PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION COMMITTEE SET

A Presidential Transition Advisory Committee has been formed to ensure a smooth transition for President-designee Samuel L. Stanley Jr. as he joins the Spartan community Aug. 1.

The committee, led by Mike Zeig, chief of staff for the Office of the President, will provide background and advice on university functions and structure. Made up of members of the Presidential Search Committee, as well as other campus leaders, the committee will begin meeting this month.

Committee members:
- Mike Zeig, chief of staff, Office of the President
- Megan Abel, president, Council of Graduate Students
- Debra Bitner, president, Coalition of Labor Organizations at MSU
- Pero Gaglo Dagbovie, University Distinguished Professor of history and associate dean, Graduate School
- Prabu David, dean, College of Communication Arts and Sciences
- Mary Finn, director and professor, School of Criminal Justice
- Thomas Glasmacher, laboratory director and project director, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, and University Distinguished Professor
- Mario Kajos, president, Associated Students of Michigan State University
- Leo Kempel, dean, College of Engineering
- Bonnie Knutson, professor, School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Business
- Wanda Lipscomb, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, senior associate dean for Diversity and Inclusion, College of Human Medicine
- Gregory J. Spray, doctoral candidate, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, College of Communication Arts and Sciences
- Satish Udpa, acting president
- Kathleen M. Wilbur, executive vice president for Government, Communications and Advancement
- Felicia Wu, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition, and Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics

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ON THE WEB
For more information about President-designee Samuel L. Stanley Jr. and the presidential search, visit msu.edu/presidentialsearch.

Food and Resource Economics
- June Pierce Youatt, provost

Stanley was chosen as 21st president in May after a yearlong national search that included input via 22 campuswide input sessions.

HEALTH4U PROGRAMS HELP CAMPUS COMMUNITY THRIVE

Join colleagues, make new connections and get active during your day with the free Fresh Air Fitness Series. MSU Recreational Sports and Fitness Services and the MSU Health4U Program offer a suite of classes for employees during the month of June. All classes take place over the lunch hour from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m.

The free 40-minute group-exercise classes are a great way to get active during the workday while enjoying the sights and sounds of MSU’s campus.

Please bring water and dress appropriately for the weather. Classes are free, but registration is recommended.

Classes offered include:
- Tai Chi — Mondays at the Summer Circle Courtyard
- Walking — Tuesdays at Beaumont Tower
- Thursdays at Abrams Planetarium
- Yoga — Tuesdays at the Engineering Building courtyard; Wednesdays at the Wharton Center
- Pilates — Thursdays at W. J. Beal Botanical Garden

ON THE WEB
For more information on Health4U’s Fresh Air Fitness summer classes, visit go.msu.edu/RBP.

As a way to improve employee engagement and morale, the MSU WorkLife Office offers presentations to groups of faculty and staff on a variety of topics. For convenience, many of the presentations can be scheduled during staff meetings or other meetings where staff or faculty gather. One of the most requested presentations is "Finding Your WorkLife Fit," which focuses on how to manage the multiple roles in your life.

The office has a new option on its website called "Request a Workshop." Employees can use this feature to schedule a presentation for their offices. The current offerings are: Busting the Myth of Work-Life Balance, Building Your Best Colleague, Managing Stress at Work, Creating Flexible Work Arrangements as a Team and Custom Workshops where you can request a topic across a span of work-life topics.

“We look forward to visiting your group or unit to train or share information about resources available to faculty and staff at MSU,” said Jaimie Hutchison of the WorkLife Office.

In the past few months, 91 employees have attended presentations. All participants also said the information presented was either very useful or moderately useful and 97% would recommend the program.

TRAVEL CHANGE FOR HIGH-RISK COUNTRIES

MSU requires additional review of faculty, staff, administrator and MSU-sponsored guest travel to high-risk destinations.

BOAR D OF TRUSTEES MEETS JUNE 21

The MSU Board of Trustees will hold a regularly scheduled meeting on June 21 at 8 a.m. hospitality.

ON THE WEB
For more information on requesting a workshop for your team, visit go.msu.edu/q2P.

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EMPLOYEE WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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PROF RECEIVES FULBRIGHT FOR INDIA DANCE RESEARCH

CHARLOTTE BAYKIAN / ARTS & HUMANITIES

Sitara Thobani, an assistant professor in the Residen-
tial College in the Arts and Humanities, has established himself as a respected re-
searcher of the performance arts in colonial and postcolo-
nial South Asia and its dias-
poras, for which she has now received a Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award. Thobani focuses her re-
search on representations of the Indian dancer in both Euro-American and Indian sources in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Fulbright award allows Thobani to conduct archival research in the Indian cities of Delhi, Kolkata, Varanasis and Lucknow.

Research gained from these trips will build on the exhi-
bition she presented at the Looklift Art Gallery at the be-
ginning of the 2018-19 academic year and will lead to the publi-
ties: Dancing on Empire’s Stage,” was based on her ethno-grafical fieldwork in the United Kingdom and India, which demonstrated how performances of Indian classical dance serve as a critical site for the mutual constitution of deeply en-
tangled Indian, diasporic and British national identities. “I’m delighted to have received this Fulbright,” Thobani said. “I really look forward to undertaking my research on representations of the Indian dancer and the role they play in construct-
ing ideas about race, gender and religion in the 19th and 20th centuries.”

The Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Profession-
al Excellence Awards aim to facilitate exchanges between faculty, researchers and professionals in India and the United States. They provide the opportunity to teach and conduct research. Thobani’s interest in learning about her archival research in India this summer and will return to the Fulbright for the following years. Each city she plans to visit offers different dimensions of research, she said. “Such fields of study help us understand how ideas about power and difference are grounded in and share everyday cross-cultural practices,” Thobani said.
If anyone could find a positive correlation between farming and academia, it would be Frederi Viens, chair of the Department of Prob- ability and Statistics in the College of Natural Science. Viens and his wife, Carolyn Johnston, assistant professor in the Department of History, moved three years ago from Indiana to begin their ca- reers at MSU and purchased Chniook’s Acres, an 80-acre farm in Laingsburg. “Sixty-five to 70% of all farmers in the United States have second and third jobs,” Viens said. “It’s hard to survive as a farmer without a steady source of income, so we fit the farm into our academic schedule.”

Basing their operation on the heartiness of heritage breeds, the watchfulness of livestock guardian dogs and the rhythms of perennial pasture made it possible for Viens and Johnston to balance the farmer/professor equation. They gave up the equipment and time-intensive corn and soybean crop rotation in favor of hay, which requires our Great Pyrenees and our livestock guardian dogs and a flock of more than 75 sheep that includes three breeds: Shetlands for wool and fiber and English Dor- sets and American Khatadins for meat. To give their fledgling farm a boost, Johnston and Viens applied for the prestigious Food Animal Concerns Trust Grant. They were one of just 38 applicants across the United States to receive it in 2019 out of more than 300 applications. 

Well known in the field of small-scale farming, the grant program supports farmers with plans to im- prove farm animal welfare. Viens and Johnston will use the $2,500 grant to improve their pasture and install a much-needed watering system. “As a history professor, Carolyn is trained to dig up documents and is a superb researcher, so if a grant exists to support our new venture, she will find it,” Viens said. “The success rate is small, so it was a long shot, but Carolyn told a story about our farm that is a fact: community needs Great Pyrenees and our water problem.”

The couple’s two Great Pyr- enees, Chniook and Simoun, have kept predation of the sheep and goats at zero. Bred to be the color of the snow-blanketed Pyrenees, the dogs are also the same size and color as the flock, confusing coyotes and fox with mediocre eyesight.

“I want to keep my hands dirty, literally, when it comes to finding ways to increase productivity and use sustainable means of food production,” Viens said. “My research is motivated by a desire to understand sustainable agriculture, so I work with colleagues who know a lot about sustainable food systems.”

With a few years of expe- rience under his belt, Viens has realized that agriculture is a not a discrete variable and uses insights from his own farm endeavors when writing grants that help farmers in the U.S. and other countries.

“Now, when I’m in a room of 30 researchers all talking about crop systems, it’s no longer just lines on a spreadsheet or a theory on paper, but a living system that depends on location, animals and time,” Viens said. “I am definitely a better researcher since we began farming.”

Lyman Briggs College Dean Michele H. Jackson. “I have every confidence that his unique insights and strong connections across MSU will contribute to faculty success and to the overall success of the college moving forward.”

Unquhart is a member of the dean’s executive team, providing leadership and steward- ship for the col- lege.

Unquhart’s role entails recruiting and supporting a diverse, engaged and productive faculty throughout their academic careers. The as- sociate dean oversees the college’s diverse research portfolio, including individual, teaching and learning, and interdisci- plinary research programs. He is committed to building a larger leadership role in Lyman Briggs College, Unquhart said. “Research and faculty success are critical for the success of the mission of the college. I started my time at Lyman Briggs 32 years ago as a zoology student never imagining I would some- day help lead the college. From that perspective, it is ultimately rewarding to serve.”
**MSU EARNS GOLD RATING FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

MSU has received a Gold Rating for sustainability achievements through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, a U.S.-based certification organization.

AASHE provides a framework to measure sustainability efforts within higher ed institutions. This Sustainability Tracking and Rating System, or STARS, is used by over 800 schools in 30 countries and is the most widely recognized framework in the world for publicly reporting comprehensive information related to a college or university's sustainability performance. Participants report achievements in five overall areas: academics; engagement; operations; planning and administration; and innovation.

This is MSU's third triennial report and the first time it has achieved the gold rating. This increase in its overall rating from the previous silver report is a testimony to the growth and commitment to MSU's sustainability efforts.

The AASHE STARS tool provides us a consistent methodology to see the comprehensive impact and growth of our sustainability programs," said Amy Butler, campus sustainability director. "It also identifies new opportunities and gives us the ability to benchmark other universities for best practices.

More than 150 individuals from across the university contributed to the STARS report, compiling data, documenting sources and reviewing the content to help MSU produce the most comprehensive and thorough review yet.

Areas of improvement from previous reports were identified in academics, where the university improved by over a dozen points to achieve an 86% in the category. This is a result of MSU's holistic approach to undergraduate education, where every student is exposed to sustainability concepts throughout their interdisciplinary coursework and curriculum, as well as sustainable directed research and continuing education.

MSU jumped 14% in the STARS system, achieving a 70.86% and becoming one of the three Gold Rated institutions in Michigan. In addition to the progress in the four main categories, the report features three key innovations implemented at the university:

- MSU has installed the largest solar carport array in North America, contributing to increasing on-site renewable energy generation to over 10%.
- MSU is the only university in the United States to partner with the Science Gallery Network and the Science Gallery Detroit. This initiative acts as a collider of art and science and engages 15- to 25-year-olds.
- Infrastructure and Planning Facilities implementation of the award-winning Mobile Action Plan. The MAP utilizes technology, training and innovation to optimize the maintenance and operations in socially, environmentally and economically efficient means to achieve the mission of the university — advancing knowledge and transforming lives. It empowers and engages staff in a culture of sustainability and innovation.

**IPF USING DRONE TO TRACK EROSION**

Landscape Services builds on project started by student

Josie Bournis / Campus Life

Landscape Services recently embarked on a project started by an IPF student to help the river and understand how to better allocate resources to rejuvenate it," she said. "We began last spring, and we have been working on this project since. It is important to us to monitor and predict soil erosion. Amandas Wakefield, who initiated the effort, has worked with Landscape Services for three years and is a senior majoring in landscape architecture. She received a $2,000 scholarship that helped launch the project. "Through using the drone, we are going to be able to look at the banks of the river and understand how to better allocate resources to rejuvenate them," she said.

**GUARDS' ONLINE SEX EXPERIENCE MAY SPUR RISK OFFLINE**

The types of sexual experiences girls have on the internet can predict the kinds of risk they face offline, including HIV infections, physically violent relationships and sexual assault, new research suggests. "Girls are under immense pressure to prove themselves to be sexually 'hot' or attractive online," said the study's lead author, André Velásquez and Sheng Yang He, at Michigan State University. "But this study shows that online behavior can have implications for what happens in real life, too."

André Velásquez, an assistant professor of human development and family studies at Michigan State University, noted that though some girls may be using the internet to explore their sexuality, others are not. "We want to encourage parents and educators to have open conversations with their children about online safety and privacy," said Velásquez. "It's also important for parents to be aware of the technologies that girls are using to communicate with others online."