FIRST DAY: STANLEY STARTS MAKING CONNECTIONS

I believe MSU is an extraordinary institution. I am honored to be a fellow Spartan."
—MSU President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
A trio of memos released recently by the provost’s office and Academic Human Resources outline the 2019-2020 guidelines for merit raises and market salary adjustments for non-union faculty and academic staff, as well as salary adjustment guidelines for the Union of Non-tenure Track Faculty. It is the first task force of its type in the nation at the state government level.

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As many institutions and industries — such as higher education — find themselves reacting to and resolving a variety of conflicts in their communities, the role of an ombudsman is becoming more important and more prevalent. Shannon Lynn Burton, named the MSU ombudsperson in July 2018, finds herself part of a trend nationwide where many educational associations and organizations are creating ombuds programs to address vital issues such as harassment, discrimination and civility,” she said. “While this was a new initiative, I believe one benefit to be realized is that attendees and the association as it allowed an avenue for issues facing academia that span not only individual institutions but all disciplines as well.”

During that annual meeting, concerns from accessibility to harassment to academic misconduct, among others, were brought to the co-ombuds. Burton also helped guide individuals to resources available at their home institutions. The model used at that meeting, training a professional ombuds with a researcher who has received ombuds training, is one of the other associations are examining and adopting across the country.

Back at MSU, Burton’s role focuses on assisting students in resolving conflicts or disputes with the university. She also helps staff members, including department chairs and administrators, sort through university rules and regulations that might apply to specific student issues and concerns. She said expanding the role of ombuds across higher education, both at schools and associations, is something she expects to continue.

“One of the other key roles of ombuds is to look at systemic trends and concerns and recommend potential solutions to our organizations,” she said. “We strive to be a neutral, independent and informal resource that can help provide an objective situation to citizens, especially as it relates to fairness, equity and due process.”

MSU’s Office of the University Ombudsperson was one of the first offices of its kind in higher education and remains the longest continuously operating office within university ombudsperson’s office in the country.

>> NEWS BRIEFS

SPORTS JOURNALIST-IN-RESIDENCE NAMED TO GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE

Joanne Gerstner, a faculty member and sports journalist-in-residence in the School of Journalism, will serve on a new task force aimed to identify ways to enhance opportunities for girls and women in sports. In June, Gov. Whitmer signed an executive order to establish the 15-member task force to generate ideas and solutions to increase opportunities for girls and women to play sports at all levels and also find careers within the sports industry, with the hope of setting a national model for engagement. It is the first task force of its type in the nation at the state government level.

TEACHER EDUCATION PROFESSOR NAMED LANSING-AREA POET LAUREATE

Laura Apol, associate professor of teacher education, has been named Lansing-area Poet Laureate. She is the second individual to ever hold the honor. In the role, Apol will work to promote poetry as an art form, expand access to literary arts and connect the community to poetry. The Lansing Economic Area Partnership, the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities Center for Poetry and the Lansing Poetry Club announced the honor in April, and Apol officially began her two-year appointment on May 3. In her work to create excitement for and stimulate the transformative impact of poetry, Apol will offer workshops, readings and other opportunities in the tri-county region.

MSU WORKLIFE OFFICE WELCOMES NEW FACULTY AND STAFF TO CAMPUS

The WorkLife Office supports all faculty and staff by connecting individuals with resources and assistance to help navigate their workplace, career and life transitions. The WLO partners with the community to create an inclusive and responsive work environment where all faculty and staff are respected and supported toward well-being in the multiple roles of work and personal. The six primary areas where faculty and staff can find support are family care, career transitions, workplace assistance, relocation, community connections and providing research-based proposals that inform best practices and policies at MSU. Learn more at go.msu.edu/wl/p.

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“One of the other key roles of ombuds is to look at systemic trends and concerns and recommend potential solutions to our organizations,” she said. “We strive to be a neutral, independent and informal resource that can help provide an objective situation to citizens, especially as it relates to fairness, equity and due process.”
Learning science can be situated outside of the classroom — and research from MSU will develop new methods to show teachers how. Professor Gail Richmond and collaborators received more than $2 million from the National Science Foundation in July to study ways in which the outdoors can be utilized for learning science, particularly in urban elementary schools.

“We want to expand the notion of what the classroom is,” said Richmond, who works in the Department of Teacher Education. “There is a misconception that urban environments don’t have many or any outdoor learning spaces — and that’s just not true. There are playgrounds and parks and so much more, and these are spaces that could be considered a natural world better.”

In the study, which will extend through 2023, the scholars will work with more than 70 elementary teachers and 12 informal educators (such as park naturalists) in Detroit and Lansing. Their goal is to enhance the ability of educators to implement the Next Generation Science Standards in culturally responsive ways by using areas outside of the classroom — and to examine how this type of learning affects students from high-poverty communities.

In particular, the research will examine how teacher practices develop over time in multiple learning environments, how students from communities with high levels of poverty engage with and learn science in these same environments and what factors either facilitate or prevent the development and refinement of effective teaching approaches. The project also will bridge the existing gap between formal and informal education, providing more insights about the benefits and constraints of outdoor spaces and building a broader community of educators.

“One idea driving this research is that of empowering students to be good stewards of the environment,” Richmond continued. “We can help students understand the phenomena about our world, to care more about it and to be active in preserving the health of that world. We also are particularly interested in supporting teachers working in resource-poor environments to provide such rich learning experiences to their students, most of whom have been historically marginalized in science.”

Collaborators include co-PI Tai Tal from the Technion Israel Institute of Technology, along with Gisinger of MSU’s CREATE for STEM Institute and Kara Haas from the MSU W.K. Kellogg Biological Station. Starting in 2020, the researchers will begin a series of professional development sessions focused on outdoor learning, as well as follow-up meetings and classroom-based coaching. Their goal is to learn more about supporting student knowledge and engagement as well as supporting effective teaching practices. Eventually, they aim to use what is learned as a model for others in leveraging their own outdoor environments in powerful ways.

“We are hoping to capture the excitement about science early for these elementary students,” Richmond added. “We want them to know learning science is a powerful experience.”

Many children, grand-children and spouses of current and former faculty and staff look for ways to honor the contributions of MSU leaders who also happen to be members of their own families. In the Empower Extraordinary campaign, that led two families to create endowed faculty positions to carry on their families’ MSU legacy. Late physics professor Wu-Ki Tung’s family — wife Beatrice, sons Lei and Bruce, daughter-in-law Cecilia and grandchildren Allie and Max — established the Dr. Wu-Ki Tung Endowed Professorship in Particle Physics. Tom Yunck, the son of the late 40-year English professor John Yunck and East Lansing journalist Ruth Yunck, established three endowments to fund future positions in honor of his parents. Tung, who died in 2009, considered MSU to be his spiritual and academic home. He is best known for creating the Coordinat- ed Theoretical-Experimen- tal Project on Quantum Chromodynamics, which brought particle physicists from two camps — exper- mental and theoretical — together into one research program.

Lei Tung says the family had talked about creating the endowment even before his father retired in 2007. “He wanted it established at MSU, where he found such strong sup- port for his principles and aspirations,” Yunck said.

Chen-Peng Yuan was named the inaugural Wu- Ki Tung Professor in 2017. Tom Yunck, the founder, chairman and chief technical officer of GeoOptics Inc., says he grew up in the shadow of MSU’s campus. “I didn’t so much have a hometown as a home campus. There were always Spartans around, in the permanent family,” he said. Yunck attended Princeton and Yale universities. He was a research manager for NASA before founding GeoOptics, which developed technology to reduce the cost of collect- ing data from satellites for use in weather predictions.

Tung’s remains remain at Michigan State, and he has a long history of giving back to the place that still feels like home. He previously created a faculty chair and scholarship endowments in the Department of English named for his parents. In 2019, he made a $10.5 million charitable bequest to fund future faculty positions as well as positions to support for computation- al mathematics, science and engineering. He was named MSU’s Philanthro- pist of the Year in 2017.
**IN MEMORIAM**

**CHERIE BLONDE**

**BETTY CHAMBERLAIN**
Betty Chamberlain, Department of Pathology curriculum assistant, died July 31. Chamberlain joined the staff in 1978.

**ELIZABETH DALY**
Elizabeth Daly, MSU Extension economist, died July 21. Daly joined the staff in 1968 and retired in 1988.

**JOHN R. KINNEY**

**CHARLES MCDERMID**

**MICHAEL RHYNDRESS**
Michael Rhyndress, Akers/Hubbard Halls cook, died Aug. 2. Puente joined the staff in 2003.

**MICHAEL PUENTE**

**KURT W. SCHILD**

**STANLEY STARK**
Stanley Stark, Broad College of Business professor, died Aug. 4. Stark joined the staff in 1962 and retired in 1993.

**ANNE THOMAS**
Anne Thomas, College of Nursing professor, died July 26. Thomas joined the staff in 2017.

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**MSU IN THE NEWS**

**$1.1M GIFT FROM IZZO FAMILY SPURS MUNN ARENA PROJECT**

Lois Furby // ADVANCEMENT

Phanthritis is fueling the transformation of Munn Ice Arena, and along with it, MSU Hockey.

In June, the Board of Trustees approved an $18.8 million budget for an addition to the south entrance of Munn. The move followed a fundraising effort that secured more than $10 million in support for the project.

Lead donors include Men’s Basketball Head Coach Tom Izzo and his family, who made a $11 million gift, with a portion for the Spartan Marching Band and academic services.

“Our basketball program is so very fortunate to have the support of many individuals and donors who understand how important facilities and scholarships are to recruiting and competing for championships,” Izzo said. “I’ve been going to hockey games since I came to Michigan State, and those games are some of my greatest memories. The Spartan family is fortunate to have Danton Cole leading the hockey program, and we (Luipe and I) are grateful to be able to support our hockey program that is about to take off.”

MSU Hockey Head Coach Danton Cole says he is humbled by the Izzos generosity.

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**DAILY VITAMIN D PILL COULD CUT THE RISK OF DYING FROM CANCER BY 13 PERCENT, NEW STUDY REVEALS**

Boosting vitamin D levels by taking a daily supplement could cut the risk of dying from cancer by 13 percent, according to a study. The study that reported the 13 percent reduction in cancer risk was conducted by Michigan State University and Hurley Medical Center, which reviewed findings from 30 trials involving adults with an average age of 68.

**DAILY MAIL**
go.msu.edu/1JP

**MICHIGAN AGREES TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS TO VOTE**

The state of Michigan has agreed to help college students vote while away at school — a key victory for Democrats in the next five years, the next 10 years certainly,” Hsu said. “I predict certain countries will adopt.”

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**IVF COUPLES COULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE THE ‘SMARTEST’ EMBRYO**

Couples undergoing IVF treatment could be given an option to pick the “smartest” embryo with needs in the next 10 years, a leading U.S. scientist has predicted.

Stephen Hsu, senior vice president for research at Michigan State University, said scientific advances mean it will soon be feasible to reliably rank embryos according to potential IQ, posing profound ethical questions for society about whether the technology should be adopted.

“Accurate IQ predictors will be possible, if not the next five years, the next 10 years certainly,” Hsu said. “I predict certain countries will adopt.”

**THE GUARDIAN**
go.msu.edu/NCP

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**RVSM from pg. 1**

Staff, alumni and community members are working to support the creation of a new university program for survivors to receive medical forensic exams, including sexual assault kit evidence collection.

The MSU SANE will open in 2020 and provide free, 24-hour response medical care for sexual assault survivors to address the gap in reliable post-assault medical services on campus.

The RVSM workgroup continues to solicit feedback from the community and provide suggestions to improve university programs and policies. Its report highlights efforts made by others at the student, college and university level to address RVSM issues.

One key aspect of the workgroup’s efforts has been education. The Know More campaign, created in conjunction with the MSU Office for Civil Rights and Title IX Education and Compliance, aims to raise awareness on how to prevent relationship violence and sexual misconduct, support those affected and help people find support resources on campus. Find out more about the Know More campaign at go.msu.edu/RVSM.

To begin to overcome the institutional trauma and betrayal found at MSU, the report outlines 10 steps to displaying institutional courage, including going beyond civil and criminal regulations, responding to survivors with empathy, understanding leadership and being transparent.

The report emphasizes that the MSU community needs to learn from and support positive changes already underway, while acknowledg- ing there is still work to be done to promote culture change.

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**MSU IN THE NEWS**

**NEWS FEATURING MSU RESEARCH, EXPERTS AND SUCCESSES**

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