Governor to name replacement for term ending in ’22

On Oct. 26, MSU Board of Trustees member Nancy Schlichting informed Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of her decision to resign from the board, effective immediately. “Nancy brought tremendous experience managing large organizations to her role on the MSU Board of Trustees,” said President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D. “I’m sorry that she is stepping down, but I wish her much personal success and happiness with her other projects. We valued her insight and contributions while she was with us.”

Per state law, the governor will appoint a new trustee to fill the vacant position. Schlichting said he will provide Whitmer with any information she may need or request as she works on the appointment of the next board member. “The governor takes her responsibility to appoint a new trustee very seriously,” Whitmer’s office said in a statement. “She is committed to appointing someone who will work together with President Stanley and the remaining board members to build a campus culture that respects diversity, listens to survivors and makes a college education more affordable and accessible for Michigan families.” Schlichting was appointed by former Gov. Rick Snyder in December 2018 to fill the seat vacated by George Perles, who resigned due to health reasons. The term is up for statewide election in November 2022. Before being named a trustee, Schlichting was CEO of Henry Ford Health System for 14 years and had more than 35 years of senior-level executive experience in four major health systems.

FALL BRINGS A SPLASH OF COLOR

The entire developed campus of MSU is an arboretum, or living laboratory, with every woody plant inventoried. Each fall, millions of changing leaves transform MSU’s 500-acre campus into a colorful landscape. There are more than 24,200 trees on campus, representing 1,885 different taxa (species and varieties). Many of the trees have descriptive labels. The collection of trees and shrubs adds beauty to the campus as well as serving to support teaching and research. The collection is curated by the staff of the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden and maintained by Landscape Services.

MSU BEGINS SEARCH FOR PROVOST

Stanley taps staff, faculty, students for committee

MSU is beginning the search for its next provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. President Stanley recently announced he had named a 22-member search committee to guide the process. The goal is to have a new provost identified by the end of the 2020 spring semester.

Former University of Virginia president and MSU alumnus Teresa Sullivan was named interim provost by Stanley in mid-September. “The provost is a very important position at a university, serving as the chief academic officer for the institution,” Stanley said. “This person provides leadership for matters that affect academic programs, research and outreach involving all faculty, students and staff. I am confident our search committee members have the understanding and dedication to find a candidate who shares our priorities for student success, campus safety and diversity, as well as our commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence and world-changing research.”

Ron Hendrick, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Beronda Montgomery, MSU Foundation professor of biochemistry, molecular biology, microbiology and molecular genetics and assistant provost for faculty development, were named co-chairs of the search committee. The panel includes faculty, staff, academic specialists and graduate and undergraduate students representing many different areas of the university.

For a full list of members and more about the search, visit provostsearch.msu.edu. Regular updates will be provided, including a timeline and position description, as well as the opportunity for members of the MSU community to nominate candidates for the position.

The search committee will be working closely with Parker Executive Search, an executive search firm specializing in higher education administration. The plan is for finalists to visit campus during the spring semester. Stanley said before he recommends the top candidate to the Board of Trustees for its approval.
More than 80 bar staff in the East Lansing area were introduced to a portion of “Active Barstander,” a new training pilot to teach sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention methods to those who work in the service industry.

The program is facilitated by MSU’s Prevention, Outreach and Education Department and is a part of an ongoing campus initiative to decrease these types of incidences from happening at MSU and in the greater East Lansing community.

Through a two-hour, interactive program, bar staff will be educated on sexual violence and harassment prevention, how to identify consensual versus abusive behaviors and how to safely intervene to prevent situations that could potentially lead to violence or harassment.

“We hope to see bar staff feel comfortable and empowered to intervene if they see something happening in their work environment,” said Mahan Sloat, prevention specialist with POE. “They have a lot of power and influence to stop sexual violence.”

Sloat, who designed this program, modeled it after the University of Iowa and University of Michigan’s “Raise the Bar” initiative, which has expanded to include local Lyft drivers, a goal she aspires to for “Active Barstander.”

“This is truly primary prevention,” said Sloat. “People should be able to go to bars and have a good time without feeling unsafe or being harassed.”

Research conducted by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alkoholism showed that alcohol contributes to sexual assault in many different ways, often increasing the risk of the abuse.

Establishments that complete this new training will receive the “Active Barstander” decal to display in their windows as a symbol of their commitment. Bar staff who have attended the training will also receive a certificate of completion.
Christopher Mancuso
//Research

Editor’s note: Christopher Mancuso is a postdoctoral researcher in MSU’s Department of Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering, a department of the colleges of Natural Science and Engineering.

Throughout my life, I have always tried to be open-minded about the direction my life could go. So, I occurred during my senior year of high school, and I quickly signed up to join the U.S. Marine Corps, where I did intelligence work for five years. While I was deployed to Iraq, people would send us care packages. A friend of mine would always get fast X-ray lasers. Individual National Research In addition, I believe my mine would always get Sci— Service Award from the experiences as a veteran and en

U.S. Marine Christopher Mancuso now is a postdoctoral researcher at MSU, studying computational biology.

The fellowship includes a three-year stipend and an institutional allowance. This NIH fellowship will provide a life-changing experience for me. I will develop a program to support the graduate and undergraduate students in Kristina’s group. The freedom and support this fellowship will provide will allow me to transition from being a research practitioner to a research leader.

In addition, I believe my experiences as a veteran and first-generation college student will allow me to serve as a mentor for undergraduate students from under-represented backgrounds. During this fellowship, I plan on continuing to provide care and support for the graduate and undergraduate students in Kristina’s group. The freedom and support this fellowship will provide will allow me to transition from being a research practitioner to a research leader.

While I was deployed to Iraq, people would send us care packages. A friend of mine would always get ultrafast X-ray lasers. We moved to East Lansing when my wife accepted a tenure-track job at MSU. During my first year here, I worked on a genetics-based biomedical imaging project using ultrafast lasers. During this project, I became interested in computational analysis of biomedical data, and in 2017 I joined the lab of Arjan Krishnan, making the switch from laser science to computational biology.

I recently received the Ruth L. Kirschstein Postdoctoral Individual National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health. The fellowship includes a three-year stipend and an institutional allowance. This NIH fellowship will provide a life-changing experience for me. I will develop a program to support the graduate and undergraduate students in Kristina’s group. The freedom and support this fellowship will provide will allow me to transition from being a research practitioner to a research leader.

BIG TEN RESEARCH MAKES IMPACT

The Big Ten Conference is the oldest Division I collegiate athletic conference. While the 14 Big Ten schools can be powerhouses on the athletic field, many people might not realize the Big Ten Conference is also No. 1 for research funding. Kicking off this fall, the Big Ten will showcase its strength in three areas — health, environment and innovation and economic development — via the Big Ten Network's LiveBIG campaign. It’s the first time the Big Ten schools have combined their strengths to showcase the impact of work they’re doing in their local communities and states and the impact and reach of the group as a whole. Schools will use social media and the hashtag #Big10Impact to highlight partnered research in all fields with other Big Ten schools. The ultimate goal is to showcase how the schools, together, are fighting climate change, driving economies, changing the face of health care and more, making the Big Ten “Opponents on the field. Partners in Impact.” The 2019-20 Big Ten LiveBIG campaign can be found at b10.com/liveBIGvideo.

For the sixth consecutive year, a team of Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from the MSU Spartan Battalion and the University of Michigan Wolverine Battalion will unite Nov. 15 — kicking off the annual rivalry weekend — to participate in Alex's Great State Race.

The race is a 64-mile run from the “Sparty” statue on MSU’s campus in East Lansing to the U-M football stadium in Ann Arbor. The event raises awareness and funds for MSU’s Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities and U-M’s Services for Students with Disabilities in memory of MSU student Alex Powell, who died May 8, 2011, from cancer. As Powell contemplated his acceptance to MSU, a lifelong dream of his, he received the devastating news that he had a rare, aggressive form of cancer. During his freshman year at MSU, the disease began to take its toll, so he turned to MSU’s RCPD for assistance. The center helped Powell develop accommodation strategies and to communicate his needs to each of his professors. Powell also established a connection to U-M during this difficult time, as he received cancer treatments there. The positive experience the Powells had with both institutions is what spurred Professor Julianna Powell’s creation of the race, said, "Creating Alex’s Great State Race has helped me heal after Alex’s death, while at the same time honoring his memory in a way that I believe he would have approved of." Julianna Powell, creator of the race, said. Spartan and Wolverine fans are encouraged to welcome runners at noon on Nov. 16 at “The Diag” on U-M’s campus in Ann Arbor, as well as to donate through Alex’s Great State Race. Additionally, a fundraiser will be held.

NOV. 7 | MANAGING INCOME AND DEBT: TIAA’s workshop leader will explain the impact of budgeting and debt and how to make your money work. The free session will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the MSU Union, Room 30. Learn more at go.msu.edu/WIBP.

NOV. 7 | VETERANS DAY DINNER: Attend a special dinner honoring all who served, from 5 to 8 p.m. at The Vista at Shaw Hall. There is no reservation necessary for attendance. Come in your uniform or bring along your proof of service for a special discounted rate. Learn more at go.msu.edu/Bf9P.

NOV. 8-17 | TWELFTH NIGHT: Award-winning playwright and director Gus Kaikkonen returns to Lansing as a guest director for the Department of Theatre production of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare at the MSU Auditorium’s Arena Theatre. General admission tickets are $15, or $13 for faculty/staff and seniors and $10 for students. Tickets are available online at go.msu.edu/VF.

NOV. 10 | GLOBAL FESTIVAL: MSU international students and scholars will share their culture through exhibits, performances and activities for the whole family. Attend this free festival for interactive dance workshops and a global gift shop. The event will be held at the MSU Union from noon to 5 p.m. Learn more at go.msu.edu/BRP.

NOV. 11 | VETERANS DAY BRUNCH: Join the Student Veterans of America and the MSU Student Veterans Resource Center for the fourth annual Veterans Day brunch. The event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the Lake Huron Room at the MSU Union. This event is open to the public. RSVP at go.msu.edu/TPBP.

NOV. 13 | BAGELS WITH BEGINNERS: New and returning faculty and staff are invited to have bagels and coffee with the MSU WorkLife Office to learn more about the office’s services. The free session will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. in Linton Hall, Room 113. Learn more at go.msu.edu/UFP.

NOV. 13 | ALEX’S GREAT STATE RACE FUNDRAISER: MSU and U-M ROTC are hosting a fundraiser at the Buffalo Wild Wings, located on MSU’s campus in East Lansing — 20% of all proceeds will go to support Alex’s Great State Race with accompanying certificate. Learn more at go.msu.edu/WIBP.

NOV. 14 | CREATING AND SUSTAINING A POSITIVE WORKPLACE: This MSU HR course explores negative habits and strategies to create a positive and engaged workforce. The seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon in Room 104 of Wells Hall, Suite 104. Cost for this program is $175. Learn more at go.msu.edu/UFP.

NOV. 15 | FEMALE VETERANS LISTENING SESSION: Joni Heather Shea, director of Women’s Student Services at the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, for a listening session from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Horse Teaching and Research Center. Lunch and a guided tour following the group. Learn more at go.msu.edu/BRP.
IN MEMORIAM

THOMAS BIRD


JOHN BUCKNER


INGEBORG BURROWS


DAVID J. GLENN

David J. Glenn, MSU Extension county director, died Sept. 20. Glenn joined the staff in 1979 and retired in 2007.

JOSEPH KAVANAGH


ROSEMARIE KELLY

Rosemarie Kelly, MSU Extension Director’s Office administrative assistant, died Oct. 15. Kelly joined the staff in 1992.

SHIRLEY KIRKLAND

Shirley Kirkland, Department of English office supervisor, died Oct. 11. Kirkland joined the staff in 1964 and retired in 2000.

WILLIAM MARGETSON


WILLIAM MUELDER


HARVEY SPARKS

Harvey Sparks, physiology human medicine professor, died Oct. 18. Sparks joined the staff in 1978 and retired in 2014.

CENTER HELPS STUDENT VETS TRANSITION TO CAMPUS LIFE

Madeleine Kelly / Student Support

Patrick Forystek, coordinator for the Student Veterans Resource Center, helps veterans succeed by providing outreach and services during their transition from military to college life.

Forystek is the first point of contact for veterans looking to ease their transitions and begin their journeys at MSU. The office, located in the Student Affairs and Services Building, provides student veterans with a variety of services, including space for studying and socializing, VA benefits and health information, financial aid application support, transition services, career development, employment opportunities, and in the future he hopes to partner with minority groups on campus.

The SVRC will be hosting events for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, including a branch, a female veteran listening session, a documentary screening and more. A full list of events can be found at go.msu.edu/kxrp.

“Veterans have all these different identities: liberal, conservative, African-American, white, man, woman, LGBTQ, etc.. “I’m trying to focus on how we can assist these students in the transition back into a civilian life and understand the intersectionality of all these different identities in the context of being a veteran now too.”

MSU UNVEILS IMAGING FACILITY

Cryo-EM to allow profs to drill down to atomic level

Val Osowski / Research

In university research labs across the country, scientists use the latest technology to conduct groundbreaking research. At Michigan State University, a new Cryo-EM Core Facility is highlighting the opening of MSU’s $5 million Cryo-EM Core Facility.

Cryogenic electron microscopy is the latest imaging technology that allows scientists to study cells, viruses and protein structure at the atomic level and capture them in action.

The symposium in early October featured 12 speakers and drew researchers from around the country, including the University of Michigan, Ohio State, Penn State, Cornell and Harvard.

“Once you have a structure, you can ask ‘What is the function of this structure?’” said Kristin Parent during a tour of the Cryo-EM Core Facility.

Kelly Kim (right), who will join MSU as a biochemistry and molecular biology assistant professor, and cryo-EM faculty member in March 2020, visits with Kristin Parent during a tour of the Cryo-EM Core Facility. Parent is the director of the new facility.

MSU TO STUDY IMPACT OF NATURAL HABITATS ON HEALTH OF DETROIT RESIDENTS

Michigan State University is launching a five-year study to examine the impact that restored natural habitats in select Detroit neighborhoods will have on the health and wellness of residents.

The National Institutes of Health is funding the study with a $3.3 million grant.

NEW IMPORT TAXES UNDERSCORE CHINA’S ROLE AS GROWING U.S. FOOD SUPPLIER

Agricultural economist David Ortega of Michigan State University says China has grown into the third-biggest supplier of foreign food to the U.S., behind Canada and Mexico.

So when the trade war turns into a food fight, the indigestion cuts both ways.

NPR

go.msu.edu/8b8

NEW REPORT TAKES A CLOSE LOOK AT MICHIGAN’S SUBSTITUTE TEACHER SHORTAGE

A new report lays out the specifics behind a widely acknowledged problem in Michigan school districts — they can’t find enough substitute teachers, and the problem is only getting worse.

The report, from Michigan State University’s Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, details just how bad and widespread the substitute shortage really is, with around two-thirds of 177 school districts reporting they have trouble finding enough subs on a regular basis.

MICHIGAN RADIO

go.msu.edu/8b8

MSU IN THE NEWS

News featuring MSU research, experts and successes

Kelly Kim (right), who will join MSU as a biochemistry and molecular biology assistant professor, and cryo-EM faculty member, died Oct. 1. Bird joined the staff in 1989 and retired in 2011.

Forystek said he leads with a “student-first” mentality.

“Throughout the entire admission process, Patrick served as a trustworthy point of contact that I could relate to,” said Aaron Etelamaki, MSU freshman and veteran. “Anytime I had a question or concern about my GI Bill benefits, options, financial aid or the general application process, he was able to provide me guidance.”

Forystek also is very passionate about helping the underserved populations of veterans at MSU and collaborates with the LGBT Resource Center and women’s groups.

MSU’s $5 million Cryo-EM Core Facility is planning, research and administration in the College of Natural Science, said the facility. She will join MSU in March 2020.

“Cryo-EM will be used in many different departments and in many types of experiments — from biology to chemistry to physics — and in university research labs around the globe,” said the facility.

New cryo-EM facility is located near the corner of Bogue and Service roads on the southeast edge of the MSU campus.