MSU PARTNERS WITH E-SCOOTER COMPANY

Deal with Gotcha will drive campus mobility research

As students and faculty return to campus for another academic year, e-scooters won’t be far behind. Michigan State University has entered into an exclusive partnership with Gotcha to provide approximately 300 e-scooters for use by students, faculty and staff. As part of the agreement, Gotcha will provide MSU mobility researchers with data, collected anonymously, that fits with the university’s larger mission to leverage its campus as a test bed to drive the future of human-centric mobility.

“E-scooters are a relatively new, yet increasingly popular mode of transportation, particularly for students. To accommodate this, we considered two things: rider safety and data sharing,” said Wolfgang Bauer, associate vice president for Administrative Services and University Distinguished Professor. “We are confident in Gotcha’s approach to encouraging rider safety. Plus, the available real-time data has endless opportunities to advance mobility research.”

The e-scooter data will provide insight on how this emerging technology fits into the larger transportation picture by giving researchers the opportunity to:

• Analyze traffic density to ensure better management, especially during busy time periods, such as athletic events.
• Develop technology solutions to encourage good social behavior, from safe driving practices to alleviating accessibility hazards, such as the issue of e-scooters being left in the middle of sidewalks or blocking stars.
• Analyze how, when and why e-scooters are used.
• Develop sensors to predict mechanical issues, like batteries, tires, bearings and joints to enable proactive maintenance.
• Explore the sociological impact of mobility-related transportation.

“We’re excited to bring a micro-transit solution to MSU’s campus for students to commute to class and around town,” said Sean Flood, founder of Gotcha. “Gotcha’s e-scooters are a great way to help our city in a safe, affordable and environmentally friendly way.”

MSU TAKING ACTION AFTER REVIEWS BY FED AGENCIES

Provost resigns position; president appoints new oversight committee

President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. announced several actions in response to the investigations concluded Sept. 5 by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights and Clery Act Compliance Division.

First, Stanley spoke with Provost June Youatt and accepted her resignation as provost.

Second, he has formed a new oversight committee charged with ensuring the actions MSU will take are fully responsive to the steps outlined in the agreements with the department, as well as OCR’s letter of findings.

OCR’s letter of findings is very clear that the provost and former president failed to take appropriate action on behalf of the university to address reports of inappropriate behavior and conduct, specifically related to former Dean William Strampel.” Stanley said. “In my effort to build a safe and caring campus, we must have a culture of accountability.”

OCR found the university violated Title IX in its handling of the Larry Nassar and William Strampel cases. A letter of findings and resolution agreement between OCR and MSU lay out actions the university will begin immediately.

As part of its review of MSU’s compliance with the Clery Act, which requires universities to properly report certain crimes, the Clery Act Compliance Division issued a preliminary report in December 2018. Since then, MSU has been working closely with the federal agency to resolve issues and agreed on a $4.5 million fine, the highest amount ever levied associated with the Clery Act.

“I’m grateful for the thoroughness of these investigations and intend to use them as a blueprint for action,” Stanley said. “The agreements further remind us that we failed survivors and our community. Following very thorough reviews, these agreements raise several concerns with university processes and policies. While we have made some improvements, it’s by no means sufficient or the end of the road.”

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IN CAMPUS EVENTS

CAMPUS TOWN HALL TO BE HELD SEPT. 23
Trustees Brianna Scott and Kelly Tebay will be hosting a campus town hall at 3 p.m. on Sept. 23 in the MSU Union, Lake Huron Room.
go.msu.edu/VTP

UPDATE MSU ALERT SETTINGS
MSU Police asks employees to update their emergency information periodically to ensure alerts are received.
alert.msu.edu

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NEW COMPANY WILL OVERSEE FUND FOR NASSAR SURVIVORS

environmentally friendly way.” Gotcha’s scooters will also be equipped with a patented sensor system that detects riders, ensuring the scooters are utilized only by their intended users. “We are proud to launch the first e-scooter fleet in Michigan, providing a convenient, affordable, and environmentally friendly transportation option for residents and visitors of Flint and Flint Township,” said Alex Dickson, computational chemist professor, has received the highly competitive American Chemical Society’s OpenEye Outstanding Junior Faculty Award in Computational Chemistry. The award was given to Dickson with $1,000 to attend the ACS National Meeting in San Diego, where he will present his lab’s pioneering research on protein-ligand interactions. Dickson is one of just four outstanding junior faculty members chosen for the award from more than 500 applicants.

NEW DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN FLINT ANNOUNCED

Linda Cornish takes on a dual appointment as the operations manager and as the newly appointed division administrator in the College of Human Medicine’s Division of Public Health in Flint. Since 2014, Cornish has played an integral role in expanding the College of Human Medicine’s reach. As part of the college’s strategic plan to create an off-campus medical education facility in Flint, she became the first administrator hired for the role of operations and facility manager.

PROF NAMED ARCHITECT FELLOW

Dr. Li, director of MSU’s School of Planning, Design and Construction, has been elected to the American Society of Landscape Architects’ Council of Fellows. Election to the Council of Fellows is among the highest honors the society bestows on members and is based on their work, leadership, management, knowledge and service. Li is one of 22 fellows this year’s class and among three from Michigan. "The Michigan Chapter of the ASLA is excited to see Dr. Li elected to the Council of Fellows. Our chapter is always searching for members who are good candidates for this honor," said Ben Baker, president of the Michigan ASLA. "Dr. Li’s work and research are inspiring, and we are happy to have him as a member of our chapter and an educator in our state." Ron Hendrick, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, where the School of Planning, Design and Construction is administratively housed, said this election points to Li’s leadership and service are his hallmark. Li’s publications on landscape performance, bioretention stream water management, low impact design and bioengineering have been widely recognized in the United States and internationally. “It is a tremendous honor to join this select group of professionals,” Li said. “I have great mentors and colleagues who helped me. Both ASLA and the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture helped me to build and shape my career. I also want to thank the Michigan Chapter of the ASLA that nominated me.”
PROFESSOR LOOKS TO IMPROVE DETROIT'S HEALTH VIA NATURE

Amber Pearson, assistant professor of geography, is leading a five-year study that will examine how biodiversity in an urban area such as Detroit impacts health and wellness.

Each year, Pearson and her field team will assess the health of 700 residents across low-income Detroit neighborhoods while the City of Detroit and the Audubon Society restore the unmaintained parks in communities. Pearson's study is the first of its kind to examine the impacts these unimproved green spaces in the city.

Amber Pearson, assistant professor of geography in MSU's College of Social Science, is leading the five-year study that will examine how biodiversity in an urban area such as Detroit impacts health and wellness.

The focus of this HR seminar is a deep- ed understanding of oneself, as this is the first step to becoming a more effective manager. The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Nisbet Building, Suite 10. The cost to attend is $175. Learn more at go.msu.edu/HEP.

SEPTEMBER 20 // FATHERHOOD FORUM: The Fatherhood Forum for fathers who want to enhance their greatness as a parent. The free forum will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lansing Community College – West Campus. Lunch is included. Register at go.msu.edu/FCP.

SEPTEMBER 21 // EVERYTHING DISC: MANAGING THE FOCUS: This four-hour webinar will help you get ahead of your retirement saving with some tools and information you can use now. The webinar will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Student Services Garden, RSVP requested. Learn more at go.msu.edu/LIP.

SEPTEMBER 22 // VETERANS WELCOME PICNIC: All MSU students, faculty and staff who have served or are serving in active or reserve com- pounds of the U.S. military and their families are invited to join for a barbecue (gluten-free options will be available) from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Student Services Garden, RSVP requested. Learn more at go.msu.edu/ZPK.

SEPTEMBER 23 // BEGINNING TO SAVE FOR RETIREMENT: This free webinar will help you get ahead of your retirement saving with some tools and information you can use now. The webinar will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Student Services Garden, RSVP requested. Learn more at go.msu.edu/LIP.

SEPTEMBER 24 // NEW HIRE LUNCHEON: One of the most helpful actions any new faculty or staff member can experience is to meet fellow MSU employees. New and current faculty and staff are invited to eat lunch at noon in Linton Hall Room 113. Sign up at go.msu.edu/FNP.

SEPTEMBER 25 // HEALTHY HOMEWORK WALK: Join Exercise Is Medicine for a walking com- petition between MSU and other universities nationwide. Walk around Demonstration Hall field (approximately one-quarter mile) any time between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Open to fac- ulty, staff, students and alumni. No registration is required. Learn more at go.msu.edu/RNP.

SEPTEMBER 26 // CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS: Learn tools for promoting open, honest dialogue around high-stakes, emotional or risky topics in this two-day seminar from MSU HR held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Nisbet Building, Suite 10. Cost to attend is $370. Learn more at go.msu.edu/RNP.

SEPTEMBER 27 // TEDDY BEAR PICNIC: Children can bring their favorite stuffed animals for a free checkup at the Blue Cross Blue Shield Teddy Bear Hospital, a mock clinic staffed by MSU physicians and students. The picnic will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Student Research Field 3 across from the Clinical Center. Learn more at go.msu.edu/SNP.

SEPTEMBER 28 // WORKLIFE CONFERENCE: Attend this year's WorkLife Conference to learn more about strengthening community together. The conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the MSU Union Ballroom. Cost to attend is $320 and includes lunch. Learn more and register at go.msu.edu/SNP.
MSUPD CONFERENCE HELPS PEERS BE TRAUMA INFORMED

Chris Chapman // Title IX & Civil Rights

Helping professionals — such as law enforcement, attorneys and other community partners — understand the impact of trauma and how they can provide support to survivors of sexual assault and relationship violence was the goal of a recent conference hosted by Michigan State University Police Department’s Center for Trauma-Informed Investigation Excellence.

The two-day conference, titled “A Multi-Disciplinary Trauma-Informed Response to Sexual Assault Investigations.”, featured powerful testimonies from sexual assault survivors and activists as well as presentations from several nationally recognized trauma and sexual assault experts from MSU and across the country.

Among the speakers were:

- Sterling Riethman, survivor and activist
- Brenda Tracy, survivor, founder of the Expectation
- Chief Thomas R. Tremblay, retired consultant and trainer
- Angela Povilaitis, staff attorney, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Treatment and Prevention Center
- Marisa Kwiatkowski, investigative reporter, USA Today
- Robika Garner, senior information manager and special legal analyst, Drew, Cooper & Anding

“By expanding our multi-disciplinary teams and training together on a trauma-informed approach, we can provide an experience for survivors that is more informed about options and more supportive in navigating several processes that, while intended to be helpful, can feel very overwhelming to someone experiencing trauma,” said MSU Police Lt. Andrea Murphy, a presid- ential adviser on relationship violence and sexual misconduct and conference organizer.

Conference participants, who came from Michigan, other Big Ten universities and the greater Lansing community, not only were taught about supporting survivors but how advocates, law enforcement, institutions and others can work together more efficiently in responding to sexual assaults.

For example, Tremblay introduced the concept of a sexual assault response team, which is a group of specially trained members who work together to provide services to sexual assault survivors and investigate cases for criminal prosecution.

“This [SART] team was organized to make the process more trauma-informed, create access to more resources and be less harmful to survivors,” said Tremblay.

This was the first time MSU hosted this conference since the Center for Trauma-Informed Investigative Excellence was created in 2018. The organization was created to provide training in best practices to further the use of trauma-informed investigation techniques in support of survivors.

GROUP HONORS ENGINEERING FOR DIVERSITY

Pat Mroczek // Diversity & Inclusion

The American Society for Engineering Education has listed the MSU College of Engineering among the nation’s leaders in inclusive excellence.

The designation earns MSU a Bronze Award, the highest level of recognition presented by the society’s Diversity Recognition Program.

Gregory Washington, chair of the ASEE Engineering Deans Council, congratulated MSU for its demonstrated support for underrepresented groups in engineering and its action plan focused on continuous improvement.

Washington said that two of MSU’s strengths are in its assessment of policies, cultures and climate and its ability to reduce barriers by strengthening the k-12 or community college pipeline.

College of Engineering Dean Leo Kempel said the recognition is a national acknowledgment of those who have been dedicated to this important effort.

“The college will continue to advocate for excellence through our outreach, partnerships and proactive strategies to increase representation among faculty, staff and students,” he said.

Yue Qi, associate dean for inclusion and diversity, said a lot of people have been working on diversity and inclusion goals.

“There is a commitment throughout the college — across programs, departments and individuals.” Qi said. “People understand that our differences are a strength. We’ll continue to build broader awareness and support as we help our colleagues and students realize their full potential.”

A variety of outreach programs and strategies support inclusiveness, including Women in Engineering, the Diversity Program Office, Sloan Program for graduate students and ongoing strategies for faculty search, recruitment and hiring processes, along with training opportunities to better understand and eliminate implicit bias. There is also a pipeline development strategy for graduate and post-doc fellows.

IS FACEAPP A SECURITY RISK? THREE PRIVACY CONCERNS YOU SHOULD TAKE SERIOUSLY

“To FaceApp or not to FaceApp? That’s the question the internet struggled with as it rode a roller coaster of reactions to the latest social media challenge. “The accuracy of a facial recognition system depends on three main factors,” said Anil Jain, a computer engineer at Michigan State University who studies biometric security. “That’s your pose (looking head-on at the camera), your facial expression and the lighting.”
PBS

MORE RACIAL DIVERSITY IN U.S. POLICE DEPARTMENTS UNLIKELY TO REDUCE SHOOTINGS, STUDY

While police officers in the United States are no more likely to shoot dead minorities than black or Hispanic officers, undercutting the idea that increasing racial diversity in police departments would reduce those shootings, a study released said. The report from researchers at Michigan State University and the University of Maryland at College Park was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Reuters
go.msu.edu/NXP

MOSQUITOES HAVE BEEN ALMOST COMPLETELY WIPE OUT ON TWO CHINESE ISLANDS

One of the Chinese study’s researchers, Zhiyong Xi, a professor at Michigan State University, has been a longtime pioneer in this field of study.

CNN

go.msu.edu/NXP

>> MSU IN THE NEWS

News featuring MSU research, experts and successes

>> IN MEMORIAM

Sharon Lee Harlow


Louise Khekhu


Bertram Karon

Bertram Karon, College of Social Science professor, died Aug. 25. Karon joined the staff in 1962 and retired in 2010.

Bessie Robinson

Bessie Robinson, office assistant to the assistant vice president of Human Resources, died Aug. 20. Robinson joined the staff in 1988.

Robert Sebenick

Robert Sebenick, University Stores material handler, died Aug. 11. Sebenick joined the staff in 1973 and retired in 1994.

Mary Sist

Mary Sist, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab outreach specialist, died Aug. 18. Sist joined the staff in 2004 and retired in 2019.

Bobbie Slider

Bobbie Slider, Department of Mechanical Engineering secretary, died Aug. 13. Slider joined the staff in 1989 and retired in 2008.

Alexis C. Smith


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