SULLIVAN CHOSEN AS INTERIM PROVOST

MSU alum and former president at University of Virginia starts Oct. 1

Sullivan, who retired as the eighth and first female president of the University of Virginia in July 2018, served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan from 2006 to 2010 until she went to UVA. As provost, she oversaw the University of Michigan’s 19 schools and colleges as well as numerous interdisciplinary institutions and centers. “Tonya has a wealth of experience as a provost and previous university president and will help us tremendously as we weather through our changes at Michigan State as well as our search for a new provost,” Stanley said. “Her experience is hard to beat, as is her love and dedication to her alma mater. We are grateful for her for stepping into this role. Her external viewpoint, combined with the understanding of faculty and governance structures, is invaluable.”

Stanley also taps Stony Brook VP as CIO to lead MSU’s IT Services

President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., named Melissa Wos as senior vice president and chief information officer for the university, responsible for MSU’s information and computer technology supporting enterprise goals.

SPARTANS INSPIRE SUCCESS

MSU will celebrate the special skill set Spartans possess to inspire and uplift others during its 2019 Homecoming festivities, which take place today through Sept. 29.

This year’s theme, “Spartans Inspire Success,” will highlight and recognize the ways in which Spartans are using their talents and experiences as tools to uplift and strengthen others.

Susan Packard, former HGTV chief operating officer and MSU Alumna, is the grand marshal for MSU’s 2019 Homecoming. Packard, who was in the Honors College, earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in advertising in 1977 and 1979.

The 2019 Homecoming parade begins at 6 p.m. Sept. 27. A parade livestream will be available for MSU fans unable to attend.

Green and white brunch 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 28, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Join MSU faculty, staff and dependents enrolled in MSU’s health plans. Open Enrollment is a great time for employees to check their benefits information, said Renee Rivard, director of MSU HR Compensation and Benefits. Now is the chance for employees to think about their family’s health and wellness needs for the next calendar year.

Employees can switch insurance plans, add or remove dependents from coverage or enroll in a flexible spending account or voluntary benefits. Faculty, staff and retirees must also complete the health care affidavit during Open Enrollment to continue coverage for a spouse or other eligible individual.

“It is also a time to review the many other non-tax-deductible benefits available to employees,” Rivard said. “For example, we have voluntary benefits like vision, home and auto insurance discounts, a pre-paid legal plan and even pet insurance that can be paid through payroll deduction.”

ENROLLMENT OPENS OCT. 1 TO UPDATE BENEFITS

The October Open Enrollment period for MSU employee benefits is around the corner. Benefit-eligible employees can enroll in, change or cancel benefit selections for next year between Oct. 1 and 31.

With more than 15,000 faculty, staff and dependents enrolled in MSU’s health plans, Open Enrollment is a great time for employees to check their benefits information, said Renee Rivard, director of MSU HR Compensation and Benefits. Now is the chance for employees to think about their family’s health and wellness needs for the next calendar year.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about Open Enrollment and view the enrollment guides and other detailed information at go.msu.edu/dvP.

The MSU HR Solutions Center staff is available to answer your questions at SolutionsCenter@hr.msu.edu or 517-353-4434. For long distance, call toll-free 800-353-4434.

BENEFITS FAIRS

Employees can chat with plan representatives and MSU HR staff, enroll online, get a flu shot and even have a chair massage.

• Noon to 7 p.m., Oct. 8, Breslin Center
• 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 9, Breslin Center
• You can also visit an HR site lab for additional assistance on Oct. 4, 22, 28 and Nov. 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Nessel Building, 1407 S. Harrison Road.
• have voluntary benefits like vision, home and auto insurance discounts, a pre-paid legal plan and even pet insurance that can be paid through payroll deduction.

>> BENEFITS see pg. 2

TRUSTEES APPROVE MULTIPLE RESOLUTIONS

The Board of Trustees addressed the discipline of tenured faculty, among other items, at its Sept. 6 regular meeting.

go.msu.edu/6vP

EMPLOYEE LEGAL INSURANCE AVAILABLE

Employees can opt in to legal insurance for a variety of things, such as estate planning, writing a will or financial counseling.

go.msu.edu/fvP

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INSIDEMSU NEWS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

INSIDEMSU STAFF // ADMINISTRATION

MSU President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., named Melissa Wos as senior vice president and chief information officer for the university, responsible for MSU’s information and computer technology supporting enterprise goals.

Wos is replacing Rob McCurdy, who informed university leadership that he is leaving MSU for a job at a global accounting company. McCurdy has been chief information officer since 2016 after serving as chief information security officer for three years. His last day will be Oct. 4.

“We wish Rob much suc-
NEW DATES SET FOR STANLEY’S 3 MEETINGS WITH SURVIVORS

MSU has released new dates to replace two of the recently announced sexual assault survivor meetings scheduled with university President Dr. Samuel L. Stanley Jr. to not interfere with the upcoming Jewish holidays — Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The series of meetings was planned in conjunction with the Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct Expert Advisory Committee as an opportunity for survivors to meet with Stanley and voice their ideas for improvements and concerns.

Stanley, and his advisors on RVSM issues, Professor Rebecca Campbell and Lt. Andrea Munford, issued a joint statement and apology acknowledging the oversight.

“In efforts to not interfere with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we are changing two of the selected dates for upcoming meetings with survivors of sexual assault,” said Stanley, Campbell and Munford in the statement. “We hope this will be more accommodating for all survivors who would like to attend.”

The new dates are:
- Thursday, Oct. 3, 6 to 8 p.m. in the New Admissions Room, MSU Union, for the MSU community of sexual assault survivors, including students, faculty and staff.
- Thursday, Oct. 10, 6 to 8 p.m. at the East Lansing Public Library for survivors who wish to discuss the Nassar case.
- Wednesday, Oct. 16, 6 to 8 p.m. via Zoom. Zoom is an online, web-based meeting for survivors who do not feel comfortable attending an in-person meeting. Participants can join the Zoom meeting at go.msu.edu/7vP. Meeting ID: 914 029 186. Or dial in at 646-876-9923 or 669-900-6833 using the same ID.

Survivors are welcome to bring a parent or support person with them.

Resources from the MSU Sexual Assault Program will be on hand to provide support.

UMich Law student Shannon Yoon Burnett will be on hand to provide confidential, independent, confidential and conflict resolution resource.

Questions and comments are welcomed from survivors. Questions are asked to RSVP at go.msu.edu/MvP.

Out of respect for survivors’ privacy and to ensure a safe space for confidentiality, media are not invited to participate in the meetings.

PROVOST

In 2018, Sullivan was selected as adviser to the MSU Board of Trustees and presidential search committee during the process of selecting MSU’s next president. Prior to graduating from the first class of the James Madison College in 1970, Sullivan was elected to the Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Kappa Phi, Mortarboard and Tower Guard. She is a member of the first presidential fellows for President Emeritus Clifton R. Wharton Jr. Following her time at MSU, she received a doctorate from the University of Chicago and then joined the faculty at the University of Texas.

While in Texas, she held a variety of posts, including chair of the sociology department, vice provost, vice president and dean of graduate studies, and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs. A demographer by training, Sullivan is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

She has been married for 48 years to Douglas Laycock, whom she met while they were both on the MSU Debate Team. They have two adult sons.
The power behind reliable research across every scientific discipline begins with a sound statistical basis, whether describing the migration patterns of monarch butterflies, the microbiome legacies of the common bean, or, in the case of Marianne Huebner, associate professor in the Department of Statistics and Probability, the performance development of male and female athletes in Olympic weightlifting.

“It was thought that women’s weightlifting performance declined much faster than men’s in the Masters age groups, but my data on performance development and decline from ages 35-90 revealed that was not true at younger ages,” said Huebner, who analyzed World Championships results from 1993-2018. “Women’s participation levels at all ages have dramatically increased in recent years, and performances have improved. In Michigan, more than half of the competitive weightlifters are women.”

Huebner is one of those women. It was in Germany, on a research visit four years ago, and by chance went to a gym where they had an Olympic weightlifting coach,” said Huebner, who gets advice from coach Fred Lowe, three-time Olympic and MSU class of 1970. “I was hooked immediately.

To not be confused with powerlifting, Olympic weightlifting requires speed, strength and expertise to lift weights from the floor to above the weightlifter’s head. Just this August, she stood at the top of a podium in Montreal, having won first place in the World Masters Championships for her age and body weight class.

That was not the only heavy lifting Huebner did this summer. She was named the director of the Center for Statistical Training and Consulting, MSU’s hub for faculty, research staff, graduate students and external clients to get help with statistical modeling and support.

Her unique position as a statistician and weightlifter made Huebner the ideal candidate to serve on the USA Weightlifting advisory committee, developing standards for records based on new international weightlifting Federation weight classes. In competition there has to be an adjustment for body weight and for age to standardize the total weight lifted,” explained Huebner, whose proposal on women’s age categories for international competitions was recently accepted by the Congress of Nations for the WPF Masters age group. “The age factors commonly used were based only on male data, so we came up with age factors for women 35 and older based on my research. Huebner also co-chairs an international collaboration of statisticians known as the STRATOS Initiative. Their vision is to help researchers use appropriate statistical approaches and become aware of advanced methods.

Huebner is no stranger to the benefits of meticulous technique. Just three years ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, underwent a mastectomy and had to restart her weightlifting program from scratch.

“When I got the diagnosis, I realized I knew very little, despite publishing research on cancer with my collaborator at the Mayo Clinic,” said Huebner, who took a two-year leave from MSU to serve as a consultant for the Department of Surgery there. “It drove home the fact that statistics is about averages, and none of us behave like averages.

Just five months later, Huebner’s performance in the World Masters Championships in Germany earned her fourth place. To find out more about CSTAT, visit cstat.msu.edu.

Editor’s note: Renee C. Brown is the director of the newly renamed Center for Community Engaged Learning at MSU.

As of September 2019, MSU’s Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement will be officially known as the Center for Community Engaged Learning.

The purpose of the center is to prepare students for lifelong social and civic responsibility.

“Give a Damn About Your Fellow Man!” was the theme of the MSU Office of Volunteer Programs newsletter when it was published in 1968. The center has been known as the Service-Learning Center beginning in 1979 and then switched its name to the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement in 2002. Through the decades, the center has recognized for outstanding programs by the Office of the President of the United States and the National Campus Compact, to name a couple.

The Center for Community Engaged Learning is the oldest center of its kind in the United States. Each year at MSU, there are more than 32,000 student registrations for community engaged learning courses, programs and activities.

Today, Spartans are committed to community engagement. The center name change reflects the emphasis on engaging and learning with communities.

It represents the various ways in which Spartans engage, from advocacy and community outreach to social innovation and capacity building.

The Center for Community Engagement Community Evaluation, and Research Programs, including Spartan Days of Service, have been renamed Spartan Days of Community Engagement.

The center supports faculty members who teach using community engagement pedagogy and connects community partners and alums.

Reporting to both the Division of Student Affairs and Universities Outreach and Engagement provides the center the opportunity to connect with students in the classroom and beyond.

With the MSU Office of the President, the Center for Community Engagement Learning awards Spartans who have served more than 100 hours in an academic year with the Spartan Volunteer Service Award. A Presidential Recognition.

To begin tracking your service hours for this award, download the MSU Civic Life app in the App Store or Google Play.

The Center for Community Engagement Learning is located in Student Services, Room 546. For any questions, please visit servicelearning.msu.edu or call 517-353-4400.
CORPORATE RESEARCH PARK LAUNCHES NEW INCUBATOR

The University Corporate Research Park, a wholly owned subsidiary of the MSU Foundation, has launched its new property, the VanCamp Incubator + Research Labs.

The VanCamp Incubator is a 22,000-square-foot multi-tenant facility welcoming emerging companies and researcher groups across the Greater Lansing region and beyond. A ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the building’s grand opening was held Sept. 12.

The incubator is open to companies from the region as well as those coming directly out of the MSU ecosystem.

“This is a much-needed facility for our community,” said Gabriela Allum, UCP+R project manager. “The growing number of start-up compa- nies coming out of MSU in areas like quantitative health, imaging and structural biology, and even in new areas like computational Math, Science and Engineering (CISEMS), have much more to offer our community, facilities, instrumentation and services.

The VanCamp incubator features nine wet labs and 42 office spaces, as well as equipment rooms, conference rooms and common areas. Companies coming into the VanCamp Incubator can use the resources and services to grow their busi- nesses until they can move on to their own operations within the community.

The incubator is named in honor of Loreta VanCamp, a MSU microbiologist and researcher, whose work contributed to the development of the world’s leading anti-cancer drug, cisplatin. “Loretta VanCamp was crucial to the research done at MSU, which resulted in the saving of countless lives,” said Jeff Smith, UCP+R director. “This is a milestone moment for MSU, the re- search community and the regional economy.”

TRAINING AWARD DRIVES INNOVATION

The idea for the postdoc-training award, which covers an annual salary and travel expenses and supports career development, was seeded two years ago by then newly appointed BMB chair Erich Grotewold, germinating two teams of faculty and two and outstand- ing, inaugural postdoctoral awardees: Stephanie Hickey and Saktivilas Kaialas.

Hickey will be working with a team that includes Ralston, who studies how molecules instruct stem cell behavior; Jin He, assistant professor in BMB who studies brain cells and brain cancer; David Rost, professor in BMB who studies fundamental problems in early embryo development; and Arjun Krishnan, assistant professor in BMB and the Department of Com- putational Math, Science and Engineering, who applies data-driven approaches to the study of genomes. Hickey’s background in both computational and experimental biology will be the driving force that pulls together the diverse models into a powerful investiga- tion of what cells do.

“Over the next two years, I’ll be able to merge my training in biology with my interest in bioinformatics, devel- oping new computational approaches to analyze and integrate large collections of single-cell and bulk-tissue genomic data,” Hickey said. Kaialas’s team includes structural biologist Jian Hu, associate professor, who uses crystallography to understand the molec- ular mechanisms involved in zinc and iron transport at the atomic level, and Hideki Takahashi, associate professor, who focuses on molecular mechanisms of sulfur and nitrogen assimila- tion and signaling.

Kaialas’s investigations aim to dissect how plants transport essential nutrients like iron and zinc while simultane- ously distinguishing the toxic elements, such as cadmium. These studies can lead to smarter crops.

“The identity of the metal nutrient transporter was revealed more than two decades ago, but it’s still a puzzle how these proteins transport food substrate molecules,” he said.