



# BENZIE SPARTANS™

VOL 2, ISSUE 4  
NEWSLETTER OF THE MSU ALUMNI CLUB OF BENZIE COUNTY – BOX 46, FRANKFORT, MI 49635

FALL 2016-WINTER 2017

## FALL, 2016 PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello fellow Spartans from beautiful Benzie County!

2016 has been a landmark year for our Club as we not only reached, but surpassed, our \$90,000 endowment fund goal. Having deposited this amount in our endowment fund account, MSU will allocate approximately 5% of our contributions every year (\$4500.00) to use for awarding scholarships to deserving Benzie area students who attend MSU. Thank you for your loyalty!

That leads to the question: “Why are Spartans so loyal to their university?” Dr. John Tauer, a social psychology professor at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN (also head basketball coach) has stated that from age 14 to 22, our personalities grow, develop, and evolve more than at any other time of our lives. Those things in our lives during these years become a part of us. Also, the success of graduating creates a loyalty to those places and friends during the 14 to 22 age period. Humans are drawn toward connectivity. Finally, there is the BIRG factor: Basking In the Reflective Glow of others. We love to be around success. Having attended one of the finest universities in the world, the BIRG factor must be enormous among the Spartan alumni! From the award winning school of Education, to Nuclear Physics, Medicine, Business, Agriculture (the list goes on forever) then add the excellent sports teams as frosting on the cake. As Spartans, we’ve got a lot to be proud of!

So join us in Phase II of our fundraising effort; see Al Flory’s item on the endowment below for additional information. Wouldn’t it be great to double the size of our endowment account to \$180,000? In the meantime, let’s all bask in the reflective glow of our great university.

Paul Sadows, President

## FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY

Plan now to attend the Michigan – **Michigan State Football Watch Party** on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Theater in Frankfort -- game time to be announced. Those who have attended in past years know that watching the game on the big screen is a great way to cheer on your favorite team – and yes, we welcome Michigan fans as well as fans of all teams. We will again have Stormcloud beer, wine, and Papano’s pizza for sale during the game and request a \$5 donation (or more) for the scholarship fund.

## ENDOWMENT REACHES MILESTONE!

Earlier this year, our Club surpassed its goal of establishing a scholarship endowment to fund. Over \$92,000 in contributions and pledges have been received, and more than \$86,000 has already been transferred into the endowment account! What does this mean for future Spartans? Ultimately, the endowment should allow our community to expand the support provided to local students.

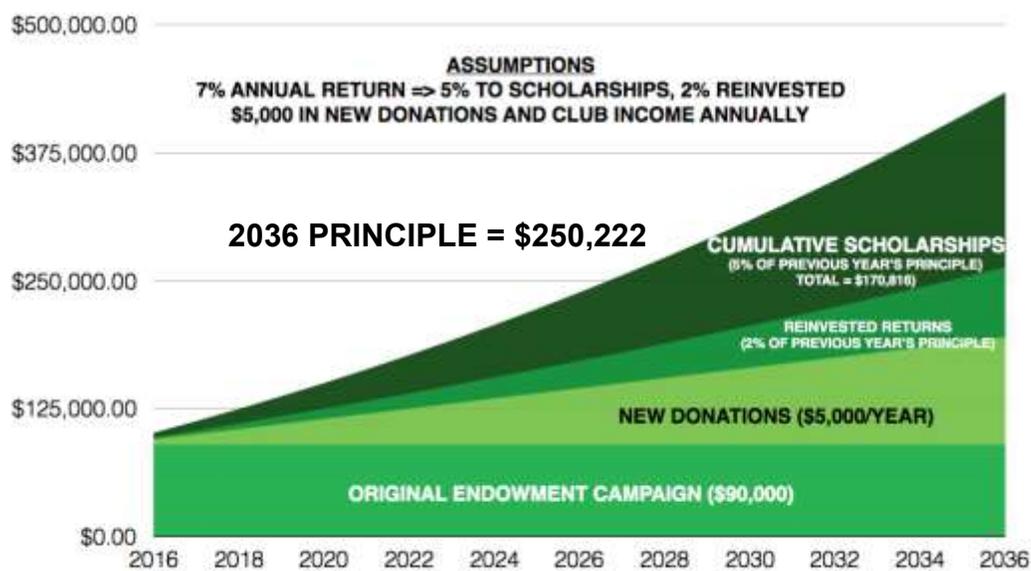
During the past three years, we have averaged over \$22,000 per year in contributions and Club earnings! Obviously, this has been a very unusual time, and we've probably tested the limits of our supporters' generosity! However, our hope is that people will remain enthusiastic about the endowment.

While we do not expect ongoing contributions to remain at the endowment campaign levels, our goal is to have at least \$5,000 in contributions per year. In addition, earnings from past contributions will also serve to grow the endowment principle. MSU has achieved average annual returns of 7% over the past 10 years. While "past performance does not guarantee future earnings", we anticipate that MSU will continue to invest prudently.

The chart below is a hypothetical 20 year projection of what could be achieved if we continue to grow the endowment with contributions of \$5,000 per year, and earnings of 7% per year. The graphic assumes that 5% of our earnings would be used to fund scholarships, and 2% would return to the endowment principle. If we can achieve these targets, the endowment would provide over \$170,000 scholarships to Benzie County students, and the principle would grow to over \$250,000!

If you want to know more about the endowment, or wish to make a contribution, please contact Al Flory at 612-309-9977 or via email at arflory@yahoo.com.

### BENZIE SPARTAN ENDOWMENT THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS



## HELP WANTED!

Have you ever wondered who writes this newsletter, who organizes our football and basketball game watches, the annual beach bash, the scholarship dinner, and the list goes on....? Well, it turns out that these people are loyal Spartans just like you. Amazing as it may seem, activities don't just mysteriously happen - and we need your help!

If you've ever thought about getting more involved in the Club, we can guarantee that you would be welcomed with open arms, and you'd also have lots of fun. Here are just a few of the things that you can do:

**If you have a "head for numbers", have we got a job for you!** Our long time board member, past president, and current treasurer, David Lean, will be leaving the Board next summer. David has the Club's accounts well organized and the system works well under his direction. We need someone with an accounting background who is interested in helping to keep things running smoothly!

**If you love social events, and are a great organizer,** we need someone to organize our annual spring/early summer event. In the past we've had an annual scholarship dinner, but this event is "wide open" to someone with creative ideas.

**If you're a football fan, and want to get together with 400 of your closest friends,** how about taking over responsibility for one of our game watches? This is a relatively easy task to organize, and you would have lots of fun. You would also have plenty of help!

**Are you a social media guru?** If so, we REALLY need your help! If you love Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. you could make a tremendous contribution to our Club. We're just getting started and you could help make this tool a great resource for members, students, and the Benzie County business community.

**And if you really want to help shape our future,** how about joining the Board of Directors?! We will have at least two openings next summer, and will be looking for fresh faces and new talent! Our Board is a fun group, easy to get along with (in our opinion), and always receptive to great ideas!

## BECOMING "SPARTAN LOYAL"!

Beginning July 1, 2016, the MSU Alumni Association (MSUAA) eliminated 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 of \$100 or more to our scholarship endowment fund will not only support Benzie County Spartans, but will also provide you with enhanced alumni status and benefits!**

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

## 2016: AN ODD - BUT REWARDING - SCHOLARSHIP YEAR!

Many of you may be wondering which local students are entering MSU this fall. Surprisingly, the answer is “none”! For the first time in as long as any of us can remember, there are no graduating seniors from Benzie Central or Frankfort-Elberta High Schools matriculating to MSU this year.

In this milestone year, when our successful endowment campaign wrapped up, we were disappointed to learn that no students would be available to receive support. Obviously, this was not anticipated when we started the campaign. However, the story has a happy ending - read on!

One of our main goals is to provide support to Benzie County students, and we weren't going to give up easily. We immediately contacted MSU to see if any students were transferring from Northwestern Michigan or other community colleges. Unfortunately, there were none. We also asked about transfers from other four year institutions - still no luck.

That's when we realized that there are still several Benzie Spartans who could use our support. Following discussions with MSU, the Board voted to extend scholarship benefits to past Herban, Nugent and Blewett scholarship recipients still attending MSU as under-graduates. Needless to say, these students can use the financial aid and welcomed this unexpected support! Seven past scholarship recipients will benefit from your generosity again this year!

In cooperation with MSU, we have subsequently amended our endowment agreement to address this issue. While priority will still be extended to incoming freshmen, scholarships may also be extended to community college transfer students, and past recipients if appropriate. In addition, our hope is to work with the staff at Benzie Central and Frankfort-Elberta schools to ensure that students are aware of the tremendous opportunities MSU offers.

## STUDENT UPDATES

**Mark Gomulinski** (Nugent - 2013): “I'm currently suffering from ohmygodcollegeisalmostover-itis and poison ivy. Thankfully the poison ivy is almost over.....I've joined the "Expertise Lab". I'm working eight hours a week watching people suffer through the lab's "Unravel" program. I try to keep their spirits up if I can...Otherwise it's more of the same. I'm in neuroscience club and still living on campus. I got a freshman roommate so I'm acclimating him to college life. Oh, and I'm also dual majoring in Neuroscience and Psychology, with a minor in cognitive science. I found out last year I could add them with a couple extra classes so that's pretty cool.”

**Nathan Hejl** (Blewett - 2012): “I am finishing up my BA in Marketing this semester and will begin the M.S. in Market Research program in January, also at MSU. I am still working for Jackson National, currently as an intern in our Project Management Office.”

**Madison O'Connor** (Nugent – 2015): “So far the school year is off to a great start! I am living off campus this year in my sorority house, Alpha Chi Omega, which is on Burcham and M.A.C. I am currently taking 15 credits all relating back to my major, journalism. My favorite class this year is my JRN 203, which has me doing hands on reporting/interviewing. On top of academics I am also involved in numerous clubs. I am a part of C. A. R. E., which is a volunteer club that supports our Spartan community and surrounding neighborhoods. At our meeting last week we decorated lunch bags for kids through a program called “Sack Suppers”. The bags we designed are then filled with food and given to kids who are from

identified families in need of support. Another group that I belong to is the “Make a Wish Foundation”. We are currently preparing for pumpkin sales to help raise money to donate to the foundation. Another event that I volunteer for is called “Walk a Mile”. In this event we have numerous guys walk a mile down the street in red high heels! All the money raised for this event is donated to MSU’s Safe Place to support survivors of domestic violence. I have always supported my community growing up and I am so happy to be able to continue to volunteer while here at MSU. This weekend, September 24<sup>th</sup>, we have the big Wisconsin game! I did buy student tickets this year, and can’t wait to go and support the Spartans! I am especially excited for this game because we are “striping the stadium”, which means sections alternate between all green and all white! (I’ll be in one of the green sections!) I would just like to take this time to also thank everyone for allowing me to have all these enriching opportunities. Without the Benzie Spartan Club’s financial support my college experience would be much different. Thanks again so much for supporting my dreams and aspirations. I hope to one day be able to help students reach their dreams, just as you have for me. Thanks again for making my dreams realities, GO GREEN!”

**Kristin Smeltzer** (Herban – 2013) “I’m starting my senior year here at MSU and I am planning on graduating in the spring of 2017. As far as classes go this semester I am taking Advancements in Reproduction, Microbiology lab, Organic chemistry lab, and Animal products. I have also submitted my applications for veterinary medical school, and will find out if I have been accepted in April. One of my favorite things about MSU is all of the clubs you can be a part of, I am still part of the Pre- Veterinary Medical Association club and I truly enjoy it and have met so many friends who share the same interests as me! It is hard to believe I am in my last year of school here, it is a bitter sweet moment. Thank you to everyone in the MSU Alumni club for being so helpful and supportive, I really wouldn't be where I am today without it. I hope you have a great fall, and hopefully I will see some of you around next time I make my way up north! :)”

**Shayla Soto** (Herban – 2015) “This school year is off to a great start. My classes at the business school are going well and I'm really interested in them. I'm joining an IM volleyball team and I'm working on joining a business organization. Overall I really enjoy being back at campus and every day I think how lucky I am to go here. Go Green!”

## NOTES

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

It saves us money 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](mailto:benziemsuac@msubenziealumni.org).

### UP-COMING EVENTS:

Watch the website ([benziemsuac@msubenziealumni.org](http://benziemsuac@msubenziealumni.org)) or the “Record Patriot” for information on the Basketball Watch Party and other events. If we have your e-mail address, we will also send an e-mail announcement when plans are finalized.

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Ray Miller, Webmaster

