



Michigan State University Community Club

November 2024 Newsletter



A Message from Your President:

Greetings, MSUCC Members,

What an amazing Fall we're having! The beautiful weather, the colorful trees, touchdowns, and slam dunks! Our first program of the year was a talk by Todd Edwards, Executive Director of Student Athlete Support Services for MSU student-athletes. This past academic year ALL TEAMS achieved a 3.0 semester GPA for the first time ever. This success is due to the student-athletes, of course, but also to the academic advisors and other people who work with the student-athletes daily.

Our next program will be on Friday, November 15, at 1:00pm at the MSUFCU Community Room, Corner of Mt. Hope and Farm Lane. The speaker will be Charley Ballard, Professor Emeritus of the MSU Economics Department, and his topic is "The Election is Over, Now What?". This should be very interesting!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Nancy Craig
MSUCC President



Mark your calendar:

Friday, November 15 - General Membership Meeting

Program by Charles Ballard, Ph.D.

"The Election is Over. Now What?"

1:00 - 3:00 PM, MSU Federal Credit Union Community Room

Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Road, Campus

Friday, December 6 - Holiday Reception

Entertainment by Capital Ballet Theatre

1:00 - 3:00 PM, Okemos Presbyterian Church

2258 Bennett Road, Okemos

Review of October “Tailgate” Membership Meeting

Almost 40 members and guests attended the October 18 Tailgate for an interesting presentation by Todd Edwards, Executive Director of Student Athlete Support Services (SASS) in the Clara Bell Smith Center on campus. A bounteous selection of treats was supplied by members of the Dinner & Bridge and Women’s Sports Supporters interest groups.



The Clara Bell Smith Center was the first stand-alone student athlete support center in the country when it opened in 1998, and the facility celebrated its 25th birthday in 2023-2024. Last Spring semester, SASS also celebrated the first year that every MSU sports team had a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. In Spring semester 2024, 108 student athletes earned a perfect 4.0 GPA among 483 student athletes who earned a 3.0 or higher GPA for the term. Since the opening of the Smith Center 25 years ago, the cumulative GPA of all student athletes has risen from 2.87 to its current record of 3.3744.



Todd Edwards is in his 21st year at MSU, and his 36th year overall in intercollegiate athletics. He and the SASS unit oversee academic services for MSU’s 23 varsity sports programs, including monitoring of degree progress and eligibility. SASS also coordinates career services and community outreach for all Spartan student-athletes.

Todd left time after his presentation to answer many questions from members and guests, who were clearly impressed with him and the work done by the SASS staff.

Photos from the Tailgate



MSUCC Greeter Jean Christensen. In the background are Second Vice President Sandy Gebber and Immediate Past Co-President and Board Advisor Kathy Jacobs



Facing the camera are member Geri Potchen and President Nancy Craig at the refreshment table



Corresponding Secretary Joanne Keith and Sequence Interest Group Chair Grace Nicodemus at the refreshment table.

We were pleased to have many guests, including several husbands attend (behind Joanne is Lee Jacobs, husband of First Vice President Joy Jacobs)



More Photos from the Tailgate

MSUCC Treasurer Gretchen Forsyth and Registrar Janet Brock in MSU colors for the Tailgate



Members and guests enjoying the presentation by Todd Edwards, Executive Director of Student Athlete Support Services

**Preview of our next
General Membership Meeting
on November 16, 2024**

***Speaker Charley Ballard, PhD
“The Election is Over, Now What?”***

Community Room
MSU Federal Credit Union
corner of Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Road
1:00 to 3:00 PM



On November 15, we will welcome Charley Ballard, MSU Professor Emeritus of the Economics Department. He has a special interest in politics and the economy, and will discuss the recent election and the possible consequences at the national and local level.

Charles L. (“Charly”) Ballard joined the MSU faculty in 1983, when he received his Ph.D. from Stanford University. His research deals with income inequality, Black/White earnings differences, the Michigan economy, and the effects of tax and tariff policies, including environmental taxes and subsidies.

Ballard has taught courses on public economics, public policy, and the economics of poverty and income distribution, and is a recipient of the MSU Teacher-Scholar Award, several teaching awards from the MSU College of Business and MSU College of Social Science, and two awards from MSU’s Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities.

Outside the classroom, he has served as a consultant with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Treasury, and with research institutes in Australia, Denmark, and Finland.

Ballard has spoken on economic and political issues to more than 200 groups around Michigan. He has worked extensively with the news media, providing insights to more than 300 print, radio, television, and online-media organizations.

Although retired, he currently participates in a pod cast with Matt Grossmann, Director of MSU’s Institute of Public Policy and Social Research. Charley is an engaging, knowledgeable, and entertaining speaker, and our members and guests are sure to enjoy his presentation.

Interest Group Activities for November



Afternoon Bridge - Chair Kay Hillberg

hillbergk@hotmail.com

881-4298

We play at 1:00 PM on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at Schuler's in Meridian Mall. Some of us have lunch together at 12:15 before we play. Our next play dates will be November 11 and 25.



I will send an eMail reminder before each play date. If you are not on our list but would like to play, we would love to have you join us. Please contact me.

Kay

Creative Writers - Co-Chairs Lyn Farquhar

farquha1@msu.edu 349-9569

Kathy Esselman

esselmank@comcast.net 974-1834

We next meet on November 6 at 12:30 PM in the East Lansing Public Library (Meeting Rooms 3 and 4). Jacquie Foss will host, and Lyn Farquhar will take notes. Readers will be Joyce Benvenuto and Linda Nuttall. Please let one of us know if you are interested in joining us.

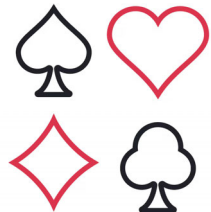
Lyn



Dinner & Bridge - Chair Joy Jacobs

jacobsj@msu.edu 675-5590

We meet on the first Friday of the month (September through June, except January) at 5:30 PM in the University Club "Mingle" restaurant for dinner, then we play bridge in a private room until about 10:00 PM. Our next get-together will be November 1.



This group was started over 50 years ago by MSUCC members and their husbands, back when the men all wore suits and ties and the ladies dressed for dinner at the U Club. We have evolved to include many MSUCC single members who partner with other members, and our "dress code" is much more relaxed! If you are interested in joining us, please email me.

jj

Evening Novel Discussion - Chair Janet Brock

jpbrock@mac.com 292-7873

This book group reads novels. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at a member's home with a Zoom option September through November and from April through June. We meet on Zoom in December through March and do not meet in July or August. Please contact me if you would like to join us or if you have questions.

Janet



Family Links - Co-Chairs - Sandy Gebber

sanrosgeb@gmail.com 351-9318

Laurie Koochesfahani

koochesf@comcast.net 349-3135

On November 12, we will meet at 3:00 PM at the History Learning Center (behind the Mormon Church) on Saginaw, a little past Abbot Road, East Lansing. We will learn about what is new and available there to help us with our genealogy research.

Sandy and Laurie



Advanced German Conversation - Chair Helen LeBlanc helen_48895@yahoo.com 655-6454

We meet at 2:00 PM on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The meeting on the first Thursday is by Zoom, because our membership ranges from California to southern France. On the third Thursday we meet in member's homes and share wonderful desserts, or we meet in a coffeehouse or restaurant. We converse only in German, and discuss topics from politics to current movies. Please contact me if you are interested.



Helen

International - Chair Jean Friend friend.jean@att.net 285-5469

On October 16, we enjoyed a presentation from Gabrielle Baylor, Coordinator, MSU Office for Global Health, Safety and Security. Her office is responsible for the mental and physical health of faculty, staff, and students traveling abroad (mental health being an emerging issue).



On November 20 at 1:00 PM we will meet at the East Lansing Public Library to hear Anna Smolko, Fullbright Scholar and visiting scholar from Ukraine. Her presentation will be "Being a Scholar During the War in Ukraine - How Do We Cope?" Anna has degrees from Ukrainian University (Journalism and Social Communications) and is studying Media Information at MSU.

Jean

Mah Jong - American Contact - Kathy Jacobs khjacobs@hotmail.com 332-2737

A class is currently in process, but you can sign up for a future class to start in a few weeks. Our teacher, Vivian Dwyer, is experienced, and she provides all materials. Each group class meets once a week for four consecutive weeks, 1 to 3 PM, at Vivian's Arty Party Studio in Okemos. Cost for the four-week session is \$25. Please contact me or Vivian (at paintviv@comcast.net or 517-582-1280) with questions.

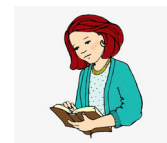


Kathy

Morning Eclectic Readers - Chair Babs Krause krauseb02@comcast.net 337-2713

We meet the fourth Friday of the month at 10 AM. If you'd like to join us, please get in touch with me.

Babs



Out-to-Lunch Bunch - Chair Kathy Esselman esselmank@comcast.net 974-1834

Ruth Stump will host at Harrison Roadhouse at 720 East Michigan Avenue, East Lansing, on Friday, November 9 at 11:30 AM. The menu is available at <https://www.harrisonroadhouse.com> There is adequate parking, and guests can be dropped at the door.



If you would like to join us for lunch, please contact me.

Kathy

Sequence - Chair Grace Nicodemus revgrace@icloud.com 831-747-4222

Come join in the fun and excitement of a game of Sequence. You can be a winner even if you have never played before. It is so simple and easy. We can handle up to 16 players at a time. We meet at Coral Gables on the third Wednesday of each month, ordering lunch at 11:30 AM and playing at 12:30 PM. We next meet on November 20th. Hope to see you there! Please RSVP to me so that we can plan the number of players.



Grace

Quilters - Chair Martha Schwab

mmschwab17@gmail.com 676-7011

The Quilters will be busy during November, making items for the MSUCC Holiday Reception on December 6. Anyone looking for a couple of hours of fun time, please feel free to join us on November 20. Please note the deviation from our regular first Wednesday of the month for just this month.
Martha



Tennis - Chair Phylis Floyd

floyd@msu.edu 980-2526

We drill on Mondays and Fridays at 9:00 AM, now at Court One East in Okemos. Cost is \$9 for members of Court One, or \$10 for non-members. Please call Court One the day before to assure sufficient numbers. Contact me if you're interested in joining us!
Phylis



Visual Arts - Chairs Gwendolyn Taylor
Carmen Dykema

gmtaylor22@gmail.com 285-689
carmendykema@gmail.com 230-3046

We began our 2024-2025 program year with an October Field Trip to the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio. Participants experienced works from TMA's collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art: *In a New Light*. Additionally, we attended the featured exhibitor, *Ethiopia at the Crossroads*. This exhibit is the first major United States exhibition to examine Ethiopian art in a global context.



Our Field Trip on November 7 will be to the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (KIA) and the Richmond Center for the Visual Arts on the campus of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The featured KIA exhibition, *Legendary Voices, Art for the Next Century*, highlights 50 groupings of art by 111 artists spanning over a century of KIA acquisitions, gifts, and more. Representations from abstract to the environment are addressed in this unique exhibition. The Richmond Center for the Visual Arts houses multiple galleries as well as an outdoor sculpture garden.

We invite MSUCC members to join us for any or all of our monthly Field Trips. For additional information, please contact either of us.
Gwen and Carmen

Women's Night Out - Chair Jean Zwier

zwierjlmr@gmail.com 898-6254

Our November WNO will be on Thursday, November 21st at the newly opened Tantay Restaurant at 2398 Jolly Road in Okemos. <https://www.tantaylansing.com/>

Please RSVP to me by Thursday, November 14th if you'd like to attend. We hope you can join us!
Jean



Women's Sports Supporters - Chair Joy Jacobs

jacobsj@msu.edu 675-5590

This group does not meet in-person, but we connect through our love for MSUCC and MSU women's sports.

Athletics Department emails about ticket availability and cost, announcements about the teams, and other information are forwarded to group members. A chart of all MSU women's sports with links to their schedules has already been sent to group members. If you'd like a copy of this chart or would like to be on our mailing list, please email me.

jj

