CONTACT MSU is one of the service centers for students at MSU, where they can find general information or non-emergency services on campus. In the past, these centers were responsible for shifts to keep the service center running 24/7/365. Last year, ContactMSU, the service center for MSU, handled calls, texts, and emails sent to the customer support center, which included non-emergency MSU-related questions. They maintained a good working relationship with the police and provided information about events of many msu.edu websites. Whether it's a faculty or staff member calling about a temperature problem or a student or customer inquiring about event information, ContactMSU is there to answer.

The service center continues to operate with 24/7/365 availability, ensuring that the needs of students and faculty are met, no matter the hour. ContactMSU is a catch-all information center for the university, and they are always ready to assist.

In the way the courts and universities interpret Title IX, the law is interpreted — one when credibility is at issue. The courts and universities are responsible for determining the standard of proof to represent conduct, including changes made to Title IX. The U.S. Department of Education will impact the way MSU investigates reports of relationship violence, stalking, and sexual misconduct.

What happened at the Sixth Circuit Court? On Sept. 7, 2018, in a review of the University of Michigan's Title IX investigation process, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court concluded that when credibility is at issue in a sexual misconduct case, universities are constitutionally required to give the respondent, or someone they designate to represent them, an opportunity to cross-examine the claimant and any witnesses they bring forward in the presence of a neutral fact-finder. The claimant has the same right to cross-examine the respondent and any witnesses they bring forward.

This decision by the court now requires MSU, and all other public universities in the Sixth Circuit's jurisdiction, to make changes to their Title IX investigation policies to allow for cross-examination. What happened at the Department of Education? On Nov. 29, 2018, the U.S. Department of Education published proposed rules that would significantly change the way universities investigate and decide incidents of sexual misconduct under Title IX. The proposed rules would:

- Likely require a change in MSU’s standard of proof for proving awareness of the evidence, which means the evidence is “more likely than not” to prove the incident occurred, to clear and convincing, which means

The Board of Trustees, on Jan. 17, voted unanimously to appoint Satish Udpa, executive vice president for administrative services, as acting president. The move came after the board accepted the resignation of former interim president John Engler. Udpa is now responsible for all duties associated with the Office of the President and will serve in the role until a permanent president is selected as part of the university’s ongoing search.

While we collectively are working very hard to make needed improvements regarding the prevention of, and response to, sexual misconduct and relationship violence, as well as enhancing patient care and safety, none of our hard work will matter if people in leadership say hurtful things and do not listen to the survivors, board Chairperson Dianne Byrum said. “To the survivors, the entire Board of Trustees extends our remorse over the regretful comments Engler has made. We are diligently seeking a new leader to continue our healing and guide our campus to achieve our aspirations in integrity, inclusion, research, and education.”

Before becoming an executive vice president, Udpa served as dean of the College of Engineering and chairperson of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Prior to joining MSU in 2001, he was the Whitney Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Iowa State University.

“I am honored to serve as the acting president of MSU,” he said. “I am eager to work with the board during this transition, helping the university move forward.” The search continues for the university’s 21st president. Nominations are being accepted, and the board and search committee will review applicants and conduct interviews beginning in February, with the goal of selecting a permanent president in June.
SLAVERY TO FREEDOM SERIES KICKS OFF FEB. 7

LAURA PROBYN /CIVIL RIGHTS

A spiritual leader, a journalist and a civil rights activist, Vernon Jordan will speak at MSU in February during the College of Osteopathic Medicine’s annual free public lecture series.

The 1998 annual William G. Anderson Lecture Series, Slavery to Freedom: An American Odyssey, kicks off at 5 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Kellogg Hotel and Confer-
\[ ... \]

EDUCATION RESEARCHERS NAMED TOP INFLUENCERS IN THE NATION

Six MSU faculty are among 200 scholars to appear on Rick Hess’ 2019 Edu-Scholar Public Rankings, which honors researchers considered to have had the greatest influence on education research and policy.

- Joshua Cowen, associate professor of education policy and founder and co-director of the Education Policy Innovation Collaborative, or EPIC (no. 150).
- Scott Imberman, professor of economics and co-director of EPIC (no. 150).
- Joshua Cowen, associate professor of education practice and policy.
- Karen R. Haynes III, associate professor of professional practice and co-director of the Study of Curriculum Policy (no. 103).
- Nizar Lajnef, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering.
- Barbara Schneider, John A. Hannah Chair and professor in the Department of Linguistics and Culture and frequently asks individuals to make their own judgments of the truth, regardless of others’ views.

Each lecture will be followed by a reception where audience members can meet and talk with the speaker. No reservations are required.

To learn more about the Slavery to Freedom lecture series, visit the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine’s website at go.msu.edu/CHE or call (317) 432-4979.

ADVANCING MOBILITY

Nizar Lapnejf, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, demonstrated MSU’s self-actuating sensor technology in the MSUMobility booth at AutoMobility-D during the North American International Auto Show earlier this month.

/SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY


to ensure that the campus keeps running smoothly. MSU faculty and staff also can tap ContactMSU for after-hours event support. Departments can work directly with Huston’s team to define event protocols and point guests in the right direction.

Huston added, “We can provide an after-hours presence for any department on campus. We really encourage faculty and staff to utilize this resource for the work they are doing.”

ContactMSU also houses ContactIPF, a central resource site for IPF service questions and information. The office facilitates facility repairs, dispatching skilled trades workers for resolution and facilitating IPF emergency procedures. In November alone, ContactIPF assisted more than 3,200 work orders for IPF staff.

During the winter months, ContactMSU encourages all MSU faculty and staff to report any slippery parking lots or sidewalks via phone, text or email. The office alerts IPF and allows a staff member to be dispatched immediately.

Visit go.msu.edu/9XH for more information.

REACH OUT

Call or text (317) 355-1855 or email ContactMSU@msu.edu. You can also find them from the MSU app under the “more” tab.

AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED FOR HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

MSU’s first three recipients of the Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem Award, which awards funding to support an open-access digital publication of a book recipients have written, are: Matthew Handelman, assistant professor in the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages, College of Arts and Letters; Sidney Xu Lu, assistant professor in the Department of History, College of Social Science; and Ronen Steinberg, assistant professor in the Department of History, College of Social Science. Learn more at go.msu.edu/LP1i.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ASSOCIATE DEAN WINS RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ann E. Austin, associate dean for research in the College of Education, was recently recognized for her significant contributions to higher education research. She was the 2018 honoree of the Association for the Study of Higher Education Research Achievement Award, given to a scholar whose research has helped move the field forward.

Learn more at go.msu.edu/LP1i.

ALL-UNIVERSITY AWARDS WINNERS SELECTED, TO BE HONORED FEB. 5

The 2018-19 All-University Awards recipients will be honored at a reception Feb. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the Heritage Room, University Club. Honors include the William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Awards, Teacher-Scholar Awards, Community Engagement Scholarship Award, Distinguished Academic Staff Awards, Robert P. Banks Award for Institutional Leadership and Excellence-in-Teaching Citation. See a full list of the winners at go.msu.edu/pkRi.

EVENTS is published bi-weekly on Mondays throughout the calendar year.

Event and news submissions should be emailed to InsideMSU@msu.edu at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. For more information, call (517) 432-0204.

See more news at msu.edu/insideMSU.

Nizar Lapnejf, assistant professor in the Department of History, College of Arts and Letters; Sidney Xu Lu, assistant professor in the Department of History, College of Social Science; and Ronen Steinberg, assistant professor in the Department of History, College of Social Science. Learn more at go.msu.edu/LP1i.
During the past year, MSU’s WorkLife Expanding Backup Care Program has been used as a vehicle for making social and political commentary — both positive and negative. As a musician in the College of Music, Marcie Rayan wants students to think about how music shapes the human identity.

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IN MEMORIAM

JANICE ANDERSEN
Janice Andersen, University Services office assistant, died Dec. 15. Andersen joined the staff in 1983 and retired in 2011.

ROBERT ANDERSON
Robert Anderson, College of Arts and Letters professor, died Dec. 20. Anderson joined the staff in 1957 and retired in 1997.

KERMIT DAY

AUGUSTUS GANAKAS

JOHN HERRICK

JOHN HOFFMAN
John Hoffman, engineering research director, died Jan. 6. Hoffman joined the staff in 1955 and retired in 1981.

BEVERLY MUSOLF
Beverly Musolf, Learning and Evaluation Services scoring machine operator, died Dec. 18. Musolf joined the staff in 1959 and retired in 1981.

ALBERT TOMO SR.
Albert Tomo Sr., university apartments maintenance supervisor, died Dec. 31. Tomo joined the staff in 1948 and retired in 1991.

JOHN UGWAGONWU

KIRILL VANINSKY
Kirill Vaninsky, mathematics professor, died Dec. 11. Vaninsky joined the staff in 2001.

COMMENORATING DR. KING

Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity led the MSU community in a symbolic march for social justice from the Kellogg Center to Beaumont Tower to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 21. Events honoring Dr. King and his message of peace were held throughout the week.

Three MSU student start-up teams showcased their innovative projects at Consumer Electronics Show 2019 in Las Vegas.

Microsoft

Three student startup teams from MSU participated in the 2019 Consumer Electronics Show, or CES, in Las Vegas, where they showcased their innovative projects and start-up ventures.

- AgileCare Solutions: In a world shifting from post-acute to chronic care, AgileCare Solutions works to build a suite of software solutions to help inform family caregivers on options and resources for their ailing loved ones. Bailey Paxton, senior in business, is the company’s founder and CEO, and Brian Cooper, senior in media and information, is the chief technology officer.

- Vloggle: Vloggle, advertised as “video at your fingertips,” allows users to upload, edit and share their content in real-time. Users can create videos or vlogs and share them across platforms instantly. Michael Jajou, junior in computer science, is the company’s CEO, and Christian Marouadi, junior in accounting, is the chief operating officer.

- Social Movement Media: The company offers a breadth of social marketing services to its clients, which include Chevrolet and Hard Rock Cafe. James Shockley, senior in advertising management, is the company’s founder and CEO, and Andrew Parah, senior in advertising management, is the director of sales.

Learn more at go.msu.edu/4qH.

7 WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED IN A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP, ACCORDING TO SCIENCE

If you want to maintain a strong connection in your long-term relationship, you can. There’s even research to back it up. Do keep in mind, though, this isn’t necessarily something to worry about. “It’s completely normal for couples to start to feel bored or that a spark is missing,” said Bill Chopik, assistant professor of psychology at Michigan State University. “So people should definitely not feel bizarre about it. However, the successful couples are the ones who do something about it.”

BUSTLE
go.msu.edu/56H

FACEBOOK JUNKIES ARE SIMILAR TO DRUG ADDICTS, STUDY FINDS

A link has been found between excessive use of social media and behavior seen in drug addicts. Scientists conducting a gambling experiment found that the worst performers tended to be those hooked on social media sites such as Facebook. Precisely the same trend has been seen in people who abuse drugs such as cocaine and heroin.

Lead researcher Dar Meshi from Michigan State University said, “Around one-third of humans on the planet are using social media, and some of these people are using maladaptive, excessive use of these sites. Our findings will hopefully motivate the field to take social media overdose seriously.”

BLOOMBERG
go.msu.edu/9mH

MICHIGAN UNIVERSITIES TESTING NEW ALZHEIMER’S DRUG

Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are among more than 30 academic medical centers and clinics nationwide conducting clinical trials of the drug Itrumizole. The study, called T2 Protect AD, is being coordinated by the Alzheimer’s Disease Cooperative Study, or ADCS, a consortium of institutions that researches interventions for the disease.

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>> MSU IN THE NEWS

NEWS FEATURING MSU RESEARCH, EXPERTS AND SUCCESSES