's rowing varsity eight boat practices technique and power. The varsity 8 finished sixth in the Grand Final race that qualified the team for the 2011 NCAA Championship Regatta.

The 2011 women's rowing varsity four boat consisted of members Kathleen Leighton, Kristina De Jong, Lydia Hawthorne and Jesse Shynal. The women's rowing team finished seventh in the 2011 NCAA Championship Regatta.

Scoreboard

Bradley	T, 1-1
Duke	W, 1-0
Maryland	W, 4-3
Georgetown	L, 4-0
Providence	W, 4-0
Niagara	W, 4-1
Marquette	W, 1-0
Notre Dame	W, 2-0
Duquesne	W, 2-1
Northwestern	W, 2-0
Ohio State	L, 2-1
New Hampshire	W, 2-0
Penn State	L, 2-1
Western Michigan	W, 5-0
Wisconsin	W, 3-0
Bowling Green	W, 2-1
Indiana	L, 3-0
Michigan	L, 3-2
Akron	L, 1-0
Milwaukee	T, 1-1
Michigan	L, 2-1
Oakland	W, 2-0
Butler	W, 1-0
North Carolina	T, 1-1

Roster

Garret Back	J*
Josh Barens	F
Domenic Barone	J
Mark Barone	J
Rubin Bega	J
Matt Cebula	J*
Jeremy Clark	J*
Kevin Cope	SO
Wesley Curtis	F
Bryce Dobbins	SO
Jake Fullerton	S*
Colin Givens	S
Joe Gregus	S*
Cody Henderson	F
Nosa Iqoha	S
Ryan Keener	F
Tim Kreutz	F
Stephen Lucianek	J
Joe Paljaj	J*
Jeff Ricondo	S*
Brent Rosendall	J
Cyrus Saydee	J
Avery Steiniage	S*
Ryan Thelen	SO
Spencer Thompson	S
Nick Wilson	SO

*IRS

four words, one season

Forty-three years later, the men's soccer team makes the Sweet 16

Almost every sports team defines themselves differently, staking claim to a motivational quote, style of play or triumphant moment and molding it into their own mindset.

This year, the men's soccer team chose four words.

"Confident: we wanted to be confident against whoever we played," head coach Damon Rensing explained. "Consistent: we wanted to play the same no matter who the opponent was, and still play at a high level.

"Relentless: we wanted to have a little edge to us, we wanted to be a driven team. And selfless: we wanted to put the team before the individual."

Chosen preseason by the players themselves, these words became everyday guidelines as much as they were identifying qualities. More importantly, they would spur the Spartans on to the most successful season of men's soccer since 1968.

"We wanted to use those four words to go out every day—practice, game day, even an off-day," senior midfielder Jeff Ricondo said. "Just go out every day knowing that that's what we needed to be."

With such determination burning in their hearts, Ricondo and his teammates made it to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament this year, a feat unseen within the men's soccer program for 43 years.

"It was probably one of the best memories I'll have at MSU," he said. "Obviously, coming from a team standpoint it was a great success, but on the individual level, that added right there at the top."

The journey, however, began with confidence. A steady rise in reputation earned the team consideration as one of the nation's top 25 collegiate soccer programs this year, Rensing said. Coupled with an exhilarating overtime win against the 3rd-ranked University of Maryland in the first game of the season, the Spartans' can-do mentality was soon set in stone.

"I don't think we would have had the season that we did if we didn't win that game," senior defenseman Colin Givens said.

Confidence was trailed by consistency, as the men finished the regular season with an 11-7-1 overall record. Assistant coach Kylie Stannard said injuries prevented the team from repeating a Big Ten Championship, but their approach to each game never faltered, eventually earning them a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Here, the men were relentless. After a clear-cut win over Oakland University in the first round, they faced a dreaded second round overtime battle against Butler University. But with five minutes left to play, Ricondo entered the game and scored the lone winning goal—with a broken collarbone.

"I really didn't even know how to react," junior midfielder Brent Rosendall said. "It was kind of meant to be because he had always been the guy behind the scenes doing all the work. It was a funny celebration, because no one could touch him because of his collarbone."

Nonetheless, a goal in the third round of play by the University of North Carolina with three seconds remaining dashed the Spartans' hopes of advancing to the elite eight.

Looking back on their accomplishments, however, the coaches agreed it was the overarching mentality of selflessness that paved the way for an unprecedented and satisfying season.

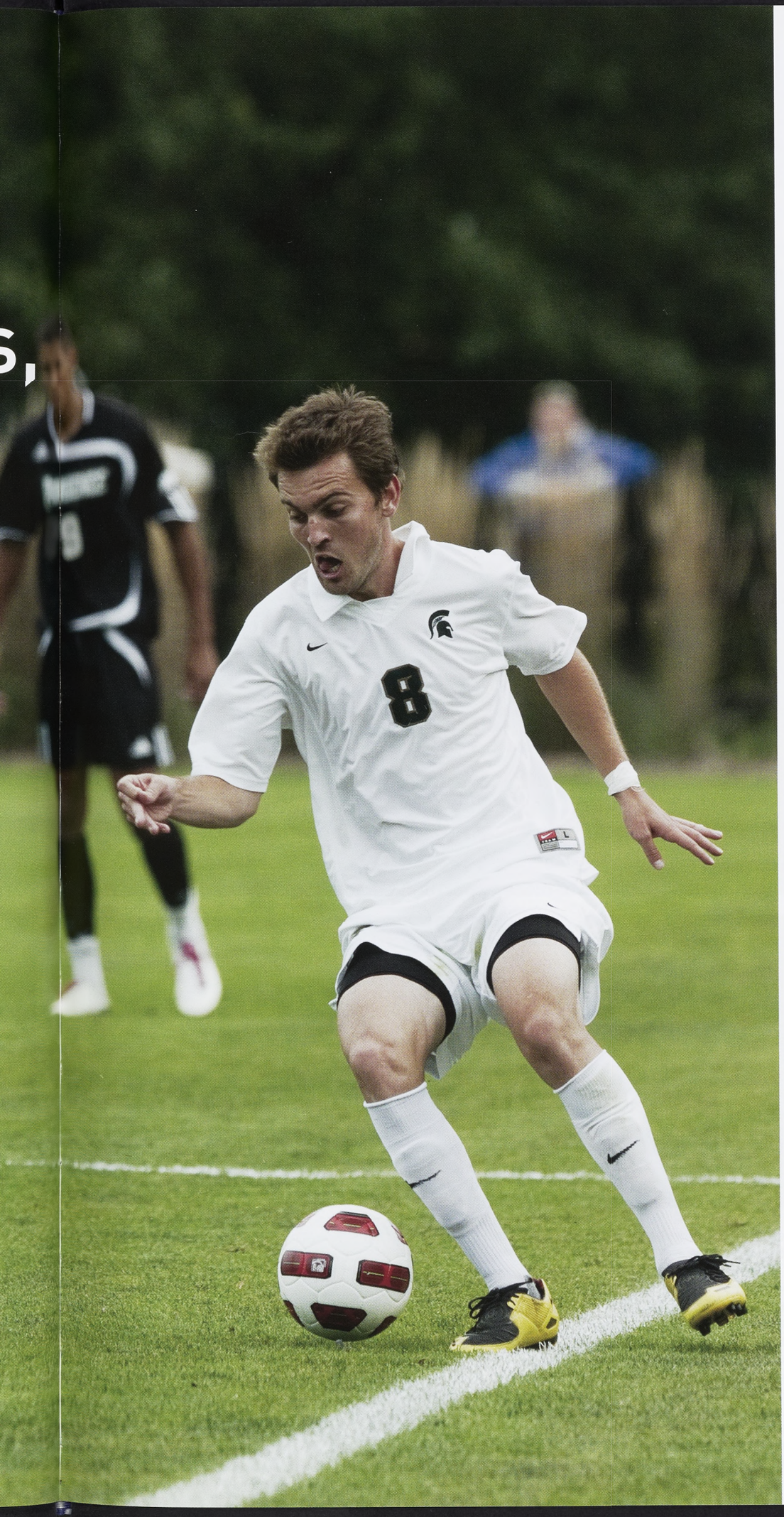
"We talk a lot about team here," Stannard said, "and I think that bond is what showed through everything."

To top off the team's successes, Givens and senior midfielder Spencer Thompson were drafted into Major League Soccer teams upon finishing the season, a testament to the program's rising potential to incubate talent.

"It felt like my whole life was leading up to that moment," Givens said. "I definitely had a few tears of joy. It was just the best feeling in the world."



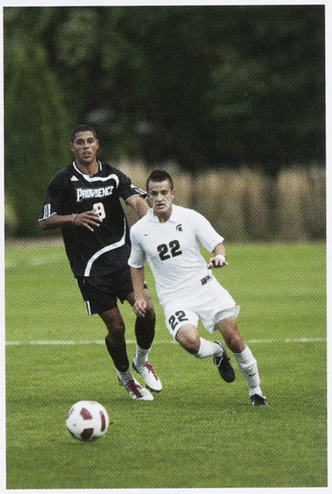
TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO erica treais/DESIGN betsy eber



Senior midfielder Spencer Thompson dribbles the ball up the field in their game against Providence. Thompson recorded two assists during the match, helping the Spartans to a 4-0 win.

Junior forward Rubin Bega juggles the ball past junior midfielder Daniel Fabian. Bega scored one of four goals for the Spartans.





Freshman defenseman Wesley Curtis and Providence forward Marc Cintron run towards the ball at center field. The Spartans made it to the Sweet 16 for the first time in 43 years.

Scoreboard

Western Michigan	**W, 1-0**
Eastern Michigan	**W, 4-0**
Milwaukee	**L, 3-2**
Depaul	**T, 0-0**
Loyola Chicago	**W, 3-0**
Northern Illinois	**W, 7-0**
Bowling Green	**W, 2-0**
Penn State	**L, 1-0**
Indiana	**W, 2-0**
Purdue	**W, 2-0**
Michigan	**T, 0-0**
Oakland	**W, 2-0**
Northwestern	**W, 1-0**
Wisconsin	**L, 2-0**
Minnesota	**T, 1-1**
Illinois	**L, 1-0**
Iowa	**T, 1-1**
Ohio	**L, 1-0**

Roster

Desiree Aber	**SO**
Paige Burke	**SR**
Katelin Chaklos	**JR**
Courtney Clem	**FR**
Samantha Cook	**SR**
Mikki Dennis	**JR**
Jill Flietstra	**JR**
Cara Freeman	**SR**
Laura Heyboer	**JR**
Karly Kasper	**JR**
Kelsey Kassab	**SO**
Kelly Lindsay	**FR***
Chelsey Miller	**FR**
Taylor Miller	**JR**
Jordan Mueller	**SO**
Kelsey Mullen	**FR**
Chelsea Peterson	**SO**
Hannah Peterson	**JR**
Megan Pines	**JR**
Kori Reinhart	**SO**
Courtney Shegos	**SR**
Olivia Stander	**SO**
Annie Steinlage	**FR**
Sarah Stern	**JR**
Jennifer Ulmer	**SR***
Elizabeth Watza	**JR***

*IRS



Sophomore Olivia Stander dribbles the ball past Indiana University freshman, Rebecca Candler. MSU was victorious over IU with a score of 2-0.

The MSU women's soccer team celebrate their 2-0 victory over Indiana. The team ended their season with a 9-4-6 record.



hitting the goal posts

An average season for MSU women's soccer has players, staff looking forward to more opportunities next fall

Luck, senior Elizabeth Watza said, played a huge role in the track record of the MSU women's soccer team this year.

The team ended the season on Nov. 5 with an overall record of 9-4-6.

"We've had a bout of bad luck in the past year; a lot of 'hitting the goal posts,'" Watza said. "We also had people fighting through injuries that carried over from last year. People assume that if you're hurt one season, you'll be back the next, but that isn't necessarily the case."

The season started off strong as Spartans defeated most teams close to home, beating Western, Eastern, Bowling Green and Loyola.

Shortly after, Spartans beat Oakland University and fellow Big Ten schools with a five-game winning streak, dominating Indiana, Purdue, Michigan and Northwestern.

However, despite the winning streak, the team experienced a number of losses.

Spartans fell to North Carolina, Milwaukee and Penn State at the beginning of the season, and then Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio State at the end in what head coach Tom Saxton called a "burn-out," as the girls played five games in 15 days.

"Ohio State were Big Ten champs this year," Watza said. "Even though we lost 1-0, I think it shows that we're just as good as the rest of the teams in the country. It helped us gain a lot of confidence for next year."

During the five-game stretch, Saxton said a 1-1 tie against Minnesota kept the team alive.

"The game was televised on the Big Ten Network, and we tied them on their own turf," he said. "It definitely kept us going forward."

The team did not qualify for the NCAA Tournament this year, but has traveled to California and Texas for the tournament in previous seasons. Next year, the women will travel to Nebraska if they qualify, after Nebraska joined the Big Ten last summer.

Saxton said the team has a strong defense, but a better offense might help them out even more, although the team already has "plenty of talent."

"This team has some of the strongest players in the program's history," he said.

Aside from improving offense, Watza said she hopes the team will continue to work on building chemistry between players once seven incoming freshman join next year.

"I think if we focus on being good teammates to each other, the rest will follow."

Junior Paige Burke added, "We are always there for each other, whether it's school, helping each other study, quizzing each other on the bus when we're on road trips, break ups, family issues."

After associate head coach Tammy Farnum's daughter was diagnosed with cancer three years ago, the team writes her initials, AIF, on their wrists before every game.

"Since that diagnosis, we've encouraged our team to support Tammy and her family," Saxton said. "We're praying and thinking about them everyday."

"We're all about Spartan family," Watza said. "Our coaching staff has always implemented chemistry as being the most important thing."

TYPE Jessica whitmill/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN saralee gordon







Junior Jill Flietstra leaps for a save. Fliestra's save left Indiana scoreless at the conclusion of the game.

Junior Taylor Miller steals the ball from Loyola Chicago freshman Claire Wiese. MSU beat Loyola Chicago 3-0.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO anthony thibodeau/DESIGN vicari vollmar



Sophomore Mary Kate DiVirgilio swings at a pitch from the Central Michigan Chippewa pitcher. DiVirgilio served as a pinch-hitter in the game against the Chippewas.

The Spartans break after a quick infield meeting. The Spartans record stood at 19-19 after they were defeated by the Central Michigan Chippewas.





Freshman Cassee Layne winds up to deliver a pitch. Layne had one strike-out recorded against the Chippewas.



Scoreboard

Illinois	**L, 6-3**
Illinois	**L, 3-2**
Wisconsin	**W, 8-0**
Wisconsin	**L, 10-4**
Penn State	**L, 8-6**
Penn State	**W, 7-6**
Iowa	**L, 5-3**
Iowa	**L, 9-8**
Northwestern	**W, 13-4**
Northwestern	**L, 4-2**
Indiana	**L, 7-2**
Indiana	**L, 4-2**
Minnesota	**L, 6-3**
Minnesota	**W, 12-2**
Ohio State	**W, 12-2**
Ohio State	**L, 1-0**
Purdue	**L, 5-0**
Purdue	**W, 3-2**
Michigan	**L, 8-0**
Michigan	**L, 8-0**

Roster

Melanie Bensema	**J**
Sarah Bowling	**F**
Jessica Bracamonte	**S**
Mary Kate DiVirgilio	**SO**
Emma Fernandez	**F**
Samantha Findling	**F**
Karen Fox	**S**
Ali Grant	**J**
Lindsey Hansen	**S**
Kylene Hopkins	**SO**
Lauren Kramer	**J**
Cassee Layne	**F**
Jayme O'Bryant	**SO**
Lori Padilla	**J**
Heidi Purtzer	**S**
Jenny Ramsaier	**SO**
Rebecca Rogers	**J**
Stephanie Sanders	**F**
Brett Williams	**J**
Shelby Wise	**SO**



MSU Softball head coach Jacquie Joseph had some high expectations for her team coming into this year.

"Well I thought we had a good team, I thought we could contend for the [Big Ten] championship, I thought we had a good chance for making the NCAA tournament," Joseph said.

Unfortunately, none of that happened. MSU finished 27-27 overall, and at 6-14 they placed ninth in the Big Ten. With no Big Ten tournament in softball, the Spartans' only hope for postseason play was a bid to the NCAA Tournament, but they fell short of that too.

Joseph pointed to two reasons why the team faltered: pitching struggles and losing senior outfielder Jessica Bracamonte to injury.

The Spartans relied heavily on freshman starter Cassee Layne, who started 34 of 54 games. That wasn't the original plan though, as Joseph said that MSU's ace, junior lefthander Lauren Kramer, struggled most of the season. After two seasons starting 20 or more games, Kramer's 5.08 earned run average this year limited her to 12 starts.

"I can tell you we tried everything, and she tried everything," Joseph said about fixing Kramer's play.

With Kramer's slump and Layne's 3.16 ERA still a bit too high, (Joseph said she usually wants an ERA below two) the team's downfall was their pitching. Their team ERA of 3.79 was second worst in the Big Ten, and they were also second to last in strikeouts with 226.

"It was really tough, and there were a lot of games I felt like where that pressure got to me, but I feel like going into next year I'll know how to deal with that pressure much better," Layne said on carrying the bulk of the workload this year.

However, MSU's strength was offense. The Spartans batted .275 as a team, good for fifth in the Big Ten, but they were best at playing long ball, ranking second in home runs with 53.

Most of the offense came courtesy of senior shortstop Lindsey Hansen. The third team All-American was near the top of nearly every offensive stat category in the Big Ten, most notably leading the conference in home runs with 20. In fact, she became MSU's all time home run leader on March 13, finishing her career with 42.

"I could make the case that she would be the best Spartan to ever play here," Joseph said, who has 17 seasons of experience coaching at MSU.

But the Spartans could've been deadlier with a full season from Bracamonte, who tore her ACL and missed 31 games. She was coming off career highs in batting average (.328) and runs batted in (28) in 2010, but now she and Hansen have graduated.

Despite losing a sizable portion of her offense, Joseph said the same goals are still in place for the team.

"I think we're average, and I think we are looking to be great," she said. "I think this is the stepping off point...I think you can make a case that it's time to get better."

Part of that transition included the dedication of the softball team's new Secchia Stadium, which opened this season. The stadium was dedicated during the final home game against Michigan, with Peter and Joan Secchia in attendance, the prominent MSU alumni for whom the stadium was named.

"I feel like even this year it had a huge impact on our program," Layne said. "Our program needed a fresh new start, and the stadium helped catapult it to that."

"To play in a multi-million dollar facility after so many years of not, I think the stadium dedication and that gift by Peter Secchia changed our whole program," Joseph said, "We're certainly looking toward bigger things now."



a bump in the road

MSU Softball hoping to improve with better pitching, new stadium



Senior Lindsey Hansen makes a play as a Central Michigan Chippewa tries to steal second base. Despite the Spartans' efforts, they fell short to the Chippewas 8-3.

Sophomore Shelby Wise winds up to deliver her pitch to the Central Michigan Chippewa batter. Wise recorded two strike-outs against the Chippewas.

united we

The success of Spartan swimming and diving

"Swimmers step up."

A line of competitors take to the blocks, goggles hiding the expressions in their eyes.

"Take your mark."

The swimmers tense their bodies, ready to spring in a split-second. A shot is fired and cheering erupts. A solid wall of noise explodes in the natatorium: the race begins. Shouts and cheers echo across the water as swimmers leap off the blocks into the air, bodies streamlined, hitting the water with practiced effortlessness.

Every day for nearly seven months, the swim team reported to the IM West pool deck for afternoon practice. For hours, the athletes drilled technique and perfected turns while swimming lap after lap to build endurance. The practices kicked off the year in the fall and kept the team in shape until the regular season came to a close at the Big Ten meet in February.

The men's team swam their opening meet on Oct. 8, and the women's team swam their first dual meet the next day, suffering a loss to the University of Minnesota on Oct. 9. However, both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams could look forward to the 55th annual Alumni Meet, a tradition that stands as a testament to the history and commitment of the extended Spartan swimming and diving community.

"The meet began under Coach McCaffree and the Seibold family, and has continued on without pause every homecoming," head coach Matt Gianiodis said.

"On a scale of 1-10, [the Alumni Meet] was a solid 9.98. Every year our Alumni Meet gets better and better. By my count, we had more than 70 alumni present and most of them were swimming and diving, too. We had eight decades of Spartan swimming and diving represented," Gianiodis added.

The meet underscored the family atmosphere that played a crucial role in carrying the Spartan swim and dive team through the season.

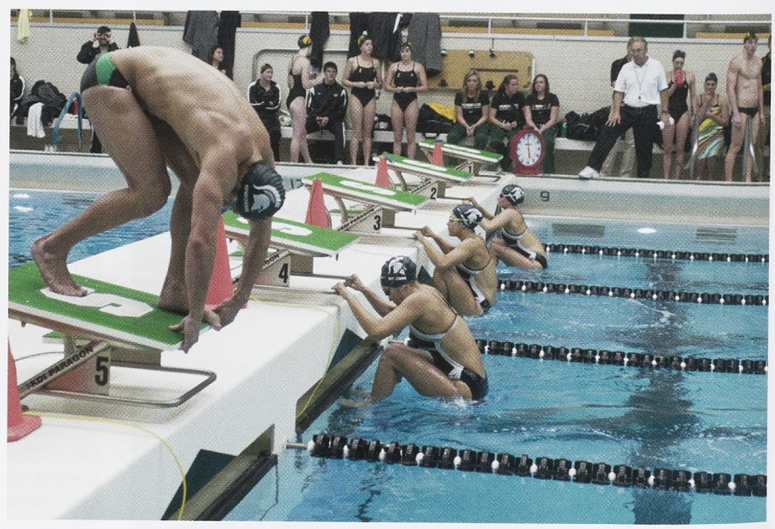
"Despite the fact that swimming and diving are two different sports, and both the swim and dive teams practice co-ed but compete separately, we are still very much a family. It's an individual sport, but everyone still relies on teammates," diving coach Eric Best said.

The help of the team and the determination of individuals led the swimming and diving team on to a record-breaking season in many different ways. At the Big Ten Championship meets, which were in Bloomington, Ind. for the women and Minneapolis, Min. for the men, there were 24 top ten performances and five new school records between the two swim teams. Both the men's and women's team finished 10th overall. On the diving board, senior and varsity diver Ivan Zalessov broke the records in all three diving events—records that he had set himself the previous year.

The season didn't end there as the men's swim team sent sophomore Jacob Jarzen and senior Kevin Puskaric to the NCAA Championships.

"We swam fairly well, all things considered. Kevin did catch a flu bug right at the beginning of the meet and he did his best to fight it off. All in all, a very successful season and something we can build on for next year," Gianiodis said of the NCAA finish.

Outside of the pool entirely, Spartan swimming and diving also had an unprecedented number of academic all-stars, with 23 members of the program receiving Academic All-Big-Ten honors. Seniors Brian Rockwell (swimming) and Sarah Mory (diving) received special recognition for maintaining perfect 4.0 GPAs, ending the year on a high-note with much to look forward to next season.



Members of the MSU swimming and diving team prepare for the start of a race during the MSU vs. Iowa meet. The team ended the season with a 10th place finish at the men and women's Big Ten Championship.

Men's Roster

Brian Akers	J
Jacob Austerman	F
Jason Austerman	J
Cameron Bertlett	J
Bryce Beyer	F
Sean Costello	J
Pat Falconer	F
Ricky Forrest	S
Mark Gammell	SO
Josh Geschwendt	SO
Brad Gillian	F
Drew Goins	F
Jacob Jarzen	SO
Jason Lintjer	J
Nick McGowan	F
Kevin Puskaric	S
Nick Roberts	F
Brian Rockwell	S
Mark Schramm	J
Sam Schulze	F
Michael Uggeri	F
Colby Ward	S
Brandon Williams	F
Bryan Williams	F
Ivan Zalessov	S

Women's Roster

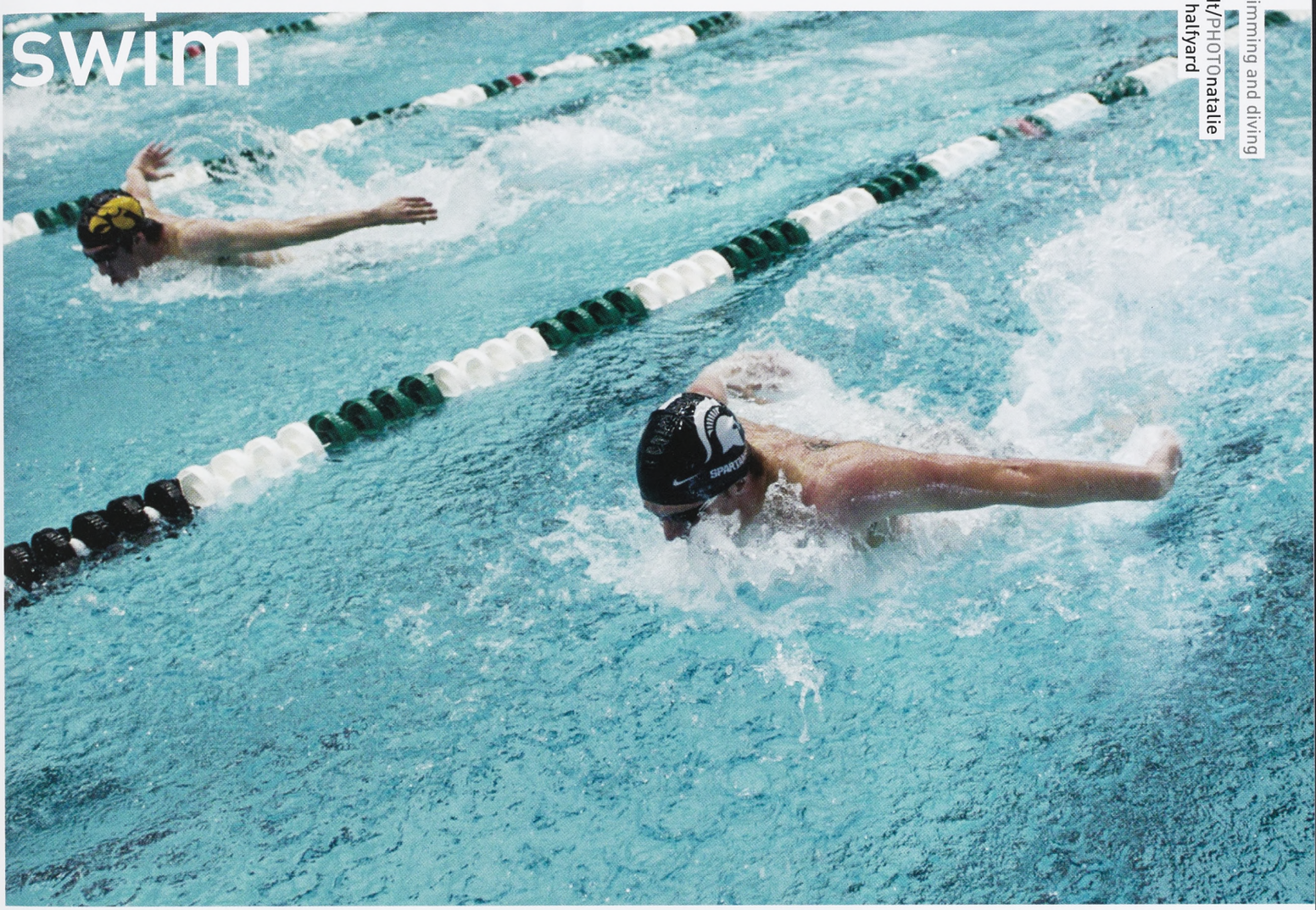
Lauren Baisden	SO
Ashley Borgman	J
KJ Burkland	F
Sarah Clay	J
Cristee Cordes	F
Lauren Daugherty	F
Becca Ebner	S
Sarah Falconer	J
Stephanie Fisher	S
Lisa Fitton	J
Samantha Hilk	J
Abby Immerfall	F
Mari Isa	F
Jordan Jackson	S
Marcella Kupraszewicz	F
Laura Leslie	J
Emilee Letarte	SO
Molly Mason	F
Maeve McHugh	F
Tori Merritt	J
Sarah Mory	S
Kristin O'Connor	SO
Morgan Piasecki	J
Alex Pierce	SO
Jenny Rusch	SO
Brooke Sauchek	J
Kelsie Schooley	SO
Katie Schroeder	F
Stephanie Seibert	F
Kerry Sodonis	J
Summer Strickler	F
Brooke Telander	F
Jessica Wellick	F
Rachael Wilson	SO
Whitney Woodbridge	F

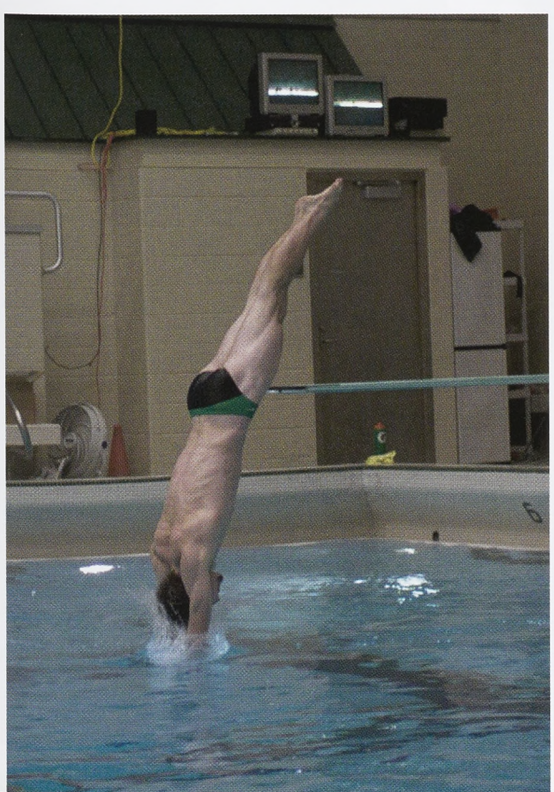
*IRS

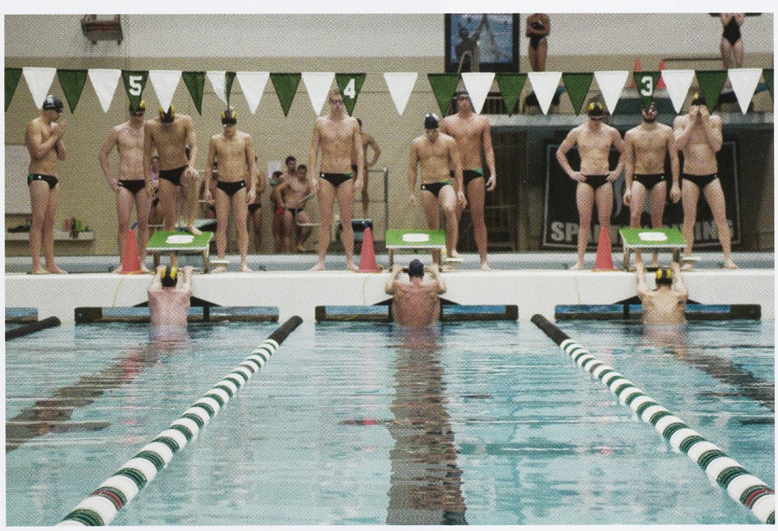
TYPE adelina schmidt/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN jessica halfyard

swim

Junior Sean Costello swims the fly against opposing University of Michigan swimmers during a home meet. Costello had an individual top time of 51.80 seconds, accomplished during the Big Ten men's swimming and diving meet.







MSU and Iowa swimmers prepare for the start of the 200-meter medley race at the McCaffree Pool at IM West. The team celebrated the end of the season with its annual year-end banquet honoring outstanding members.

Diving member junior Brian Akers completes a dive during the MSU vs. Iowa meet. Akers finished the season with an overall score of 312.83 from a total of six dives off the 3-meter diving board.



Sophomore Christian Roehmer serves during a doubles match against the Detroit Mercy Titans. Roehmer and his partner Denis Bogatov went on to win the match.

Junior Austin Brooks prepares for a volley during a singles match against the Detroit Mercy Titans. Brooks, as well as the rest of the Spartans, won all of their matches



Scoreboard

IUPUI	**W, 7-0**
Wright State	**W, 6-1**
Cleveland State	**W, 6-1**
Youngstown State	**W, 7-0**
Bradley	**W, 7-0**
Dayton	**W, 7-0**
Toledo	**W, 6-1**
Wake Forest	**W, 6-1**
Marquette	**W, 6-1**
Notre Dame	**L, 5-2**
Ball State	**W, 6-1**
Detriot	**W, 7-0**
Valparaiso	**W, 6-1**
DePaul	**W, 4-3**
Michigan	**L, 6-1**
Indiana	**L, 6-1**
Purdue	**L, 4-3**
Minnesota	**L, 4-3**
Wisconsin	**L, 4-3**
Western Michigan	**W, 5-2**
Ohio State	**L, 7-0**
Penn State	**W, 4-3**
Iowa	**W, 4-3**
Illinois	**L, 5-2**
Northwestern	**W, 4-3**

Roster

Denis Bogatov	**SO**
Austin Brooks	**J**
Will Davis	**SO**
Ronnie Hulewicz	**J**
Drew Lied	**F**
Mat Nelson	**J**
Jason Norville	**S***
Aaron Pfister	**F**
Clark Richardson	**S**
Ryan Richmond	**F**
Christian Roehmer	**SO**
John Stratton	**S**

*IRS

TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO cassie allore/DESIGN betsy eber



Sophomore Christian Roehmer volleys during a home match against the Detroit Mercy Titans. The day ended in a victory for the Spartans.

The MSU men's tennis team won 17 of 25 regular season matches. Their greatest loss was to Ohio State.





fighting until the end

Men's tennis completes best season on record, still falls short to Ohio State

Michigan State men's tennis coach Gene Orlando was named the Midwest Coach of the Year for 2011 by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, after Spartans finished the 2010-11 season with a record of 18-9, best in the program's history.

The regular season began on Jan. 15 with a win against IUPUI and Wright State, 7-0 and 6-1, respectively. Spartans continued on with wins through Jan. and Feb. before falling to Notre Dame on Feb. 12 (5-2).

The season proceeded with a wins against DePaul, Western Michigan, Penn State and Iowa, but Spartans fell short against fellow Big Ten teams like Michigan, Purdue and Ohio State.

Spartans qualified for the Big Ten tournament at the end of April, coming out with a win against Northwestern (4-2) and a loss to Ohio State (4-0).

"Ohio State was our toughest opponent," head coach Gene Orlando said. "They have a great program and have won the conference the last six years. It all comes down to playing within yourself, and playing your own game."

Despite the struggle against Ohio State, Orlando said he remains very hopeful for next season.

"We had some great wins and some tough losses within the Big Ten, but we're playing better than we did a year ago at this time," he said. "We have a good group, a good core that's coming back. I think the seniors have built a nice framework for the juniors to follow."

Sophomore Nicole Herzog compete
in a doubles match against IPFW. MSU
defeated IPFW 7-0

Freshman Katarina Lingl prepares for a
serve against IPFW. Lingl defeated IPFW in
two singles matches 6-3 and 6-2



Scoreboard

IPFW	**W, 7-0**
Detroit	**W, 7-0**
Akron	**L, 4-3**
Bowling Green	**W, 7-0**
Eastern Michigan	**W, 7-0**
Miami of Ohio	**W, 6-1**
Western Michigan	**W, 6-1**
Cleveland State	**W, 5-2**
Michigan	**L, 6-1**
Toledo	**W, 5-2**
Missouri	**L, 5-2**
William &Mary	**W, 4-3**
Dayton Ball State	**W, 7-0**
Purdue	**W, 7-0**
Indiana	**L, 4-3**
Wisconsin	**L, 6-1**
Minnesota	**L, 4-3**
Penn State	**L, 4-3**
Ohio State	**L, 5-2**
Iowa	**L, 4-3**
Illinois	**L, 6-1**
Northwestern	**L, 7-0**

Roster

Amy Barton	**SO**
Marina Bohrer	**F**
Olga Chernova	**F**
Bana Guentert	**SO***
Nicole Herzog	**SO**
Emily LeBlanc	**F**
MICHELLE LEBLANC	**SO**
Katrina Lingl	**F**
Manon Noe	**S**
Valentine Rusakova	**F**
Michaela Silesova	**SO**
Ashley Stockwell	**J**
Whitney Wilson	**S**
Jennifer Yen	**F**

*|RS

TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN jessica halfyard



fighting back

MSU Women's Tennis returns from tough season

MSU Women's Tennis managed to pull ahead of a rough season with an overall record of 12-11.

The women started out strong with wins over Bowling Green, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan and Cleveland State before falling to Michigan (6-1) and Missouri (5-2).

Spartans managed a few more wins later in the season against Dayton, Ball State and Indiana before a seven game streak of losses against Wisconsin, Minnesota, Penn State, Ohio State, Iowa, Illinois and Northwestern.

Women's Tennis was eliminated from the Big Ten Championship by Illinois, 4-0.

Despite a rough season, the Big Ten Conference at the year-end banquet honored two sophomores, Amy Barton and Dana Guentert. Guentert received the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award and Barton was named a Second Team All-Big Ten honoree.

Head coach Simone Jardim could not be reached for comment.



Freshman Katarina Lingl gears up for a point during a singles match against IPFW. Lingl also participated in the doubles match alongside sophomore Nicole Herzog to beat IPFW 8-7.

VARSITY SPORTS track and field

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN betsy eber



Sophomore Derik Peterman practices the pole vault outside Spartan Stadium during a summer practice. Peterman has a pole vault best at 4.73 meters.



Senior Logan Lynch and Sophomore Codi Mattix practice various stretches on the outdoor track. The pole vaulters focused on high knee runs, stretches and sit ups.

Practice laps around the track start off the men's and women's distance runners' warm-up. Track and field season runs until the end of June.





rewriting the record books

MSU Track and Field sets the bar higher

By the time the Big Ten Indoor Championship meet rolled around this year, the men's and women's track and field squads had already broken three school records, two in the weight throw and one in the distance medley relay. Even more, 13 members—six women and seven men—found themselves ranked among the top 50 in the nation.

Suffice it to say, expectations for the remainder of the spring, especially the outdoor season, were high.

"When I came in here four years ago, it was more of a rebuilding process," senior sprinter Yury Ratomski said. "Now we have people that went to Nationals and have been All-Americans, so we're starting to get more recognized and respected throughout the years that I've been here."

In fact, after her performance in the NCAA Indoor Championships on March 5, sophomore Beth Rohl became not only the first Spartan female weight-throw All-American—an award given to exceptional athletes by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA)—but the first field athlete in school history.

With this promising build-up, the outdoor season began. At the annual Spartan Invitational on April 2, both the women and men started off strong by taking home titles in 10 events each. The Spartans then packed their bags for the Sun Angel Track Classic at Arizona State University.

There, MSU's record books had to be rewritten once again. Rohl broke her own record in the hammer throw with a 59.94 meter toss and soon after, senior Anthony Agrusa did the same, throwing for 62.25 meters.

Throughout the season, there was an emphasis on progress at every meet, no matter how miniscule, Ratomski said. In a sport in which every centimeter or second counts, it was all about improving mentally, physically or better yet, both.

However, there was also an understanding among the team that it would be their Big Ten Outdoor Championship and NCAA Outdoor Championship performances that would garner the most merit. Everything up until then was a mini-test of preparedness.

"Our team has come really far since last year," senior Emily Macleod said. "We're really coming out and we've worked hard to get where we are."

"I'd say every year we get better and better. You just have more miles under you," she said.

Indeed, Macleod ran her career best 5,000 meter race this year at the Indiana Invitational on April 16, finishing with a time of 1:03.07.

Ratomski also surpassed his personal best in the 200 meter dash at the Jesse Owens Classic on April 24 with a time of 21.34 seconds.

"I've been doing this for 10 years and still, every time I get nervous," he said. "When it comes to the race you just have to forget about everything."

Scoreboard	
Oakland	**W, 3-1**
Toledo	**W, 3-0**
Minnesota	**L, 0-3**
Iowa	**W, 3-1**
Penn State	**L, 0-3**
Ohio State	**L, 0-3**
Illinois	**L, 2-3**
Wisconsin	**W, 3-2**
Michigan	**L, 1-3**
Northwestern	**W, 3-0**
Purdue	**L, 0-3**
Indiana	**L, 2-3**
Wisconsin	**L, 0-3**
Illinois	**L, 0-3**
Ohio State	**L, 0-3**
Penn State	**L, 1-3**
Iowa	**W, 3-0**
Minnesota	**L, 2-3**
Indiana	**W, 3-1**

Roster	
Kyndra Abron	**J**
Amy Dentlinger	**SO**
Natalie Emro	**J**
Allyson Karaba	**S**
Mandi Karaba	**SO***
Kristen Kelsay	**F**
Kelsey Kulpers	**F**
Alexis Matthews	**F***
Nicole Pete	**S**
Jenilee Rathje	**J***
Megan Schatzle	**S**
Carli Weller	**J**
Becca Zlabis	**J**

*IRS



The team huddles together during a game against Eastern Michigan during the Spartan Invitational. MSU lost to Eastern Michigan 2-3.

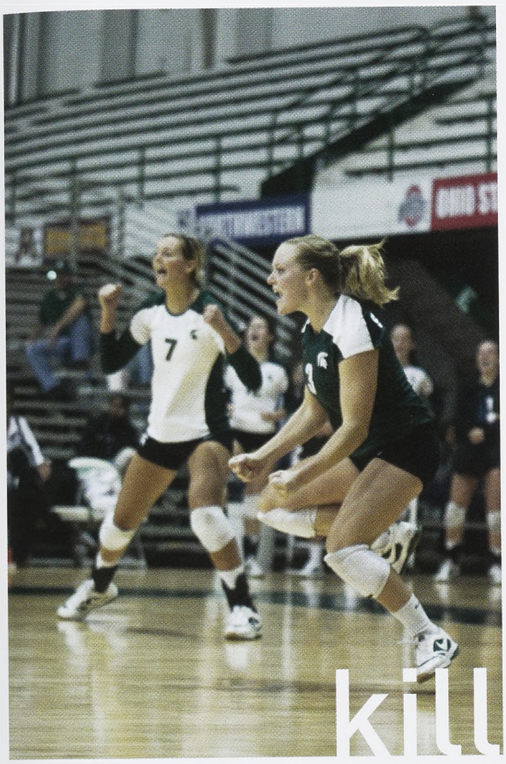


Junior Natalie Emro sets up a shot for junior Jenilee Rathje during the Spartan Invitational. Emro was the top defender at the net with four blocks throughout the game.

The women's volleyball team spikes the ball against Eastern Michigan during the Spartan Invitational. The girls had an early lead but lost to Eastern Michigan 2-3.



TYPEkritika bharadwaj/PHOTOhilary higgins/DESIGNjessica halfyard



Senior Megan Schatzle and sophomore Mandi Karaba celebrates a point against Eastern Michigan at the Spartan Invitational. Three Spartans recorded double doubles during the game.

kill, dig, block

MSU women's intercollegiate volleyball team has an ace season

Kill, dig, block are words common to the MSU volleyball team. Another term common for the team, especially this season, was 'injury prone.' Despite top two players sophomore Alexis Mathews and junior Carli Weiler being injured, the team managed to be consistent in its performance.

The season that started the last week of August produced players like Mathews and Weiler, two of the 36 women selected for the 2011 U.S. National A2 Program.

Apart from Mathews and Weiler, juniors Kyndra Abron and Jenilee Rathje also shared outstanding performances. While Abron became the only underclassman ranked in the top 10 in conference-only matches, Rathje became the sixth at MSU who received the All-Mideast Region honorable mention by the Big Ten coaches. Apart from Rathje's personal achievements, the season highlight was the game in Hawaii.

"It [Hawaii] is one of the top teams of the nation. For us to be able to win five games against them was a positive way to go," she said.

Just two games short of making the season, the team won four out of six games, beating currently ranked number 19 University of Michigan on Nov. 24. The night was special with 6,824 spectators present and seniors like Megan Schatzle playing for the last time.

"It was really awesome. It was the last time that myself and two other seniors got to play against the Wolverines," Schatzle said, explaining that despite not making the tournament, the team had the motivation to finish the season strong.

The win became even more memorable after the Spartans brought home the "State Pride Flag" for the first time since 2006, a symbol of the volleyball rivalry between the two schools.

After the game against the Wolverines, the team ended the season by gaining a 3-2 win over Northwestern University. It was at this game that Rathje became the 17th all-time Spartan to collect 1,000 kills in a career.

"It's such a great honor to be recognized to be the best among the Big Ten coaches," she said. With one more season left to compete, she plans to combine her skills and knowledge in business and sports after graduating in December.

With the season coming to a close, Carney discussed the team's future goals.

"Every season is different and unique. The head coach, Cathy has established a program of excellence, hard work in both the gym and academics. First, we should attempt to win the Big Ten and then get into NCAA," she said.

Aiming to win games and excelling in academics are not the team's only goals. The team recently volunteered with the Lansing Area Volleyball Association to demonstrate the sport skills for the 180 kids in attendance, passionate about the sport.

Even though the team was not victorious this season, defeating some of the top teams in the nation took MSU Volleyball one step closer to a championship.



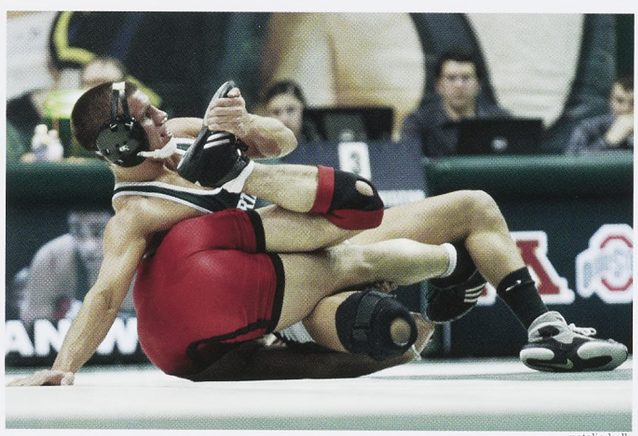
Scoreboard

Shippensburg	**W, 50-0**
Harvard	**W, 31-10**
Binghamton	**W, 19-15**
Northern Illinois	**W, 20-15**
Iowa	**L, 29-10**
Lock Haven	**W, 28-12**
Oakland	**W, 45-0**
Eastern Michigan	**W, 19-15**
West Virginia	**W, 21-18**
Ohio State	**L, 19-16**
Central Michigan	**L, 19-18**
Northwestern	**L, 22-15**
Illinois	**W, 21-15**
Penn State	**L, 30-9**
Indiana	**L, 22-9**
Purdue	**L, 22-9**
Michigan	**L, 24-15**
Wisonsin	**L, 27-9**

Roster

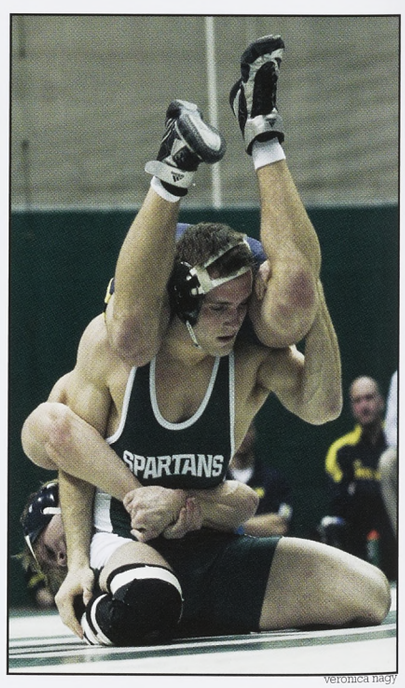
Steve Andrus	**SO***
Ben Boudro	**SR**
David Cheza	**JR**
Bryant Craft	**SO**
Tyler Dickenson	**JR**
Collin Dozier	**JR**
Andrew Ermatinger	**FR**
Eric Ford	**FR**
Ian Hinton	**JR**
Nick Humes	**FR**
Tyler Humes	**FR**
Curran Jacobs	**JR**
Anthony Jones Jr.	**SR**
Luke Jones	**FR**
Nick Kaczanowski	**FR***
Philip Khozein	**JR**
Troy Lamson	**FR**
Brenan Lyon	**SO**
Chris Lyon	**FR**
Michael McClure	**FR***
Nick McDiarmid	**FR**
Sean McMurray	**FR**
Kevin Nash	**FR**
Robert Nash	**FR***
Eric Olanowski	**JR**
Dan Osterman	**SO**
Nick Proctor	**FR**
Joe Rizqallah	**SO**
John Rizqallah	**FR**
Levi Stace	**FR***
Joel Trombly	**SR**
Ryan Watts	**FR**

*IRS



natalie kolb

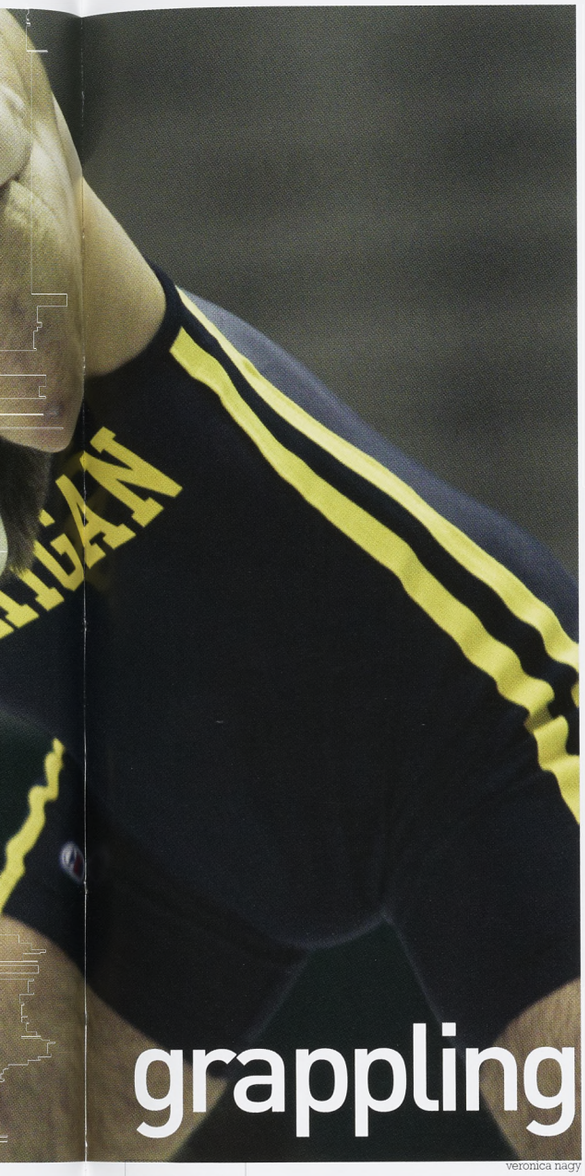
Sophomore Dan Osterman, wrestling in the 149-pound weight class, puts up a fight against a Wisconsin opponent at the last home meet at the Jenison Field House. Osterman finished his season with a 25-11 record.



veronica nagy

Competing at the 174-pound weight class, junior Curran Jacobs lifts his opponent, Aaron Hynes over his head. Winning 4-2 against his UofM competition boosted Jacobs' overall record to 22-10.

TYPEjacob kanclerz/PHOTOnatalie kolb, veronica nagy/DESIGNsaralee gordon



veronica nagy

Freshman Sean McMurray wrestles Brandon Zeerip from the 157-pound weight class. McMurray won his match 8-2 against his University of Michigan opponent.

Sophomore Joseph Rizqallah, a member of the MSU wrestling team, hangs onto the back of a Wisconsin opponent. Rizqallah, in the heavyweight weight division, finished the season with 22 wins and 14 losses.



natalie kolb

grappling with adversity

MSU wrestlers struggle with injuries, elite Big Ten teams

The Southeastern Conference has football. The Big East dominates basketball. So what is the Big Ten's sport of choice? It's wrestling, and MSU's home conference dominates the rest of the nation. With nearly every team ranked in the top 25, even a small disadvantage could put a team at the back of the pack.

That's why the Spartans, handicapped by injuries this year, fell flat during their Big Ten stretch after a strong start. After winning eight of their first nine duals, the team tumbled during conference play, going 1-7 to finish 9-9 overall. Coach Tom Minkel attributed the team's poor dual performances to the unusual amount of injuries the team suffered, which made a difference in the ultra-competitive Big Ten.

"We just simply had some holes in our lineup where we weren't very competitive, and consequently, from a dual-meet standpoint, we'd win three or four matches, but we couldn't win enough to put us over the top," he said (in wrestling duals, the two schools each send out 10 wrestlers who square off in individual matches that add up to the teams' final scores).

Minkel listed off at least six wrestlers who were injured, many of whom were out for the entire season. A loss of depth like that can't be had in the Big Ten. The Spartans faced Iowa (ranked second in the country), Penn State (fourth), Michigan (11th), Northwestern (14th), Wisconsin (15th), Illinois (19th), and Purdue (23rd). The Spartans' only win was an impressive one against the Fighting Illini, ranked 14th at the time. Minkel said in the last 20 years, two or more teams have represented the conference in the top five at the NCAA Championships in all but one year.

Still, many individual Spartans enjoyed success this season. Most of the starters achieved a winning record for their individual matches, including 20-win seasons for sophomore Dan Osterman, juniors Curran Jacobs and Tyler Dickenson, and redshirt freshmen Michael McClure and Nick Kaczanowksi. Weighing in at 149 pounds, Osterman finished the regular season ranked 20th nationally in his class. Minkel said his wrestlers won at least three matches in every dual they competed in, with many notable wins over ranked individual opponents throughout the season.

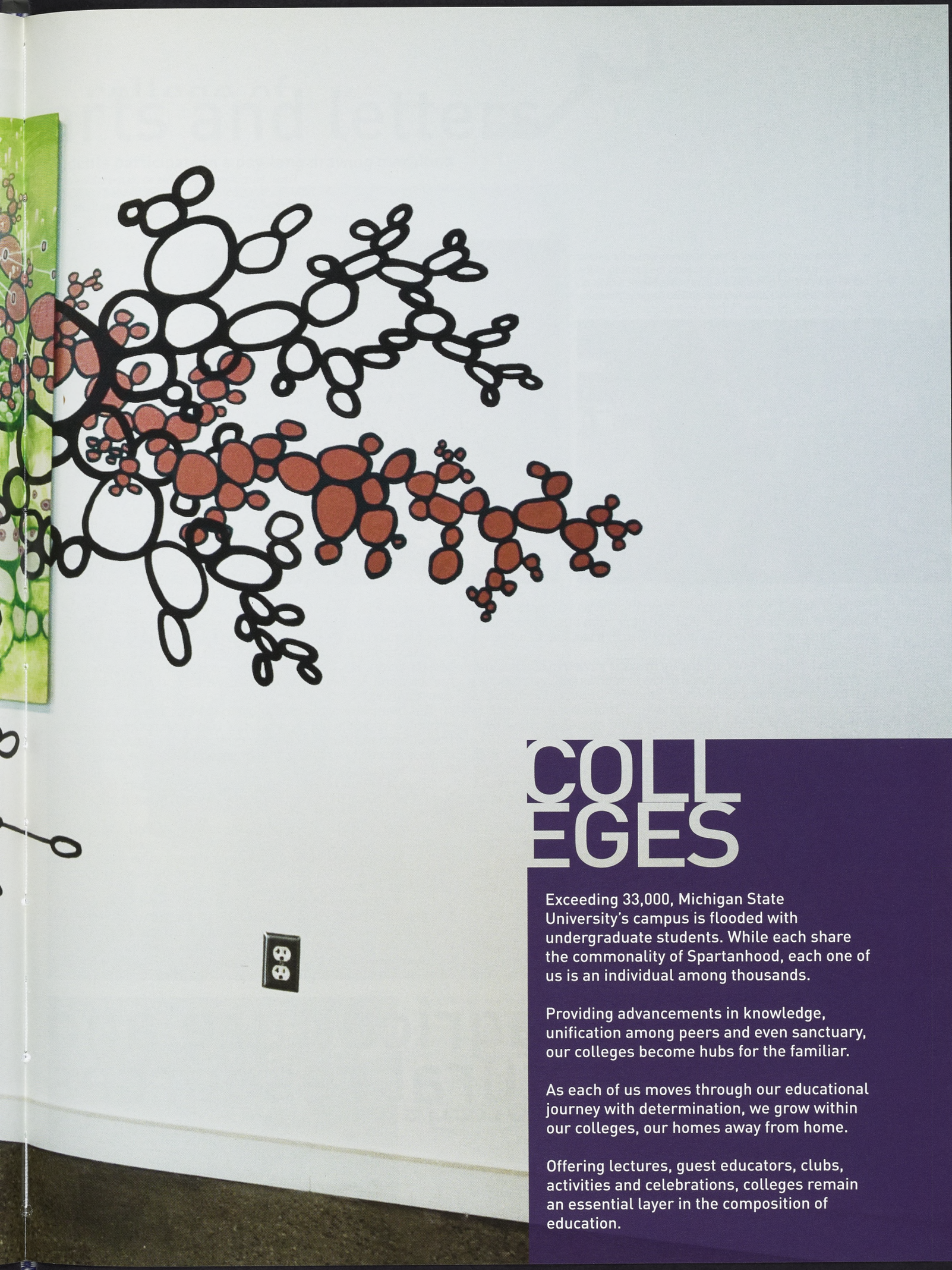
In spite of their injuries, the Spartan wrestlers showed their resilience and fought to compensate for the loss of their teammates.

"Because all of your players are out, it changes the way your style is, it makes you go more offensive. It's a different match," sophomore Joe Rizqallah said. "You don't want to let this year go and say, 'Oh we have some players out.' You want to make this year the best year you can make it."

That's why Minkel and his team are gearing up for the Big Ten and NCAA Championships scheduled for mid-March. The team finished seventh at the Big Ten and 18th at the NCAA last year, and he predicts the Spartans will move up from their current ranking of 52 to a top 25 national finish, with the Spartans sending at least six wrestlers to the NCAA Championship.

While MSU isn't looking past this season just yet, their potential in the years to come is apparent. Next season, they will only lose two seniors in addition to regaining the wrestlers lost to injury this year. Coupled with a fine recruiting class, Minkel said that MSU will feature a pretty darn solid team. Yet, the wrestlers know they need to be that and more to climb to the top of the mighty Big Ten standings.





COLL EGES

Exceeding 33,000, Michigan State University's campus is flooded with undergraduate students. While each share the commonality of Spartanhood, each one of us is an individual among thousands.

Providing advancements in knowledge, unification among peers and even sanctuary, our colleges become hubs for the familiar.

As each of us moves through our educational journey with determination, we grow within our colleges, our homes away from home.

Offering lectures, guest educators, clubs, activities and celebrations, colleges remain an essential layer in the composition of education.

COLLEGES agriculture and natural resources

TYPE rodneya ross/PHOTO audrey aquino/DESIGN saralee gordon

Fresh, succulent vegetables sit on the tables of the MSU Student Organic Farm stand, located outside the Auditorium. The farm's harvest is often distributed to a number of MSU's dining halls, as well as the Kellogg Center.



Farm assistant Rachel Beyer arranges items for sale at the stand. All proceeds go toward the funding of the farm's operations, granting members like Beyer hands-on experience in cultivating and selling organic produce.



When asked to describe a typical college student's eating habits, the words "organic" and "healthy" don't usually come to mind. Think more along the lines of french fries, chicken fingers and lots of Ramen Noodles.

But the MSU Student Organic Farm stand strives to change that.

With a plethora of fresh, organic foods such as kale, raspberries and tomatoes, members of the Student Organic Farm run a stand outside of the Auditorium every Thursday, from April to November. The students operate the stand entirely on their own, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

As part of a nine-month program made up of 15 students from across the country, students who work at the stand grow the produce, too. Each week, three or four people take turns running the stand, and profits go to the 10-acre farm, which is located three miles south of campus in Holt, Mich.

According to the program's website, the Student Organic Farm was founded in 1999 with a mission to provide training for small-scale, organic farmers. Revenue from the stand's sales supports the hands-on training program, which teaches members of the community how to cultivate fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs for local markets.

Rachel Beyer, an assistant on the farm, began as a student in 2009 and has since enjoyed working with the stand.

"I love it. It's a really cool opportunity to teach people about where food comes from and to share what we're growing," she said.

Josh Moses, a student in the program since March 2010, agreed with Beyer. After attending a culinary school in Chicago, he came to MSU to further his education in organic farming. He not only prides over the stand and its produce, but also the curriculum as well.

"It is very specific and detailed, with how to farm organically," Moses said. "We get to eat lovely produce and see where it comes from. And we do study farms and workshops, which are also amazing."

The members who run the stand are not the only ones who enjoy the produce. Other students, such as sophomore Ashley Powell, who prefers to eat organic, stop by the stand in between classes. Powell likes to buy tomatoes, and to her the accessibility of the stand is a bonus.

"This about my fourth time buying groceries from the organic farm. I like what the organic farm does and what it stands for," she said.

The stand also works with a program called Community Supported Agriculture. The program allows consumers to pre-pay for 22 weeks worth of groceries, which includes 12 to 16 items a week. The year-round program has 60 members and a 200-member waiting list.

And for students who can't make it to the stand on Thursdays, a taste of the farm's healthy produce is offered in cafeterias on campus. With its food served at dining halls including Yakeley Hall, Snyder-Phillips and the State Room at the Kellogg Center, the student organic farm stand proves that you don't have to travel far to find fresh, healthy food.

agriculture and natural resources

college of

MSU students sell organic produce

TYPE marissa russo/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN saralee gordon

college of arts and letters

Students participate in a day-long drawing marathon



Between the Auditorium and the Kresge Art Center on Oct. 11, you could find art students, with their easels set up in a perfect circle, ready to have a long fun-filled day of drawing.

With over 100 student participants, the Drawing Marathon was an opportunity for students to socialize and work with live models. Most of the participants were excited to be drawing on a sunny day, where the atmosphere was quiet and peaceful.

Students participated as a requirement for their freshman art class. Those walking by saw the creative painting and live models and decided to join, because paper, easels and other materials were supplied.

Sophomore Ashley Godziebiewski, who had just recently changed majors, had never participated in the Drawing Marathon before and said, "It's a great way to get together with other artists and draw, maybe even learn something new. It's a relaxed environment."

One perk of the event was the chance for art students to work with live models. The models were dressed in ridiculous costumes and posed for each segment, allowing the students to draw. One model wore an old-fashioned white wig and posed in the center of the easels for all students to observe, while others held contorted poses.

"We haven't worked with live models before. This is something completely new, but it's a really great learning experience," said freshman Rachel Bonneau.

Also on display were huge, collaborative pieces of art from each class.

"All the students created a large piece of art together. It looks really cool," Bonneau said.

The collaborative pieces, which began as a blank canvas, were diverse and provided insight to each student's personality, where they were given the freedom to draw whatever they wanted.

"It's an event that is meant to get people together and share art," said Benjamin Duke, an art and art history teacher who was in charge of the Drawing Marathon. "It's great for community building, and the students seem to enjoy coming out and drawing."

Students such as freshman Kathryn Reed grasped the concept of the drawing marathon.

"It allows us to have a purpose to set aside time to draw. Many of can look at this as a great learning experience," she said. "It also is a great outreach to other students about art."



Steven Stradley, a masters student, found time to attend the drawing marathon and contribute his own ideas to the collaborative piece of artwork. The pieces were set up on site between the Auditorium and Kresge Art Museum, allowing students to paint on the same piece or paper.

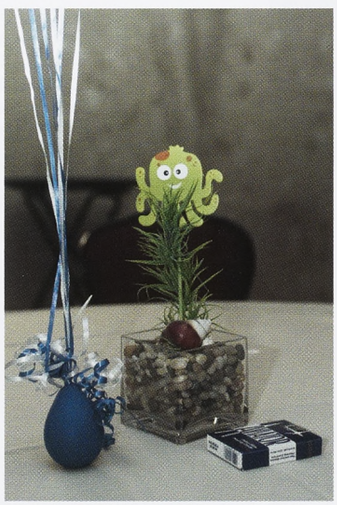
Senior Kerry Hidlay came to the drawing marathon to practice drawing with live models. The marathon provided live models dressed in different costumes who presented different poses to help give the students more dynamic and interesting artwork.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO chase o'black/DESIGN betsy eber



Senior Matt Ocko raises the roof alongside junior Emily Westbrook during a night filled with outrageous dancing. Both Ocko and Westbrook are pursuing a Fishing and Wildlife major.

Decorations dressed every table in the MSU Ballroom along with glasses of punch meant to hydrate the thirsty students. The Lyman Briggs Ball was put on by the Lyman Briggs Student Advisory Council.



lyman briggs college

Lyman Briggs ball strengthens sense of community for residential college

With its blue streamers in the doorway and the octopi centerpieces adorning the tables inside, the MSU Union Ballroom was supposed to resemble some kind of underwater realm.

But save for one dancer who sported water wings, the Lyman Briggs annual ball on Friday, April 1 didn't really give off a bottom-of-the-sea vibe. The students who showed up, however, had no trouble diving past the blue streamer barrier to reach the dance floor inside. Yet, as they recalled, jumping into the ocean of people that is MSU proved a bit more challenging, which led them somewhat to choosing the residential college environment of Lyman Briggs.

"It kind of eased me into the college experience instead of throwing me into cold water with thousands of people I didn't know," junior Abbie Entz said. "I was really nervous about coming to MSU, and my first semester here, all my classes were in Holmes and I had classes with people I lived with."

"If I joined a living-learning community, it would be a smaller community to kind of get my feet wet," freshman Kimberly Schoch said.

Lyman Briggs College (LBC) includes students from 38 science-related majors, ranging from astrophysics to computational mathematics to zoology. The college is based in Holmes Hall, which is home to most of its students, classes, professors and advisers.

"It's a residential program, so you live where your classes are, and everything is there," Kent Workman, director of student affairs for LBC, said. "It can really build that sense of community."

Building that community is one aspect, but the potential for LBC students to become cozy within the bubble can sometimes make branching out to the greater MSU community a jaunt into deeper waters.

"I sometimes feel we are a little bit sheltered," senior Bridgette Ma said. "I didn't know anything outside of Holmes Hall until sophomore year."

While some students felt that they could see that happening with some of their Briggs friends, a few of them pointed out that getting involved in extra-curricular activities and inevitably taking classes outside of LBC will give them opportunities to expand their social horizons.

"I know a few of my friends had a little bit of a struggle expanding their circle of friends," junior Steve Carnaghi said. "They were kind of sucked into 'I'm in Lyman Briggs, I should be here all the time, devoting all my time to the university,' but I don't think that's ever stopped them from excelling their academics or really wanting to get involved here on campus."

It certainly didn't stop Carnaghi, who joined the Sigma Chi fraternity and the Habitat for Humanity Club, among other groups.

"In previous semesters, it's been difficult," sophomore Alyssa Wethington said about branching out. "I got involved with my major; I got involved with the Fisheries and Wildlife Club. You just have to try a little bit. We have a sense of community, but we're also part of the greater whole."

Still, being in the Lyman Briggs bubble has its own comforting advantages.

"It has kind of hindered us in a way, but we've also created such special bonds within Lyman Briggs that it kind of balances each other out," Ma said. "I met Abbie (Entz) probably two years ago, and I don't know if a lot of the other students would have been able to stay friends with people they were with freshman year."

Coming to MSU might feel like diving into an ocean for some, but being a part of Lyman Briggs has assured these students that they'll still be buoyed by friends.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN vicari vollmar

college of business

For students in the Eli Broad College of Business, it's all about networking

The importance of networking is cruelly jammed into our brains almost as soon as we hit puberty, when making friends takes more than simply sharing an Oreo at lunch or having a mutual love for playing dress up.

By the time we're packed for college, we've often gotten a taste of the unforgiving synergism between who it is you know and what it is you know, which, so we've been taught, must be harnessed to have a successful career.

And for business students, this lesson becomes almost as sacred as the law. Corporate America imposes strict consequences on those who ignore the not-so-subtle cause and effect relationship between good connections and open doors. And in a race to the top, it's best not to fall behind.

At MSU, however, the bridge building isn't reserved just for the real world professionals. Each year, the Eli Broad Student Senate hosts a spring picnic for fellow Broad college members to mingle solely with one other.

Over free pizza and pop on Thursday, April 21, future accountants, stockbrokers and maybe even CEOs had the chance to converse about the thing they know best: business. The get-together was held behind the Business College Complex on Shaw Hall's basketball courts—a rare and casual atmosphere for students normally accustomed to a professional dress code.

"We rarely have such events that get all of the business students together, able to meet different students with different majors and just kind of get outside of the classroom in a nice social environment," senior Sanat Joshi, the coordinator of the event, said.

While the major draw was, admittedly, the orange Little Caesar's truck shoveling out Hot-N-Ready pizzas (the tables were magically full by lunch time), meeting other students who had chosen different paths was certainly a plus, he said.

"It primarily helps with networking opportunities and getting to know other people and just having more awareness within the business college," Joshi said.

Indeed, the term business is often thrown around ambiguously as a future career goal—we've all had a friend (or three) tell us it's their calling—but in actuality the Broad college hosts seven undergraduate programs with vastly different ends in mind.

"It's definitely diverse," senior David Ullrey said. "You get a good mix of majors and different viewpoints in class."

While Ulrey was one of many attendees more interested in the free food than socializing, others did indeed come to broaden their horizons.

"I just wanted to meet more people in the business college and get involved a little bit more," junior Olivia Davis said. "I think it's important to know how to talk to your peers. I mean, you never know when they might be useful or you might be useful to them, so it's just good to just be on good terms with everyone."





Seniors Samantha Rigana and Jillian Emerson purchase t-shirts to support the Business College. The college sold t-shirts and other apparel, as well as handed out free tote bags.

Junior Hilary Taylor takes interest of the Marketing Association booth. The Spring Picnic was a time for fellow students to find new opportunities within their own major.

TYPE jacob kanclerz PHOTO erica treais/DESIGN betsy eber

college of communications arts and sciences

Senior Alisha Green asks M.L. Elrick a question. Elrick spoke for 40 minutes on the history of journalism and where he thinks journalism should go in the future.

MSU alumnus M.L. Elrick was the keynote speaker at the MSU J-School Centennial. Elrick kept students entertained and laughing as he made jabs at parking fees, Kwame Kilpatrick and Justin Bieber.





Led by Pulitzer-winning alumnus, J-School celebrates its centennial by preparing for future of journalism

The MSU School of Journalism (MSU J-School) celebrated its 100th anniversary this year, and as J-School Director Lucinda Davenport put it, "The future is what this celebration is about." However, it was an old-school investigative reporter who stole the show.

Michael L. Elrick, the MSU alumnus who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for breaking the Kwame Kilpatrick text-message-scandal story, was the keynote speaker for the J-School Centennial Celebration. The day-long event featured 40 speakers, mostly MSU journalism alumni, 20 workshop sessions, and closed with a dinner reception at the East Lansing Marriott.

With his inspiring story and powerful remarks, Elrick was the star of the day. He, along with his partner Jim Schaefer, discovered through Kilpatrick's text messages that Kilpatrick committed perjury and had multiple affairs as mayor of Detroit. The story broke in the Detroit Free Press, leading to Kilpatrick's resignation and eventual imprisonment.

Elrick was edgy and rebellious, traits that go back to when he started a rival publication to the State News during his years at MSU. He complained about his excessive parking tickets at MSU (an "obnoxious injustice perpetrated by our fine university"). He burned Kilpatrick ("The difference between me and Kwame is I own a house in Detroit"). He encouraged students to transfer out of journalism if they were in it for the money ("Get the hell out of here; there aren't that many jobs anyway"), but sheepishly apologized to Davenport as students and faculty laughed.

Elrick described how journalism served the people through the last century by exposing the truth. He argued that the goal of journalism should remain the same, regardless of the era.

"It's about finding out the truth. It's about finding out who the bad guys are, and blowing them out. It's about somebody looking down on you, and feeling like you have no rights, and no entitlement to the truth, and going and getting it, and saying, 'Here it is, byatch!'," he said.

"If they [elected officials] have gotten so far ahead they've forgotten what it is they said they were going to do, I'm right there to remind them. I want them to know I'm on top of them. I want to be so far up their ass, they know what my hair tastes like."

The evolving world of journalism was the underlying message of the centennial, with workshops focused on using social media for networking, entrepreneurial journalism as the new business model, and presenting information online.

Davenport said that the theme of the event was innovative technologies, and how they have changed the public face of journalism over the last century.

"We have a lot of alumni who were successful, and basically we didn't have to look far to find some alumni who were involved in cutting-edge journalism," she said.

Tricia Bobeda and Aaron Olson, recent graduates working at the Detroit News, taught how Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr can create relationships between publications and readers. Steve Patterson, a 2008 graduate working in broadcast, stressed the importance of learning to write, film, edit and produce an entire story on your own. These alumni were just a few of the many that day who have since made a career for themselves.

But though Elrick was the centerpiece of these alumni, his speech was founded in basic principles of journalism that he hopes will be renewed.

"This stuff is not revolutionary," he said. "As we look forward, I see a lot of what we need to do in what we did, and what they did here 100 years ago. We need to go out there and tell the truth."

Audio Enthusiasts and Engineers explore the science of all things amplified

college of engineering

Not many students—engineers or music aficionados—can say they own a stereo that plays music by producing arcs of purple lightening. What's more, not many can say they've built said stereo. But after all, engineers like to tinker, and audio engineers are no exception. Audio Enthusiasts and Engineers (AEE) is a club where music lover meets designer; one of the few places where producing music is seen as a technological advancement rather than a spiritual one.

The group has been manufacturing synthesized noise for the past five years, establishing themselves through a variety of teams and projects that teach students the nuts and bolts behind sound equipment. While some follow kits, others have been pioneers in the field, building devices never before attempted by other engineers.

It all started in 2006, when two students founded the club to fill a curriculum hole in the College of Engineering—there were virtually no opportunities for students to learn audio design. The club's beginnings were defined by a project called Revolution Audio, which was truly revolutionary in multiple senses of the word. First, the concept had never been attempted before, not anywhere, by any other engineer. Second, the project was, in fact, about revolving. It consisted of a surround sound system with a touch screen interface, where users could switch which speakers were left and right. Stroke the touch pad and spin the controls in a circle, the sound follows you. Rearrange the living room furniture, touch a screen instead of moving speakers. The inaugural team built everything from scratch, even the touch pad.

This mission laid the club's path for years to follow. Each year, the more advanced members make up the design team, which works all year to create a grand-scale project. This year's team is constructing what they call a mind synthesizer, which would convert heartbeats and other bodily functions into electronic rhythms and tones. So far, they've figured out how to monitor the heartbeat in voltage pulses on the computer. Now, they're working on turning those into music. Eventually, the club hopes to enter the mind synthesizer in the Guthman Musical Instrument competition in the state of Georgia, a national showcase of musical innovation hosted by the Georgia Tech Center for Music Technology.

These audio enthusiasts are already well versed in creating off-the-wall ways of generating sound. Previously, they constructed a Tesla Coil speaker, which plays music by creating arcs of electricity. The device essentially looks like a giant coil of wire that emits purple beams of lightning, which in turn creates an impressively wide range of musical frequencies. And yes, you can even hook your iPod to it. But users beware: there's a magnetic field around the coil that will fry any electrical device within a certain range.

"It's fun, just don't get too close," AEE president Scott Sprau said.

But not all the projects are immensely complicated to build. After all, "Enthusiasts" does come before "Engineers." And though most members are engineers or computer scientists, students of any major can join. Either way, everyone has to start from somewhere. The two most popular teams are the Tube Amp and Guitar Pedal teams, whose projects are far easier than the design team's excursions. There are also easier mini projects, like custom molded earplugs that don't distort sound for the listener, and headphone amplifiers made of Altoids tins that make frequencies consistent between iPods and headphones, improving sound quality.

Not surprisingly, the one thing almost all members have in common is their mutual love of music.

"I'd say a fair number of people are musicians or have music background," Sprau said. "We get a guitar player crowd, but then we also get a lot of techno electronic people that make beats on the computer."

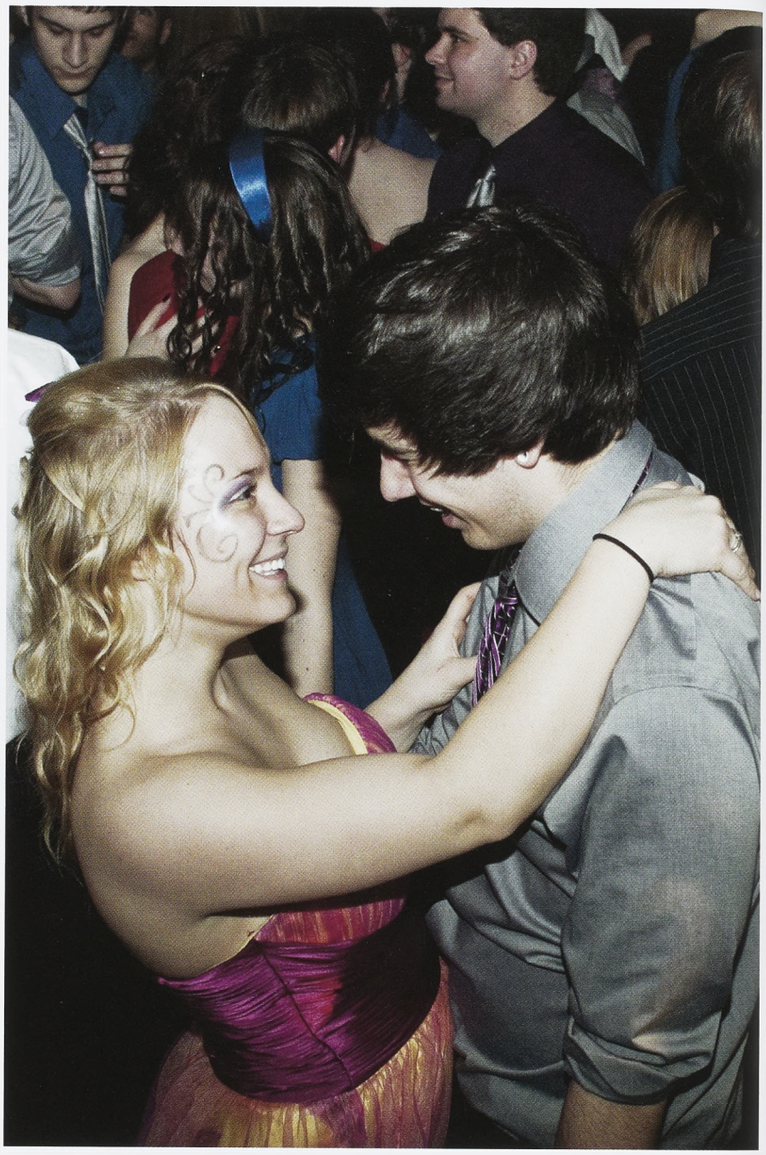




Graduate student Steve Zajac shows off a headphone amplifier in an Altoid case built by 40 students in the Audio Enthusiasts. The purpose of the amplifier is to interpret the signal from an ipod in order to lower distortion and improve the quality of sound.

Junior Scott Sprau assists faculty advisor Gregory Wierzba with an audio amplifier. Sprau is also the vice president of Audio Enthusiasts.

TYPEJacob kanclerz/PHOTOanthony thibodeau/DESIGNbetsy eber



Freshmen Dorothea Kaiser and Todd Symborski dance the night away at the Honors College masquerade ball. The masquerade ball was held at the MSU Union Ballroom on Saturday, Feb. 12.

Sophomores Steve Gerdeman and Josh Mazur dance in the spotlight of the masquerade ball. These gentlemen provided the Honors ball with entertainment for the night by showcasing their dance moves for other attendees.



honors college

Honors College hosts masquerade ball as a chance to unwind

For one Saturday night, Honors College students were able to break away from the books and boogie down with their fellow classmates.

At the annual Honors College masquerade ball at the Union Ballroom on Feb. 12, females flaunted their finest dresses and males cleaned up in a variety of suits for the college's biggest social event of the year.

"It's a good way to unwind and just relax with other people in the Honors College," sophomore Steve Gerdeman said. "Most of us see each other in the classroom or studying. It's nice to see each other in a more relaxed setting."

Honors students took it upon themselves to find different ways to unwind. For junior Andrew Trusty, that meant pulling out a classy duct tape suit for the occasion.

"I've been slowly finishing it up over the past couple years, and I put it together for this," Trusty said of his black and red three-piece, complete with a red tape bowtie. He said he also dabbles in duct tape art, having constructed little penguins, moose and giraffes. His date, junior Elena Karisny, had her own matching duct tape dress.

The theme this year was a masquerade ball, as voted by the Honors student body. However, most dancers were unmasked, content to dance under no disguise. Others chose to brandish decorative and elaborate masks with glittery sequins and elegant feathers.

Inside the ballroom, specks of red, white, yellow and purple waltzed across the walls as the Honors students crowded the dance floor in the center. The wooden square swelled with people the entire night, with only a few of groups spilling off to the side, socializing in various circles.

The dancers were treated to a variety of music, dancing nearly in-sync to the "Cupid Shuffle" as well as belting out the namesake chorus of Cee Lo Green's hit "FuckYou," something that wouldn't have flown back in high school.

While the Honors College Programming Board, which organized the event, was only allowed to sell 300 tickets due to fire codes, the smaller dance size was still a worthwhile time for Honors students, who are used to a smaller community as part of the program.

"It makes MSU a lot smaller, with people who share the same interests," freshman Greta Sommerfeld said.

The college enrolls about 1,000 people, Trusty said. Those students enjoy the benefits of priority enrollment, no prerequisite requirements and separate Honors sections for their classes that provide a more in-depth learning experience, requiring them to both learn and apply their knowledge.

Honors students also talked about being able to live on Honors floors, with at least one in every neighborhood on campus. The students enjoy the studious atmosphere promoted on those floors as well as being around more school-oriented people.

However, those school-oriented students know when to drop the books and put on their dancing shoes.

"They don't sacrifice having fun for school," junior Brandon Waterloo said. "They're still a fun group of people."

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN brendan prost

college of education

Distinguished professor's career is recognized for 40 years of teaching

When Dr. Philip A. Cusick took to the podium to give his speech, he at first seemed disappointed by the many people who had shown up.

"Don't you guys have something better to do?" he asked mockingly and was answered by the audience's warm laughter. However, for his colleagues in the College of Education, past and present students and friends, there wasn't anywhere else to be besides congratulating Cusick for 40 years of service to MSU.

The event, held at Erickson Kiva on Friday, Jan. 14, served as an opportunity for Cusick to reflect on 50 years of school reform. It was also a time to celebrate the closing of Cusick's career with MSU before he retired in the spring.

Cusick's 45-minute address covered the decades of reform that schools, curriculums and classrooms had undergone since the 1960s. He peppered the speech with jokes that had nearly everyone in the room laughing. Despite his quick delivery in his soft, almost whispery voice, he held the audience's attention.

Beyond being a professor of educational administration, Cusick served as the head of the department twice. He held other chair positions at MSU, including the Departments of Counseling and Educational Psychology.

"He's prepared countless school and district leaders; some of his students are in very high positions," Don Peurach said, an assistant professor of educational administration. "He's really been the face of the department, a leader in the field in the state, and a mentor to many students."

Thus, it was clear why so many people came to bid him farewell.

"He's followed my career; he's been available when I had questions. I've always been welcome to stop in," John Graves said, who received his doctorate degree under Cusick in 1979. Graves worked for 30 years as a superintendent, most recently in Jackson, Mich.

"He's always been a part of my administrative career," Jane Van Steenis said, who has been a principal and assistant principal at several different schools. "He's always been my mentor and he's always had a strong interest in my career."

When discussing Cusick's impact, it always came back to one key concept: his ability to ask good, thought-provoking questions of his students and colleagues. With some background in philosophy as well, he's helped to open his students' eyes to education and reform.

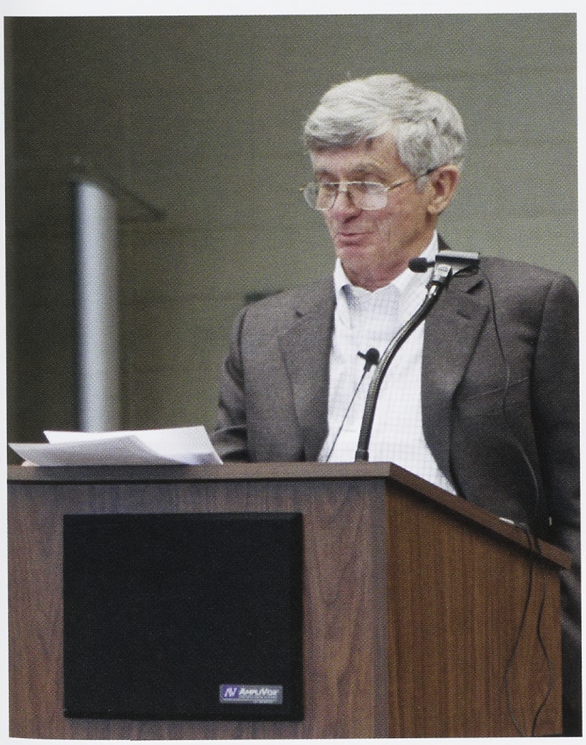
"He is an unbelievably gifted observer. He looks at things equally and carefully," Graves said. "He taught me how to ask good questions."

From the opening introduction to the response given afterward, the portrait of a very talented and caring man was painted. People talked of Cusick's humility, which helped to hide his brilliance. For instance, he played down his own education, saying the only teaching advice he ever got was to "get the kids to sit down, and then teach them something."

"He can take something vast like 50 years of history in American education and boil it down to a very few manageable concepts," Ryan Goodwin said, a first-year doctoral student studying education policy. Cusick, however, dismissed the significance of his lecture, saying he was just rambling away.

A standing ovation seemed the only natural conclusion to Cusick's speech. The short, bespectacled professor, who had been sitting on the steps, stood and acknowledged the support from his peers and admirers. With the recognition of his achievements and character that day, the same thought was most likely on everyone's mind.

"He's really going to leave a big hole here. He'll be greatly missed," Van Steenis said.



Dr. Philip Cusick, professor of educational administration, is retiring this spring after 40 years in the College of Education. Cusick has served twice as chair of the Department of Educational Administration, acting chair of the Department of Counseling, Education Psychology, and Special Education and Assistant Dean of Off -Campus Programs.



Members of the College of Education, former colleagues and old friends, gather in the Erickson Kiva. Audience members showed their appreciation and support for all of Dr. Philip Cusick's accomplishments the past 40 years.

TYPE/courtney zott/PHOTO/jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN/brendan prost

james madison college

Students explore their future at the Law College Fair

Though lawyer and attorney positions are often glamorized in popular culture, the approximately 600 students who attended MSU's largest Law College Fair were able to figure out what the future really had in store for them.

With 95 law schools from around the country in attendance at Spartan Stadium on Sept. 22, the LSAT, tuition and personal statements were the main focus of discussion, as students' visions of becoming the next Ally McBeal or Daniel Kaffee diminished.

"A lot of people think it (being a lawyer) is like 'Law and Order' and shows like that, but those TV shows are not like real life," junior Bill Siderits said, adding an "I wish" as he moved forward in the long line of students waiting to speak with representatives from the University of Michigan.

"I've known I wanted to be a lawyer since I was 12," he said. "This gives me the opportunity to find out what I need to do to get into law school."

At the fair, students were able to obtain information on a personal basis by getting one-on-one time with representatives from various law schools. Pamphlets, business cards and folders were also free for the taking at each school's personal booth. Boston University, the University of Notre Dame and the University of Miami were just a few of the schools in attendance.

"This is a great opportunity for students to meet with schools they're never actually going to see, and a great way to get information that they might not have been able to find by going to a website," Jaimie Hutchison, a field career consultant for James Madison students, said. Hutchison also helped coordinate the event.

"It's very important to ask questions and do your research, because law school is expensive," she said.

MSU had two booths set up for the night: one for the regular law school and another for the new public health policy program offered as a dual-degree option, a masters, a graduate certification or as a specialization along with the law college.

MSU's booths were some of the most popular, with a slew of students waiting in line for the majority of the evening.

Second-year law student Jason Schmidt was also available to talk about his experiences, something the other colleges in attendance didn't offer.

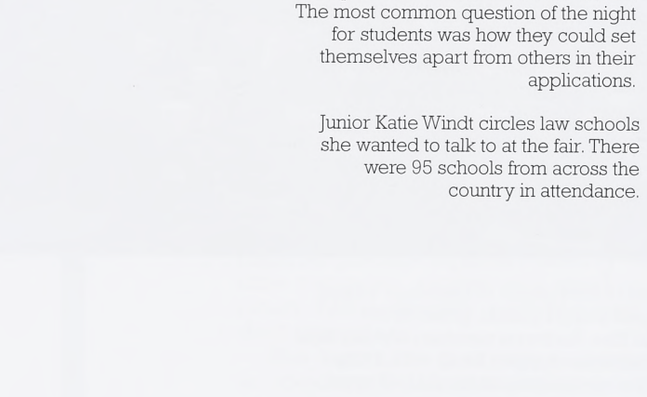
"MSU's law college has the highest bar passage rate," he said when asked about its standing in comparison to other law schools.

"You get all of the resources MSU has, coupled with the great faculty and diverse collection of students," he said. "I still get to go the football and basketball games as a student."

MSU's current law school actually used to be the Detroit College of Law until 1995, when it partnered with MSU and moved on campus, he said.

Schmidt also had some words of encouragement for future law students.

"The first year they really try to scare you," he said. "If you stress out, you're spending way too much time and you overwhelm yourself. Anyone can do it."



Seniors Marisa Mays and Courtney Dimond listen to a law school representative talk about her school. The most common question of the night for students was how they could set themselves apart from others in their applications.



Junior Katie Windt circles law schools she wanted to talk to at the fair. There were 95 schools from across the country in attendance.

TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO audrey aquino/DESIGN betsy eber



Flutist Richard Sherman, violinist Dmitri Berlinsky, violist Yuri Gandelsman and cellist Souren Bagratuni play Mozart's Flute Quartet No. 1 in D Major. The performance was dedicated to Mozart's 255th birthday.



Professor Marcie Ray shares her expertise with students and faculty about the history of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's music. As a music historian, Ray engages the audience before the musical performance.

college of music

College of Music celebrates the birth of a classical music icon

West Circle Drive was in near gridlock with Breslin Center traffic on Jan. 27. But inside the Music Building auditorium, it was a whole different scene.

Well-mannered older couples and slightly dressed up students listened silently as faculty performed the works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart—a stark contrast to the masses of rowdy basketball fans and police conducting traffic outside. But West Circle is, after all, music territory. And it was, after all, Mozart's 255th birthday. At intermission there was even a cake with displaying his face and a spirited round of "happy birthday" sung by the audience.

The show marked the third installment of the College of Music's new West Circle Concert Series. Through a new publicity effort to promote the shows, the college has seen attendance numbers soar well above normal levels, often times exceeding the auditorium's 365-person capacity.

"The first event we had 580 people; we couldn't fit them in there. We had chairs on the stage and down the front," James Foger, Dean of the College of Music and professor of saxophone, said.

The idea was formed to correspond with the 200th birthdays of Frederick Chopin and Robert Schumann, two influential 19th-century composers, which occurred during the fall. The College of Music continued with the idea, adding a Beethoven-themed concert in addition to Mozart's birthday celebration. Music professors attribute the series' success to the fact that the shows were organized into a common themed advertising campaign, something the college has never attempted before.

"I think it's been extremely successful so far," Deborah Moriarty, professor of piano, said.

Moriarty, in addition to performing in all four of the concerts, played a principle role in organizing the events.

"I think a themed concert is something people really enjoy. I think people love to come to chamber music and it's been a little bit easier to advertise it because it's a series."

Senior Brandon LePage, box office manager for the College of Music auditorium, said faculty concerts also have a significant benefit for students.

"I think it's a key part of the training that I'm getting here. My degree is in performance, so if I never see my professor perform it kind of defeats the purpose," LePage said.

"We can sit in private lessons and he can talk to me about what it's like to perform all the time, but if I never see him do what he's telling me, how do I know that he knows what he's doing?"

LePage has observed that audience turnout largely depends on the professors performing. Newer professors tend to have a lower turnout, while more seasoned professors have a greater draw. He too observed the West Circle Series garner more interest than the average faculty concert.

"This is way more people than usually come to a faculty concert," he said.

The boom may have come just in time. Now more than ever, the College of Music is relying on its own fundraising to fuel the operations budget after funding decreased by about 10 percent over the last two years, Forger said. Operations budget funds are vital because they are the life blood of the college's regular activities, including small-scale purchases to hefty Wharton Center rental fees, which can rack up to $100,000 a year.

Despite fundraising concerns, the college strives to keep ticket prices at a reasonable level to make the concerts accessible and encourage return. This includes free admission for all MSU students. The characteristics of chamber music, specifically its small number of instruments, call for a small setting. While its charm can be lost in larger venues, music professors say the college can provide the ideal experience for students interested in this type of classical music.

"When you go into the audience here, you're right there. If you go to a big hall like the Wharton center, you're very far away," Moriarty said, comparing it to the difference between watching an MSU hockey game on television and seeing it live at Munn Ice Arena.

"You go to Munn and it's like 'Wow, I want to be here. I want to see another one,'" she said. "Chamber music is a little like that in this kind of a setting. You have a feeling of immediacy and being part of the performance."

TYPE kritika bharadwaj/PHOTO anthony thibodeau/DESIGN betsy eber

college of natural science

MSU Technologies hosts first annual celebration to reward research and discovery

Usually known to host themed-galas, dances and banquets, the MSU Union Ballroom has seldom experienced an event the likes of the Spartan Innovation Celebration. On Mar. 15, the occasion highlighted cutting-edge innovations by MSU faculty and students.

Since it was launched in 2007, MSU Technologies, a licensing business unit, has encouraged research, discovery and entrepreneurship by commercializing and protecting intellectual property created on campus.

"The real purpose of this event is to celebrate the inventors, and let people see their inventions and maybe help them get interested in technology," MSU Technologies commercialization manager Randy Ramharack said.

Eleven lead researchers, including faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, presented their work on topics such as Michigan-grown beans and oil genetically derived from plants. One such researcher and biosystems engineering professor, Evangelyn Alocilja created Nano-BEAMs and Biosensors, which assist in detection of infectious diseases. The technology will aid researchers in areas such as drug screening and food and water safety. Alocilja said the event provided exposure for innovators and an opportunity for businesses to commercialize.

In the past four years of MSU Technologies' operation, 400 invention disclosures have been filed. Out of the researchers selected, professor Alvin Smucker's booth was constantly crowded with possible investors. Along with his research team, Smucker is responsible for a type of subsurface water retention technology that involves trapping irrigation and rain water through barriers installed in the soil. The invention, as Smucker said, allows farmers to produce more crops with less water.

However, Smucker remarked that he had experienced unusual complications during his research.

"The research for this has actually been going on since the '60s when I was a graduate student here," he said, noting that research techniques used in the past were easy yet expensive. "What motivated me to return to this study is that until we found an economic way to do this, we wouldn't be able to achieve our goal."

Jim Hancock, professor for the Department of Horticulture, agrees. Hancock, who spent 20 years breeding different varieties of blueberries, claims the innovation has improved the economic situation for many local farmers.

"These varieties are actually already available in the market. Most blueberry farming is family-owned around Michigan. With adequate funding, it will be a win-win situation [for researchers and the community]."

As the event came to a close, University President Lou Anna K. Simon encouraged those present.

"It's the power of ideas that can make a difference. It is important where the next great idea comes from. Michigan could be that place."

In relation to Simon's words, it may be ideas like those of MSU's innovative researchers that will improve Michigan's current, unstable economic situation.



Greg Buck listens to Ramakrishna Mukkamala describe his cardiac monitoring software. Mukkamala's innovation aimed to have a less-invasive method of monitoring heart performance.

TYPE jacob kanclerz/PHOTO audrey aquino/DESIGN betsy eber



Mary Mundt, the dean of the College of Nursing, displays the plans for the new Bott Building. The three story, 25,000 square foot addition will take 18 months to built, although it hasn't been started.



A sign marks where the new Life Sciences extension will be built. With the construction of the new building, Mundt envisions a permanent home for the College of Nursing.

college of nursing

MSU's College of Nursing looks forward to new building, expanded program

Scattered between the Life Sciences A Building, West Fee Hall and the first floor of the Olin Health Center, such has been the College of Nursing's unfortunate lot for years. However, it looks like the college is finally set to unite under one roof, thanks to the construction of the new Bott Building for Nursing Education and Research.

The $17.5 million project is funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), private fundraising and donations. The largest contribution was courtesy of Timothy and Bernadette Marquez, whose $7 million donation granted them the naming rights to the building, which is christened after Bernadette's parents.

Increased enrollment has caused the College of Nursing to expand over the past five years. The institution has tried to respond to the national shortage of nurses by increasing the number of students they accept each year and employing greater numbers of faculty. The dean of the college, Mary Mundt, argues that the building isn't just a response to the increased enrollment, but also a way to meet the current needs of the program.

"With health care reform, the need for nurses is huge," Mundt said. "The nursing shortage has gone on for quite a while now. It's related to the fact that a lot of people are in the post-war baby boom age and are going to be retiring from the work force, and they need to be replaced."

"The other reason is the population is aging pretty significantly, and there's more chronic illness, so the need for more nurses to serve that population is significant."

Built as an extension to the Life Sciences A Building, where the college is headquartered, the three-story, 50,000 square foot Bott Building will have classrooms and student support services on the first floor, with the upper two floors reserved for research and doctoral programs. The official groundbreaking was held on Sept. 24, and construction is expected to be completed by December 2011.

With the Bott extension, the college is hoping they can serve their increased enrollment better by creating new programs to match current trends in the nursing field. The accelerated second degree program, which allows students with a degree in another field to become a nurse through 14 months of clinical work, was one of the fastest-growing programs in the country, and was introduced at the college in 2005. The College of Nursing has also supplemented its programs by bumping up admissions at all educational levels, though increased enrollment doesn't necessarily mean that the college's academic standards have deteriorated.

"We've turned away between 200 and 300 qualified students from the clinical admission every year. There are about 600 pre-nursing students who want to be in the nursing program," Mundt said. "We're an accredited program nationally, so there are standards you have to meet to continue your accreditation."

The College of Nursing is currently ranked in the top 20 percent for masters programs nationally. Mundt, however, hopes to go even further. By increasing focus on research, she hopes to place the college into the list of top 20 nursing programs funded by the NIH. Several faculty members have already received grants for research in areas such as management of cancer symptoms and the possible genetic origins of Alzheimer's disease.

"Our goal is to be, nationally, the best that there is," Mundt said.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO hilary higgins/DESIGN betsy eber



Second year student Patrick Pavwoski was one of 31 osteopathic medicine students who organized and ran the games at Las Vegas Night. Gamblers kept the craps table busy all night.

college of osteopathic medicine

The College of Osteopathic Medicine brings Las Vegas to East Lansing

Asking an MSU student if they've been to Las Vegas usually elicits a mischievous grin or embarrassed chuckle, followed by a reluctant "yes" and an off-handed recap of the better parts of the night.

But despite that "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas," the College of Osteopathic Medicine's Student Government Association brought the glamour, gambling, and games of Sin City to East Lansing for their 17th annual Las Vegas Night on Jan. 15 at the Eagle Eye Golf Club.

There were, however, a few significant differences between the scaled-down event and the notorious City of Lights. For one, a part of the $20 entrance fee and the additional cash spent on gambling chips went to Special Days Camps, a summer and winter getaway in Muskegon, Mich. for children with cancer. Instead of freshly turned 21-year-olds or mischievous bachelors running amok, charitable students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the College of Osteopathic Medicine filled the room with good-natured spirits. And, of course, partying in the pyramid of the Luxor casino wasn't really an option.

"Oh, you know, I've just been there (Las Vegas) once, but this is more fun, I think. More calm," Sophia Johnson, a sophomore at the college, laughed.

The Hollywood-themed night began celebrity-style with a bright red carpet preceding the double-doored entryway to the Grand Garden Room at the club. Men in crisp black suits and girls in long, brightly-colored dresses and flashy high heels were greeted by twelve blackjack tables, a roulette stand, a craps table, a wheel of fortune and, of course, a bar to tempt the more fiscally conservative.

"All we kept saying is that it's going to charity, so it doesn't matter anyways," second-year student Evan Coyne said above the din of popular '80s music and random cheers from lucky gamblers, highlighting his not-so-successful attempt at blackjack with his friends.

In fact, about $5,000 out of the approximate $20,000 raised last year went to charity, Student Government Association's Faculty Advisor Beth Courey said, adding that with a greater turnout than last year, this year's donation was looking to top that. The rest of the money, according to Courey, would then be divided between the college's 31 student organizations depending on their degree of participation in helping set up the Las Vegas scene.

"We are privately funded, so this is huge," Special Days Camps Director Tammy Willis said. "Our budget is about $250,000 annually that we have to come up with, so nights like this really are the only things that let us keep doing camp."

According to Willis, the camp only charges $50-$75 per child, but the real cost of attendance for each child is approximately $250-$300. So, in a display of gratitude, she and a handful of other volunteers from the organization came out to celebrate the night, even offering to man the blackjack tables as dealers.

"A lot of us give up two weeks in the summer," Dearborn resident and camper-turned-volunteer Joey Klein said. "So doing an event like this, it's fun for us to get together, relax, have a good time, unwind, and still be able to donate to something that we love and cherish in all of our hearts."

TYPE rodneya ross/PHOTO natalie kolb/DESIGN betsy eber

residential college in the arts and humanities

RCAH students shine poetic light on the infamous "rape trail"

Scenic though it may be, the path behind Shaw Hall that runs alongside the Red Cedar River doesn't enjoy a good reputation among MSU students – a fact made apparent by its less-than-flattering moniker as the "rape trail".

Students from the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH), however, hoped to combat the trail's negative reputation by transforming it into a scene of beauty and contemplation through the power of poetry. On Wednesday, Sept. 8, RCAH students handed out pieces of chalk with poems wrapped around them to students walking along the "rape trail," and asked if they would be interested in writing the poem on the pavement.

Many students didn't take the offer and kept on going, though a few did join in. Sophomore Patrick McWilliams was one such student who stopped to create art with poetry and chalk.

"In high school I did a lot of art, so this kind of thing just always intrigues me," McWilliams said. "Poetry has always been something that's kind of important to me just because it can have such an impact with just a few words."

Another artistic volunteer, senior Kerry Hidlay, expressed enthusiasm at the chance to give the "rape trail" a face-lift.

"I always thought it was fun to do this - write out poems on the sidewalk and decorate it. It looks really nice for the community," she said.

The RCAH students collaborate with the Center for Poetry of East Lansing to put on this event twice a year. Although some of the students write poetry themselves, they decided not to display their own work at the Chalk Walk, preferring instead to pick excerpts from both their favorite poets and poets whom they felt made a difference in the world.

Sophomore Preethi Bandri saw a poster for the Chalk Walk and decided to stop by. Impressed by what she saw, she began writing out poems as well.

"I think it's really great that there are so many people here appreciating it, you know, putting it down in chalk," she said. "And it'll be here for a couple of days, or until it rains and people can just look at it and admire it. I'm excited to look through it."



Mark Phillips writes poetry out of his book for the Chalk Walk event. The event was to beautify the "rape trail."

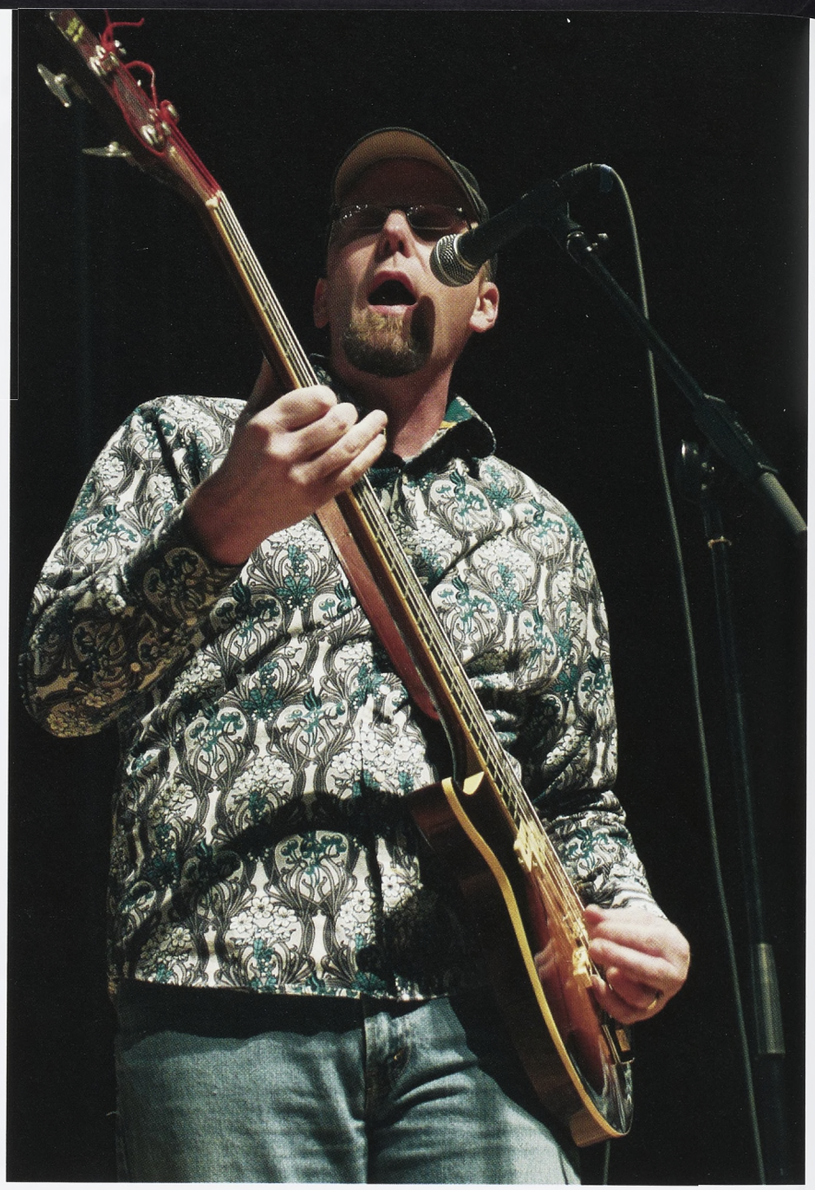


Sophomore Patrick McWilliams uses different colored pieces of chalk to write a piece of poetry. The Chalk Walk event was to help remove the negative connotation from the trail behind Shaw Hall.

A former faculty member of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Steve Sneed rocks out on bass guitar as a member of the band Fatal Plus. Fatal Plus has been together for 13 years.

Dr. Fred Dyer on the keyboard from the Department of Zoology and Tom Schmidt on the drums from the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics perform in the band Fatal Plus at MacDonald Middle School on Jan. 23. Dyer and Schmidt are part of the ten-piece band who deem themselves "animal rock".





college of veterinary medicine

Students and faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine come together for their annual talent show

Adorned in paisley button-ups with instruments in hand, animal rock band Fatal Plus took to the stage at the 2011 College of Veterinary Medicine's annual "Vet Rap" talent show on Jan. 23 at MacDonald Middle School.

Dr. Jon Patterson, a professor of pathobiology and diagnostic investigation, started the band in 1998 with former faculty member Dr. Jim Render, inventing a genre of music that he terms the "animal rock."

Patterson described his band as "a fun, parody kind of band," which modifies classic rock songs to veterinary medicine themes.

"It [the band] allowed the students to see a different side of us, rather than just the stodgy academics who are their teachers," Patterson said. "Jim was a drummer, and I was gutsy enough to try to sing, so then it was a matter of rounding up other musicians to join us."

Fatal Plus kicked off the event that night by performing four songs to a lively, toe-tapping audience: Lady Zenyatta (from The Beatles' Lady Madonna), Outbreak of Avian Flu (from Robert Palmer's Bad Case of Lovin' You) and We Are an Old Man Band (from Grand Funk Railroad's We're an American Band). They then wrapped things up with a number that Patterson deemed as the band's greatest hit - S. Neurona (an infection affecting horses), based off of The Knack's My Sharona.

Patterson said the band has also played two gigs at Potter Park Zoo as a fundraiser for the zoo's new veterinary hospital. Fatal Plus recorded a CD in 2006, with plans to record a second this summer.

Ten other acts took to the stage throughout the evening, including fourth-year grad student Jennifer Stokes, who sang an original piece about the train that runs on Service Road. Stokes called it her "inspiration to wake up earlier in the morning," and also performed a Jackson 5 medley on her violin.

Other acts included a clarinet solo from second-year grad student Erin Shaw, an improv comedy routine from second-year students Jeff Crafton and Vanessa Kane, as well as trumpet and ukelele solos from Joe and Reuben Stump, the two sons of the college's assistant dean, Sarah Abood.

Jim Crissman, an MSU alumnus from the class of 1977, also read an excerpt from his novel, Root Cause: The Story of a Food Fight Fugitive. The novel, Crissman said, highlights themes of "veterinarians, bikes, family, responsibility and where food comes from."

The College of Veterinary Medicine has been putting on "Vet Rap" for 22 years now, Patterson said. Fourth-year grad student Dana Sweeton explained that a couple of students come together from each class to plan the event every year. The event also features a baking contest where the faculty samples and judges tasty treats made by students themselves.

"It's just a fun event everyone can attend outside of school," second-year grad student Andrea Babischkin said. "I think this event definitely promotes the closeness of students and professors within the college."

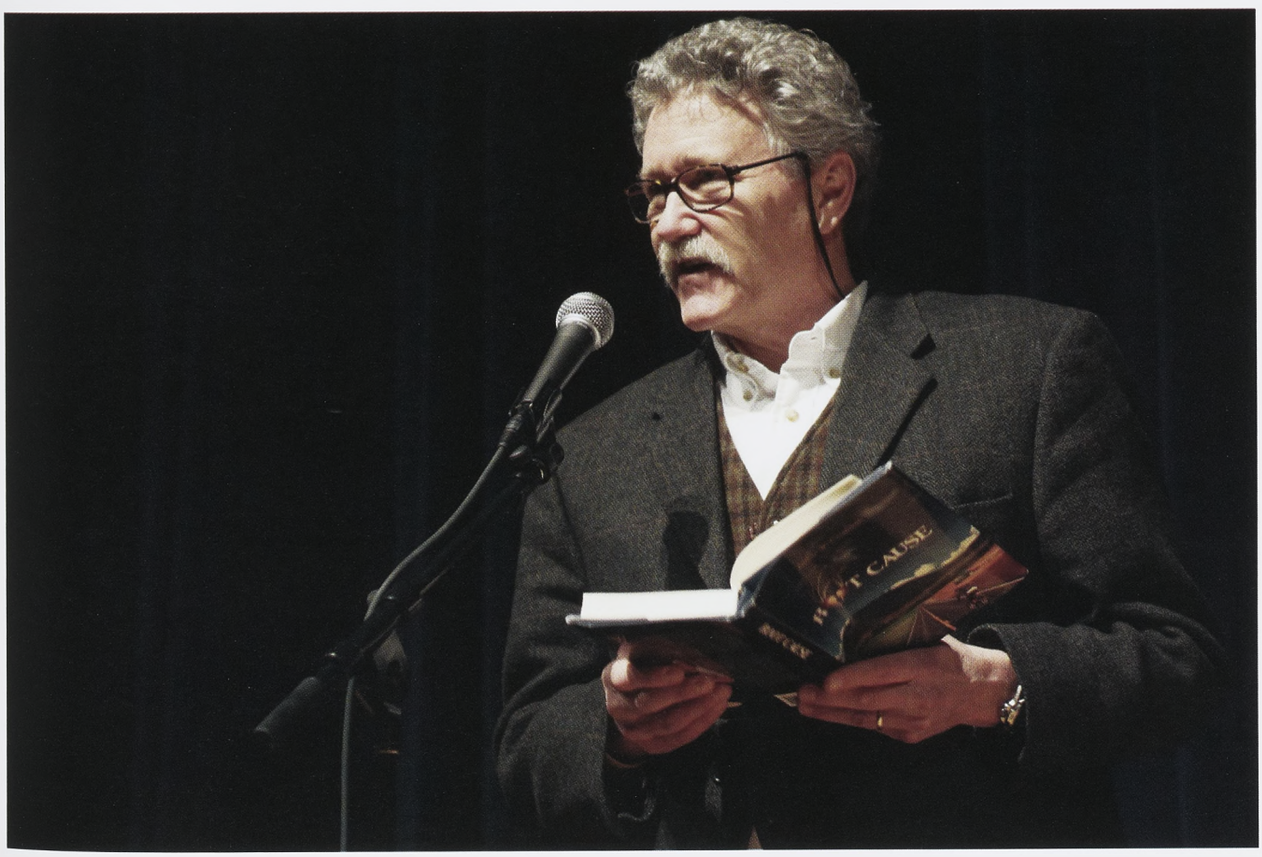
TYPE**jessica whitmill**/PHOTO**natalie kolb**/DESIGN**vicari vollmar**



Fourth-year College of Veterinary Medicine student Jennifer Stokes sings an original piece about her motivation to get up in the morning and go to class. Stokes has a released a CD in the past.

Tom Schmidt on the drums from the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics performs as a part of the band Fatal Plus. The band writes parodies of classic rock songs with veterinary medicine themes.





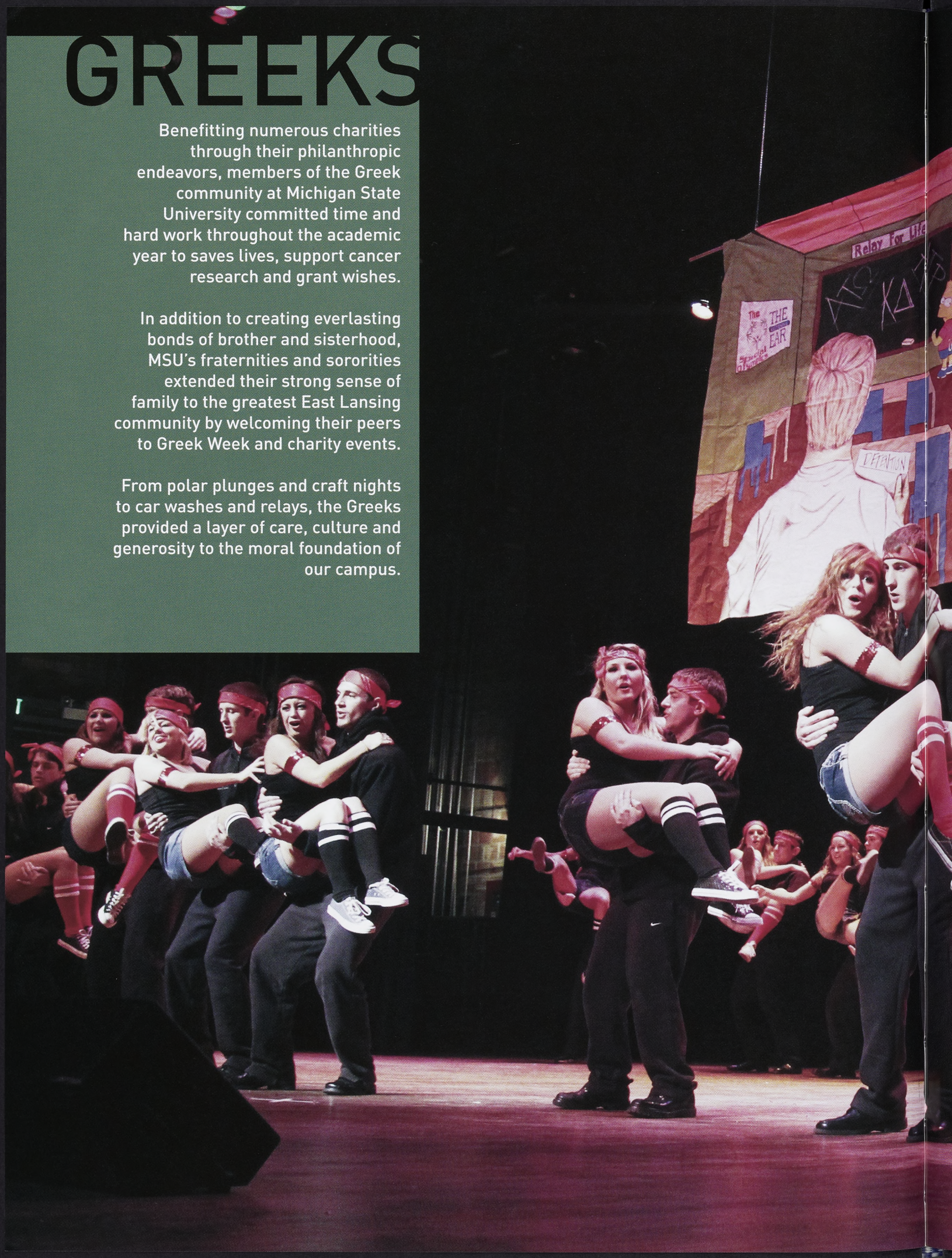
Jim Crissman, who graduated from MSU in 1977, reads an excerpt from his new book entitled "Root Cause: A Story of a Food Fight Fugitive." Crissman said the major themes in the book are veterinary medicine, bicycles, family and where food comes from.

GREEKS

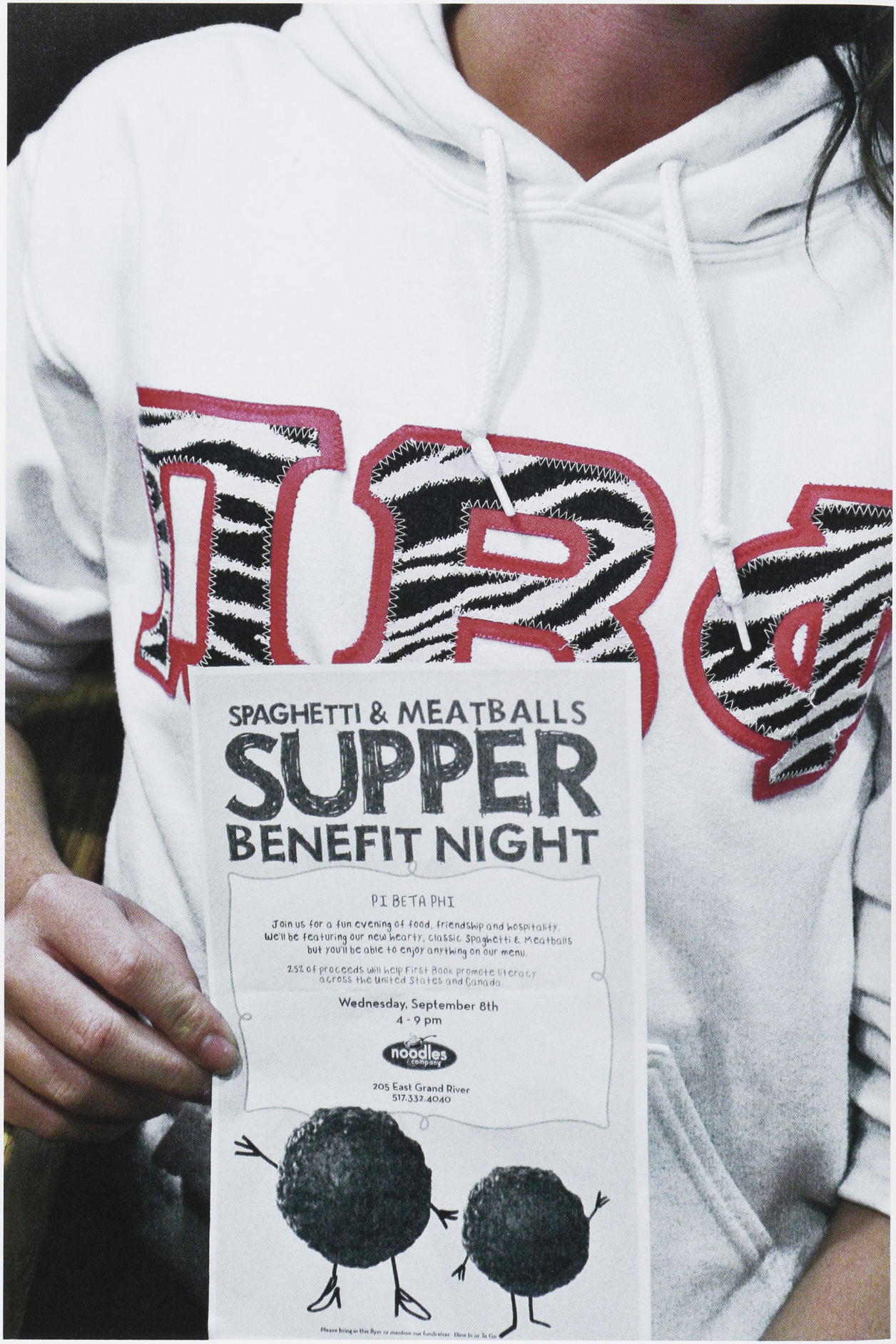
Benefitting numerous charities through their philanthropic endeavors, members of the Greek community at Michigan State University committed time and hard work throughout the academic year to saves lives, support cancer research and grant wishes.

In addition to creating everlasting bonds of brother and sisterhood, MSU's fraternities and sororities extended their strong sense of family to the greatest East Lansing community by welcoming their peers to Greek Week and charity events.

From polar plunges and craft nights to car washes and relays, the Greeks provided a layer of care, culture and generosity to the moral foundation of our campus.







Sophomore Kristen Lisicki holds Pi Beta Phi's fundraising flyer, allowing her to donate 25 percent of the cost of her meal to First Book. First Book is an organization that provides needy children in the United States and Canada with to books.

TYPE courtney zott/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN betsy eber

food, fun and a fundraiser

Pi Beta Phi supports literacy and children throughout the nation

Noodles and Company on Grand River Avenue was a lot more crowded than usual on Sept. 8, the day of the Pi Beta Phi sorority's fundraising event for First Book, an organization that provides needy children with new books.

The line to order stretched around into the dining area, while students sat packed around tables in their efforts to sit together. Noodles employees rushed to complete orders while customers waited anxiously for their food.

"We like to do these things because it brings in business and also helps out the community, so it benefits us both," said Noodles and Company manager Brett Yako.

As customers kept arriving, the girls of Pi Beta Phi handed out fliers to those interested in the cause. The fliers allowed for 25 percent of each customer's order to be donated to First Book.

"Our philanthropy is literacy, and First Book is an organization that gives children, literally, their first book," said Katie Vallentine, a junior and president of Pi Beta Phi. The sorority puts on other events to promote literacy and support the organization throughout the year, including a spaghetti dinner and a broomball tournament, she said.

"We do a lot of stuff with our philanthropy, and it's rewarding," said sophomore and member of Pi Beta Phi Kristen Lisicki.

According to First Book's website, the organization has donated more than 70 million books to programs for children in the United States and Canada over a span of 20 years. The girls of Pi Beta Phi have been a part of this contribution since 2006, Vallentine said.

Through their fundraising efforts just last year, the sorority was able to donate 720,000 brand new books to children in low-income families.

"It gives us the opportunity to do something a lot of people don't see as a big deal," said vice president and junior Tracie Whelan, who organized the logistics of the event. "A lot of people here don't realize that some kids don't even have books."

"I think what they're doing is awesome," said junior and Noodles and Company employee Steve Carnaghi. "I know when I was a kid I struggled with reading, so their philanthropy is a really great idea."



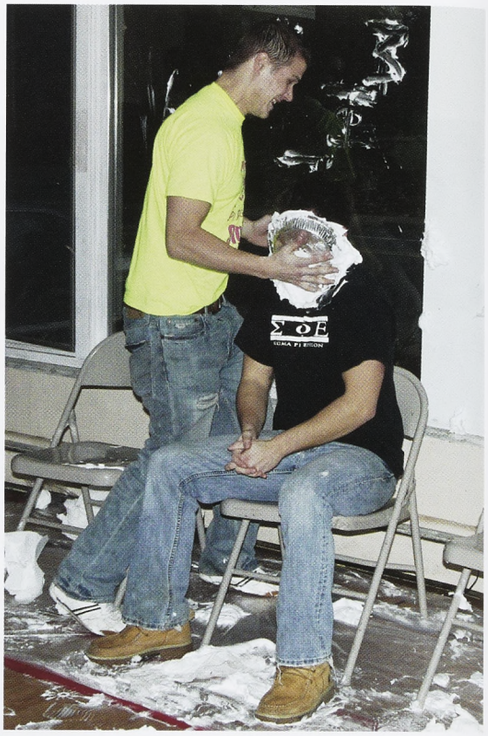
Noodles and Company was packed on the day of Pi Beta Phi's fundraiser. Girls from other sororities even came out to support the cause.

pi beta phi

David Zirstein takes a shot at Nick Dambro with a pie. About 10 Sigma Phi Elipson brothers volunteered to serve as targets for the fundraiser.

Freshmen Derek Wooster and Evan Brazen cover freshman Jeff Moore with shaving cream. The proceeds from the fundraiser benefited the Greater Lansing Food Bank.





Sophomore Ryan Behring slams junior Craig Jasinki with a Barbasol pie. The fundraiser used shaving cream as pie filling to avoid wasting food.



TYPE ian kullgren/PHOTO jennifer garavaglia/DESIGN saralee gordon



Christopher Sielaff regains his senses after being hit with his first pie. To maximize profit for charity, the greeks also sold event t-shirts.

Sigma Phi Elipson member Kyle Snarski, along with Pi Beta Phi sophomores Natasha Shah and Aubrey Owada share a laugh after being hit with pies. The greeks' partnership was the first year of what they hope to be a long-standing tradition.





phighting hunger

Sigma Phi Epsilon, Pi Beta Phi pair up with hopes to start an unusual tradition

The Sigma Phi Epsilon house on North Harrison Road is likely the only place in East Lansing—past, present or future—ever to serve Barbasol shaving cream pies. But on Nov. 21, the fraternity brothers had something besides dessert on their minds. In fact, they would have rather seen the unlikely filling put where it belonged.

"You can't feel the air around your face, you're afraid to open your eyes and you're afraid to breathe in deep," junior Kyle Snarski said, bits of white foam still clinging to his hair.

Snarski was one of about 10 SigEp brothers who volunteered to be a pie target at the first annual "SigEp/Pi Phi Pie Phight." The men joined forces with the Pi Beta Phi sorority sisters to sell shaving cream pies as a fundraiser for the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

Once purchased at a price of $3 for one or $5 for two, the pie's fate was in the hands of the buyer. He or she could choose to deface a victim among the lineup of SigEp volunteers or request a specific target from either house. Some buyers, especially the more timid Pi Phi sisters, were gentle in their delivery. Others were relentless, wielding the dish with as much force as a tennis racket.

"It feels awful, [but] I'm just glad to help out," Snarski said.

After the first hour, the living room's weathered wooden floor was slick with shaving cream and the grand picture window behind the lineup of chairs, which seemed comparable to a shooting gallery, was smeared with white streaks. As the mess grew, the pile of aluminum pie trays and original red and green shaving cream cans slowly shrank.

"The soothing Aloe is awful. It burns so much more," said junior Michael Moore, the head of SigEp's public relations and philanthropy.

Despite its unkempt aesthetics, the fundraiser was the start of a new, somewhat experimental, approach for Greek community donation. While other houses typically go solo on philanthropy projects, SigEp and Pi Phi hope that by banding together, they will increase enthusiasm among a wider base of students.

Moore said his fraternity is the only one on campus without a consistent annual charity fundraiser.

"Our house used to do things, but never anything that stuck," he said. "This is something I want to make sure happens yearly from now on." Moore also hopes that a co-sponsorship will help the two houses to motivate each other in continuing the event.

Junior Tracie Whelan, Pi Phi's vice president of philanthropy, said the new format will likely be a recipe for longevity, making it easier to increase awareness and student support. In her experience, the key to success for philanthropy events is a network of good publicity in the Greek community and getting the word out to on-campus clubs.

"We both draw from different groups sometimes, so hopefully it [student turnout] will be larger overall," she said, adding that Pi Phi hosts a broomball tournament every spring and a spaghetti dinner each semester to benefit First Book, a charity that promotes child literacy.

In jumpstarting the new tradition, Moore came up with the solution of using shaving cream instead of real pies to solve an obvious paradox that existed in the original plan—wasting food in order to fight hunger.

sigma phi epsilon

alpha omicron pi

Junior Britteny Bratschi paints a frame that will showcase her self-confidence. AOPi held the event in order to spread awareness about positive body image both to sisters and to those around campus.

TYPE jessica whitmill/PHOTO veronica nagy/DESIGN jessica halfyard



Freshman Shermany Hickman chooses which color to paint her picture frame. The frames were filled with sentimental photos and inspirational quotes.



The sisters of AOPi discuss how they should decorate their frames. Different inspirational quotes were chosen and designed with stickers and paint.

a picture is worth a thousand words

Students come together for Be Spartan Confident Week

As snow piled onto windshields and covered the streets of East Lansing in a thin, white blanket, warmth radiated from the Alpha Omicron Pi house.

On Dec. 1, old issues of The State News splotched with patches of pink, blue, green and red covered oblong tables. A trail of giggles crept upstairs as girls gathered in the basement to discuss issues of body image and paint picture frames as part of Be Spartan Confident Week, put on by the ladies of AOPi.

"Basically the picture frame idea stems from the idea that whenever you're having a bad day, you can look at the picture inside the frame and see the inspirational quote or drawing you painted on the frame, and then it might not seem so bad," sophomore and AOPi president Samantha Kray said.

Junior and co-vice president of communications Becca Stolarsky said the main goal of Be Spartan Confident Week was "to bring everyone together and talk about issues of self-confidence."

"When you stand next to someone it's human nature to compare yourself to them, and I think a lot of girls have a skewed perception of what they're 'supposed' to look like," she said.

Be Spartan Confident Week began on Nov. 29 when AOPi put inspirational quotes around campus. On Wednesday, girls gathered at the house for discussion, and on Friday AOPi topped the week off by painting the message "Be Spartan Confident" on The Rock.

"We didn't expect it to blow up like it did," AOPi co-vice president of communications and junior Sam Artley said about Be Spartan Confident Week. According to Artley, AOPi chapters from all across the Midwest have contacted them in hopes of doing a similar thing at their respective universities.

Junior Meghan Kanya heard about the Wednesday night workshop through her roommate and decided to attend after taking classes in psychology on body image.

"I wish more girls would realize they're fine just the way they are, because that's how they were made," she said.

Fall semester marked the first Be Spartan Confident Week at MSU, but AOPi hopes to continue the event for years to come.

Artley said the sorority wants to expand the week in the future by adding guest speakers and getting involved with other organizations like Respecting and Understanding Body Image (RUBI) at MSU, not only to provide support but also to show students outside the Greek community what AOPi values.

"There's a certain stigma that comes with being in a sorority," she said. "People that don't know us assume we're just like every other sorority. They make image seem important. People look at me and are surprised to find out I'm actually in a sorority."

Kray agreed.

"When people think sororities, they think about looks and social interactions with frats," she said, "but it's so much more than that."

TYPEadelina schmidt/PHOTOveronica nagy/DESIGNbrendan prost



Freshmen John Creed and Alec Rademacher fill up on appetizers before the pizza finale. The Rush Week dinner was held at Old Chicago where new and old members of Triangle Fraternity came together in celebration.

After numerous rounds of appetizers and drinks, going through second, third and possibly fourth helpings, the men of Triangle were pleased with their Rush Week dinner. Members also participated in a small get-together at the house afterwards.





Tailing the end of the back rub line, sophomore Conrad Bartke gives freshman Nicholas Burt a massage while freshman Bradford Wallis watches in appreciation. Dining at Old Chicago has been a Rush Week tradition for the men of Triangle.

a complete 180°

Becoming a brother of Triangle Fraternity

triangle



The full banquet hall filled the night with laughter and aromas. There were three packed tables, occupied by hungry members of Triangle and their dates.

Frat: a word that's inextricably linked to stereotypical crowds of binge-drinking college "bros" who pop their collars, gel their hair, and major in checking out sorority girls. It's not a particularly friendly image and that's exactly why at Triangle Fraternity, the term "frat" is more than frowned upon— it's shunned.

"We prefer using the full word: fraternity," junior Calvin Tomaschko, president of the Triangle Fraternity, said. He added that Triangle goes beyond the "frat" image to promote "leadership, brotherhood, and a place that you can call home."

The house, which serves as a center for all of Triangle's operations, stands on the corner of North Harrison Road and Oak Street. Parties, philanthropy, tutoring, meetings: it all happens there, Rush Week included. The fraternity, however, puts its own spin on attracting potential pledges by establishing an extremely casual Rush Week atmosphere.

"The word 'rush' isn't really recognized here," Tomaschko said. "Relaxed, un-awkward, social hangout is what we like to call it."

Triangle likes to keep "rushes" comfortable by creating a no-stress, hazing-free environment so that brothers and rushes can get to know one another and form friendships naturally. Rather than lecturing the rush class on reasons to join the fraternity, brothers joined them in games of poker, euchre and Call of Duty.

Though Rush Week involved plenty of fun and games, the fraternity also worked hard to impart the importance of academics to the spring rush class. To keep Rush Week from getting in the way of studying, active brothers offered tutoring in math and science courses every weeknight, a major draw to the engineering, architecture and science students to whom the Triangle Fraternity caters. The tutoring served a dual purpose, encouraging the rush class to bond with brothers while working through an endless pile of assignments.

"It's not all about having fun; it's about getting work done," freshman and fraternity brother Brad Wallis said. "The fraternity comes second and school comes first because even though the fraternity helps with networking, if you don't have the grades, you can't get the job that you want."

Preparing brothers for a successful future is one of the fraternity's main objectives, as Triangle pushes both brothers and rush recruits to develop themselves into well-balanced men. These expectations rest heavily on the shoulders of the rush class at the end of the week, as they receive and accept their bids to become full-fledged Triangle pledges. All brothers are expected to manage their time efficiently while conducting themselves with respect in an effort to uphold the Triangle brotherhood and its code of ethics.

"We're looking for someone that is constantly working on themselves, not only in school, but socially, within the community, and professionally," junior Jake Hoppert, pledge educator of Triangle, said.

To give brothers the opportunity to become more active in the community, the fraternity works with non-profit organizations like Habitat for Humanity. Within the house, senior brothers also try to teach young pledges more practical life skills such as cooking and housework.

"A lot of guys don't know this kind of stuff when they come to college, so every Sunday we spend an hour cleaning the house and then we eat together as a fraternity," sophomore Conrad Bartke, a member of the spring rush class, said.

"The meal is prepared by our house caterer, Chops [Robert Vogt], who picks a few of us pledges to go shopping with him and then cook the meal. It's a great way for pledges to interact with brothers and learn at the same time."

In the end, learning is what drives the men of Triangle. Brothers join to learn, not just academically, but also about each other and themselves.



Sophomore Angela Calcaterra and freshmen Sydney DeLosh and Alysse Calcaterra make the leap into the pond at the Lansing Polar Plunge. The ladies represented Kappa Delta in their efforts to raise money and take the plunge into the cold waters.

a plunge to raise funds

MSU, Lansing community unite to raise money for the Michigan Special Olympics in Greek Week kick-off event

Fred and Wilma Flintstone, Inspector Gadget and 400 others took a daring plunge into freezing waters on Feb. 27. A bone-chilling water temperature of 34 degrees didn't stop the characters from raising $70,000 for the Michigan Special Olympics.

At the seventh annual Lansing Polar Plunge at Eagle Eye Golf Club, courageous participants formed teams of three-to-four and were encouraged to wear costumes to make the event "more festive, fun and add a whole new quirk," Anne Goudie, Lansing Area Director of Special Olympics, said.

Each member was required to raise $50 by collecting pledges to qualify for the event. Teams included groups from local businesses and organizations like Harper's Restaurant and Brewpub, Woody's Oasis, Lansing Police, MSU Greeks and groups of friends.

Together, teams took the plunge into the pond, holding hands, clenching fists, grinding teeth.

"As soon as I jumped in my body just jolted," Kathleen Loftus, junior and vice president of external relations of the Panhellenic Council, said. "I felt like I was convulsing, but it was actually really fun to feel that adrenaline rush. It's like nothing else."

Plungers were only in the water for a few moments, and the police department's dive team was in the water with the jumpers. The East Lansing Fire Department and paramedics were also on site.

This year, MSU Greeks got their first icy taste of the Lansing Polar Plunge as a kick-off event for Greek Week 2011.

"I had never done anything like this before," said Patrick Hunt, senior and vice president of external relations of the Interfraternity Council. "Knowing I could do something to raise money personally and participate in myself was great. I was so happy to be a part of that."

MSU's Greek sororities and fraternities formed 13 groups, each with one large fraternity, one small fraternity and one sorority. One person from each house was required to attend the Lansing Polar Plunge.

Matt Roberts, a senior in FarmHouse, was dressed as an iPhone with stiff, black cardboard hanging from his neck down to his knees. He said he was happy to take the plunge.

"Sometimes people think that people with challenges can't participate in athletic activities, but that's not true," Roberts said. "Special Olympics provides a recreational outlet for them."

Goudie said MSU students volunteer for the Special Olympics rather often, acting as referees and scorekeepers. The group held a basketball tournament in February and organized hockey and cross country tournaments on campus.

"We're active in and around the MSU community. We're pretty visible on campus and I think that's why we've gotten such great support," Goudie said.

The Special Olympics offers year-round athletic training and competition to 19,000 athletes in the state, in addition to 400 local competitions, regional events and eight state-level competitions, said Kimberly Purdy, public relations director of Special Olympics Michigan.

The Lansing Polar Plunge is only one of 24 Polar Plunge events across the state.

"The more participants we have for an event like the Polar Plunge, the more money we raise to fund our programs," Purdy said. "It also helps raise awareness and gives the Greeks an opportunity to get involved."

Hunt said he hopes the Lansing Polar Plunge becomes a tradition the Greek community can carry on.

"It's great to see that students, parents, people from the community and even senators could come together



The crowd anxiously awaits the next group to plummet into the water during the Lansing Polar Plunge at the Eagle Eye Golf Club. This year marked the Polar Plunge's seventh year raising money for the Michigan Special Olympics.

TYPEjessica whitmill/PHOTOanthony thibodeau/DESIGNjessica halfyard







Senator Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) takes the plunge into freezing water at the Lansing Polar Plunge. Polar Plunge members raised $70,000 for the Michigan Special Olympics.

Sophomore Hayden Jackson and junior Ashley Estrada pose for the picture being taken by Jackson as they leap into the water. Jackson and Estrada work for Buffalo Wild Wings in East Lansing, which raised $750 for the Lansing Polar Plunge.

turning up the volume

Delta Gamma hosts annual Anchor Slam to benefit phoilanthropy for the blind

Unfamiliar reverberations of a distant bass interrupted the typical Sunday morning calm of IM West on Mar. 27.

Clearly emanating from a stereo, the thuds became louder upon each stride up the staircase while a rhythmic hip-hop tune pierced through the din. Just down the second floor hallway, the curious racket invading gym rats' normally tranquil weekend habitat could be discovered.

Dotting the complex's basketball courts, mismatched groups of men and women in sneakers and basketball shorts geared up for Delta Gamma's annual Anchor Slam tournament to the deafening pulse of the month's latest songs.

"It's a little loud in here," sophomore Kelsey McCabe, the sorority's president, laughed, moving out into the hallway so she could be heard.

With a countdown of three, two, one, the battle for the grand prize began. Two losses and your chance for a pair of Pistons tickets went out the door.

Each year, the Delta Gamma sisters, along with all of their other chapters around the United States, host an Anchor Splash pool competition and the 3-on-3 Anchor Slam tournament to raise funds for their philanthropic cause, Service for Sight. This tradition goes all the way back to the founding of the sorority's MSU chapter in 1942, McCabe said.

"It's amazing that all of our chapters everywhere contribute to one thing, and it's such a big impact because so many of us are doing the same thing," she said. "A little money really goes a long way with so many people."

Service for Sight is a grant delegated through the Delta Gamma Foundation to various organizations that aid the blind and visually impaired. Over the years, the sorority has been able to use funds from the grant to build five sight research centers in the United States. Delta Gamma also makes contributions to other organizations that assist blind people in going to school or provide scholarships for summer camps, among other things.

Exuberantly praising the tournament's turnout as sweaty players shuffled by to the drinking fountain, McCabe added that the fees paid by the 24 teams would be specifically donated this year to a fund supporting blind children.

"I actually really love this event because my aunt is blind," junior Anne Billington said between games. "So I'm a big supporter of Delta Gamma's philanthropy."

In fact, many of the men and women came out just to be able to contribute to what they believed to be a noble goal.

"Nah, we probably won't win it all. I'm a little out of shape," East Lansing resident Andrew Berkobien quipped, his cheeks a rosy red. "We just came out to support the cause."

As the beat of the music continued to underline the balance between competition and fun, even the most aggressive of teams were caught up in the altruistic nature of the tournament. Winning and losing were merely two side notes that the ego could deal with later.



Teams PKS Hoop Dreams and Fab Four faced off at the Delta Gamma 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Over 20 teams participated in the event, raising money for Service for Sight.



Senior Brent Desarmo dribbles the ball away from the net after grabbing the rebound. He and others gathered at IM West for the 2011 Anchor Slam.

TYPEcourtney zott/PHOTOcassie allore/DESIGNbetsy eber





A team waits to play in the tournament after winning their first game. The event raised money for the Delta Gamma sorority's charity, Service for Sight.

delta gamma

"DJ Amir" Abdullah and seniors Jessica Allen and Jasmine Hamilton-Wray discuss the playlist for the Multicultural Xtravaganza in the Union Ballroom. The event was put on to pay homage to all different cultures.



Folkloric Mexican dancer Trinidad Lopez smiles as she entertains the audience with her traditional dance moves. Lopez is garnered with a costume to represent Veracruz, a region of Mexico.



defining radiance

Zeta Sigma Chi celebrates its commitment to multiculturalism and its influence at MSU

Four ladies lined the stage, clad in their official sorority colors of black and peach with house Greek letters across their fronts. During their elaborate step-and-stroll routine, they belt out different chants: "We rock the peach and black!" and "We are Zeta Sigma Chi!" The crowd responded with a piercing screech characteristic of the sorority call.

Why the deliberate display of swagger? For Zeta Sigma Chi, pride is nothing new. They were celebrating their 15th year on campus as the Delta chapter, which was the first multicultural sorority at MSU in 1996. The organization wrapped up their week-long founders' celebration with their 11th annual Multicultural Xtravaganza, the sorority's showcase event, at the MSU Union Ballroom on Apr. 2.

While there are other cultural events at MSU, most have a fixed genre, such as Latin Xplosion and Brown Pride (both of which, coincidentally, are events Zeta Sigma Chi already participates in). The Multicultural Xtravaganza, on the other hand, attempts to mix all genres and ethnicities together, much like the very theme of the sorority itself.

"It's an organization that brings women together of all diverse backgrounds, cultures, nationalities. We accept everyone for who they are," senior Dantya Jennings, president of the Delta chapter, said.

Aida Cuadrado, a Zeta Sigma Chi alumna who was helping with the show, said there are over 81 ethnicities in the organization, including Chaldeans, whites, blacks, Asians, Latinos and Africans.

The Xtravaganza boasted a wide variety of acts. A performer by the name of Kurioto beat boxed. The Ella Campbell Quartet, complete with singer, saxophone, stand-up bass and drums, delivered some smooth jazz jams. There were slam poets, rappers and hip-hop dancers as well, some of them from the University of Michigan Epsilon chapter of Zeta Sigma Chi and Western Michigan University.

"They bring a lot of people together, which is what I'm trying to do with my poetry," senior slam poet Ralph Paulk said of the show. "Fraternities and sororities usually create strong bonding, but they [Zeta Sigma Chi] create strong bonding with people from different backgrounds. That's a great thing."

Zeta Sigma Chi's strong sisterhood attracts a lot of alumnae back to help out with the sorority. In addition to Cuadrado, three of the four founding members were in attendance for the Xtravaganza. When this reporter sought one for an interview, she quickly rounded up the other two to be interviewed together.

"This is really amazing and we're very proud," Rebecca Garcia, Dominica Rojas and Melissa Hernandez said about the Xtravaganza. "We're proud that we can bring together the best women of different ethnic backgrounds." The three women, plus absent founder Susie Hernandez, still remain close friends.

Zeta Sigma Chi has been a pioneer of sorts on campus. Senior Jasmine Hamilton-Wray said other multicultural Greek organizations have popped up since the Delta chapter started, including Sigma Lambda Gamma in 1998 and Delta Xi Phi in 2004. Jennings also proclaimed that the Multicultural Xtravaganza was the first of its kind in terms of cultural shows offered at MSU.

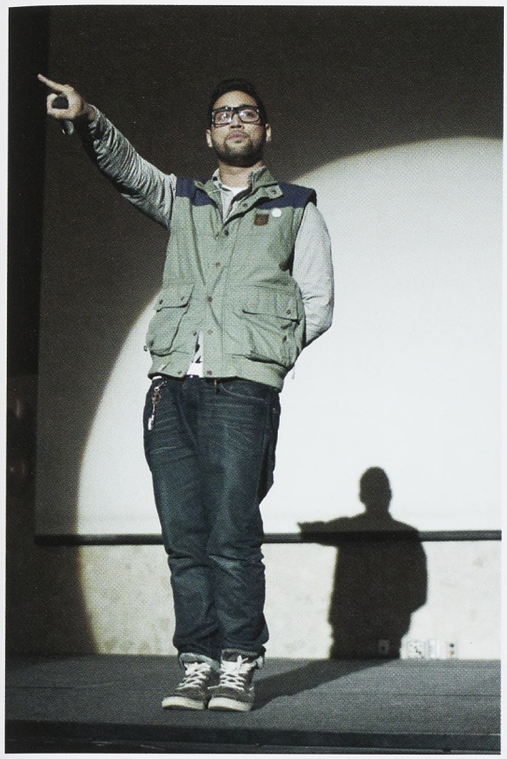
The women of the Delta chapter also lay claim to the moniker of "Radiant Ladiez" of Zeta Sigma Chi. The expression is a theme that many sororities create (Delta Tau Lambda refer to themselves as "The Phenomenal Women") and Delta's has become the national one, Cuadrado said.

"To be radiant means to hold your head high and walk proud," Jennings said. Given its 15 years of multicultural trendsetting, it's certainly not too hard for this sorority to do just that.



TYPEjacob kanclerz/PHOTOnatalie kolb/DESIGNsaralee gordon

zeta sigma chi



Wayne "The Amature" Weigel raps to the audience at the Multicultural Xtravaganza in the Union Ballroom on Apr. 2. Weigel served in the military for a year and now attends LCC as a sophomore.

Spartan Soul perform a hip hop and jazz routine at the 11th Annual Multicultural Xtravaganza, put on by the Zeta Sigma Chi Delta chapter. Zeta Sigma Chi's founding women were a part of the audience.





Hip Hop Connxion from Western Michigan University perform a choreographed dance routine to a medley of songs during the 11th Annual Multicultural Xtravaganza. Hip Hop Connxion is proud to be a professional dance troupe of different age, sex and color.



Junior Sully Hamad uses a sledgehammer as his tool of choice in the Delta Chi Car Smash. Participants chose different areas of the car to smash in order to make the most damage.

a destructive solution

Delta Chi fights cancer with hammers, bats and crowbars



Junior Alex Karana smashes the car with a ball and chain. Delta Chi fraternity provided different tools for participants to slam the car with during their fundraiser benefitting cancer research.

TYPEian kullgren/PHOTOvernoica nagy/DESIGNbrendan prost



Trying to remove the door, freshman Kevin Jickling smashes the car with a sledge hammer. No one was successful at removing the door.

Sophomore Allison Foell laughs at herself hitting the car while junior Amy Provost walks away from the vehicle after getting hit in the forehead from a piece of the car. A barrier was set up to secure the spectators safety.



Patience is a virtue. One that, at times, is hard to have—especially when there is car on your front lawn begging to be smashed.

The Delta Chi brothers certainly didn't have much on the first Saturday in April. Though the fraternity's "Delta Chi 'Smashes Cancer' Car Smash" officially started at 2 p.m., by that time there were fragments of taillights and bits of plastic interior littering the lawn and hundreds of dollars already in the till.

With just $1 and a signature on a liability waiver, participants were allowed to take a swing at the decrepit automobile, sometimes two if the brothers were feeling generous. Aside from a shiny Toyota emblem among the debris, the car's model and make was unidentifiable—University of Michigan colors had been painted over the its exterior, including a large Michigan "M" on the hood.

And that "M" was an ever-tempting target.

Even after the hood was beaten inside out, almost every new participant took at least one shot. Most used a sledgehammer, while others opted for a metal baseball bat or crowbar. Junior Alex Karana, one particularly fearless brother, swung at the hood with an eight-pound exercise ball attached to a chain.

Freshman Curtis Winter aimed for the most destruction, using the sledgehammer to dismantle the car's front bumper. Another freshman, Kevin Jickling, paid for a 10-second rampage, running around the car, hitting each side as many times as he could as the crowd counted down the seconds.

But there was one participant, a Delta Chi brother, who didn't have to monitor time or the number of swings. Freshman CJ Gaertner got unlimited hits throughout the day for donating $250 to the cause, which benefitted The V Foundation for Cancer Research. Two weeks prior, Gaertner's aunt passed away from colon cancer; the money was a birthday present she had given him just before.

"I felt it was right just to donate it all," he said.

Lately, the fraternity brothers as a whole have felt the effects of the disease they are trying to smash all too vividly—a brother in the house, sophomore Kyle Somenauer, was recently diagnosed with a form of lymph node cancer. Though Delta Chi has donated to cancer research in the past, this new hardship has illustrated the importance of the mission.

"That was a big motivator behind doing work for it," vice president of philanthropy Josh Bradford said.

In addition, most of the brothers shaved their heads in support as Somenauer receives chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Closer to the end of the spring semester, Delta Chi plans to hold a benefit dinner to help pay for his medical expenses.

"They've all been really supportive of it," Somenauer said. "It's been unbelievable, I couldn't even really explain the feeling."

With a buzz cut on his head and a sledgehammer in his hand, two people were likely in Gaertner's thoughts as he bashed open the exposed coolant tank, blue fluid emptying all over the lawn.

delta chi



one step toward the cure

Zeta Tau Alpha hosts annual 5k run

"Live. Run. Cure." The slogan, printed on white long-sleeved T-shirts, captured the motivation behind Zeta Tau Alpha's 4th annual "Think Pink!" 5k run/walk in support of breast cancer education and awareness.

5k participants received the shirts as a part of registration on Apr. 2, the day of the run.

Large ribbons and signs adorned The Rock, which served as the race's starting point. Tables, also decorated with pink tablecloths and balloons, were set up down by the Red Cedar River to accommodate supporters who weren't taking part in the run.

Runners and walkers took their mark at 2 p.m. Participants were instructed to follow a thick, white line painted on the sidewalk. The line led runners and walkers around campus, following the Red Cedar to the Brody Complex before turning back toward east campus and eventually ending at The Rock.

Unfortunately, there were two identical white lines leading around campus due to the MSU Medical School's 5k run, which coincided with the "Think Pink" 5k. The mixed paths caused confusion among some runners, though ZTA quickly remedied the problem.

"The path got kind of crazy, especially with runners from the other 5k, but it wasn't too bad to follow because ZTA's were out on the trail to guide you," senior Chelsea McDonald said. "And regardless, it was nice to walk around campus; I saw a lot that I don't usually get to see."

The opportunity to work out or take a leisurely stroll around campus was one draw, though many more came out in support of the sorority and breast cancer awareness.

"One of my friends in ZTA told me about the race, but I did it for the cause," freshman and first place finisher Jordan Clevey said. "Ã few

TYPEadelina schmidt/PHOTOanthony thibodeau/DESIGNbetsy eber



Freshman Julie Comilla and junior Heather Nykamp hold the finish line for freshman Jordan Clevey. Clevey finished first in the 5k despite the course counfusions due to a simultaneous 5k race held on campus.





Zeta Tau Alpha sorority promoted their event by decorating The Rock in pink cancer ribbons and vibrant paint. Proceeds from the 5K race were donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Runners from the Zeta Tau Alpha "Think Pink!" 5k finish the race and return to the common area. Bottled water, bananas, apples, yogurt and granola bars were provided to the event attendees and participants.

of my close friends' parents have had cancer. My friend's dad actually had to go through a 17-hour surgery to have it [a tumor] removed, so I wanted to come out and support."

The run also brought ZTA alumna Terri Roberts to campus in support of breast cancer education and prevention.

"I walked as a ZTA alum. I graduated from the University of Central Florida, so I'm a little out of state, but…we [ZTA] have a long history of supporting the Susan G. Komen Foundation and breast cancer awareness, and I do what I can," Roberts said.

Beyond the sorority's historic donations of time and effort to the foundation, senior ZTA sister Kara Brockhaus had a more personal tie to breast cancer.

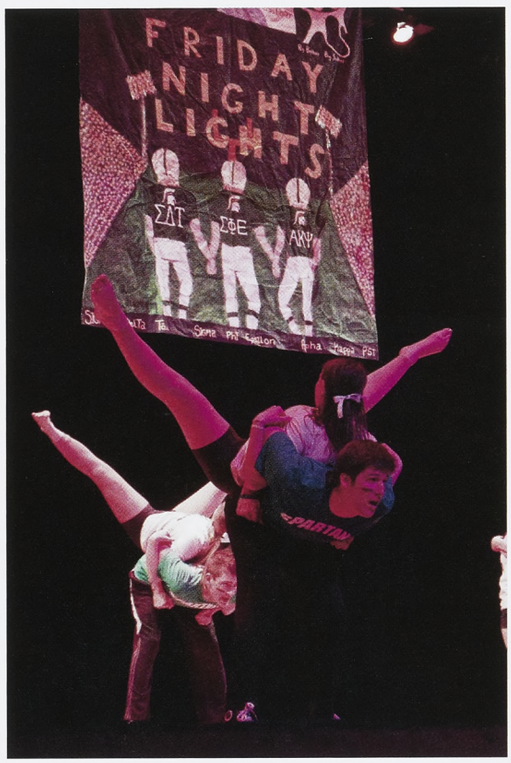
"My mom is a breast cancer survivor so that's why I walked. It's a great cause; I'm graduating next year but I'll still come back and walk," she said. "Last year we [Brockhaus and fellow ZTA senior Mary Dosch] did the Greater Lansing Race for the Cure and it was so moving. You're meeting total strangers and they're telling you their life stories."

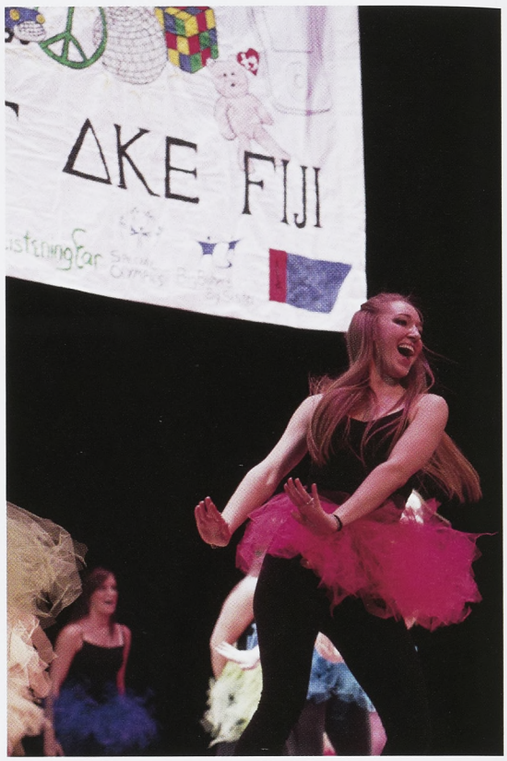
Though the cause was serious, ZTA sisters did their best to keep participants light-hearted and motivated throughout the race. Sisters cheered along the trail, encouraging runners and walkers with shouts and pink ribbon-shaped hand clappers. ZTA members also distributed snacks and water bottles to runners as they crossed the finish line, devoting an entire table to bagels, apples, bananas and granola bars for all supporters.

As the last walkers crossed the finish line and ZTA sisters began to clean up decorations, the event came to a close, but ZTA's efforts did not. The sorority plans to continue raising money and awareness about breast cancer by participating in other 5k runs as well as the Yoplait Save Lids to Save Lives campaign.

zeta tau alpha

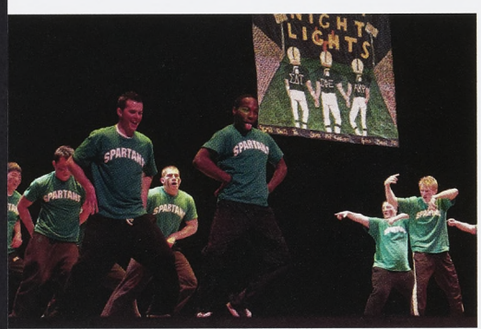
The ladies of Delta Gamma, Fiji, and Delta Kappa Epsilon perform "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" as part of a journey through the decades. The theme of MSU Greek Week 2011 was Back to High School.





Students of Sigma Delta Tau, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Alpha Kappa Psi collaborated for a high school football-themed performance. As one of numerous fundraising events held throughout the week, Songfest raised money for organizations such as The American Cancer Society, Big Brother, Big Sister, Listening Ear, and MSU Safe Place.

Members of Sigma Delta Tau, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Alpha Kappa Psi joined forces to perform a football-themed dance routine. Songfest raised money for several sorority and fraternity sponsored charities.



the last dance

Greeks come together for final Greek Week event

The Sunday afternoon felt like a Saturday night inside the auditorium April 17 as Greeks took the stage for Songfest.

The event featured 13 performances from different teams, with two fraternities and one sorority represented in each group. Songfest marked the end of Greek Week 2011, in which numerous events were held to benefit the American Cancer Society; Big Brother, Big Sister; MSU Safe Place and Listening Ear.

Backstage, teams were practicing routines and chanting the names of their fraternities and sororities loud and clear. It was impossible to avoid bumping shoulders with other students and the general public as they flooded the auditorium lobby.

Before the first team took the stage, the audience lit up with green glowsticks around their necks, red ones in hand, as the lights in the auditorium dimmed.

Delta Gamma, Delta Kappa Epsilon and Phi Gamma Delta set off the show with a dance routine which they described as "an evolution of high school fads." Flips, synchronized movements, tutus and a piece to N*Sync's "Bye Bye Bye," left the audience dancing by their seats.

Twelve acts followed, each with their own theme. Delta Chi, Kappa Sigma and Kappa Kappa Gamma, for example, took to the stage in plaid shirts, shorts and short skirts to form "The Brat Pack," depicting the group of teen actors form the 1980s. They danced to music from Sixteen Candles and The Breakfast Club.

But none of this was easy work. Sophomore Nicole Gomez of Kappa Kappa Gamma said "The Brat Pack" started practicing their songfest routine in February.

"We aren't really talented dancers, but we had to practice a lot to make sure our moves were synchronized and entertaining," she said.

Though Gomez claimed she has no dancing talent, there wasn't a silent moment from the audience in the auditorium that afternoon as she and the rest of "The Brat Pack" strutted their stuff onstage.

"It was great to see the Greek community all in one place," sophomore and Delta Chi member Kyle Vellmure said. "Everyone was supportive and I had a lot of fun getting to know people in other fraternities and sororities."

Junior Colby Lievens of Alpha Gamma Rho said Songfest was the perfect event to bring Greek Week to a close.

"I really got to know so many people in the Greek community through this event," he said. "Instead of having a few representatives from your own fraternity or sorority participating in an event, everyone is involved."

Junior Jessica Salley of Zeta Tau Alpha said Songfest has become such a staple of Greek Week for this very reason.

"We always have a big turnout for this event," she said. "It's just fun. Everyone you know is up on stage singing and dancing. It's hard to not have a smile on your face."

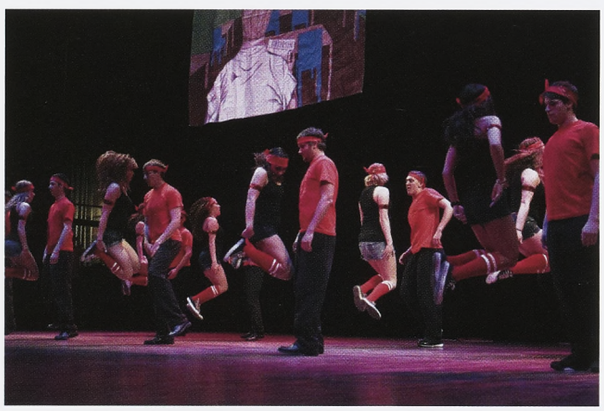
songfest

TYPEJessica whitmill/PHOTOhilary higgins/DESIGNJessica hatfyard



Members of Delta Gamma, Fiji and Delta Kappa Epsilon perform an 80s' inspired Bon Jovi song during Songfest. The overall theme of their performance was high school through the decades.

Members of Kappa Delta, Alpha Gamma Rho and Alpha Tau Omega presented a detention-inspired performance during Songfest. Songfest's high school theme reflected cliques, fads and cliches from teenhood.



Students of Alpha Phi, Delta Sigma Phi and Phi Kappa Psi take the audience back to high school with a Senior Skip Day performance. The winners of MSU Greek Week 2011 were Sigma Kappa, Lambda Chi Alpha and Pi Kappa Phi.



chi omega
fiji



Members of the Chi Omega sorority lure in a dirty Dodge Ram off Burcham Avenue during the Chi Omega-Fiji Carwash. Girls took turns assuming the shift of sign holders on this warm and sunny Thursday.



Spartans in Phi Gamma Delta and Chi Omega scrub the grill and headlights of a newly cleaned Dodge Ram. Cars, trucks, vans bikes and mopeds were cleaned at the Chi Omega house on Burcham Avenue.

wish upon a car

Chi Omega and Fiji host a car wash to benefit the Make-A-Wish foundation

Five-year-old Carlos had one wish. He wanted to go on a shopping spree to Toys 'R Us, riding there and back by way of limousine. Last year his wish was granted thanks to the contributions of the women of Chi Omega.

Chi Omega's national partner in philanthropy is the Make-A-Wish foundation, so the MSU chapter's fundraising efforts are geared toward raising money to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. Last year, the fundraising paid off as the sorority had garnered enough funds to make Carlos very happy for a day.

"He got picked up in a limo and was taken to Toys 'R Us, and just had a fabulous day," senior Megan Carter, former vice president and philanthropy chair for Chi Omega, said. "We got pictures with him and all of his purchases. It was just nice to see how, on a really personal level, our contributions made a difference in somebody's life."

With this success in mind, the sorority is working to grant another wish through various fundraising events. One of their latest efforts came in collaborating with the Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) fraternity to host a car and bike wash April 21, 2011, in the rear parking lot of the Chi Omega house. From noon to 5 p.m. the two Greek organizations washed vehicles of all sizes in exchange for donations for the Make-A-Wish foundation.

"The Fiji boys approached us and wanted to do a car wash, so we said 'Why not make it into our philanthropy event for the Make-A-Wish Foundation?'" sophomore Laura Donofrio, the co-philanthropy chair for Chi Omega, said.

The estimated cost of granting a wish is $5,000. A large portion of those funds come via organizing and hosting a large soccer tournament every year called the Karen King Kickoff, named in honor of a Chi Omega sister's friend who was murdered in 1997. It's an open tournament for people to put teams together to play for a giant trophy at Lansing's SoccerZone. All of the proceeds go toward the chapter's own personal wish fund through the Make-A-Wish foundation. Once they reach the amount, they're set up with a kid in need of a granted wish.

Chi Omega's relationship with the Make-A-Wish foundation has led to some special opportunities to reach out to those they help. Last year, they helped put on a holiday party for kids of the Make-A-Wish program, as well as for any parents or siblings who have or have had a child in the program before.

"We really enjoyed doing that because we got to meet the kids; we weren't just giving money," Carter said. "We got to face-paint and do crafts with them, and there was a band, and all the parents were there. It was really nice to meet these kids firsthand."

The men of Phi Gamma Delta are active on the philanthropy scene as well. They partner with the American Red Cross to organize and run a monthly blood drive on campus. Their big event is Hoops for Hunger, when they rent out IM Circle to host a basketball tournament similar to the Karen King Kickoff, with all proceeds donated to local food banks.

Phi Gamma Delta is relatively new on campus, revived in 2009 after a ten-year absence. The brothers said that doing cooperative events like the car wash not only helps get their name out in the community but also allows them to work with other Greeks towards similar philanthropic goals.

"It's for the betterment of Greek organizations to reach out," junior Cameron Dole said, vice president of Phi Gamma Delta. "The more we can do with other fraternities and sororities, the better."

As cars pulled in and out of the sorority, the car washers worked to B.o.B.'s tune "Airplanes," in which Paramore's Hayley Williams sings, "I could really use a wish right now." It was a fitting reminder for the women of Chi Omega to work towards finding their next Carlos, and give him a day he'll never forget.







Junior Cameron Dole and sophomore Sam Derian put the finishing touches on a freshly washed Buick. There was no set cost for this car wash, only donations were accepted in support of the Make-A-Wish foundation.

Sophomore Kinzer Jennings and sophomore Julia Grippe cruise out of the Make-A-Wish Carwash on a freshly cleaned moped. The combined Chi Omega and Phi Gamma Beta car wash lasted from noon until 5 p.m. in the evening on April 21.

jocks, nerds and rock n' roll

Fraternities and sororities take a trip back to high school during Greek Week

Senior and Kappa Sigma brother Scott Hudda has been playing the violin for 17 years. In high school, he kept at his talent in earnest, logging countless hours of practice as the Detroit Youth Philharmonic's precocious concertmaster.

Now, he's a packaging major, and playing the instrument is merely a creative release, a buffer against the monotonous drag of his schoolwork and other less artistic obligations.

Likewise, his concept of practicing has now reverted to the spontaneous, do-it-when-I-feel-like-it sessions characteristic of a casual musician. And so his gift chugs along largely underused during the year.

That is, of course, until Greek Week.

For one week in the spring, MSU's fraternities and sororities team up and compete against one another as a last philanthropic hurrah before the end of the year. This year, money was raised for Special Olympics; Big Brother, Big Sister; Safe Place, an organization dedicated to ending sexual and domestic violence; and Listening Ear, a 24-hour crisis center in Lansing.

But when it was once again time for the annual Battle of the Bands competition at the Auditorium on Friday, April 15, the Greek community's undercover guitarists, singers, dancers, drummers and musicians revealed themselves on stage, Hudda included.

"I love playing here because it gives me a reason to get back into music and just rock out with a bunch of other people," he said.

This year's theme was high school throughout the decades, and sure enough, the night was chock full of the clichés appointed to the teens of the 20th century.

There were jocks, nerds, punks, burnouts, cheerleaders, greasers and rebels performing under subthemes like detention and spring break. Each performance in turn felt like a live parody of "The Breakfast Club" or "Sixteen Candles" set to the tune of mom and dad's rock and roll.

With almost all 2,600 of MSU's Greeks in attendance, the roar of the Auditorium was deafening.

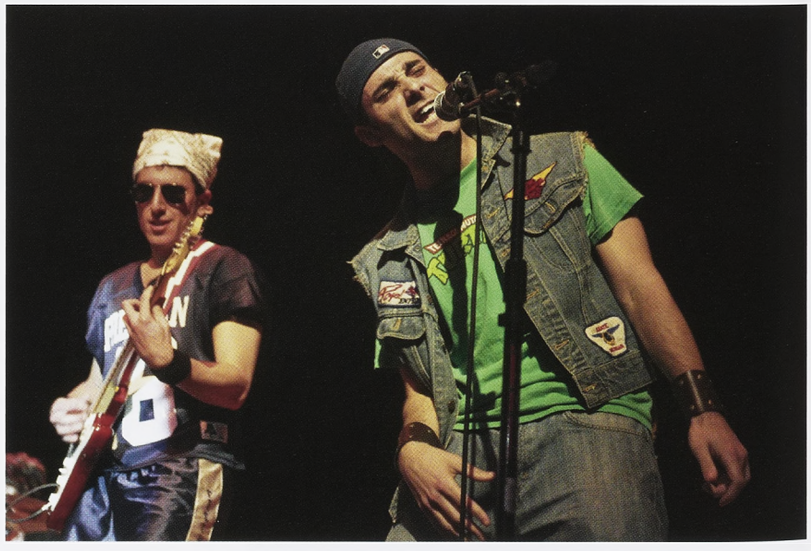
"I think 'apprehension' is the right word," Delta Chi senior Mitchell Craig said after belting out "Jessie's Girl" on stage, clad in a bright blue varsity jacket and sunglasses. "You always get a little nervous."

Moreover, the night was about entertainment and strengthening the camaraderie of the Greek community, he said.

For many, it was their favorite night of the week.

"You don't expect someone to have musical talent," Pi Beta Phi junior Lizzie Curcuru said. "It's especially cool to see someone you know up there."

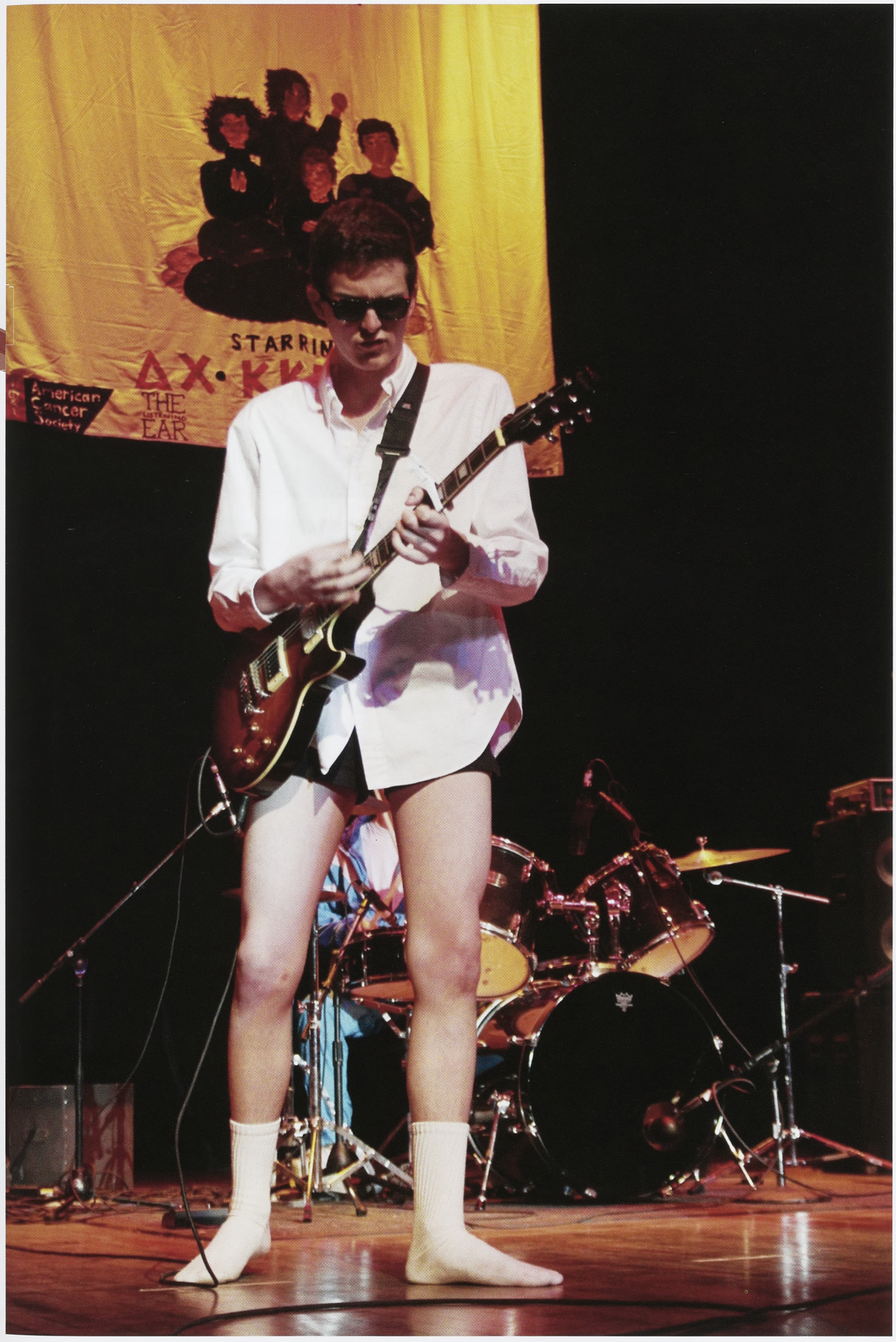
photos continued on pg. 308



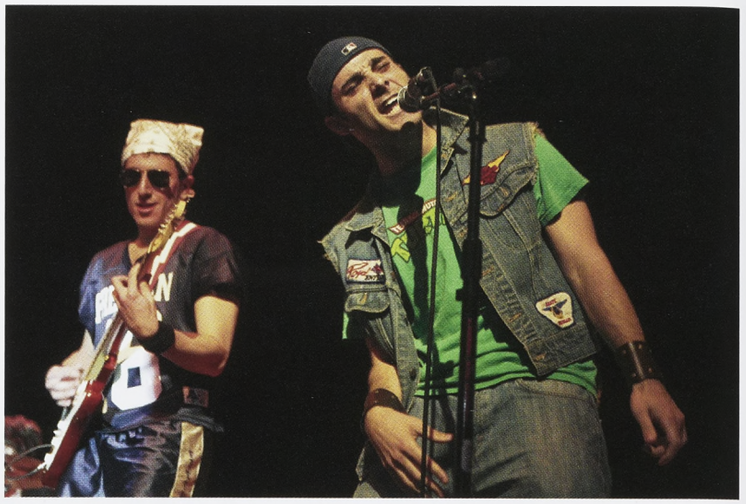
battle of the bands

Members of the Greek community perform a tune at the battle of the bands show. Proceeds from the show were donated to the Special Olympics; Big Brother, Big Sister; Safe Place and Listening Ear.

TYPE**courtney zott**/PHOTO**natalie kolb**/DESIGN**jessica halfyard**



A Tom Cruise look-a-like performs on guitar for the Greek Week battle of the bands show. The performance took place April 15 in the Auditorium.



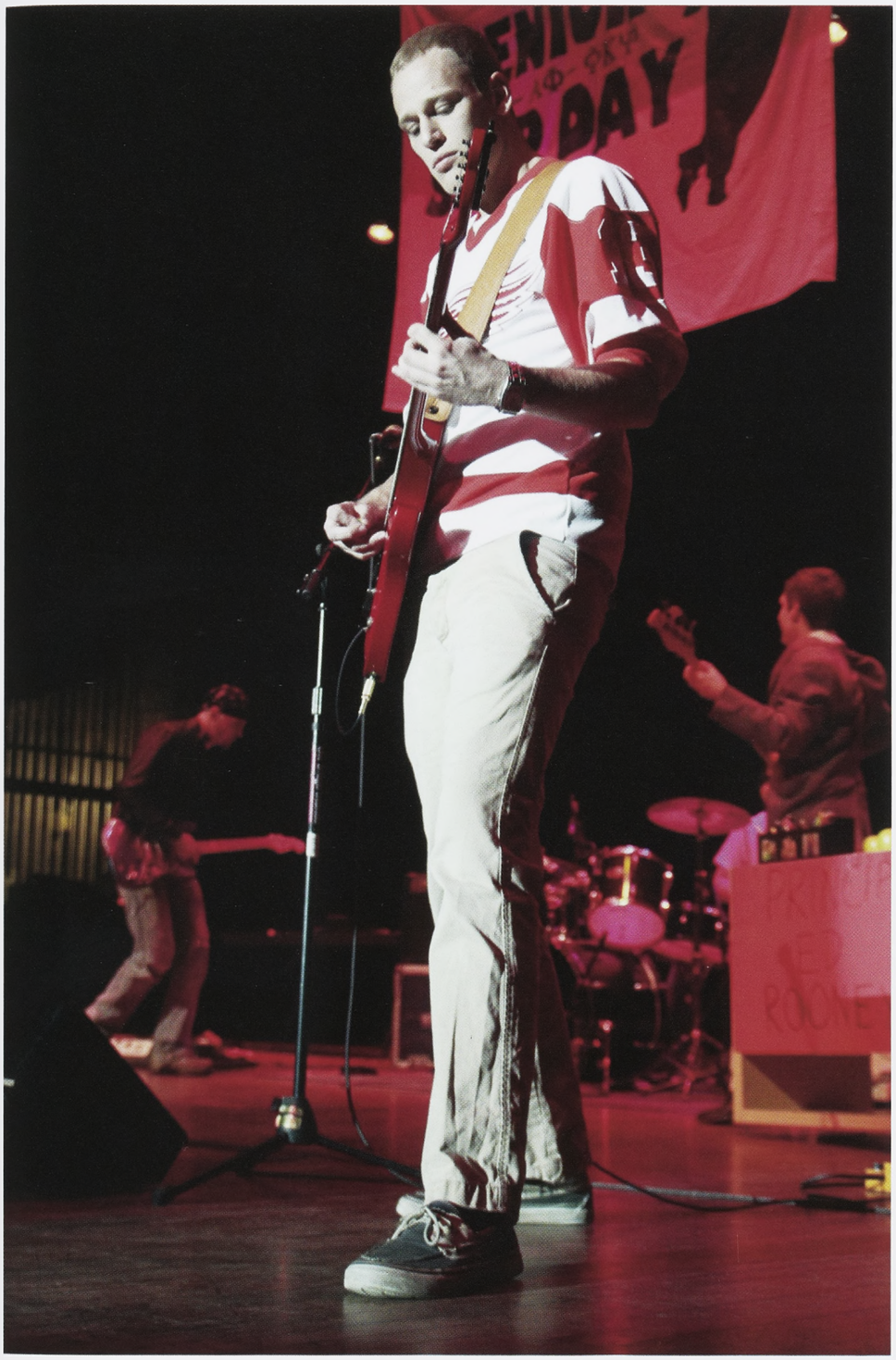
Members of the Greek community perform a tune at the battle of the bands show. Proceeds from the show were donated to the Special Olympics; Big Brother, Big Sister; Safe Place and Listening Ear.



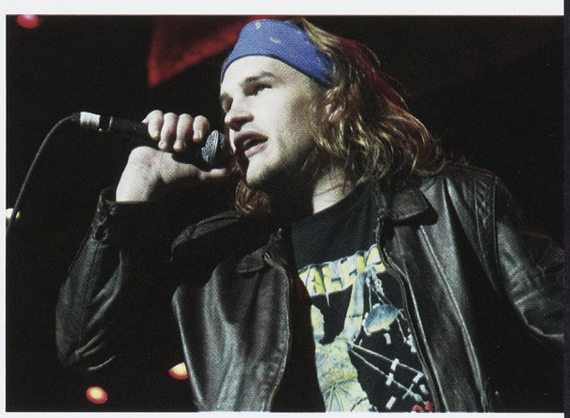
Delta Chi senior Mitchell Craig sings "Jessie's Girl" with a team member at battle of the bands. Over 2,600 Greeks were in attendance.

battle of the bands

TYPE**courtney zott**/PHOTO**natalie kolb**/DESIGN**vicari vollmar**



Teams composed of two fraternities and one sororities compete during Greek Week to raise money for their philanthropies. Money raised from the show were donated to the Special Olympics; Big Brother, Big Sister; Safe Place and Listening Ear, among others.



Dressed in a blue bandana and leather jacket, this brother performs at the high school-themed battle of the bands. The performance of one night of several events creating Greek Week.



Greek members dressed like the "Brat Pack" perform during the battle of the bands. The night's theme was 'back to high school.'



SENIORS

Enter as freshmen, grow as sophomores, advance as juniors, depart as seniors. Four classes of outstanding students culminate to produce the four layers of Michigan State University's undergraduate student population.

Hovering above their freshmen, sophomore and junior peers, seniors are looked upon as our leaders, mentors and friends.

Following years devoted to their higher education, our seniors go forth across the world to live MSU's goal of advancing knowledge and transforming lives, forever remaining the beloved older siblings in our extended Spartan family.





Abdul Azim Bin Abdul Rashid
Nurhidayah Abdul Razak
Amy Margaret Abramczyk
Durga Prasad Acharya
Jennifer Acker



Bradley Adams
James Curtis Adams
Kelsey Lynn Adams
Victoria Adkins
Afiqah Ahmad Hisham



Fnoor Kamila Ahmad Shafiai
Jasmine Ahuja
Humaid Alawadhi
Kamil Sebastian Alberski
Jordon Roger Albrecht



Bailey Jo Albright
Tamar Ruth Aldrich
Latasha Alford
Ahmed Mubarak Matar Balq Alhamiri
Bryan Mark Allen



Jacqueline Allen
Teresa Almanza
Jamie Katherine Almer
Mohamed Alqubaisi
Ali Alsatarwah



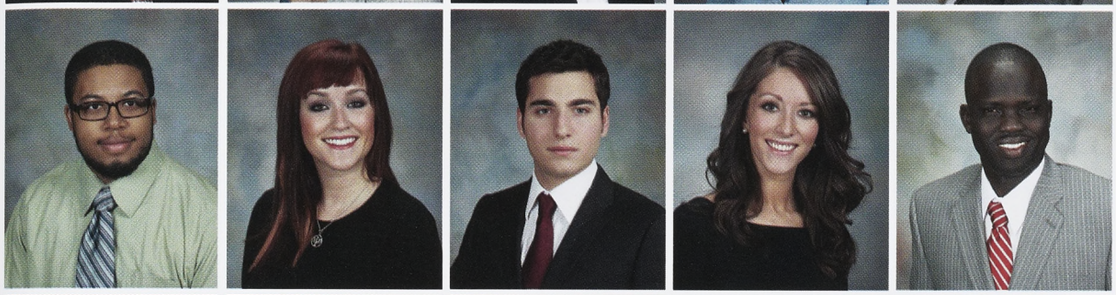
Jasmyne T. Alston
Hassan Abdulillah Alzayer
Jonathan Curtis-Edgar Amacker
Benjamin An
Henry Anderson



Janine Anderson
Mark Daniel Anderson
Nicholas Paul Anderson
Robert Braxton Anderson
Zita Antoinette Anderson



Joseph Charles Ankley
Claire Shannon Anthony
Christiane Araujo
Kelly Ann Archer
Nicole Arney



Grant Roderick Arnold
Alyssa Kaye Arseneau
Cem Atik
Elisabeth Denise Austin
Lual Deng Awan



Segilola Opeyemi-Omobola Ayeni
Nikki M. Ayres
Minah Babar
Kristin Babbie
Kelesha Baber



Elizabeth Rose Bacon
Algassimu Bah
Jazmin Bailey
Jonathan Lee Bailey
Derek Michael Baker



Kizzie Baker
Kayla Baldwin
Cara Ball
Mary Katherine Balog
Laporschea Baltimore



Michelle Banaszak
Dinesh Banda
Jennifer Lauren Bander
Julia Banducci
Brittany Banks



Isaac Banks
Sarah Jean Barber
Kiya Barden
Sarae Michelle Barker
Andrew Jeffrey Barnes



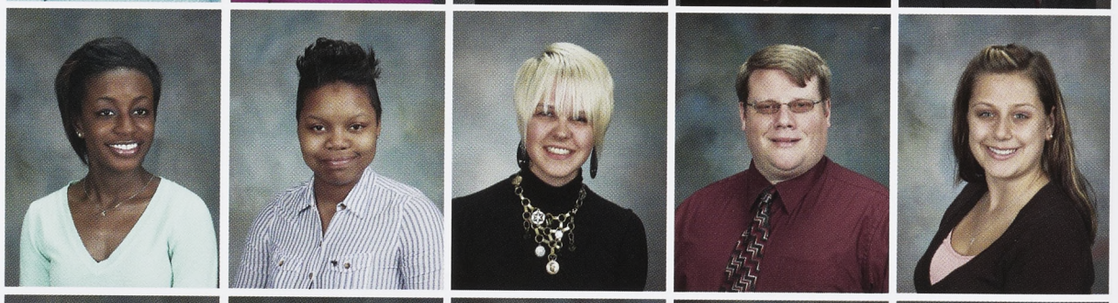
April Barnes
James Barney
Kaila Barr
Andrew Neaman Barrus
Anthony David Bartaway



Cody Wyatt Barz
Laurel Elizabeth Bates
Raymond Bates
Kevin Patrick Bator
Steven George Batsikouras



Rachel Battaglia
Meredith Jane Baumann
Brittany Anne Bayagich
Lauren Baylerian
Rakan Bayouk



Lauren Bealore
Lashana Elaine Beamon
Hunter Alexis Bearse
Mark Richard Bearss
Kristin Joyce Beery



Ashleigh Belisle
Samuel Paul Belknap
Ana Belmonte
Lauren Mullally Beltowski
Sean Henry Bender



Casey Lynne Benedetti
Jill Benkert
Kimberly Ann Berens
Ingrid Krystin Bergquist
Jennifer Marie Berriman



Garrett Edward Berry
Kara Ann Beson
Steven Betel
Ryan Bettelon
Kritika Bharadwaj



Sijie Bi
Kristin Bicsak
Christopher Todd Bilinski
Ashley Inez Billings
Camilla V. Billingslea



Craig Michael Bisson
Danielle Blackman
Romeo Joseph Blanchette
Nicholas William Blank
Anita Janelle Blount



Phoenix Blunt
Brandon Boatman
Antoinette Bode-Higgerson
George Bodin Iiii
Hannah Virginia Boehm



Spencer James Boertman
Marie Bohnett
Mohamed Ibrahim Bokhamseen
Devin William Bone
Laura Bonefeld



Richelle Renee Bonk
Kathryne Bonnivier
Michael Borenitsch
Rachelle Boudry
Dean Thomas Bourdon



Natalie Bower
Caitlin Bowers
Jeremy Bowie
Kimber Rose Bowman
Mitchell Bowman



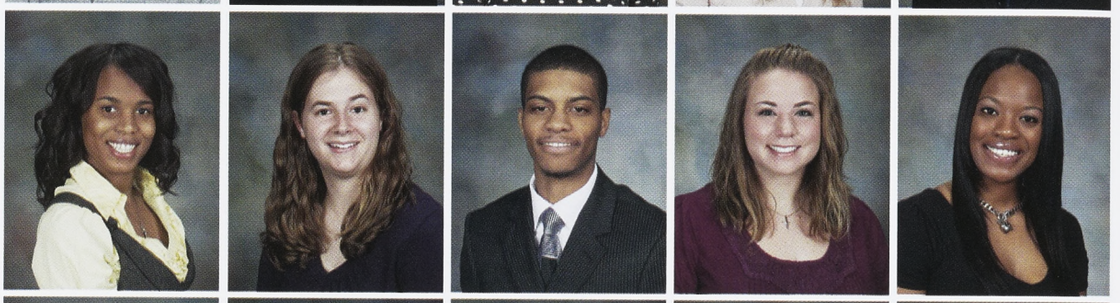
Sean Bowman
Calvin Boyd
Erica Brady
Madolyn Brand
Rachael Brandon



Sharde Brandy
Tiara Brandy
Ashley Braxton
Dominique Janae Brewer
Daniel Michael Briskie



Jarrett Brock
Coree Adam Brooks
Marina Brooks
Nicole Kirsten Brooks
Jonathan James Brouker



Erica Alexandra Brown
Jamie Lynne Brown
Jaquez Brown
Jillian Rose Brown
Kourtney Brown



Nicholas Robert Brown
Steven Edward Brown
William R. Brown
Ashley Bruckner
David Bruhn



Andre Oege Bruinsma
Nicholas Frank Brusie
Krystal Buckler
David Buether
John Nicholas Buether



Scott Anthony Buffa
Travis Bukoucik
Melissa Marie Bunge
Jeron Burbridge
Janae Burch



Kristina Burrell
Erin Elizabeth Butler
Nakeisha Butler
Ashley Ann Cabadas
Kathryn Cabot



Kristen Rose Cadieux
Meng Cai
Weiwen Cai
Nichole Calderavo
Bernard Callaway



Andrew Glenn Callison
Paul Joseph Camilleri
Irma Campara
Danielle Campbell
Jessica Suzanne Campbell



Sierra Denise Candler
Marissa Cann
Xi Cao
Michael Clancy Caples
Jessica Cardwell



Marcus Sharmon Carr
Courtney Carroll
Andre Darnell Carter
Autumn Carter
Arielle Casey



Alisha Marie Cassiday
Zenaida Iris Castro
Courtney Catino
Charles Albert Cavanagh
Krystle Monique Cavin



Lauren Cavner
James Cervo
Stephanie Chaczyk
Amanda Louise Chalk
Rebecca Ann Chalou



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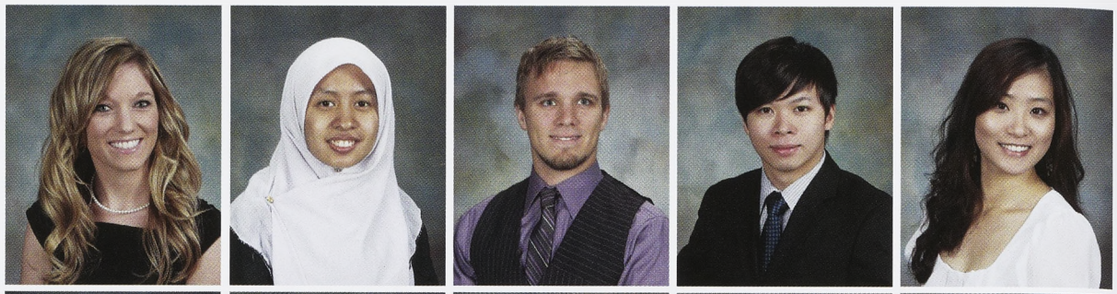
Damon Chang
Donghoon Chang
Shih-Yuan Chang
Detwan Chapman



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Zhuo Chen



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Andrew Chesebro
Megan Cheslik
Yang Chi
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Ijeoma Chijioke
Hyunsuk Chin
Shareka Chisolm
Jeffrey Chludzinski
Uyory Choe



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Song Hee Choi
Soo Hyun Choi
Tae Rang Choi
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Pui Tak Chow
Kelly Anne Christman
Jasmine Christopher
Yi Ting Chua



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Alandra Chuney
Alayna Chuney
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Brittany Clark



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Chelsea Cleghorn
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Sevil Cokdegerli
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Rachel Marie Constantino
Tory Conway
Elizabeth Cook
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Mark Joseph Costigan
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Jacquelyn Covert



Steven Cox
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Amber Crawford
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Scott Michael Czekaj
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Alexandra Maureen Daily
Amanda Lee Dalaba
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Cung Thi Dao
Joanna Joy Darby
Stephanie Marie Darkins



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Avery Knapp Davis



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Alyssa Deplonty
Dominique Devereaux
Michael Canney Devisser



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Desiree Jacqueline Dial
Heather Marie Dillon
Jiyu Ding
Mark Christopher Dingee





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Mason James Dixon
Nicole Rose Dixon



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Claretta Duckett
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Courtney Dukes
Rita Lorraine Dunne
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Michelle Conroy Durante



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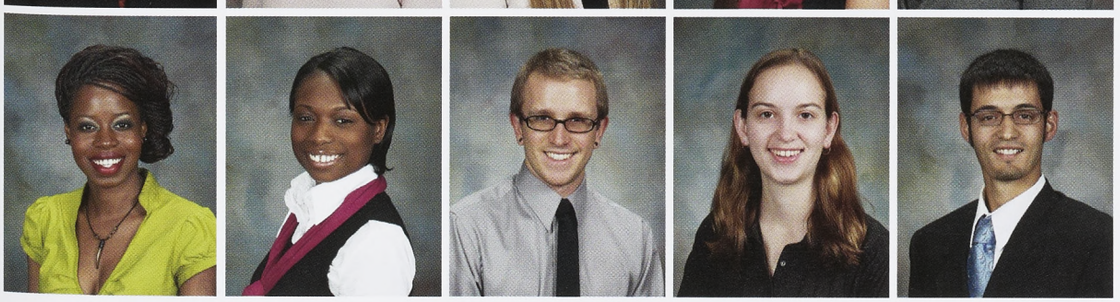
Angela Shauntae Eaddy
Lindsay Caroline Earnest
Alysha Yvonne Eckert
Antanique Edmonds



Kelechi Edozie-Anyadiegwa
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Jesse William Ellwood



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Jillian Emerson
Kierra Emerson
Maricolleen Emmerson
Andrea Engel



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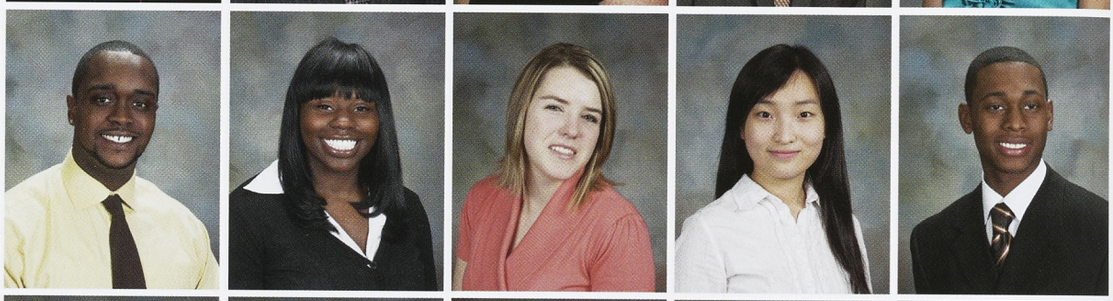
Kara June Erickson
Joshua David Ermatinger
Taneisha Ervin



Terrance Fails
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Calvin Isaiah Fant



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Daniel Jamal Farhat
D'Angelo Farmer
Peter James Farragher



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Mengwen Feng
Tishanna Ferguson
Jodi Rose Fettig



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Eric William Figurski
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Meghan Elizabeth Fisher
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Molly Flajole
Rebecca Marie Flegler
Aaron Michael Florn



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Ashlie Michelle Forchione



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Lia Chante Ford
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Sierra Gardner
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Sarah Elizabeth Gavin
Justin Gawel
Amber Gayden



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Katelyn Jane Geiger
Steven Genuardi
Amelia Germain



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James Michael Gibbons
Erica Giles



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Erin Ruth Gnodtke



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Ja'Shawnda Golson



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Molly Good
Marva Goodson
Katie Michelle Gordon



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Carly Green
Sable Leann Green
Anthony David Greenfield



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Andrew John Guarnaccia



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Joseph Guevara
Ruijie Guo
Jenna Gurney
Alyssia Nicole Gutierrez



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Jennie Haataja
Natalie Haga
Megan Julia Hagist



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Briggs James Haley
Brittney Haley
Bradley Kevin Halfman



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Joshua Hall
Robert Loren Halley
Shereen Hamed



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Brandon Todd Hamstra
Noraza Hamzah
Seunghun Han
Young-Geun Han



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Holly Haney
Richard Aloysius Hanley
Chelsey Lynn Hanna
Nathan Westbrook Hanna



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Jasmine Tiara Harris
Jonathan Aaron Harris
Joseph Harris



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Ashton Harvey
Tiwanna Hatcher



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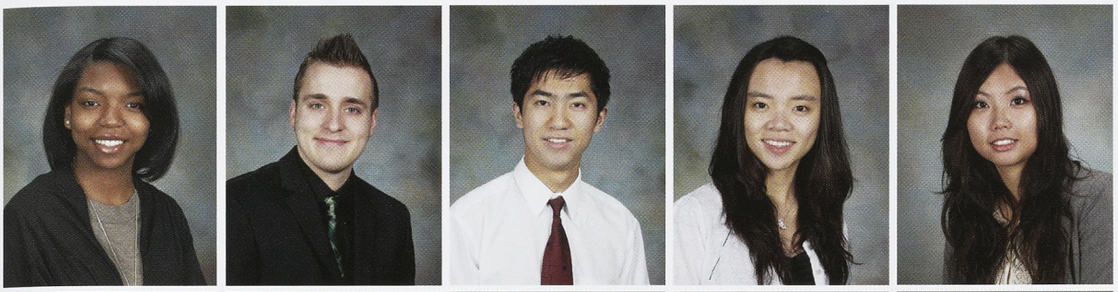
Sharita Haygood



Kristen Hayman
Jason Haywood
Luye He
Qian He
Shuting He



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Courtney Elizabeth Hegberg
Ryan John Hegenauer
Philip David Heichel



Virginia Heinen
Joseph Vincent Heldt
Callie Jillane Helms
Alexandria Marie Henderson
Paul Joseph Henderson



Amy Lee Hendrickson
Benjamin Oliver Henry
Howard Her
Harsa Bhaswara Hermantoro
Dujuan Allen Herrod



Lorenzo J. Herron
Briana Leigh Hertzberg
Gabrielle Herzog
Lisa Dianne Hettler
Edward Alton Heutsche



Nikkia Hicks
Hussein El Abbass Ale Hijazi
Chelsea Hill
Harold Alonzo Hill
Meagan Hill



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Jennifer Hittle
Angela Denise Hodges
Megan Hodges
Meghan Hodges



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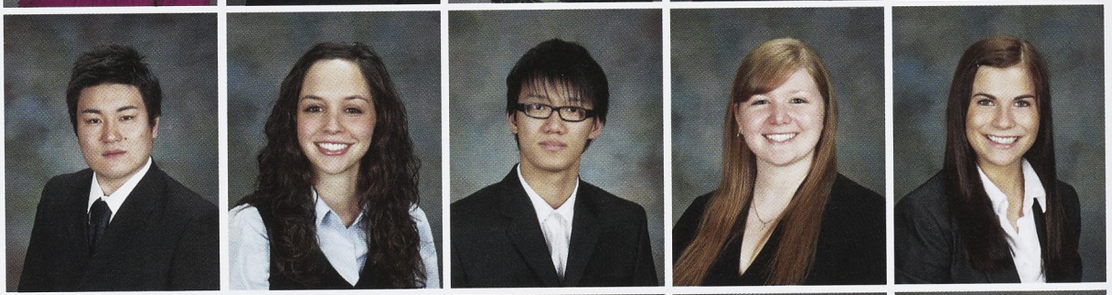
Courtney Ann Hoffman
Ashley Nicole Holden
Jillian Margaret Holdwick
William Holland



Katelynn Marie Hollerback
Elita Holloway
Jasmine Holmes
Katherine Holmes
Mark Andrew Holmes



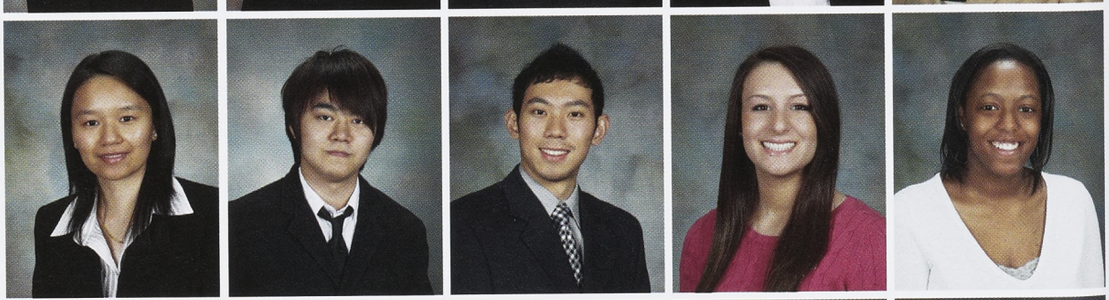
Niafurstia Queen Holmes
Jaehyok Hong
Lauren Ashley Hood
Dayna Lee Hoopes
Nicholas Byron Hoornstra



Toshinori Horii
Kathryn Hosmer
Sicong Hou
Guinevere Leigh Hovey
Kelsy Howland



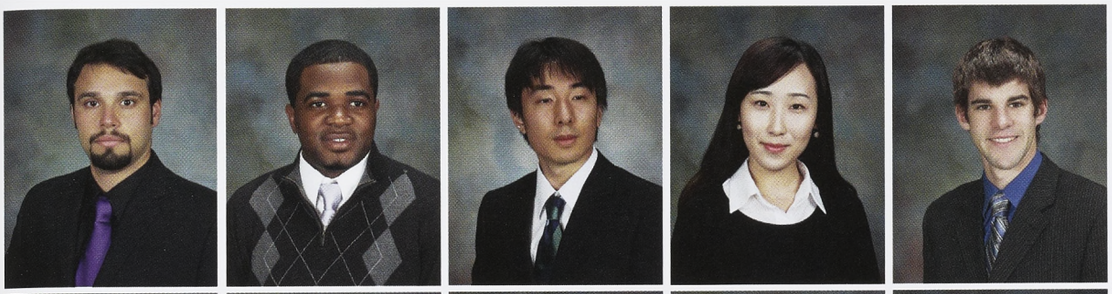
Mary Howlett
Yahan Hsu
Yang Hu
Yuhe Hu
Bei Huang



Ping Huang
Po-Chin Huang
Po-Hsiang Huang
Brittany Hulings
Philecia Niechel Humes



Danyale Hunter
Robert Hunter Jr.
Jalissa Huntley
Cory Robert Hurst
Leah Hurvitz



Ebrahim Husain
Chukwuemeka Igwe
Ginga Ikeda
Miyoung In
Matthew Ryan Inch



Keniesha Ingram
Jennifer Iott
Stacy Marie Isbell
Mohammad Badruddin Ishak
Chibuzor Isiogu



Mimi Suhaila Ismail
Katherine Oconnor Ivens
Nur Syazana Jaafar Sidek
Adrianna Jackson
Akilia Jackson



Brittany Jackson
Courtney Jackson
Danielle Jackson
Elliott Stephen Jackson
Shannon Hana Jackson



Charles Chester Jackson III
Dongkyu Jang
Stephen Charles Japowicz
Andrew Roger Jarema
Renold Jeanlouis



Jennifer Jedlick
Andrew Uijun Jeong
Chan Sik Jeong
Andrea Jeter
Xiaowei Ji



Wen Jiang
Yongxi Jiang
Elvida Jimenez
Mi Jeong Jo
Nathan Isaac Johns



Armel Lewis Johnson
Ashley Symone Johnson
Jamie Lorraine Johnson
Karen Johnson
Monika Johnson



Nathan Johnson
Taylor Johnson
Trenton Johnson
Ellis Gray Johnson II
Megan Ann Johnston



Molly Johnston
Dominque Jones
Emily Jones
Eric James Jones
Kallie Jones



Shauna Carlyn Jones
Sheree Jones
Paris Jordan
Jaimie Joseph
Kristina Joseph



Amy Junewick
Eun-Young Jung
Kyle Gregory Jung
Sun Pil Jung
Susie Jung



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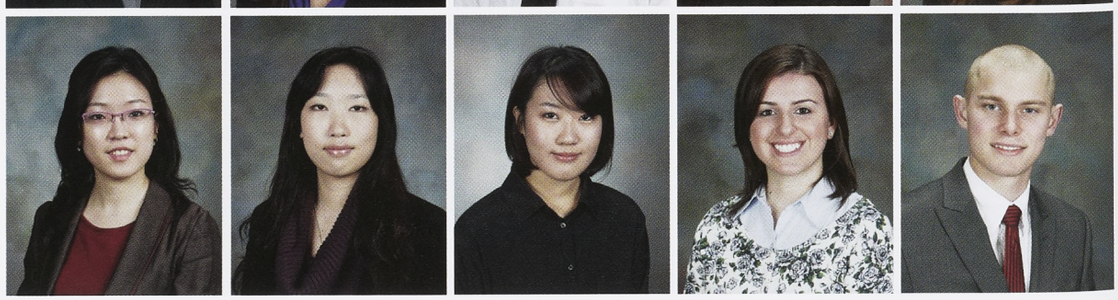
Jacqueline Kaltz
Aruna Kamara
Rachel Kamish
Caitlin Michelle Kane



Hyun Jeong Kang
Miao Kang
Minjung Kang
Irda Kape
Andrew Kappler



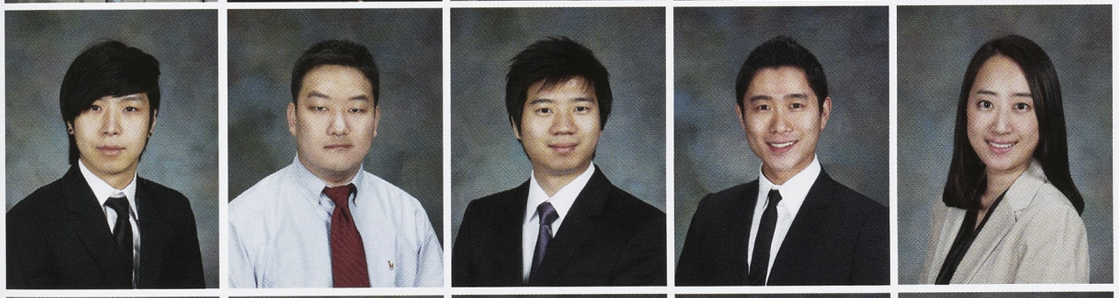
Lindsay Sue Karn
Joseph Paul Karpinsky
Nathan Daniel Kast
Theodore Michael Kathrein
Renee Grace Keefe



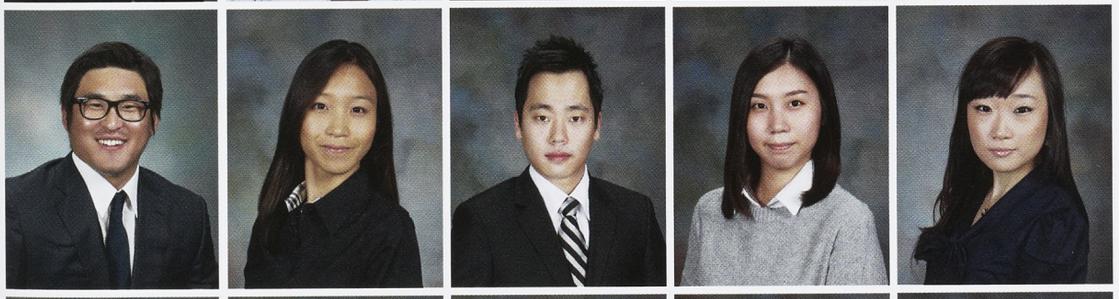
Conor Keenan
Mark Christopher Kehoe
Lauren Elizabeth Kelley
Daniel Kelly
Danielle Sophia Kelso



Tyler Tyrell Kendle
Shaemus Christopher Kermiet
Caroline Keson
Mohammed Othman Khushaim
Stacy Jean Killian



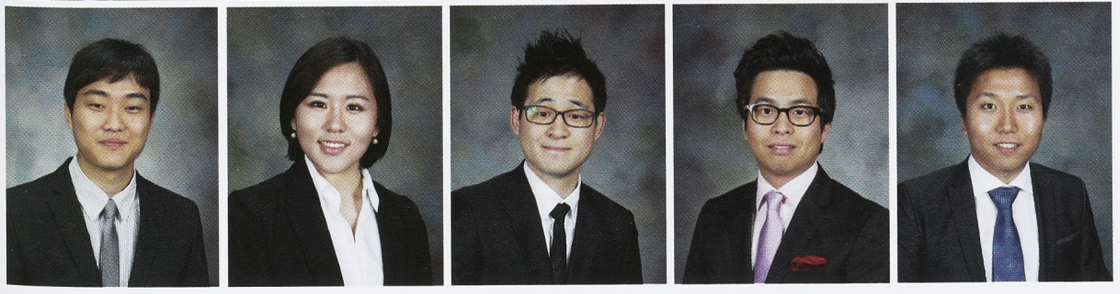
Brian J. Kim
Byum Joon Kim
Dobeen Kim
Dongmin Kim
Dongsun Kim



Dowan Kim
Eunjong Kim
Gu Youn Kim
Hyelim Kim
Hyun Kim



Hyun Su Kim
Ji-In Kim
Ji Young Kim
Kichang Kim
Ki Jung Kim



Kyung Ha Kim
Minji Kim
Se-Jun Kim
Sooyeol Kim
Taekyoon Kim



Yoojin Kim
Youngrae Kim
Yukyung Kim
Haruka Kimura
Ashley Renee Kincaid



Allison Elizabeth King
Eric King
Kimberly Damara King
La King
Shaun Robert Kinney



Nicholas Alexander Kipa
Stephan Patrick Kirchhoff
Brittany Klaus
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Joshua Eric Kleinhardt



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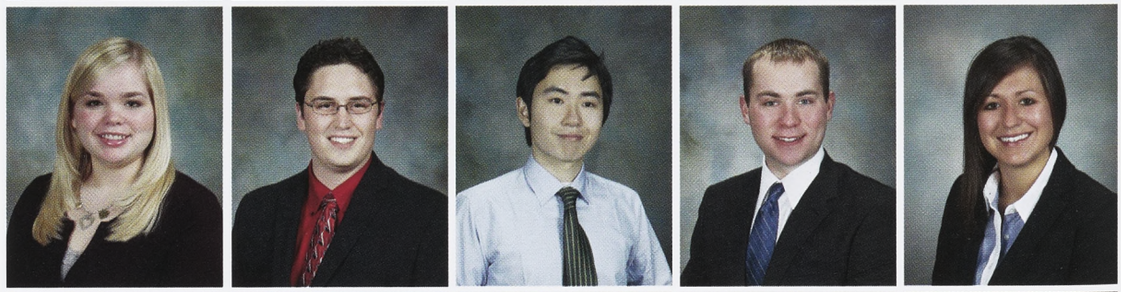
Shantel Knight



Kathryn Lee Knowlton
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Min Seob Ko
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Charlene Lee Kolodziej



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Melissa Koroleff
Alexandrea Kotch
Ashleigh Kotrys



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Marie Koziel
Chris Krcmarik
Jeffrey Alan Krebs
Matthew Carl Kristoff



Adrienne Nicole Krizek
Maggie Ruth Kronlein
Richard Alan Krul
Amanda Kruse
Nicholas Krystyniak



Allison Blair Kuch
Soumya Kumar
Ting-Wei Kuo
Yuenming Kwan
Karlee Renea Kwiatkowski



Da Seul Kwon
Taehyung Kwon
Jennifer La
Amy Lynn Labadie
Jason Daniel Lademan



Clint Lafayette
Chad Tanner Lafeldt
Natasha Janiece Lagrone
Carolyn Kuan Lai
Fu Faan Fanny Lai



Andrew Robert Lake
Kendall Lalko
Kory Christopher Lambarth
Olivia Ashley Lambert
Claire Elizabeth Lammers



Hao Lan
Sarah Lanczy
Krystal Lane
Hannah Langley
Katherine Elizabeth Langley



Carolyn Lapham
Guy Larcom
Ching Ying Lau
Sarah Michelle Lavis
Mark Layer



Vi Francis Le
Karylinda Leathem
Ashley Lebel
Changhyeok Lee
Cha'Ris Susette Lee



Hangil Lee
Hyejin Lee
Jason Lee
Jisang Lee
Jong-Wook Lee



Ko Eun Lee
Minho Lee
Min Ji Lee
Sang Hoon Lee
Sangmok Lee



Shekinah Lee
Shinhye Lee
Su Jeong Lee
Yi-Cheng Lee
Yong Jin Lee



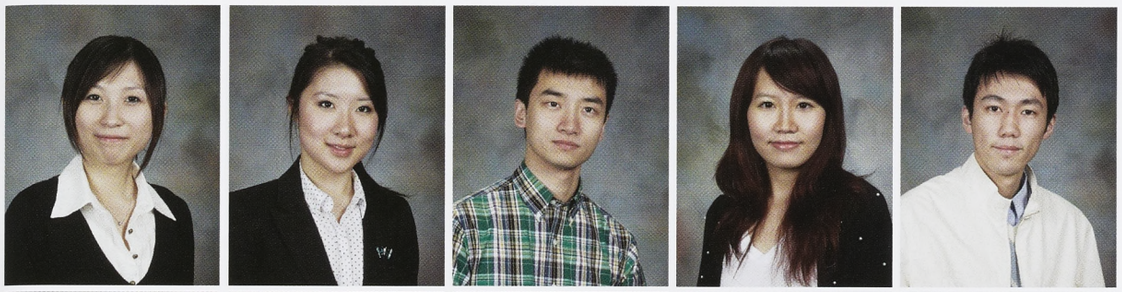
Michael Robert Legard
Kayla Dale Lehman
Lindsey Nicole Lehman
Lillian Marie Leonard
Michael Thomas Leonard



Brian Leslie
Gabrielle Beth Levine
Katira Lewis
Kristin Michelle Lewis
Raven Alexandra Lewis



Rebeckajo Lewis
Jamarr Corey Lewis-Whatley
Kristin Ann Lewsley
Bingyu Li
Duan Li



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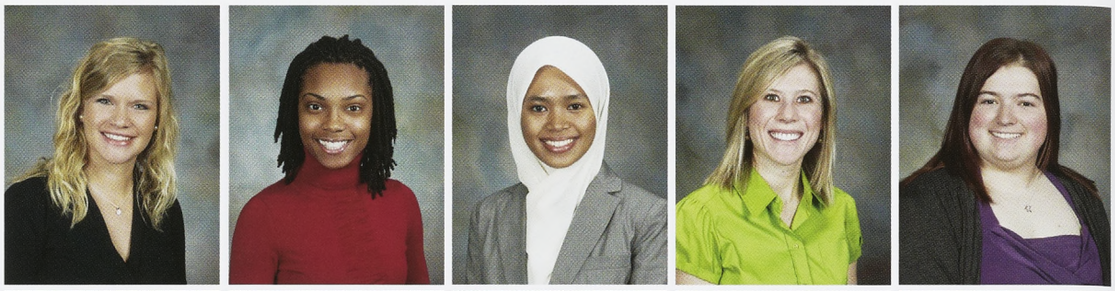

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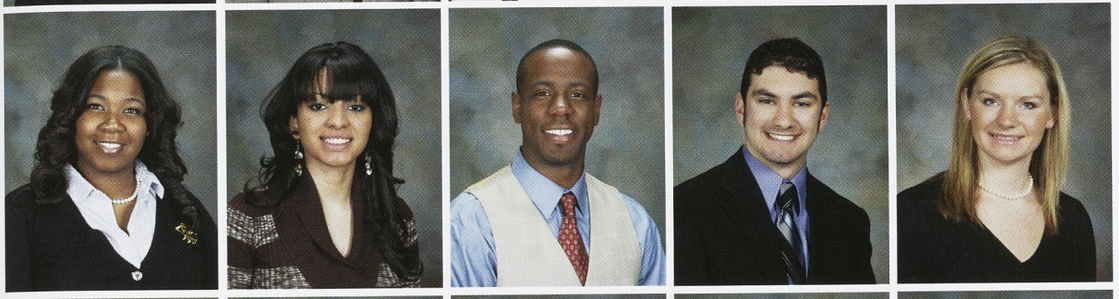

Nakeia Moore
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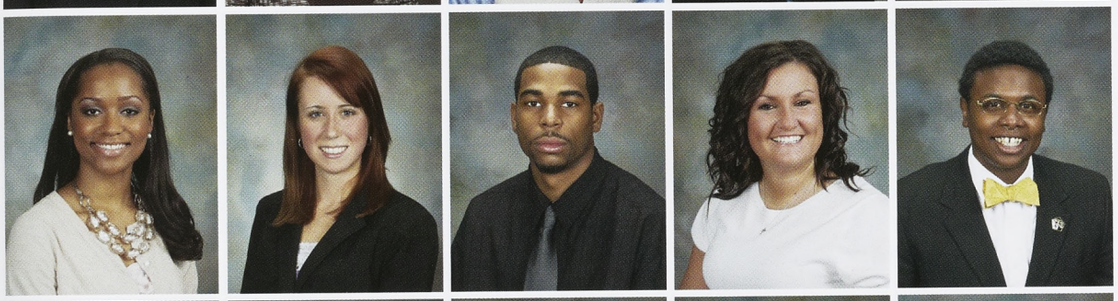

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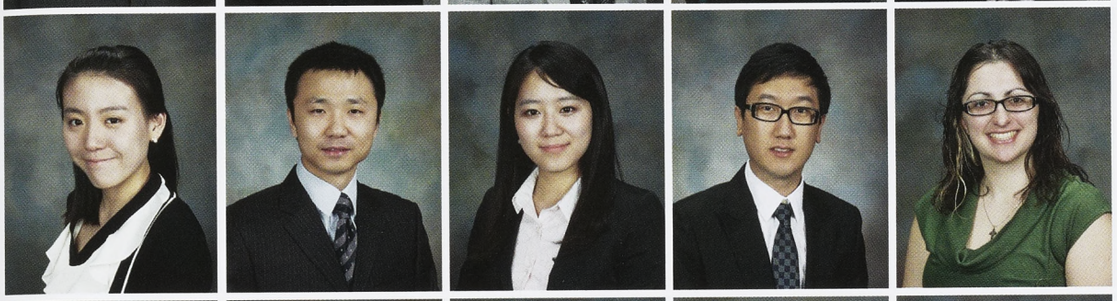

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Ashley Patterson
Wesley Louis Patton
Kieyawnee Paul



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Kirsta Paulus
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Ava Myriam Pearlman
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Megan Perecko
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Clare Suzanne Perreault
Ashley Perry



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William Christopher Perry
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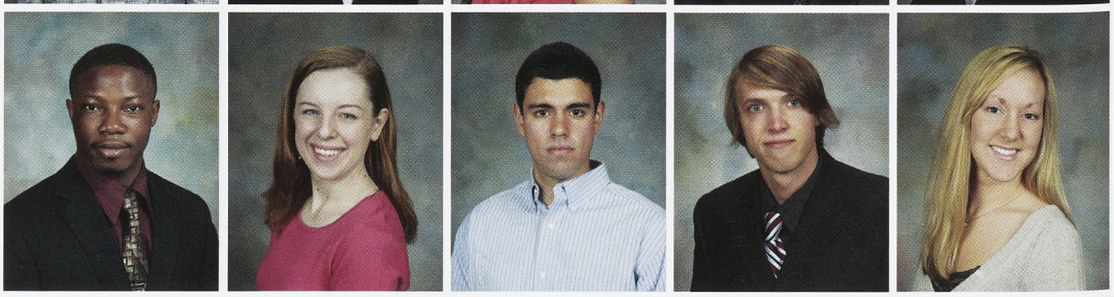

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Nicole Sanburn



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Elyse Santi
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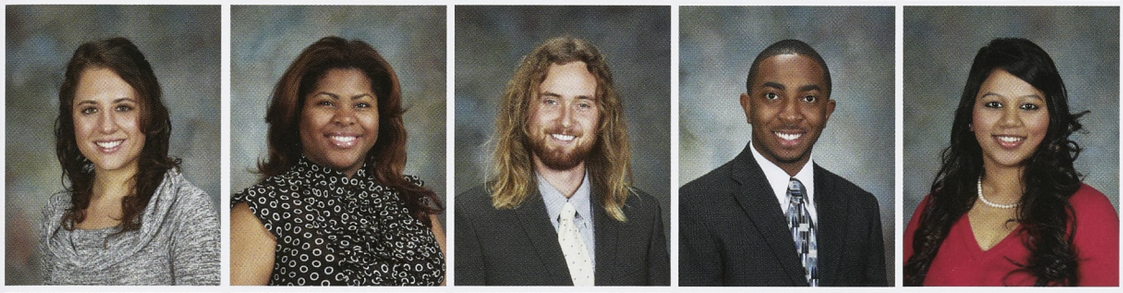

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Rochelle Smith
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Ann Sojka
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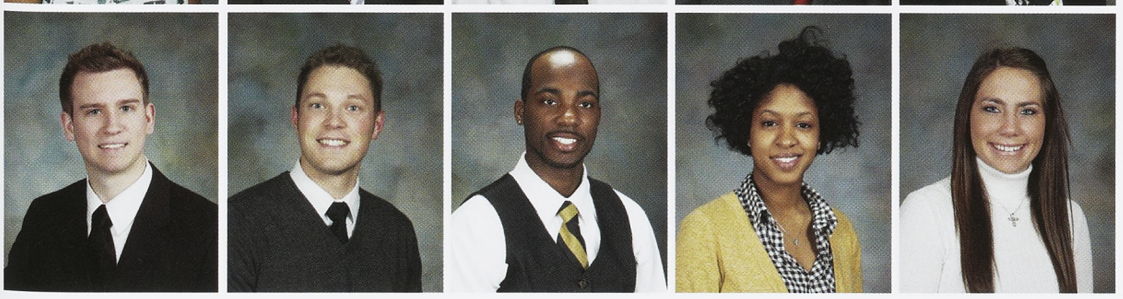

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Lauren Danielle Walker
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Kyle Andrew Wallace
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Joy Katherine Walter
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Anyi Wang
Chenrui Wang
Chenrul Wang
Lu Wang
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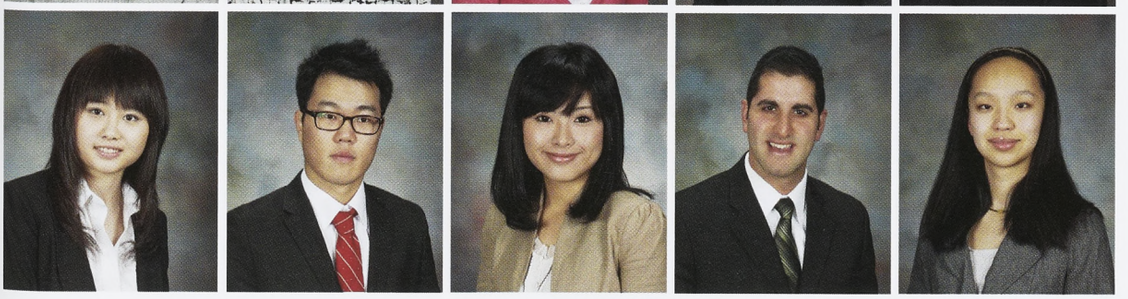

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Tian Yun Yang
Salwan Sulaiman Yaqo
Xuemei Ye



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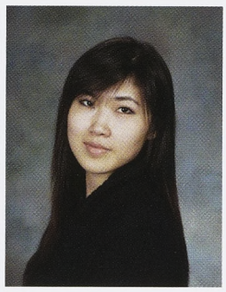


Zhou Zhuang
Robert Jason Zile
Andrea Jayne Zimmerman
Christina Zinkel
Yunjiao Zuo



Franciscus Petrus Zwemmer

Amidst chaos, journalists Jacob Kanclerz and Courtney Zott look on as photographer Jennifer Garavaglia places her photo editor, Erica Treais, in a choke hold. Treais stole Garavaglia's sorority poster.

Sitting on dormitory steps at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, assistant photo editor Ellina Stein, content editor Angie Jackson, photo editor Erica Treais, editor-in-chief Vicari Vollmar, business manager Laura Sunisloe and asssistant content editor Isaac Hee rest from exploration. The editorial staff visited the Jostens publishing plant March 18-19.



Mason Robinson



Angie Jackson

THE 2011 RED CEDAR LOG YEARBOOK

The Red Cedar Log is an award-winning, professional publication produced solely by students- students who have a passion for writing, photography, design, business and editing. And by combining their talent and creativity into one staff, these students produced a yearbook that documents the memories of over 33,000 undergraduates, some of whom will cherish their book for a lifetime.

Producing a 400 page book is no small feat, and every year brings a new set of challenges. But through the collaborative efforts of 26 dedicated staff members, we rose above the obstacles and successfully created a yearbook focusing upon the many layers composing Michigan State University.

In an effort to peel back the layers of our great campus, we hoped to expose and document the lesser-known happenings of MSU and showcase the individuals that make this university unique. Whether those layers be class tiers- freshman, sophomore, junior, senior; or indentity-student, staff, faculty, administration; or perhaps organizational; clubs, sports, Greeks; each layer together contributes to the way we live our lives as Spartans.

Though we can't cover every event or organization on campus throughout the year, we hope that this book, at bare minimum, touches upon something memorable and special for every student, and reminds them of their experience as a member of the Spartan family.

Content editor Angie Jackson, assistant photo editor Erica Treais, editor-in-chief Vicari Vollmar, assistant content editor Isaac Hee and design editor Jessica Halfyard hold photo editor Mason Robinson on the balcony of the Biltmore Hotel in Providence, RI. The editorial staff visited for a yearbook conference on Oct. 1-2.



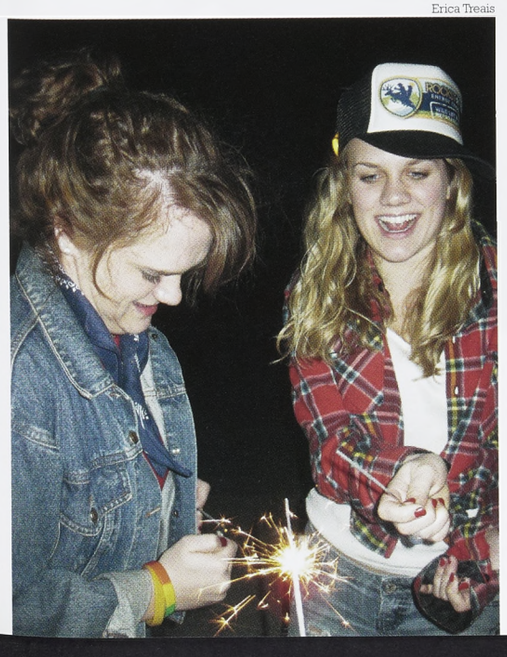
Mike McLean



Mason Robinson

Erica Treais

The Red Cedar Log staff enjoys an afternoon outdoors as content editor Angie Jackson leads the staff in a 30-minute yoga session. Staff members provided a picnic afterward for their first bonding outting.





Erica Treais

Photo editor Mason Robinson and photographers Natalie Kolb and Veronica Nagy play with their cameras in the Red Cedar Log office. The photographers often went on photo adventures on campus to practice and learn.

Designer Betsy Eber and photographer Cassie Allore light sparklers at the Red Cedar Log end-of-the-year America-themed party. Hot dogs, macaroni and cheese and pie were served for dinner.

colophon

Design: The Red Cedar Log was produced completely on Macintosh computers for page layouts, photo editing and word processing. All computers were networked through a LaCie 19" Rack NAS Ethernet Disk. Software used included Adobe CS3 Master Suite and Microsoft Office 2004.

Type: All headlines, folio and page numbers were created with Din OpenType Medium. All body copy and captions were created with Rockwell Standard Light.

Photography: The photography of the Red Cedar Log, with the exception of senior portraits and a submission of women's varsity rowing photos, is wholly the original work of the photographers that worked on this issue. The cameras and flash units used were from the Canon product line, with a combination of Canon and Sigma lenses. Some photographers chose to use their personal equivalent equipment.

Advertising: Educational Services, Inc. was the Red Cedar Log's advertising company. They provided the yearbook with 14 pages of black and white advertisements.

Finance and Operation: The Red Cedar Log is an entirely student-run publication; designed, produced and managed by students. Each semester, ASMSU provided a set amount of revenue through student tax dollars, which equals about $3 per student, for the publication of the yearbook. As students returned to school in August, the previous year's yearbook could be picked up at various local book stores and in on-campus buildings. For a small fee, alumni can have books shipped to them. All expenditures were paid for with funds earned through partnerships with Herff Jones Photography and Educational Services, Inc. Content in the yearbook were determined by the Editor-in-Chief, the Content Managing Editor, the Photography Managing Editor and the Design Managing Editor with a consideration of requests from student organizations to be featured in the publication free of charge. There were no funds received from the university. A total of 15,000 copies of the 400-page, full-color yearbook printed from Jostens Inc., costing about $134,000.

Copyright: The Red Cedar Log is copyrighted by Vicari Vollmar, Editor-in-Chief. No part of this book may be reproduced without prior consent.

Acknowledgements: Thank you for all your help. We couldn't have done this without you.

Mike Lafferty, Tim Ross, everyone from the Jostens plant, Joe Durinzi, everyone from Herff Jones, Maryalice Chester, Brian Jeffries, Chris Schotten, Matt York, Eric Endlich, Kathy Waliczek, Jessie Spears and Helen Cannon.

Staff members gather in photo editor Erica Treais' living room for a final goodbye. Each staff member brought a dish to pass, as well as a homemade gift for their editor-in-chief.



Mason Robinson

Post-staff meeting, the Red Cedar Log staff packs into the office at 311B Student Services. With limited space, the office was often hot, crowded, loud and loving.

Studying a proof, journalist Jacob Kanclerz edits his work for errors. All staff members were required to edit proofs before spreads were sent for final submission.



Natalie Kolb

In celebration of Halloween, staff members gather in assistant photo editor Erica Treais' living room. Costumes included 'Snooki,' 'Daria,' 'Basement Cat,' 'Ms. Frizzle,' and a MINI Cooper.



Erica Treais



Natalie Kolb

Designer Brendan Prost smiles for the camera during a weekly staff meeting. The design staff met Monday nights after the staff meeting to conducts critiques on completed assignments.



Erica Treais

Clad in America-themed attire, a portion of the Red Cedar Log staff gathers during the end-of-the-year party for a family photo. The staff sang "God Bless America" before serving dinner.



Chase O'Black

2011 RED CEDAR LOG STAFF

EDITORIAL

Editor-in-Chief | Vicari Vollmar
Business Manager | Laura Sunisloe
Design Managing Editor | Jessica Halfyard
Photography Managing Editor | Erica Treais
Assistant Photo Managing Editor | Ellina Stein
Content Managing Editor | Angie Jackson
Assistant Content Managing Editor | Isaac Hee
Copy Editor | Alexandra Ghaly

STAFF

Journalists | Jacob Kanclerz, Jessica Whitmill, Courtney Zott, Kritika Bharadwaj, Ian Kullgran, Adelina Schmidt
Photographers | Hilary Higgins, Natalie Kolb, Veronica Nagy, Cassie Allore, Chase O'Black, Anthony Thibodeau
Designers | Betsy Eber, Saralee Gordon, Brendan Prost
Distributors | Zachary Albright, Timothy Flis, Brian Morisette

SPECIAL THANKS

Audrey Aquino, Jennifer Garavaglia, Nitin Jacob, Carly Maniewski, Natalie Patterson, Mason Robinson, Rodneya Ross, Marissa Russo



Helicopter Pilot

Photo editor Mason Robinson, assistant photo editor Erica Treais and photographer Ellina Stein prepare for a helicopter ride above campus. Selected photographers have the opportunity to shoot aerial photos of MSU each year.

Natalie Kolb



Copy editor Alexandra Ghaly smiles for the camera during a weekly staff meeting. Ghaly was responsible for editing copy for AP Style, grammar, spelling and factual errors.



Natalie Kolb

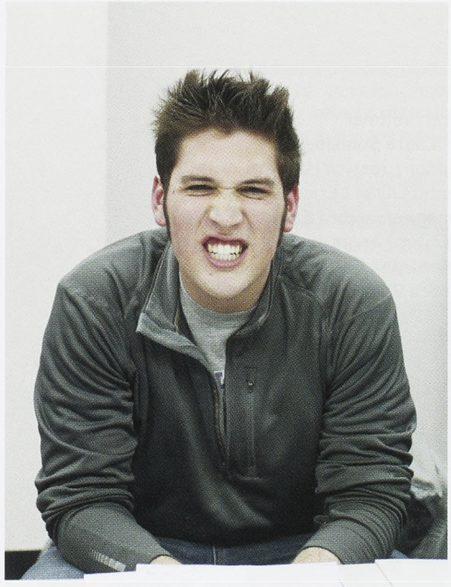
Content editor Angie Jackson, assistant content editor Isaac Hee, editor-in-chief Vicari Vollmar and copy editor Alexandra Ghaly listen intently to another staff member. Ice-breakers were used during each staff meeting for bonding and laughs.



Erica Treais

Photographer Jennifer Garavaglia appears from behind curtains in the home of photo editor Erica Treais. Treais' home was often used for staff gatherings.

Designer Saralee Gordon, design editor Jessica Halfyard and designer Betsy Eber work in the designer corner of the Red Cedar Log office. A sticky note-crafted menorah sticks to the wall in celebration of Hannukah.



Natalie Kolb

Photographer Tony Thibodeau grimaces at the camera during a weekly staff meeting. Red Cedar Log staff meetings were held Monday nights at 9 p.m. in 328 Student Services.



Mason Robinson

The content department salutes America with their editor-in-chief at the Red Cedar Log end-of-the-year gathering. Staff members sported cut-offs, plaid and red, which and blue in support of the U.S.



Angie Jackson



Erica Treais

Grouped together in the Red Cedar Log office, the photography staff huddles for a family portrait. The photography department consisted of an editor, assistant editor, three staff photographers and three intern photographers.



Natalie Kolb

Journalist Jessica Whitmill goofs off during a Red Cedar Log weekly staff meeting. Weekly business, story assignments and critiques were discussed during staff meetings.



Mason Robinson

In preparation for a weekly staff meeting, editor-in-chief Vicari Vollmar plans the agenda at her desk in 311B Student Services. Vollmar's desk was often littered with lists, sticky notes and food.


red
cedar
log.
good
enough
good
enough
Bitch.
DELL

to my rcl children:

In February 2010, I was hired as your 2010-2011 Red Cedar Log editor-in-chief. After several months of wrapping up my second academic year and finishing yet another volume, I took my post as the sole leader of a 26-person staff with the responsibility of producing a 400-page book documenting the memories of the undergraduate students at Michigan State University- a task as large as the student body itself.

My greatest fears were failing to make an impact on each of you and failing to efficiently revive the faultering communication and ineffective work flow of this department. I refused to coast through our nine months together- enjoying the ride, to me, meant sacrificing my time, energy and sometimes my sanity, to take my staff and our book to the greatest heights. My expectations were exceeded, but the ultimate result- I couldn't have fathomed such success.

My editorial staff, all of you exceeding my age, stunned me with your passion for and knowledge of your craft. It was your incredible sense of responsibility for your departments, your dedication to improvement and your drive to excell that stabilized the core of this department. I couldn't have asked for a more outstanding group of leaders to help maintain order, while aiding the growth of our staff.

While most outsiders consider my title as your editor-in-chief as foremost, a glowing mark on my resume, I considered my position as a opportunity to positively influence your lives, teach you something, whether helpful or important, and assist in catapulting your creativity to destinations unseen. I only hope that as a bare minimum, I taught you the importance of placing your heart and your soul and all that you are into the things you care about most.

To watch each of you grow, in skill and personality, and as a direct result of my leadership, was one of the most amazing accomplishments of my time spent with the Red Cedar Log. Your stories transformed into captivating, original pieces. Your photographs reflected passion, with nothing left to be desired by the viewer. Your designs pushed the boundaries of creativity.

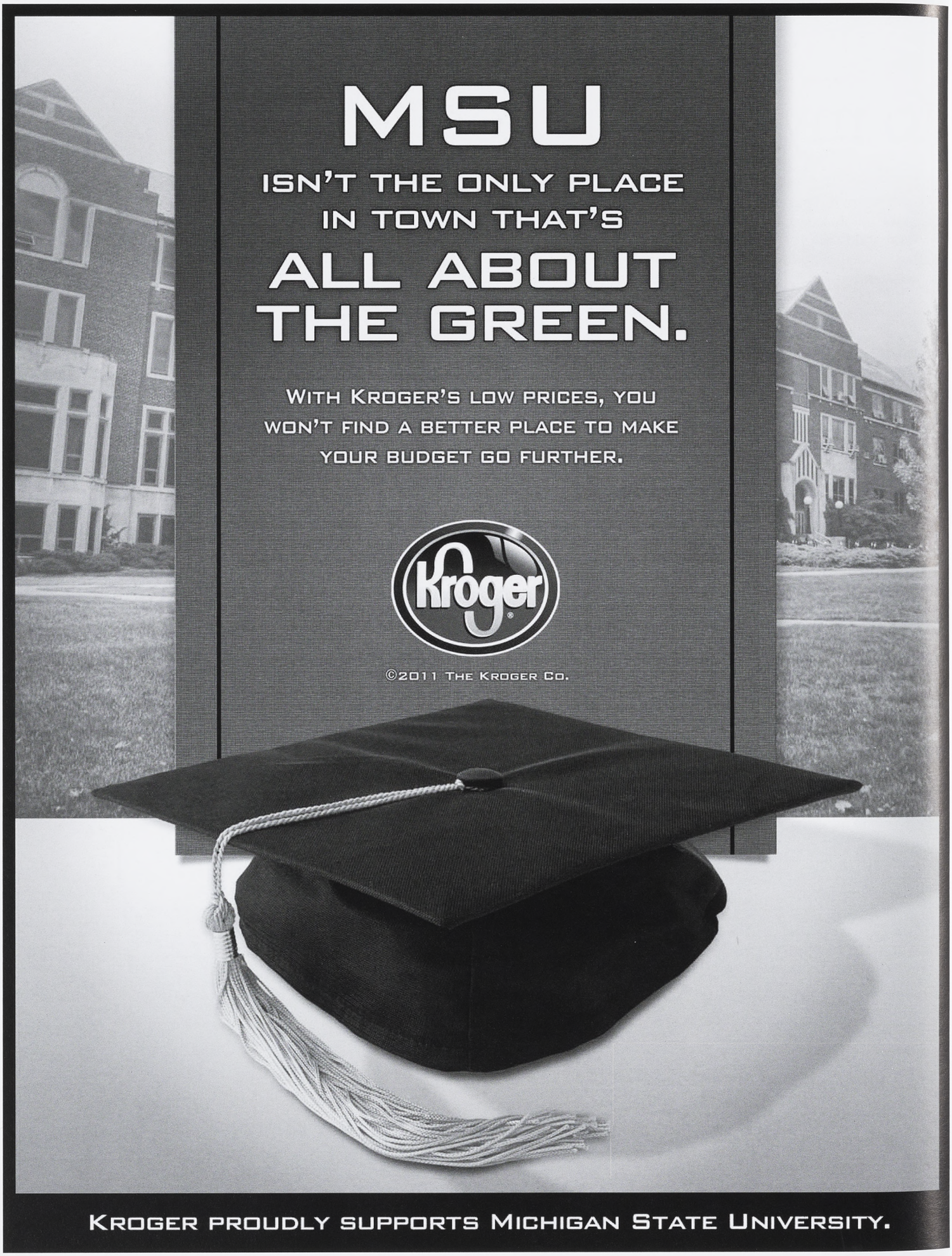
Although it is our responsibility, together, to document the memories of over 33,000 undergraduate students in print, our memories will forever lie within the walls of our cheery green office, the third floor of Student Services and venues of East Lansing. Our unconventional ice-breakers, our Friday afternoons, our celebrations, our conflicts, our devouring food, our laughter, and each one of you will remain forever nestled in my heart.

I worked hard, sweat, panicked, cried and fought for each of you. In return, thank you for consistently exceeding my expectations. Thank you for your hard work, your dedication, your own sacrifice of time, energy and sanity. Thank you for always supporting me, as both employees and as friends, and for giving me yet another reason to love this life.

Wherever you find yourself, I know that with the determination you've displayed as my staff, each of you are capable of achieving greatness. Never settle.

Always and forever your 'Momma V,'

vicari vollmar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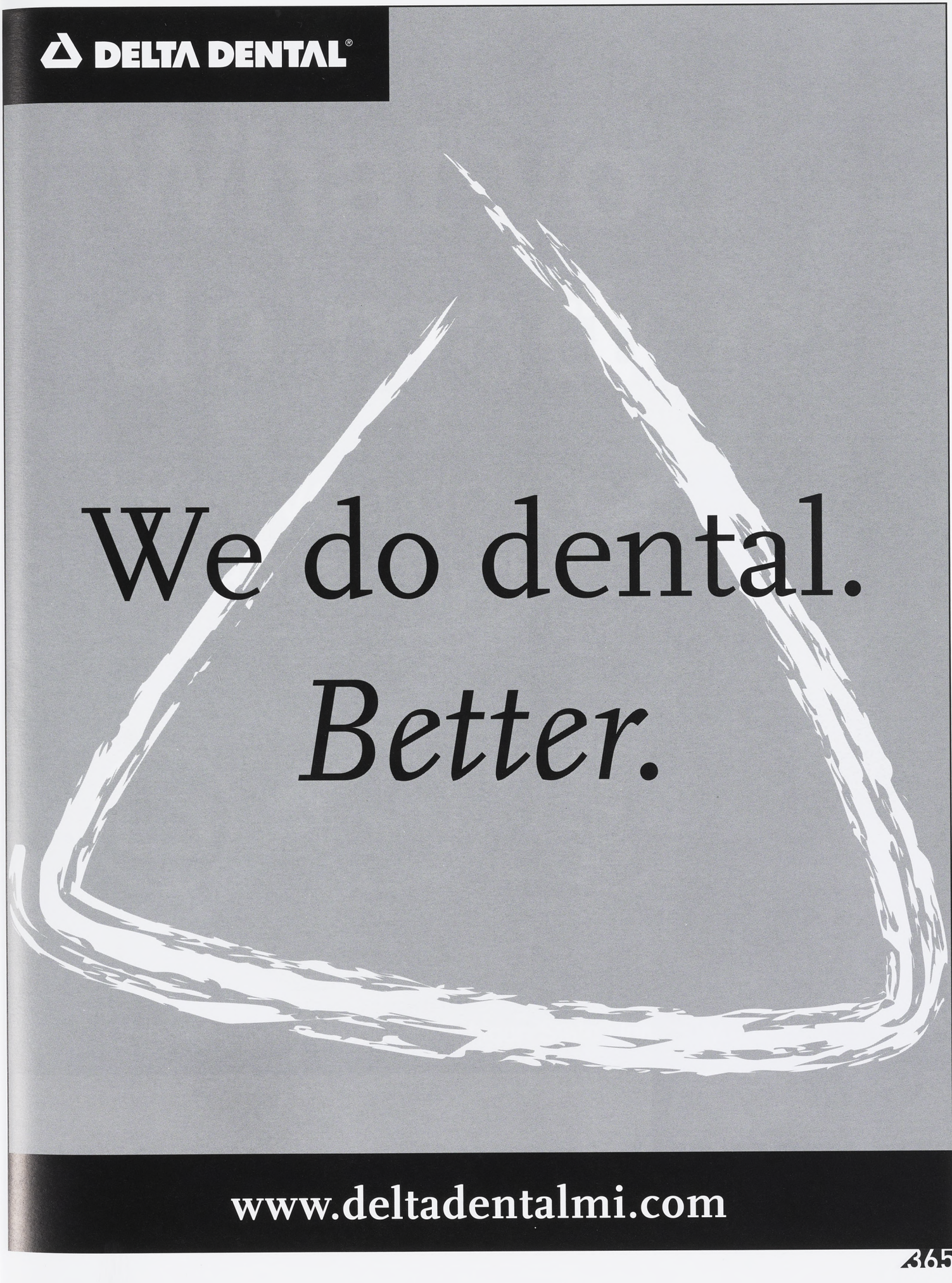
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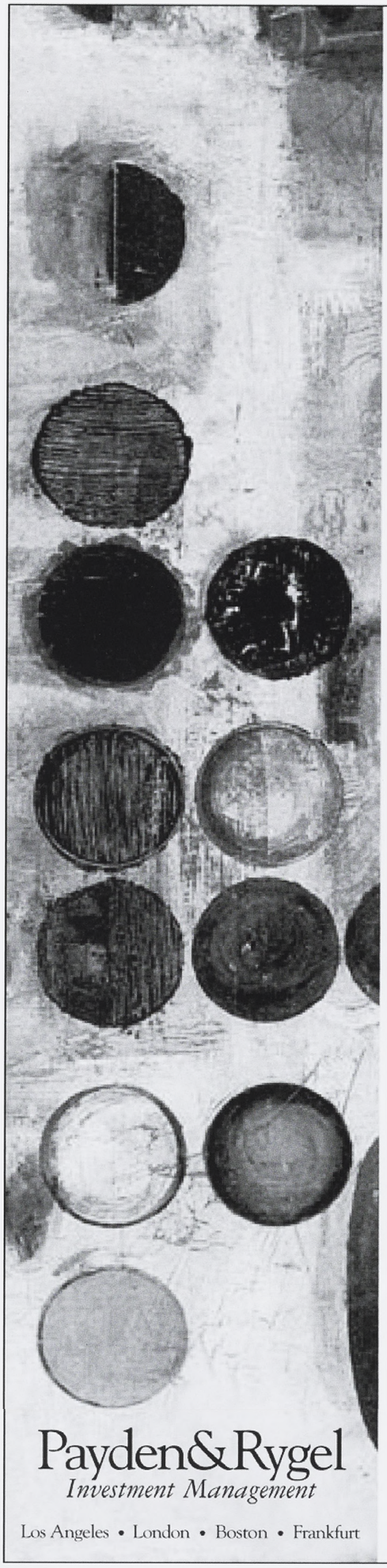

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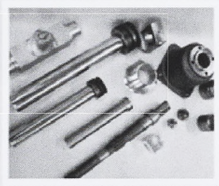

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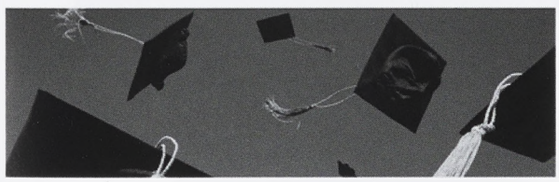

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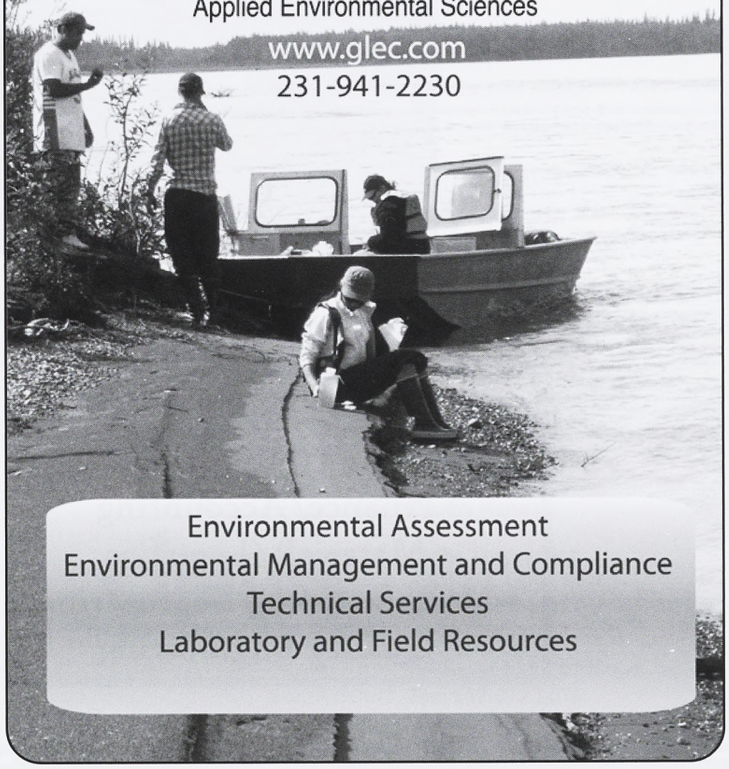

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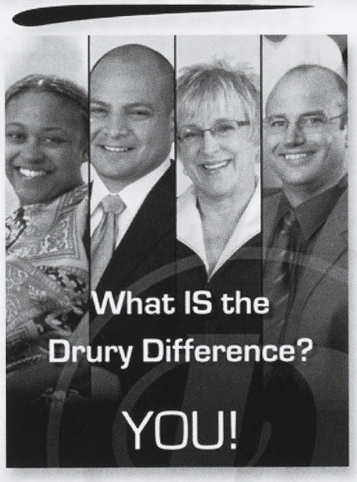

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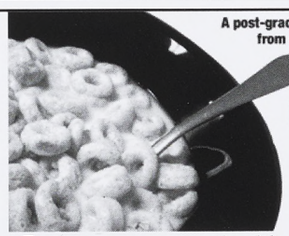

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"The poker tournament was cool, lots of fun and for a good cause so it was nice to support that. I never get to play much poker and I'm not going to go sit at a casino all day."

-Michael Lilly, senior

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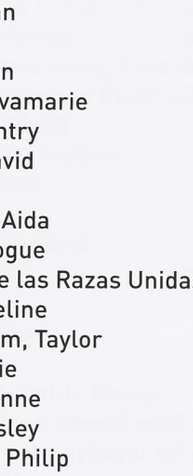

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"I like the Horticultural Children's Garden because it's a nice place to relax when it's nice and sunny out. There's usually other people strolling around, too. I had a picnic there this spring with my boyfriend to celebrate the warm weather. We rode our bikes, ate pb and j's and apples. It's beautiful there."

-Barbara Schmidt, junior

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"I had no idea how it would go and I don't think there's been anything like it before, but I went speed dating because I thought it would be fun and I didn't have anything else to do on a Thursday. It was a cool UAB event, and I might check out more of their stuff."

-David Clatterbuck, junior

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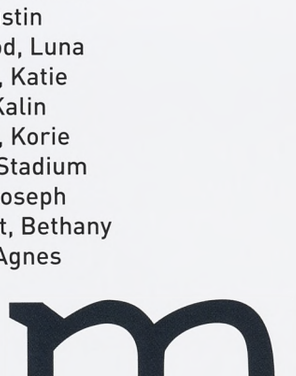

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"(On differences between then and now at MSU) Oh gosh, the cafeterias are brand new. The food is so much better, it's almost like dining out. And also, you see two extra wrinkles in each of the professors' faces."
-Damon Rensing, men's soccer head coach

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"The Have a Heart A Capella Concert was a lot of fun. I came out because my friend knows some people in the a capella groups, but I really enjoyed the music."
-Nabhan Haque, sophomore

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"The fountain behind Student Services is especially beautiful when those trees with the white flowers start to bloom. There's always people lying in the grass."

-Brooke Hawkins, sophomore



Congratulations
to the Michigan State
University
Class of 2010.
The Red Cedar Log
wishes you
the best of luck
on your future
endeavors.
You will forever
remain a member
of this greater
Spartan family.

to the class of 2011

Congratulations on your graduation from Michigan State University! The investment you have made in your education has come to fruition and you are now officially an MSU alum. A diploma from this university speaks volumes about your dedication to your course work, independent projects, community engagement, and global understanding.

This past year, Michigan State has continued to distinguish itself as a university invested in its students, faculty, and the world. Together, we have taught and learned, explored and discovered, and pushed ourselves and the boundaries of understanding. The resulting contributions of faculty, staff, and students continue to expand our legacy as a Land Grant University.

Michigan State University has persisted in making its presence felt for the betterment of the world. We have educated and empowered future leaders; you are one of 10,860 undergraduate and graduate degree recipients that will leave your footprint on this world. This past year, MSU increased its number of medical school graduates by almost 50 percent, helping ensure that the underserved areas of Michigan will have greater access to quality health care in the near future. As access to affordable oil has been challenged, MSU is fast becoming one of the leading research centers for alternative energy. Across disciplines, MSU researchers are seeking the best solutions to ensuring a safe, secure, and plentiful supply of water. Biosensors, DNA chips, and more water-efficient farming are among this year's advances, as well as major breakthroughs in understanding both matter and energy. Research that effects a positive difference in people's lives stands among MSU's top priorities—and in every corner of the planet, MSU's successes are gaining recognition and improving lives.

Michigan State athletes have continued to bring honor to the name "Spartan." A Big Ten championship in football with Mark Dantonio taking Big Ten Coach of the Year honors kicked off a 2010–11 season that included a Big Ten championship for Women's Basketball, Women's Cross Country, Women's Golf, and Men's Baseball. Outstanding Spartan showings in rowing, crew, track and field, and softball continued the outstanding sports year.

As you enter the next stage of your lives, I encourage you to carry your Spartan Spirit with you. Michigan State University has imbued you with a commitment to excellence—for yourselves and the world in which you live. I know you will bring honor to the MSU name as you carry the values that are central to this university to the world. I wish you the best of luck in your continued success.

Sincerely,

Lou Anna K. Simon, Ph.D.
President

"Biosensors, DNA chips, and more water-efficient farming are among this year's advances, as well as major breakthroughs in understanding both matter and energy."



ellina stein


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PEEL

back the layers of the Spartan community and you'll discover the people, perspectives, monuments and quirks that make Michigan State University our home.



anthony thibodeau

In the winter 2010, cars speed down Grand River Avenue at night. in front of Berkey Hall. Grand River is one of the busiest, most frequented streets in East Lansing.

The sun sets behind Phillips Hall and the Psychology Building on campus. The Funambulist sculpture created by John Van Alstine sits on the North lawn of Snyder-Phillips Hall.



natalie kolb

The Baker Woodlot sits on the corner of Service Road and Farm Lane. The tract of land was preserved to demostrate the proper maintanence of woodlands.


Cesare Allori


erica treals



hilary higgins

Printed in the Lansing State Journal, a Go State! ad provided instant fan material for a basketball game at the Breslin Center. The MSU men's basketball team ended the season with a 19-15 record.



chase o'black

The Eli and Edythe Broad art museum construction site lays on Grand River Avenue next to the Student Services Building. The art museum is scheduled to open in the spring of 2012.

The Auditorium hosted several concerts, including Mike Posner, Wale and Passion Pit. In addition to concerts, the Auditorium was venue to Halloween and Greek Week events.



The Michigan State College smokestack hovers above Wells Hall next to Spartan Stadium. Though the smokestack will be demolished, the white bricks creating the 'MSC' will be salvaged.

cassie allore

redcedarlog yearbook