



BENZIE SPARTANS™

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FALL 2015-WINTER 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE MSU ALUMNI CLUB OF BENZIE COUNTY – BOX 46, FRANKFORT, MI 49635

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

All the talk about the new “Spartan Loyal” program raises the questions, “Why are Spartans so darn loyal to their beloved Michigan State University?” Why do we alums love MSU so much?

I had the recent pleasure of attending the MSU vs Purdue Homecoming game on October 3rd and asked fellow alumni those very questions. Some said it was the outstanding football and basketball teams that kept them loyal. Others answered that it was the friends that they met in dormitories and classrooms that endeared them to MSU (One couple met at MSU and are still married 45 years later!)

Another answered, “It was the happiest time of my life.” A thinker paused quite a while before answering, “The attitudes that I developed during my university formative years (at MSU) stayed with me and gave me confidence throughout my life and that’s what endears me to MSU. These early guidelines (developed at MSU) still persist in my daily life in 2015.” A rather gung ho responder commented, “Being here is like the smell of pumpkin pie, like being in your mom’s kitchen.”

Then I read an article in the most recent Time Magazine, October 12, 2015 about Eli and Edythe Broad which prompted me to watch a YouTube interview in which Mr. Broad said the following, “...I have a debt to repay to Michigan State University. I can’t overemphasize the importance of a good education like the one I received at MSU. Without that foundation, I would not have been as successful as I have been.” As you all know, Eli and Edythe Broad have donated millions to MSU including the impressive mostly glass art museum on Grand River Avenue.

Therefore after my hours of interviews, internet research and much soul searching, I have come to the following conclusion: loyalty to MSU is just plain Spartan magic! Go Green!

P.S. Now we have actual proof that there is such a thing as Spartan Magic! I wrote the above few paragraphs well before the Michigan State Miracle play versus U of M on October 17th!

Paul Sadows, President

--- BOARD MEMBERS ---

We are always looking for people to serve on the Benzie Spartan Board of Directors and its subcommittees. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Maggie VanHaften (mbrv214@gmail.com) or by calling 231-383-1675.

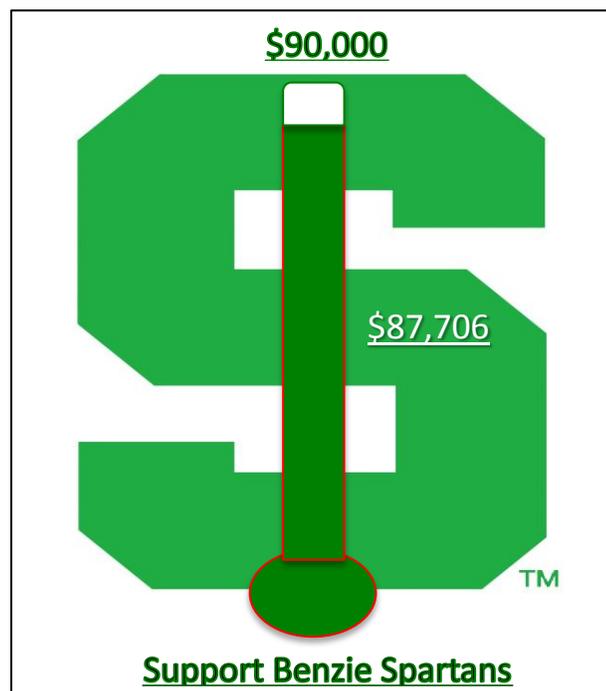
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN NEARS GOAL!

Thanks to a very generous gift from the Terry Herban family, our Club is within “shouting distance” of our \$90,000 endowment goal! Terry’s wife, Joanne, presented Club president Paul Sadows with a \$10,000 check on November 9, 2015! Terry had designated this gift as part of his estate plan, and Joanne felt that he would want the Club to use it to help complete our endowment. As a member of our endowment committee, Terry was committed to ensuring that local Spartans have the resources they need to attend MSU.

We have now raised \$87,706 through cash gifts, club fundraising, and pledges to the campaign. Our hope is to complete the initial campaign through 2015 year-end gifts. If successful, the campaign will wrap up almost two years earlier than initially planned.

Once established, the endowment will provide funding for our existing scholarships. We can then direct future contributions toward expanding the size and/or number of scholarships offered.

The endowment is invested through MSU’s Common Investment Fund (CIF), and over \$80,000 has already been transferred to the account! MSU has an excellent investment track record, which allows us to maximize the fund’s potential. In 2014, the CIF provided a 17.1% return; with a three-year annualized return of 8.3%.



All endowment contributions are tax deductible, and can be made directly through the Club or through MSU. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Al Flory at arflory@yahoo.com or via phone at 612-309-9977. You can also learn more about the Endowment Campaign at our web site: msubenziealumni.org.

BECOMING “SPARTAN LOYAL”!

MSU is dramatically changing its Alumni Association membership system. Beginning July 1, 2016, the MSU Alumni Association (MSUAA) will eliminate its membership dues requirement, and will initiate a new program called “Spartan Loyal”. Under the Spartan Loyal program, individuals who contribute

\$100+ per year to **any fund** at Michigan State University will be considered Spartan Loyal and thus eligible for enhanced alumni benefits.

This means that your contributions to our scholarship endowment fund will not only support Benzie County Spartans, but will also provide you with enhanced alumni status and benefits!

Our Club has awarded almost \$50,000 in scholarships to graduates of Frankfort/Elberta and Benzie Central high schools. The endowment was established in 2012 to provide a reliable, long term source of funding for local students attending MSU.

For more information on the endowment, visit our web site at: msubenziealumni.org. If you have questions concerning the endowment or the Spartan Loyal program, please contact Al Flory at arflory@yahoo.com or via phone at 612-309-9977.

You can make endowment contributions directly through the MSUAA web site, or by sending checks to our local post office box. Please make your check payable to: **“MSU Benzie Spartan Endowment”**. In the check’s memo line, please record the fund ID number: **AF010979**.

Mail checks to:
MSU Alumni Club of Benzie County
ATTN: Endowment Committee
P. O. Box 46
Frankfort MI 49635

THANK YOU ROSS STEPHENSON & AVACE WILDE

The Board lost two valuable members last summer when Ross Stephenson and Avace Wildie both resigned to pursue other activities. Ross served as Treasurer during the development of the endowment and Avace served as Secretary and chaired the Annual Dinner Planning Committee. Both contributed their expertise to the Board in many other ways and will be missed.

STUDENT UPDATES

The scholarship recipients continue to amaze us with their accomplishments on and off campus. Remember your donations contribute to their MSU experience. Some of the updates have been shortened to fit in the available space.

Mark Gomulinski (Herban, 2013) I've been pretty busy with this fall. I'm involved in Hall Government and Neuroscience club, not to mention with my highest class load I've had yet. Classes are going great too. Also, I hadn't been watching at the time, but when State beat UofM I didn't need to watch to know we won. The whole campus was in an uproar for a good 10 minutes. Was pretty crazy.

Madison O'Connor (Nugent, 2015) I wanted to.... once again say "Thank You" for your generous support! Your scholarship has helped to make my transition to college a bit less stressful, and I can't thank you enough! So far my college journey has been an exciting one! ... I love everything about Michigan State University so much! ... With regards to academics my first quarter is off to a great start. I am working hard and studying often. My professors and TA's are all very nice and insightful....I have also recently joined the Greek system as an Alpha Chi Omega sorority member.... My Sorority just put on a community service event that I helped out at called, "Walk A Mile in Her Shoes". We were able to raise money from this event to donate to people who are affected by domestic violence. ... I have also joined MSU campus organizations and assisted with volunteer activities that positivity affect our community. I have joined clubs such as Make a Wish Foundation and Spartans for Global Development. Also, recently ... I went on a volunteering opportunity to help kids who are part of the Special Olympics organization go bowling... Its experiences like these that are helping me grow to be

the person I want to be. I cannot thank you enough for the money you have given me. It's not only changing my life, but allowing me to positively affect the lives around me as well. I can solidly say that although I have only been here a few months, I am truly embracing the opportunities and experiences of being a Spartan. I am looking forward to the rest of the year and beyond! Thank you and GO GREEN!

Maren O'Connor (Herban, 2014) My sophomore year has been off to a great start so far! My schedule for this semester is perfect! I'm taking 16 credits but never have to get up for class earlier than 10:20! My favorite class I'm currently enrolled in is my writing course because my teacher is very insightful. I also get to take that class along-side my sister, Madison (Don Nugent recipient 2015), which has been really nice! As for clubs, I am still a member of Spartans for Global Development, University Activities Board, and an active parishioner of St. John's Church. I have also joined a few new clubs including, CARE (a volunteer organization), the Human Recourse Association, and am a new member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Through all of these organizations I have volunteered at Heaven House (a house in East Lansing for families struggling with housing and employment), picked apples to be donated to the homeless in the Lansing area, volunteered at the Ronald McDonald house, helped sort food for The Greater Lansing Community Food Bank, along with participating in philanthropy events that have raised money for various organizations. Thank you for all your support! I am looking forward to a successful 2015-2016 school year!

Kristin Smeltzer (Herban, 2013) I am now in my Junior year here at MSU and loving every minute of it! I am staying pretty busy with classes this year and taking some challenging ones but I'm pushing through. One of my favorite classes this semester is actually my Organic Chemistry class, (not usually a student favorite). I will be starting my application process this June for veterinary medical schools, as of right now I am looking into applying to Michigan State University, Purdue University, Ohio State University, and Texas A and M. ... I know I am definitely enjoying this fall on campus. It is absolutely beautiful. Wishing you a great rest of fall, and as always, GO GREEN!

Shayla Soto (Herban 2015) I hope everything is going well! Being at MSU has been a wonderful experience so far. People are very friendly and helpful. I'm not denying that it was a big adjustment but everything has started to click and I love my place within the Spartan community. My classes are going really well, I thoroughly enjoy going to class and have interest in what I am learning. However I am taking this Computing and Competencies class I am working really hard to do well in that class. I have to take it to get into the business school so it is worth all the time and hard work. I have joined the University Activities Board and so I volunteer and help put together events/activities! I have also joined CHAARG, which is a women's health/fitness club focused to promote happy, healthy lives...I am also on the search to find a business club and am working on applying to the Women in Business organization. All in all, I love being Spartan and I believe in just this short amount of time that I have grown and matured as a person. Not only am I ready to conquer my future but I'm living to enjoy the present with my Spartan pride too!

Zachary Terwilliger (Herban, 2012) I'm currently the President of the Broad Student Senate. Broad Student Senate represents the undergraduate body in the business college here on campus. I also just accepted a full time position with KPMG in their Deal Advisory practice. As a Deal Advisory Associate I will enter a rotational program doing things like financial due diligence for mergers and acquisitions, accounting advisory services, corporate finance (investment banking), and serving corporate and private equity clients. My start date is in the Summer of 2017 and I just accepted yesterday. I'll be taking all four parts of the CPA Exam this Summer and completing my Masters of Public Accounting here at Michigan State next year.

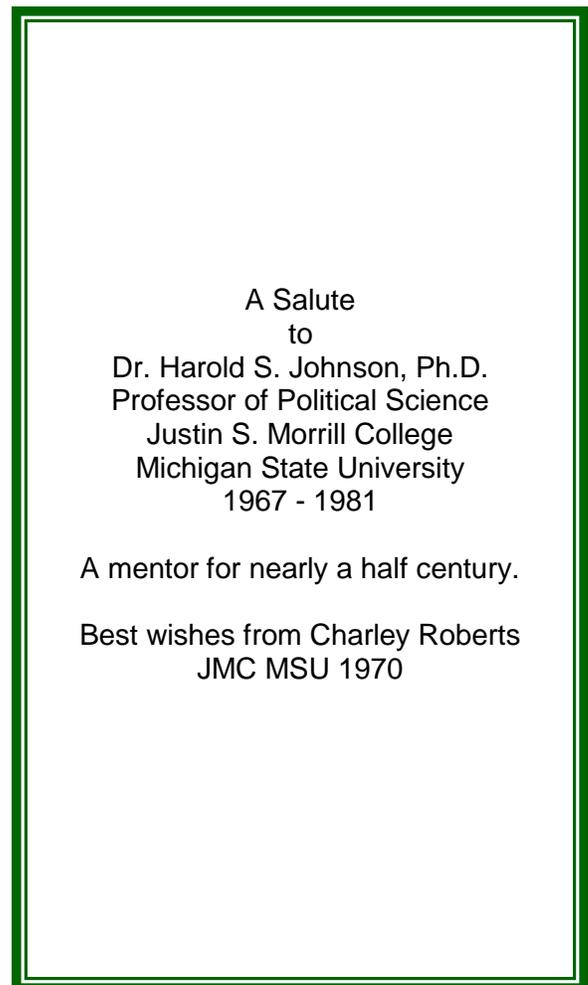
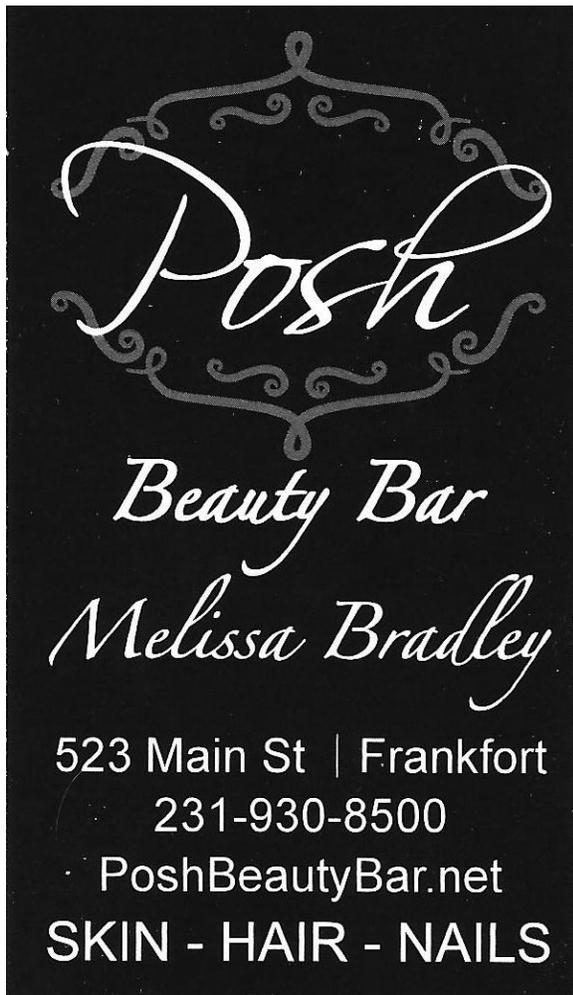
Erin Thompson (Nugent, 2012) Things are crazy around here for me. I am very busy with school placements and lesson planning. I am in a second grade classroom at St. Thomas in East Lansing, and I'm also in an ESL classroom at North Henry Elementary in Lansing. I love both of my placements, my mentor teachers, and the kids! It's been great! Classes are going well too. I can't believe this is my last year, though! I will be graduating in May and next year I'll begin my internship year (student

teaching), hopefully in Grand Rapids. Other than classes and placements, I've been enjoying life at MSU. We sometimes have tailgates at my house before games and we're always ready for a Spartan win....Last night I went to a scholarship dinner organized by the College of Education. We met with our donors and were given certificates and everything. All the scholarships and grants I receive help me so much and I am so grateful to the Benzie Alumni Association as well as the donors I met with last night. I am always so glad to have so much love and support from both communities!

NOTES

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: It really helps us if we can send you newsletters and updates through e-mail, so if you received this copy of the "Benzie Spartan" by mail and are willing to give us your e-mail address, you can send it to: benziemsuac@msubenziealumni.org.

SPONSORS: In the past year, we have held four events: the Annual Dinner in June, the Beach Bash in August, and the Michigan State – Michigan Game Watch, and the basketball game watch in February. All events were well attended and made money for the Club and its scholarship fund. None of these events would have been as successful without the support of sponsors, auction item contributors, and in-kind assistance. If you would like to sponsor a future event, please contact Maggie VanHaften, 231-383-1675 or mbrv214@gmail.com. We appreciate the following sponsors who have helped defray the costs of producing this newsletter:



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M.A. '75. PhD '84

Joyce Kirshner (B.A. '64, M.A. '90)

COMMUNICATIONS

Ray Miller, Webmaster

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Basketball Game Watch – v Maryland,
January 23, 2016 – watch for an e-mail
blast and notice on our website for time
and location.

Annual Dinner – Thursday June 9th –
Greystone Manor – Watch for additional
information through e-mails, notices, on the
website and in the Spring 2016 newsletter.

Beach Bash – Thursday August 4th. Watch
for details through e-mails, notices, on the
website and in the Spring 2016 newsletter.



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