Our Story: 1923...

Michigan State University
Community Club

formerly Faculty Folk Club of MSU

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Michigan State University Community Club
PO Box 38
East Lansing, MI 48826-0038
What is MSU Community Club?

MSU Community Club (MSUCC) members:

☐ welcome newcomers and help them get settled in the community—and provide opportunities to meet people from all areas of the university

☐ offer social and educational activities
  ■ more than 20 interest groups, such as art, bridge, creative writing, German conversation, golf, international cultures, lunch bunch, newcomers, novel discussion, tennis, and women sans partners.
  ■ monthly programs—about the campus, examples include research at MSU, new MSU facilities; current and international affairs, finance, health; other topics of interest

☐ raise funds for scholarships—over $10,000 annually by sponsoring the Taste of the Town—for the MSUCC Scholarship Fund (established in 1999—held by University Development), now with a total of more than $80,000; MSUCC also selects the recipients for the Irene B. Arens Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Prior to setting up the MSUCC Endowed Scholarship Fund, over about a 20-year period the Club raised more than $110,000 for the Mildred B. Erickson Scholarship Fund.

☐ support MSU Safe Place with contributions, holiday gifts, and quilts

☐ volunteer for campus activities

*formerly the MSU Faculty Folk Club; we have been serving MSU since 1923 and are affiliated with Big Ten Women's Organizations that meets biennially.

www.msu.edu/user/msuccclub
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Foreword

"Very excited" is an apt description of the board's response to Maxine Ferris' proposal to write a lively history of the Faculty Folk Club (FFC), soon to be MSU Community Club (MSUCC). She presented a well organized plan that called for support such as developing a budget, proofreading and organizing photos.

Maxine contacted many, many people and reviewed mountains of material. Her ahead-of-schedule chapters have delighted the review readers. Maxine has skillfully woven "Our Story" with strands of history since the founding of the club in 1923. The campus maps at the end of the first chapter dramatically illustrate the phenomenal growth of the Pioneer Land-Grant Institution (first in the nation, 1855). Enrollment in 1920 was 1,448; 1940, 8,457; 1960, 20,000; 2007, about 44,000. With this growth came a continuing need to hire new faculty/staff members.

Many thousands of women (and indirectly, their husbands and families) have benefited from a wide array of club activities. The club's overall purpose is to welcome newcomers by providing social events that are also edifying. In the process, many have chosen to serve MSU (volunteering, for example) and raise scholarship funds. MSUCC's Endowed Scholarship fund balance was $80,000 in August 2007.

In finding relevant visual materials, some trends came into focus, mostly by searching FFC/MSUCC files in University Archives and Historical Collections (UAHC) that has the largest amount of material from the earlier years, scrapbooks with yellowing newspaper clippings (before the days of archival scrapbooking) and other printed materials. We very much appreciate the helpful UAHC staff.

Fortunately, in recent years members have taken photos and maintained very nice albums/scrapbooks. Unfortunately, some time before 1980 the club's historical materials "got lost." A notable trend is that newspapers devote far less space to individual social events and club programs. Now far more people have cameras, so club archives are more complete. A special thank you to Karen Harsh, the most notable shutterbug. We also thank others for their contributions. Another trend is the move toward informality -- hats are no longer commonly worn, nor are white gloves. Annual formal balls/dances are also a thing of the past.

We expect that you will enjoy "Our Story."

Arlene Brophy
Sally Pratt
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As is so often the case, many friends and colleagues have been vital to the development and completion of this publication. The Board of the MSU Community Club played a special role in endorsing, enthusiastically supporting the project and providing advice whenever it was requested. Of particular value was the ongoing research assistance and input of the club's past president, Arlene Brophy, who along with her husband, Jere Brophy, and the author's husband, John (Jake) Ferris, spent many hours providing perceptive suggestions and critique.

Club members and officers who were most helpful in providing review, practical comments, editing and proof-reading assistance included: Clarice Thompson, Sally Pratt, Kathy Esselman, Jacqueline Holecek, Joy Costar, Carol LeMense, Judy von Bernuth, and Jeanne Halloin. Karen Harsh, Sally Pratt and Cathy Allen worked on the photos and the Appendix. Sally Pratt was the book's designer. Appreciation is certainly due all of these women, along with many others who provided anecdotal material and insights related to past events and practices.

A special "thank you" must go to the late Dorothy A. Anderson. Her excellent work as a researcher and chronicler of many years of the club's history in her publication, A Trunk Full of Memories, provided much of the historical information that is included in this book. Other references that were used and valued include: interviews with past presidents, presidential reports, Faculty Folk Club scrapbooks, archival materials drawn from local newspaper stories, histories of other women's organizations and inputs from campus and community librarians and research associates.

DEDICATION

The book is dedicated to the long line of women who through the years contributed countless hours of time and talent to insure that the Faculty Folk/MSU Community Club's mission of promoting fellowship among its members, awarding scholarships to college and university students, providing volunteers to extend campus resources and furthering other charitable and educational objectives was not only fulfilled but surpassed! "Hats off" to a very special group of women!

Maxine S. Ferris
July 2007
1. Introduction

In the beginning...

"1923 — It was a year when an American president [Harding] died in office, and a vice president [Coolidge] succeeded him. When William Butler Yeats won the Nobel Prize for Literature, George Gershwin wrote 'Rhapsody in Blue.' TIME Magazine was born, the top pop song was 'Yes, We Have No Bananas' and Southern Cal beat Penn State, 14-3, in the Rose Bowl." (Excerpt from a press release prepared by Pam Rohman for the LANSING STATE JOURNAL in 1997 on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Faculty Folk Club of Michigan State University.)

Michigan Agricultural College was approaching its 70th anniversary, having been established in 1855. By 1923 1,717 students — 447 of whom were women — were enrolled at the "College on the Red Cedar." The first females, it should be noted arrived in 1870 and were required to live off-campus in "respectable" family homes since there were no women's dormitories on campus to accommodate them at the time.

The College had 260 faculty members: professors, instructors and short course teachers; 43 or 44 of them were women. There were five deans that year, one of whom was female. The President, of course, was a man.

In 1922 Mrs. Herman H. Halladay became a part of the campus community when her husband was appointed Secretary of the College by the State Board of Agriculture that governed the college. That first fall, she became a member of the Michigan Agricultural College Woman's Club, later the East Lansing Woman's Club. But a year later she and several other women decided to form a new organization which was entirely social in character and had as its objective "advancing the greater common social interests for the departmental women of the college and the wives of the department instructors."

Mrs. Halladay was the first president of Faculty Folk, as the group was named. At its organizational meeting on December 3, 1923 more than 50 women responded to the invitation to affiliate. By the following January, the number of members had grown to 160. The group had an amazing first year! The club's program that year was a fore-shadowing of the kinds of meetings and events that became a pattern for the evolving organization: a welcome reception for newcomers, a dance and card party, a spring breakfast and the development of several interest groups.

The early decades of the twentieth century were a time of expansion of women's clubs throughout the country. The East Lansing community was no
exception. The growth of club activity provided women with opportunities for socialization and intellectual growth. Many of these organizations saw an obligation to undertake projects to improve their communities, and some were busy laying the ground-work for the suffrage movement that bore fruit in women gaining the right to vote in 1920.

To understand the milieu in which the Faculty Folk Club, now the Michigan State University Community Club, was established, it is relevant to consider the club activities that were already flourishing in the greater Lansing area.

Even before East Lansing had a church, women of the yet to be chartered village formed a chapter of King’s Daughters, a state-wide organization devoted to “worth while work.” This group evolved in 1907 into the Women’s Society of the newly formed Peoples Church. With a membership of 23 women, the organization had devotional programs, carried on the work we associate with the Red Cross, WGTU (Women’s Christian Temperance Union) and other charities. In later years, as other churches were organized in East Lansing, they too formed women’s groups of a similar nature.

About the same time, two other area clubs were beginning programs that in 2006 and 2007 celebrated their centennial years. In November 1906, the Haslett Women’s Literary Club was formed with 14 members and with annual dues of 50 cents. A year later the club contributed $30 to build the first gravel sidewalk, a stretch that connected the trolley stop to the post office in town. Support was provided to the Red Cross during World War I, and these women were part of those who worked to secure women’s right to vote. In 1922 they joined with other women’s clubs to establish a home for elderly women. It should be pointed out that the Lansing Woman’s Club has had an even longer history, having been begun in 1874 by a relatively small group of women.

Prior to 1907 when the village of East Lansing was chartered, the community known as “Agricultural College” consisted of only a few houses along Michigan Avenue and on campus. In 1903 Myra Wilcox Bogue, whose husband taught at the College and Clara Mifflin Snyder, the college President’s wife, asked Maude Gilchrist, Dean of Women and Head of the Home Economics Division, to serve as the first president of the Michigan Agricultural Women’s Club that they were starting. It was chartered by 22 women. At first it was a purely literary and social club, but soon it became an important vehicle for women to learn about the world and better understand current events. Membership was by invitation only and intended for women on the faculty, wives of faculty members and administrators and “high-profile city people.” In 1922 the group’s name was changed to East Lansing Woman’s Club.

Earlier, Dean Gilchrist had played a significant role in establishing the Lansing-East Lansing Branch of the American Association of University Women. On October 11, 1912, 33 women joined the organization as charter members. Mrs. W.U. Sturgis was the first president. This group was designed to give college women a means to carry on their social and cultural interests. One of their early projects was to assist the Students’ Aid Fund at M.A.C. and contribute to the Associated Charities of Lansing.

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920. This organization, unlike others that were attracting members during this period, focused primarily on helping women and other citizens become better informed on political issues that impacted their lives and serving as an issue advocacy group, a mission that continues today.

In 1922 the Zonta Club of Lansing was chartered as part of an international networking and outreach organization for business and professional women. While its emphasis too has been on service programs on behalf of women and children – education, health and human rights – its appeal was somewhat different from the more social and literary clubs that were designed not for working women but primarily for the wives of business and professional men.
Today there are four Zonta Clubs in the greater Lansing area, including the Zonta Club of the East Lansing Area.

The decades of the 30s and 40s continued to see the establishment of numerous other organizations that offered outlets through which women could continue their educations, provide community service and undertake fund-raising projects to enhance or complement the efforts of other women’s programs. The Junior Service League, later the Junior League of Lansing, was formed in 1931, an organization that places a great emphasis on volunteerism and work in behalf of community charities; P.E.O. Chapter AG was established in 1936, the first of five such groups in the area (This organization is a philanthropic educational organization that places a major emphasis on supporting a variety of educational scholarship programs for women.)

The Okemos Women’s Club did not organize until 1958. At the time it had 14 members and had a cap of 35. When membership dropped to six forty years later, the group was discontinued. An Extension Women’s Club was a local campus-affiliated organization that met regularly for several decades; Child Study Clubs and Extension Home Demonstration Clubs were common throughout the county during most of the last half of the 20th century. At times the various groups collaborated in sponsoring outreach programs, providing funds for students and undertaking major projects that required the resources of more than a single group.

With so many club options available to the women of the M.A.C. community, one might ask, “Why was it necessary to organize yet another woman’s club in the East Lansing area? Weren’t there sufficient opportunities available for socialization, educational enrichment and community service?” Apparently not!

One can only surmise what the rationalization was. Perhaps there was a desire for a closer kinship among the women of the college community. Certainly women faculty members of that era didn’t have much of a support network, and organizations with state-wide, national or international ties were more closely bound by rules, orders, policies and procedures than might have been preferred by some women who really wanted to “do their own thing.”
Membership requirements that were evolving in the East Lansing Woman's Club relative to residency and sponsorship may have seemed prohibitive to newcomers, and "town and gown" differences - perceived or real - may have discouraged the continuing existence of a single club even though the goals and objectives were quite similar at the time. It should be pointed out that it was not uncommon for a woman to belong to both the East Lansing Woman's Club and Faculty Folk. Likewise, today, quite a few women are members of several organizations.

For many women in the 20s and beyond, being married to a man who was a professor or college administrator was something special. Even for women with college degrees of their own, being part of a college circle was very important. For some women, it was seen as enhancing their identity, credibility and worth, since most of them were not employed outside of the home. Consequently, membership in a Faculty Folk Club was a significant addition to their resumes.

It is interesting to note that similar groups were forming at other institutions of higher learning. One of the oldest in what is now known as the "Big Ten" was the University Women's Club of the Ohio State University, a club begun in 1895. The University League of Wisconsin followed in 1901, and five years later (1906) marked the beginning of the University of Illinois Women's Club. The University of Minnesota Women's Club was started in 1911; Northwestern's University Circle began in 1915; the University Club of Iowa was established in 1917. The Faculty Women's Club of the University of Michigan was established in 1921 and was followed by the Purdue Women's Club in 1922. At Penn State a Newcomers Club was started in 1928 and later expanded its membership to become the University Women's Club of the Pennsylvania State University.

Although the club in Illinois was said to be "an informal club, the purpose of which should be purely social for the benefit of faculty women and wives of faculty," in less than a decade they wanted a new purpose and set up a loan program for needy girl students, which later evolved into a scholarship program. Welcoming newcomers, especially faculty brides, was an important aspect of the University League's program in Wisconsin, as it was at M.A.C., where Faculty Folk also welcomed newcomers and brides and became interested in providing scholarships for needy students early in the club's history.

In time, other campus organizations for women formed on many campuses. For example, in 1939 the MSU Faculty Women's Association organized to provide support and communication across departmental lines. Later, the group expanded its membership to include other administrative professional women on campus and changed its name to the MSU Faculty-Professional Women's Association. The group plays an advocacy role for its members and other women on campus. It sponsors educational and recognition programs; provides networking opportunities and supports scholarship, athletic and other special initiatives for female workers and women students at the university.

In 1953 the Michigan State University Business Women's Club, now the Michigan State University Business Women's Association, was formed to provide a means to enhance professional skills and knowledge through educational workshops and training programs. Another goal has been to build relationships through diversity, credibility and personal achievements to enrich the lives of members and create positive attitudes for all at Michigan State University.

What all of these organizations had in common in addition to socializing was an interest in providing stimulating learning programs, advocating for women as persons and workers, improving their communities and sponsoring a wide variety of fund-raising activities to generate funds for student scholarships and other worthy causes, especially those benefiting women and
children. The MSU Community Club can take its place with pride in this march of women who have wanted to make a difference.

The following chapters will summarize and examine how this organization has grown and evolved over the past 85 years. Of particular interest will be the ways in which its programs, special events and fund-raising initiatives have changed with the times and responded to university and community needs for volunteers and scholarship assistance, as well as an expanded global mission.
When faculty members arrived in 1923, the campus was very different from today. The original total of land...
By 2000 the campus included more land and far more buildings. Just completed in 2007 is a new parking structure on Grand River Avenue. The six-story $93M Bio-Medical and Physical Sciences building opened in 2002. The Grand River Parking Ramp opened in 2006-07. Plans are underway to build a $40 million art museum on Grand River Avenue and Collingwood Street. The university has 660 buildings, 85 with instructional space (msu.edu).
2. Operations
Framework for success

Research suggests that organizations—like persons—go through a predictable maturation process. There is a lot of enthusiasm and growth early in their development, followed by a steady climb for a time until a plateau is reached. That is the point where organizations face a critical challenge. Some have said that is the point where organizations must either “grow or die.”

Growing in this case means more than simply increasing membership. It also means reassessment, perhaps some redirection and renewed emphasis on positioning the club for the future. Attracting new members—sometimes a different type of member—may be part of the strategy to move forward. Once again the trajectory may be “up” and reflect the group’s progression. If this bump doesn’t occur, the group may find itself in a downward slide and eventually become defunct.

Obviously, leadership, quality programs and meaningful activities are important elements in determining an organization’s health. But of equal importance is how the group’s infrastructure and systems change and are tweaked to meet changing environments. Systems related to operations—regularly updating the organization’s constitution and by-laws, evaluating and refining communication channels and modifying financial procedures and options—are especially relevant. Likewise, how the group is identified and known and is able to establish complementary relationships are factors that contribute to organizational health and survival.

Usually, organizations begin with a very simple structure with only a few officers and standing committees. As they increase in membership and enlarge their mission, they become more complex. The Faculty Folk Club has been no exception. In 1923 the Club’s Executive Committee consisted of a president, vice president, secretary-treasurer and four board members. Early standing committees were: hospitality, membership and publicity. Somewhat later a program committee was added, and the social committee began operating on an ad hoc basis. (See the last page in this chapter for a 1932-1933 FFC schedule.)

Compare this with the current situation. The 2006-2007 Directory of the Michigan State University Community Club lists a much longer roster of officers and committees. The executive board consists of: president, first vice president, second vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, advisor and chairpersons of the following standing committees: membership, program, publicity, welcoming and endowed scholarship. Other officers that help the organization function are: the registrar, greeters, historian, newsletter editor, photographers, parliamentarian, webmaster and co-chairs of the “Taste of the Town” (fund-raiser). Other standing committees listed include: mailing and outstanding woman of the year.

Constitution and by-law changes in 1979 and in the early 80s and 90s laid the groundwork for changes that are evident in current executive board organization. These changes have sought to clarify roles and responsibilities and encourage greater participation by more members, something that enabled the club to
continue functioning even though more members have entered the work force. Recent changes have attempted to restructure board positions to make office holding more attractive. Emphasis has now been placed on reducing some responsibilities and delegating tasks to other positions. Reducing presidential duties by delegating them to a program chair and adding a corresponding secretary and assistant treasurer are some examples of these changes.

During the presidential tenure of Susan Hamm, the role and selection of the club advisor was clarified and made part of the by-laws (immediate past president), eliminating confusion.

Likewise, through the years, club leaders have sought to refine and increase member eligibility by listing more categories of campus employees as potential members, and the by-laws reflected these changes. In 1979-80 wives of past presidents of MSU were awarded honorary life memberships; later female Board of Trustee members, as well as spouses of Trustees, were added as members. While men frequently have participated in social events of the club, and a few actually have become members, there has not been a great interest shown by men in affiliating although their inclusion is not prohibited. In 2000-2001 membership officially was opened to them.

As members have been aging and wintering elsewhere, there have been fewer people available to serve as officers or board members. Consequently, the board — after considerable discussion and interaction with the MSU Alumni Association — proposed to extend membership to broader constituencies. On February 16, 2007, their recommendation was approved by the members to extend MSUCC membership to university alumni and all university personnel and their spouses. As has been the case for a number of years, other interested community folk may apply to the board for admittance.

Through the years the club has sponsored “satellite” groups. From 1931 until 1977, the Newcomers Club functioned as a separate organization, complementary to the parent organization. Since that time the group has operated as another special interest group. The same can be said for the Brides Club which met independently until 1952. (For more detail see Chapter IV.) In 1936, a Graduate Dames Club for women graduates, wives and mothers of graduate students organized and continued until 1945. FFC also sponsored Spartan Wives, a club that began in 1943 for wives of servicemen and later included wives of non-veterans as well. Establishing the Spartan Nursery happened with assistance from the college and the Kellogg Foundation and was perhaps the most outstanding project of this group, which ceased operating in 1976 due to lack of interest.

Through the years, the executive board created ad hoc committees to focus on special needs or projects of the club. During the early years, the club owned a number of card tables as well as a growing collection of silver serving pieces. For a time, the secretary of the membership committee was in charge of these items, but in 1941 a separate committee, the silver committee, was established to handle these assets which came to include a silver tea service, several trays, candle sticks and other small serving pieces. Several items were purchased by the club annually for a number of years; others were gifts from members. Properties owned by the club included: four silver teapots, eight silver trays, four silver candle holders, one silver bowl for flowers, four lace table cloths and some wooden candle holders. This committee ended during the 1961-62 program year, and it is not known what happened to the silver assets.

At the urging of President Hannah, the club organized an FCC War Activities Committee in 1942 to do everything it could to assist the Army Air Corps Cadets who were stationed on campus. Chapter VIII describes the nature of the voluntary leadership and work the committee performed.

The first mention of a scholarship committee was in 1946. This committee continues to be a significant part of the club’s operations as is indicated in Chapter VII. While functioning of the committee has changed, generating and distributing scholarship funds remains a priority.

Not only did the nature of committees evolve through the years, but the size and responsibilities of some traditional ones also changed to meet
new demands. For example, following World War II when the school was expanding and faculty numbers increasing, many newcomers needed to be welcomed. The hospitality committee grew to 20 members in 1946 so that 336 new faculty members and wives could be welcomed and encouraged to join the FFC. About 200 new members joined as a result of this effort.

An ad hoc guest committee was organized in 1949 and existed for several years, adding yet another dimension to the club’s efforts to recruit and retain members. With a membership of over 500 that year, the committees were expanded to include a nursery committee, and a secretary of name cards was appointed. (Attendance at all meetings was dependent on presentation of a membership card, and members had special name badges.) In 1986 the club created another ad hoc committee to produce and publish a cook book. The executive board annually appoints a nominating committees and special by-law review committees as appropriate.

Having a place to meet and hold general and small group meetings has been a continuing problem. During the 1950s, the group met in a space in the Quonset Cafeteria. And in 1954, a Faculty Folk Club Room was assigned to the group in Quonset #94; later, space in Quonset #75, a more usable accommodation, replaced it. Another committee, appropriately named "the Huddle," was formed to equip and manage the space and occasionally rent it out to other groups. In 1972, the Quonset was released so it could be razed to make way for new buildings; items that the club had in the unit were given to the campus Loan Center or sent to MSU Salvage. The need for a committee to manage the facility no longer existed.

Since then, the issue of a designated office for the club has been a recurring one. For a time it appeared that space might become available in the Student Union Building or even in the University Club, but to date that has not been possible. Likewise, having a single meeting room or "home" that is available for board and general meetings of the membership on a recurring basis has not occurred either. Through the years, various locations have "hosted" the club, a topic discussed in Chapter V.

One system that has undergone considerable change throughout the club’s history has been the shift in the way that the club communicates with its members. In the early years, wives of unit administrators played a key role in identifying newcomers and encouraging them to become members. That no longer occurs. From time to time, "big sisters" made certain that new members got to the meetings and were integrated into the organization. (Chapter III discusses this matter more fully.)

Program cards were distributed at the first meeting of the year so that members could mark their calendars and plan for upcoming events. In 1975-76, a FCC Directory containing a list of members and program information replaced the membership cards; and monthly newsletters were mailed to members. But it was not until 1991 that the member’s own first name was used in the listing rather than having her being identified primarily on the basis of her husband's name. Also, it was some time before the Directory carried the member’s departmental affiliation as well as that of her spouse if she too was an MSU employee. Prior to 1966, the club distributed Annual Reports.

Computerization of club records began in 1985. E-mail addresses of as many club members as possible appeared in the club directory after 2000. Construction of a club website progressed during the presidency of Susan Hamm (2003-2004). Carol LeMense became the first web master, a role she continues to play. With the advent of greater use of computers, the number of newsletters was reduced to two or three a year; and the publication of E-mail addresses in the directory has greatly reduced the need for "snail mail" to conduct club business. Since 2000, the club has had a post office box in East Lansing, thus establishing a permanent address for FFC. That year the club purchased a bulk mail permit to reduce the cost of mailing newsletters. Although this system may not be perfect, it remains a cost-saving way to communicate with members when electronic communication is not the best option.

How successfully a club manages its finances is often a sign of its organizational health. MSUCC has an excellent track record in this regard. Dues
have been increased to meet program and administrative needs. Early records of the club do not indicate that dues were charged, and unlike a number of other clubs of its vintage, no initiation fee was assessed – and none has ever been assessed. In 1932 dues were $1.00 a year. (In 2006 dollars, this would be $13.) By the late 40s, they had risen to $1.50 but were kept low at the request of President Hannah. (In today’s terms that $1.50 would be $10.35.) The increase of dues over the years was as follows: 1965 ($2.50), 1973 ($3.50), 1974 ($4.50), 1977 ($5.00), 1980 ($7.50), 1984 ($10.00), 1992 ($12.50), 1995 ($15.00), 1997 ($17.00), 2000 ($20.00), and 2006 ($25.00).

Increases have reflected the need of the club to cover rising postage and printing costs, the rental charges for meeting space, program expenses and to provide refreshments at more of the meetings without additional charges to members. To reduce costs and adapt to the changing times, the club – for the most part – discontinued the practice of providing corsages for new members, officers, etc. at many of the meetings.

For most of its history, dues were collected in the fall or paid as members joined through-out the calendar year. In order to improve program management and make possible the printing of the membership directory earlier in the year, the board initiated “Pay by May,” beginning with May 2004. Another change in operations was moving the annual meeting and election of officers from April to February to enable better planning for the following year. Officers are now installed at the final meeting of the academic year.

All women who participate in an interest group are expected to become members of the organization, an assumption that has been troublesome from time to time. Some participate only in interest group activities so do not feel a linkage with the parent organization sponsor. Nevertheless, the by-laws clearly state that interest group participation carries with it a financial obligation.

In order to keep pace with more complex issues related to finances, the club made a number of adjustments in how it did business. During the 1954-55 year, a savings account in the amount of $500 was invested at the East Lansing Savings and Loan Association. Ten years later, the accounts were moved to the MSU Credit Union in order to earn more interest. The group sought federal tax exempt status and received it during the 2000-2001 program year. (Form #1024; a Social Club 501-C-7).

Since contributing money for scholarships or student aid can be traced back to the late 1930s, the club has implemented a variety of strategies to generate funds. When dues were raised to $10.00 in 1984, $2.50 of each membership went toward scholarships, a practice that continued for many years. But for the most part, scholarship funds and other charitable gifts resulted from a series of money-making strategies including: bridge parties, special luncheons and other food-related events, sale of cook books and other small items, raffles, garage sales and designated gifts. Detailed information concerning these efforts is reported in Chapter VII.

Initially, scholarship contributions were processed through the Office of Financial Aid, but in 1979 the group decided to collaborate with the Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship and distribute funds via that mechanism. FFC members served on the Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship Board and provided input concerning the recipients. That relationship continued until April 1999 when the group established the Faculty Folk Endowed Scholarship Fund. In 2005, a second endowed scholarship in honor of Irene Arens, a past club president and active club member, was funded by her family. Scholarship monies are distributed annually from the interest by the MSUCC scholarship committee, along with funds generated by the FFC Endowed Fund. The MSU Development Office administers both of these funds.

From 1925 until 1973, the club was known simply as the Faculty Folk Club. That year the group changed its name to the Faculty Folk Club of MSU, after which the club was listed in the campus telephone directory. However, in the intervening years, there have been numerous calls to update or change the name. As one might expect, this has been resisted by members who
have treasured the association for many years so the issue was unresolved until the spring of 2006 when the board — after considering numerous alternatives and getting the advice of the MSU Provost's Office and University Relations — proposed that the name be changed to Michigan State University Community Club, a name that was approved in September 2006. (Among the names rejected were: MSU Circle, League, Link, Accord, Connection or Auxiliary.)

The board decided that a name change was necessary to modernize the club's image and to put a stop to the persistent inquiries received: "Are you a folk dance club, a folk art club or a folk music group?" Possibilities such as league, circle, auxiliary and the like seemed to conflict with other volunteer groups in the area, and use of the designation of "woman" or "women" would discriminate against men, should they wish to affiliate — a possibility since the option opened to them in 2000-2001. Also, "Community Club" seems to better describe who and what the club is becoming. The name change is in fact attracting new members.

In 1971 James Totten, a university employee; created a club logo the group uses for identity purposes. Although club colors of turquoise and tan were selected at that time for use on club stationary, they are no longer used as the colors of choice. When printing with color, green and white often appear.

Organizations that know how to develop partnerships with other groups usually maintain their vitality; through these associations they are able to share responsibilities in accomplishing common goals, tap resources that may not be available within the group and learn through the experiences and practices of others. In the case of the FFC, some of these partners are on campus and others represent "sister" organizations at other Big-Ten institutions.

Many of the partnerships on campus have been related to fund-raising activities. For a number of years in the 1950s, the FFC joined with the Faculty Women's Association in sponsoring several scholarship bridge parties. As has been previously mentioned, the club joined with the board of the Mildred B Erickson Fellowship for many years to raise and distribute scholarships, especially for returning or non-traditional students. In 1987 the club partnered with the MSU Alumni Association and Wharton Center in sponsoring a wine and cheese benefit, the precursor to the current "Taste of the Town."

Wharton Center continues to be an active associate in hosting the spring fund-raiser, which now also relies upon the food contributions of 25-30 local restaurants and catering establishments. For a number of years, the organization earned a modest sum by preparing packets distributed by the Provost's Office to new faculty members.

Partnerships with local businesses such as Meijer's (who assisted with a luncheon and special auction) and several wineries and Public Sector Consultants (who underwrote a wine and cheese benefit at the Impressions V Museum in 1984) enabled more students to benefit from the club's scholarship program.

For many years, FFC and the Michigan State Men's Club co-hosted elaborate dinner dance parties; on some occasions the Faculty Women's Association joined in sponsorship. Recently, a new collaboration between MSUCC and the University Alumni Association has been discussed. Such a partnership could enhance the programming and membership of both.

Another special relationship has developed with the University Club of MSU. Since 1992, the U Club has hosted a social evening for FFC members and guests; hors d'oeuvres are provided, along with a cash bar. This is a way of exposing newcomers in the area to the University Club, and it represents reciprocity for MSUCC's holding both the fall reception and spring luncheon at that location. The Kellogg Center has also assisted the Community Club in
recruiting new members by providing free meal coupons for State Room dining, which have been included in fall mailings to newcomers.

Perhaps one the most meaningful and helpful partnerships can be found in association with similar organizations of the other Big Ten Universities. Since the summer of 1985 when the first meeting for “faculty wives” groups met at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, leaders and representatives of these universities met every two years to share information and learn from each other’s experiences. Representing MSU at that first conference were: Ellie Heusner, Dee Ann Connor, Mary Ann Dunn and Margaret Ann Balster. In June 2001, under the leadership of Karen Harsh, MSU hosted The Ninth Biennial Big Ten Plus Women’s Conference, held on the MSU campus. In recent years, workshops and discussions have focused on such topics as: building and maintaining a web site, recruiting and retaining members, structuring assignments to share the work load, etc.

The Eleventh Biennial Big Ten Women’s Conference was held at Penn State University in June 2005; the MSU representatives were Arlene Brophy (president), Sally Pratt (first vice president) and Carol LeMense (webmaster). They gave a four-minute Power Point presentation that drew notable applause. It was the only Power Point report given.

The Faculty Folk Club/MSU Community Club has sought through the years to meet the needs of its members; board members have tried to be good listeners and make changes in response to member preferences. During the early years, Saturday meetings were held at times to accommodate the schedules of teaching faculty members. Meeting start times have been varied to meet the needs of working women and mothers with school age children. Meetings have begun at 1:00, 1:30 and 12:30 and occasionally at night. Increasingly, women have been encouraged to bring spouses and friends to regular meetings especially when the speaker or topic has been of broad interest – for example, presentations by a Spartan coach, tour of an athletic facility or a nationally known speaker.

One of the biggest changes that enabled the club to gain and retain members has been a more relaxed dress code and less formality at meetings. Hats and gloves have long disappeared, and long receiving lines are pretty much a relic of the past.
Conferences stimulate action

Benefits to our club from participating in the 11th Biennial Big Ten Conference of Women's Organizations at Penn State included impetus for effecting a name change (Faculty Folk Club to MSU Community Club), ideas for expanding membership (new bylaw passed 2007 that opens membership to alumni and others), and led to meeting with MSU President Lou Anna Simon on how the club might better serve MSU. As a result the club has a new interest group for volunteering (see chapter 8. Volunteering), and the club has strengthened connections with the Women's Resource Center.

At the 12th Biennial Big Ten Women's Organizations Conference in Ann Arbor, Kathy Esselman thanked the group for the many ways attendance at conferences (some ways mentioned above) has bolstered our MSU group. All groups have newcomer events, interest groups, programs and fund raising activities. One thing MSU does especially well is raising funds for scholarships through Taste of the Town for the MSU Community Club Endowed Scholarship Fund. We had fun telling about the varied programs our members enjoy.
The Faculty Folk Club

Organized
To introduce new members and assist all faculty women to become better acquainted.

1932 - 1933

Faculty Folk Club

OFFICERS
President: Mrs. L. L. Primodig
Vice-President: Mrs. E. A. Gees
Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. E. E. Hartsock

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Mrs. L. L. Primodig
Mrs. R. M. Gilley
Mrs. E. A. Gees
Mrs. C. R. Harrington
Mrs. H. E. Hartsock
Mrs. C. R. Sanborn
Mrs. E. C. Randall

STANDING COMMITTEES
Hospitality: Mrs. M. M. Clay
Secretary of Membership: Mrs. C. E. Millar
Publicity: Mrs. E. A. Gees

October 14 - Reception - - - - Mrs. Ward Gilmer
November 11 - - - - Mrs. F. T. Mitchell
December 8 - Guest Evening - - Mrs. B. B. Proctor
January 14 - Dance - - - - Mrs. G. W. Hubbs
February 10 - - - - Mrs. C. M. Clay
March 10 - - - - Mrs. W. O. Hadlock
April 14 - - - - Mrs. A. G. Kettlemann
May 13 - Breakfast - - - - Mrs. C. D. Bell

The President and Executive Committee present the dates and the chairmen for the monthly meetings which are held in the Faculty Club rooms in the Union Building the second Friday in each month, promptly at 8 o'clock.

Attention
In order that plans may be completed for the year's program, we ask that the yearly dues of one dollar be paid by December first. Checks may be mailed to the treasurer, Mrs. H. E. Hartsock.

The following subcommittees of the club are open to those who wish to enjoy them. The chairmen listed will be pleased to give you detailed information.

Book Club - - - - Mrs. G. Thomas-Stable
Swimming - - - - Miss Josephine Garvin
Dancing - - - - Miss Anne Kuichl
Brides Club - - - - Mrs. C. H. Uphaus
Increasing membership is often the barometer of a successful organization. But how well an organization is able to orient, integrate and involve new members in active participation may say more about the organization than how well it recruits them initially. Identifying and recruiting members is, of course, a significant part of the gaining and retaining membership process.

Membership in the Faculty Folk/Community Club began in 1923 with about 50 women but quickly rose to more than three times that number. By 1931, the number had increased to 475. While there was some variation in the number of women who paid their dues during the next 50 years, membership remained high: 1947-48 (500+); 1951-52 (483); 1953-54 (580); 1957-58 (664); 1965-66 (659); 1970-71 (669); 1980-81 (520); 1991-92 (440). Between 1995 and 2004, the membership dropped below 400 and fluctuated between 316 and 390. By 2007 membership dropped to below 300.

Several factors have contributed to the rise and fall in the number of members. Unlike the East Lansing Woman’s Club which at times has had a membership cap of 250 and a waiting list of those wishing to affiliate. FFC has never had a membership cap or waiting list, so newcomers to the campus have always been welcome to join. They have often been the recipients of intense recruiting efforts. For many years dues were kept low at the request of President Hannah and did not reach $5.00 until 1977, where they remained until 1984 when they were raised to $10. Dues in 2000 jumped to $20; in 2006-2007 they increased to $25. Unlike most other women’s organization, the club has never had an initiation fee.

For many years, local newspapers gave considerable coverage to the group’s monthly meetings and special events, which gave prominence to the organization and helped to publicize its activities. In recent years, getting press coverage is becoming increasingly difficult, except for a brief listing of meetings in the paper’s calendar of upcoming events.
Faculty Folk Club Bridge Parties
Promote Friendships and War Effort

THE STATE JOURNAL, LANSING, MICHIGAN, SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1942

Members Bid Neighbors to 44 Parties

Mrs. Chester E. Allen was general chairman. Other hostesses who opened their homes for bridge were Mrs. Chester E. Allen, Mrs. K. H. Atkinson, Mrs. C. D. Bally, Mrs. Charles W. Kerr, Mrs. H. Lahm, Mrs. H. M. Byrnum, Mrs. Chester W. Beaman, Mrs. Paul D. Bagwell, Mrs. E. A. Bergquist, Mrs. C. L. Bratton, Mrs. Charles M. Berdahl, Mrs. Herbert A. Berg, Mrs. C. F. Carey, Mrs. T. C. Cannon, Mrs. J. A. Lisi, Mrs. N. B. Enstrom, Mrs. L. B. Donahue, Mrs. L. M. Fosdick, Mrs. Inez Soden, Mrs. Walter R. Fee, Mrs. W. E. Gardner, Mrs. Ward Gillson, Mrs. R. V. Gundersen, Mrs. Warren L. Gilmore, Mrs. H. D. Hesterman, Mrs. David J. Hall, Mrs. O. W. Hough, Mrs. Thomas King, Mrs. Albert P. Knipe, Mrs. Wilbur E. Laffy, Mrs. M. E. LeBrun, Mrs. Elva Leininger, Mrs. F. T. Mitchell, Mrs. Milton M. McWherter, Mrs. Stuart McLeay, Mrs. Victor H. Nois, Mrs. Frances R. Osgood, Mrs. Henry E. Ohlson, Mrs. Theodore H. Stillman, Mrs. J. W. Stagg, Mrs. Harold P. Shearer, Mrs. C. C. Roper, Mrs. Jackson E. Towne, and Mrs. C. C. Wilkins.

During and after WWII, housing for new faculty members and students on campus was tight. (UAHC)

Membership in the club has been closely linked with University hirings. After World War II, MSU was in an expansion mode, which was reflected in the number of potential new members eligible for membership in FFC. For example in 1946, the club contacted 336 new faculty members and/or their wives. In 1957 the club welcomed 275 newcomers; in 1966, club members visited 350 wives of new faculty members in their homes and invited them to neighborhood coffees. By 1972 that number dropped to 170 newcomers. That number declined to 63 in 1981; since then, only 20 to 30 faculty newcomers arrive on campus annually.
It has become increasingly difficult to obtain the names and addresses of new faculty members in recent years due to privacy concerns and regulations that have hindered the easy retrieval of information needed to make contacts. Then too, the wives of administrators have been less involved. Earlier, the wives of department chairpersons were actively engaged in the recruitment process, providing names and addresses to those on the membership committee and encouraging new faculty spouses to join the organization.

An obvious trend is that a greater number of women are entering the work force, causing a decline in their ability to participate in organizations that meet during the daytime. However, some working members have maintained their membership even though they rarely attend monthly programs. Although the fall reception and spring luncheon have always recorded a high level of participation (100-300), most of the monthly meetings have attendance of around 50, with increases to between 60 and 77 for some programs in 2006-2007. Chapter V identifies some notable exceptions. Enthusiasm for and participation in the many interest groups that play an important role in the club have been consistently "high." (See Chapter IV.)

Many members of this club, as is the case in numerous other organizations, are aging and less willing or able to take on responsibilities or even participate in club activities. Quite a few are "snow birds" who leave the area for extended periods during the winter months. Younger women who are employed frequently are too busy to join a club that is often viewed as being primarily social. Other professional women see more benefits in affiliating with organizations.
where most members are currently engaged in professional or administrative work and where more profitable professional contacts and networking occur.

Although membership has always been intended for faculty and other professional women employed on campus, the number of those women involved in the club has been somewhat small. Originally, not many of them worked at the college; but as more were hired, work schedules and involvement in professional groups both on and off campus became more possible, as well as attractive options. According to the Faculty Folk Directory published in 2006, fewer than 30 of the members are or have had personal employment connections with the university at a professorial or administrative professional level. Most members still are faculty spouses or widows of faculty members. Female trustees, wives of current trustees, wives of past presidents and the current governor are honorary members.

However, through the years FF/MSUCC has demonstrated an amazing capacity to face recruitment challenges, and repeatedly the group has mounted remarkable efforts to meet, greet and nurture campus newcomers. In so doing, they not only have responded to member interests and needs but have expanded their financial outreach to students through increasing scholarship contributions.

Throughout the club’s history, the leaders have demonstrated creativity and determination in designing strategies to encourage newcomers to consider joining the organization. One approach was to form “clubs within the club” that catered to special populations. In a sense they were interest groups, but their operations tended to be a bit different from other interest groups that are discussed in Chapter IV.

As early as 1926 records mention the organizing of a subset, the Brides Club, to provide special “services” to that particular group of women. Two of today’s MSUCC members, Thelma Hansen and Edith Newman, recall meeting and bonding in that particular group many years ago; and they remain close friends to this day. Some years several Brides Clubs formed as social groups of faculty wives who met once or twice a month to visit, knit or do their mending. The groups were discontinued in 1952, but one of the groups continued to meet on an occasional basis for lunch until about 2000.

For a number of years, beginning in the 1980s, the Newcomers met as an independent and somewhat separate club, complementary but with their own program, logo and projects. In 1957 the group had 275 members. During 1977-78 the executive boards of Faculty Folk and Newcomers voted to merge the two clubs in the belief that both organizations would benefit from greater continuity of programs and social interactions.

Two other auxiliary groups, the Graduate Dames and Spartan Wives — sponsored by FCC — existed for a short time and are described in some detail in the previous chapter.

Another practice that continued for many years was to pay home visits to prospective members and follow up with invitations to small teas in their respective neighborhoods. This labor intensive task represented a real commitment to the club and its membership goals. Some of the visitors made a point of staying in contact with the newcomers they visited, and even invited them to social gatherings in their homes. As one newcomer, a bride, recalls, she was nervous about welcoming the FFC visitor since her temporary home was a cluttered apartment full of boxes awaiting transport to a recently purchased house. But the visitor was most gracious and didn’t seem to mind the less-than-desired ambiance of the apartment, even though she was attired in hat and gloves.

One year the club structured the teas so that twelve members welcomed twelve newcomers. The idea of having “Big Sisters” started in the late 40s and continued until the early 60s, an idea that is currently supported by many board members. In 1946 the hospitality committee of 20 contacted 336 new faculty members and/or their wives; in 1966 club members visited 350 newcomers in their homes and invited them to neighborhood coffees. All newcomers received a packet of information about MSU and FFC. The following year, invitations for 12 neighborhood coffees were extended by phone rather than via home visits.
Faculty Folk Club Meets For Tea

Faculty Folk Club Meets For Tea

Four or fewer coffees came to be the norm in more recent times. On a number of occasions special welcome receptions for newcomers were held at Cowles House and hosted by the MSU President and his wife. Another vehicle to acquaint newcomers with the club and its programs has been made available through an invitation from the MSU Provost’s Office for the club to be part of the annual fall orientation for new faculty members. Special promotional materials are distributed at that time by officers who staff an information table at the event.

Since 2000 the club has used several new approaches to welcome and orient newcomers. For several years board members hosted early fall salad luncheons at a member’s home to share information about the club. In 2005 and 2006 a pre-Halloween party helped members and newcomers get acquainted. Since spouses and friends are now welcomed to the evening fall party hosted for the MSUCC by the University Club, it has in some respects come to replace the little teas or coffees and the welcome lunch.

That recruitment is a growing concern is evident in a comment in the fall 2002 club newsletter, “Our club is suffering from the ailment that has affected most volunteer and service organizations; it’s losing members.” Suggestions to turn things around offered at that time were: attract men, relax membership criteria and make more one-on-one contacts. A year later the newsletter had another suggestion, “For goodness sake, change the name to something meaningful, something that makes it clear who we are and what we are about!”

Leaders are responsive to input from members and concerned others as evidenced in the fact that membership was opened to men in 2001-2002.

Membership was officially extended to MSU alumni and the broader campus community in 2007. Prior to that, after numerous suggestions over a 10-15 year period, on September 15, 2006 the members voted 71 to 31, to change the name to Michigan State University Community Club.
Newcomers Are Welcomed At University

New faculty wives and new women staff members were guests of Mrs. John A. Hannah and the Newcomers' Club at the annual "Welcome to Newcomers" tea held Thursday evening in Cowles House, the president's residence on the Michigan State university campus.

Mrs. Hannah's gracious opening of her home is a highlight of the yearly Newcomers' program.

Receiving guests in the spacious living room with Mrs. Hannah were Mrs. Wilbur B. Brockover, president of Faculty Folk; and the Newcomers' club officers, Mrs. Terry Triffet, president; Mrs. John E. Dietrich, vice president; Mrs. Allan Tucker, secretary, and Mrs. Donald Yates, treasurer.

Mrs. John Mason and Mr. Raymond P. Johnson, Faculty Folk advisor to the newcomers' group, and Mrs. James A. Porter, Mrs. King L. McCrystal, Mrs. E. C. Mannfort, Mrs. Hugh Henderson, all former officers of Faculty Folk and the Newcomers, presided at the tea table in the dining room.

Mrs. Siegfried Brunsvig headed the group who assisted with serving in the dining room.

Assisting were Mrs. Harold Ecker, Mrs. Robert Janssen, Mrs. Gene Bluestein, Mrs. Robert Aldrich, Mrs. Leonid Kuechen, Mrs. Walter Mayer, Mrs. Wenaem Boulton and Mrs. Helen Cannon.

The recreation room with its many moments of the Hannah's world-wide friendships was a popular place for guests to chat and begin new friendships.

Mrs. Hugh Priman and Mrs. Allen Schmidt signed up members for the afternoon and evening bridge groups sponsored by Newcomers' club, and Mrs. W. Lowell Tresner, vice president of Faculty Folk, represented the many Faculty Folk interest groups.

Mrs. John Lockwood handled the guest book.

Mrs. Thomas Farrell and Mrs. Samuel Chapman, chairmen of hospitality for Newcomers' club, were in charge of hosts for the evening.

Their committee included Mrs. John Brabe, Mrs. Harold Reid, Mrs. Roger Hoopangarner, Mrs. Donald Leggett, Mrs. Nat Eich, Mrs. F. E. Waisman, Mrs. Morris Hall, Mrs. Edward Hartman, Mrs. Bruce Adlerman, Mrs. Bert Cross, Mrs. Mildred Jones, Mrs. Stella Crawford, Mrs. William P. Hensman, Mrs. John George, Mrs. Holf Schumen, and Mrs. Oliver Anderson.

Special guests for the evening were Mrs. Edward W. Weidner and Mrs. Andrew Tomich, retiring members of the Faculty Folk hospitality committee.

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections (UAHC) maintains extensive files on many facets of the university and related activities. Over the years Faculty Folk Club has supplied records, scrapbooks and other materials to UAHC in addition to what they routinely gather from the press. In the earlier years of the club's existence, society pages routinely covered social events. In recent times, getting coverage has been difficult.
Get acquainted teas

By ALICE SCHMID
(Towne Courier Writer)

Michigan State University's Faculty Folk Club opens a busy fall social season with a number of informal get-acquainted teas honoring wives of new faculty members.

These informal get-togethers are a prelude to the annual Faculty Folk tea on Oct. 11.

Members of Faculty Folk who graciously opened their homes to the newcomers are Mrs. Louis McQuitty of 2511 Hiching Post Rd., Mrs. Theodore Jemeter of 1424 Cedarhill Dr., Mrs. Richard Byers of 602 Wildwood, Mrs. Thomas Staats of 1031 Southlawn, Mrs. Willis Armstrong of 597 Kedzie, Mrs. Doreen Cowden, president of Faculty Folk; Mrs. Gerald Mossey; and Mrs. Paul Smith.

(Towne Courier photo by Doug Gilbert)

Faculty Folk members hosted the wives of new MSU faculty members at a tea at the home of Mrs. Richard Byers of 602 Wildwood. Left to right are Mrs. Lee Erick-
NEWCOMER SLATE — Mrs. Kenneth Arnold, retiring Faculty Folks Club advisor, will host outgoing and incoming officers and board members of its Newcomers Unit at her home May 21. The new officers, from left, Mrs. James M. Tiedge, president; Mrs. Harold E. Humphrey, vice-president, and Mrs. Alvin H. Arens, treasurer. Mrs. Robert G. Staude will be secretary.

MSU First Ladies often attend club events: Sarah Hannah, Mrs. Harden, Norma Jean Gayer, Clare Mackey
4. Interest Groups
Secret to continuing viability

A strength of the Faculty Folk Club from its beginning was the realization by its leaders that while many women appreciated the affiliation with a college organization and enjoyed the large group meetings, many were also seeking ways to connect with people in smaller groups. As early as February 1924, members discussed plans for the organization of a hiking club and for classes in aesthetic dancing. In 1925 a Brides Club began for those who had married during the current year. By 1927, other interest groups included: swimming, bowling, singing and studying literature. Some groups met weekly, others bi-weekly.

As an early historian reported in 1929, “To further promote sociability and to help the new members to become better acquainted, smaller groups were formed within the club.”

A look back at the development and demise of the various interest groups over time provides a good picture of the changing focus and needs of women during the passing decades. Some interest groups have remained popular for years; others have come and gone – and in some instances returned. The Brides Club, for example continued until the early 1950s. The Newcomer interest groups operated in parallel with those of the parent club from 1931 until 1952.

During the late 40s, the number of interest groups experienced a big expansion... Book reviews and exchanges, bridge, child study, singing, drama, sewing, square dancing, bowling, badminton, interior decoration and music appreciation became interest group options. In 1953, the arts and crafts group became very popular. It had 35 members and met twice a month. The following year the bowling group disbanded, and a “keep fit” group replaced it.

Although the club’s early history mentions programs that consisted of short plays presented by members, it is doubtful if any of them were original dramas. The first time that creative writers as an interest group is mentioned is in 1954. The group wrote a play, “After Five-Score Years,” that was presented by the drama group at the May 1955 club meeting. A History of the East Lansing Woman’s Club recalls that in 1957, The Faculty Folk Club drama group presented a play, “When Shakespeare’s Ladies Met,” at their April meeting; whether this was another collaborative effort by the two interest groups is uncertain.

In its present configuration, the Creative Writers hold monthly meetings at members’ homes from October to June. At each meeting...
two members read their work; listeners take turns offering suggestions (and praise) following each reading. After a refreshment break, members report on their writing lives. In 2006 the group had more than ten active members.

The modern dance and musical groups disbanded in the 1960s for lack of members, but that decade saw the rise in a number of new groups. Spanish, French and Japanese language groups formed. Gourmet cooking, sewing, knitting, international cultures, golf and painting also attracted participants as they joined the roster of available interest groups.

The decades of the 1970s and 80s brought considerable interest group activity, with some women participating in more than one group in addition to involvement in the programs of the total club. Some women then – as now – may have preferred to affiliate only with an interest group. However, the by-laws require membership in the club before one is eligible to participate in interest group activities.

During this period, the number of interest groups fluctuated between 22 and 28 groups annually. New in the 1970s were investment, stitchery, gardening, ice skating, jogging, racquetball, cross-country and downhill skiing, volleyball, “Women and Money Management” and working women groups. Art viewing, music listening and belly dancing were new in 1980; and a networking group was established shortly afterwards.

The Mothers’ Connection formed in 1987. The group met in homes, and the women brought their children, who were cared for by a sitter hired for the occasion. This interest group has evolved into two groups: Parents’ Connection and — as their children grew older — Women’s Night Out, a group that is extremely important to its members. The women treasure the opportunity to have a great sociable evening when they can enjoy themselves without children to distract them while they are eating. Many who are regular participants make a point of putting the monthly event on their husband’s calendar to insure that he is home in time to care for the children. In 2006, 12 women were part of Women’s Night Out, and Parents’ Connection had five members.

In 1988, two of the oldest groups, antiques and international, dissolved. The latter was reactivated in 1995 under the leadership of Mary Ann Dunn, Lillian Kumata and Mary Ishino as the International Hospitality group, which recently had 18 members. Women and Money Management ended in 1991.

The downhill ski interest group existed for several years during the MSU presidency of Dr. Cecil Mackey. Clare Mackey was an active member of the group that met at the Lansing Ski Club for two hour sessions on the slopes following a noon sack lunch. This was an ideal time since few others were on the hills after lunch. Skiing was no longer an option when the Ski Club closed after a few years of little snow, and the ski area became the site of a condo development.

Walking, yoga, cyber seekers and equestrians had short existences. Women sans partners appeared on the scene but in 2006-2007 became history. Although the French and Japanese conversation groups disappeared years ago, a German conversation group has been operating every year since 1995, and in 2006-07 had 12 members.

Reading has always been a popular avocation of club members. For many years members in the Book Exchange group have each purchased a recently published book and have passed it from one to another on a predetermined schedule. Usually at least a dozen women participate in this group. For a number of years, a book review group met. Discussing novels has
enjoyed a continuing presence, and for more than ten years the club has sponsored both a morning and an evening group. Membership in the two groups has remained at about 20.

Club members enjoy eating, and some like to cook as well. Gourmet cooking probably first appeared on the scene in the early 1960s, and at times as many as 20 such groups were operating. In the early years, at least one of these groups really went all out in serving lavish meals at well-appointed tables; spouses were guests at least once a year, usually in December. Some years a summer couples’ picnic was held too. However, in time, meals became less formal. The current name, “Gourmet Pot Luck” seems to be descriptive of how the group has changed. While the group enjoys good food, fellowship and the camaraderie of sharing experiences comprise a significant part of what makes the group continue and thrive.

The Gourmet Lunch group or Gourmet II group, as it was sometimes known, also underwent a transformation. Instead of cooking, this group decided to go out for lunch and became the “Out to Lunch Bunch” with active participation by at least 25 women each month. The actual membership is at least double that number. For the first five years of its existence, the group was co-chaired by Jackie Holecek and Mary Ann Dunn. Three different members decide each month where the group will eat and make the necessary arrangements and handle the reservations. They make an effort to patronize establishments that participate in the “Taste of the Town,” the club’s major benefit to raise funds for scholarships.

Bridge groups have come and gone since the club’s early years. At times both women’s and couples’ groups have been choices. In recent years eight or ten members participate in “Dollars for Scholars Bridge,” but membership has been as high as 19. The group plays twice monthly, and each member contributes a dollar every time to the scholarship fund. Eight members have been involved in the couples’ dinner and bridge group.

Both tennis and golf interest groups have been consistently popular since the early 1990s, although a golf group functioned as early as

Traditionally the Golf group holds at opening coffee in April at K.T. Hunter’s home to “kick off” the season. Above: Marian Johnson, Pauline Wooley, K.T. Hunter, Ann Shickluna, Barry Moore

1958 and one in tennis in 1975. The golf group of about 12 women plays one morning a week from May until September. For a number of years, the club has had two tennis groups, advanced and intermediate, that play at different times.

As the establishment of investment clubs became a practical way for citizens to learn about the stock market and make knowledgeable decisions about investing their money, so naturally, investment clubs became part of the Faculty Folk Club’s portfolio of interest groups. The first investment club was organized in 1969. For a time as many as four such groups made and lost money; they went by the names of: Investment Quest, Faculty Folk Club Investors, Spartan Faculty Folk Investors and Faculty Folk

Investment Quest members sat on Harleys for fun after an informative talk given by a Harley Davidson representative in Lansing in April 2004. Members were very interested to learn that profits from this successful investment came more through clothing and other merchandise than through motorcycle sales.
Rebounder Investors. By 2006, only Investment Quest with eleven members existed.

One of the oldest of groups was the Spartan Faculty Folk Investors, a group that averaged 16 members who each contributed $20 a month. This group did very well financially and at one point in their history they sold half of their assets, giving members a nice return. The group disbanded after long-term treasurers Irene Cantlon (3 years) and Ann Schickluna (12 years) could find no one to take over this role.

The third investment club to form, the Faculty Folk Rebound Investors, began in 1987 with a cap on membership at 18. Members made an initial investment of $100 to start the club and then paid $20 a month. Later the monthly investment increased to $30 for each of the 10 months when the group met. Unlike some of the clubs, this one met at the offices of the different brokers with whom they worked. In 1994 a number of members wished to resign, so the group sold and divided their assets. A smaller group reorganized under the same name with a smaller group and a one-time $500 investment from each member continued to meet and invest. The club ceased operations in 2004, realizing a small gain. Annabel Larzelere, Mary Mather and Thelma Hansen were active participants in this club, which was originally begun under the leadership of Gerry Klos.

Investment Quest began in February 1996 with 10 charter members, two of whom (Gillian Olson and Judith Loescher), continue to meet monthly and invest $25 at each monthly meeting. Margaret Bratten, Sally Pratt and Wendy Pope joined later that first year and continue to be partners. Members in this group come and go. New members pay an initial “joining fee” of $250. A $45 annual fee is assessed to cover membership dues to NAIC, the National Association of Investment Clubs, and other operational expenses. Initially the group used the services of a broker, but changed its purchasing practices over time and now trades through an online brokerage account of TD Ameritrade.

The art or painting group has been a part of the club for nearly 50 years. For a time they had a studio of sorts in the Quonset building assigned to the club, but in more recent years they have occupied space in a church. Members teach one another special techniques and benefit from occasional sessions with outside instructors. In addition to sharing their work at regular club meetings, the group annually has held two or more well-received exhibitions of their work at several locations in the greater Lansing area. Since 2001 exhibitions have been held at the East Lansing Public Library, the City Club of Lansing, the Lansing Visitors’ Center and the Turner-Dodge House and Heritage Center. Membership in the group remains in the mid-teens.
Sewing groups have been around for much of the club's history, but the word "stitchery" was not used until the late 60s. Stitchery groups A.M. (16 members) and P.M. (6) continue today. For most of their history, members of these groups have worked on their own individual projects and socialized.

A major break in their tradition came when Mary Lou Gast, a quilter and new member, proposed that the group develop the skills necessary to create a quilt that could be used to raise scholarship funds. As a result, quilters created the "Ohio Star" sampler quilt and raffled it at a club meeting in 1986. But after completing this project, the group returned to its original format, and the time was right to establish a separate quilting group.

Interest in producing a second quilt prompted Mary Lou and Bea Hughes to take the steps necessary to form a new interest group. Originally, nineteen people signed up for the project in November 1990. Four hundred fifty hours of hand quilting later, "Paisley Pinwheels" was completed by the 17 quilters who participated in the project. This effort netted nearly $2500 for scholarships. In 1995-96 their third quilt project for scholarships, "Chintz and Checks," was raffled off at the spring luncheon, again raising about $2500.

Other leaders and instructors in the group - in addition to Bea who continued as co-chair and "instructor in chief" for fifteen years - have included: Marlys Gray, Annette Whims, Dawn Bryde, Louise Mueller, Laura Bassein and Helen LeBlanc. Quilters have met in homes, alternating at first between the Gast and Hughes homes and later moving to the homes of Annette and Bea. The group generally meets every Wednesday morning during the nine months of the MSU school year, except at Christmas time. Initial projects employed very basic skills, but as the group "matured," lessons at the weekly meetings enabled the quilters to practice more advanced techniques. The interest group's displays at the Trillium Art Gallery are a testament to the skill level that the group has achieved.

Charitable quilting has not been limited to FFC scholarship projects. International Aid (an organization that among its outreach efforts helps orphans) and MSU Safe Place both have been recipients of quilts through the years. An estimated 245 quilts have been given away. An unusual Civil War quilt was made and presented to long-time quilting member (Mary Ann Dunn) to aid her in recovering from a life-threatening illness. Between 1990 and 2006, the group averaged 13 members annually. Fifty-five women have been members of the quilting interest group during its life-time.

The quilters became involved in a very special
quilt that involved considerable research and creativity. The quilters presented this quilt to MSU President, Lou Anna Simon, in commemoration of the Michigan State University’s Sesquicentennial. The quilt pays tribute to women who have made unique and significant contributions to MSU. Included in the group are several of the early college librarians; Myrtle Craig Mowbray, the first black female graduate (Class of 1907); three MSU Rhodes Scholars of the 1980s; Dr. Beatrice Paolucci, well regarded professor and authority in her field; and, of course, MSU’s first woman president.

Interest group sign-up has occurred primarily as part of the fall Welcome Reception. Group chairs and members are available to answer questions at that time and register women who indicate an interest in becoming part of a particular group. Most groups have no membership cap and welcome new participants throughout the program year. However, some groups, because of meeting location and/or nature of the group, cannot exceed a set number. In such cases, a waiting list may be developed or steps taken to establish a second group.

For a number of years the second vice president has coordinated the interest groups and worked with the chairpersons to facilitate the smooth operation of the groups. She also teams with them, the membership chairperson and treasurer to make certain that all interest group participants have paid their dues and are members of the larger organization.

A nice feature of recent years (most years since 2000) has been a spring salad luncheon hosted by board members at which interest group chairs have been the invited guests. In addition to providing an occasion to celebrate the success of the past year and socialize, the event provides a time for chairpersons to share highlights of their groups’ year and discuss ways that future partnership may be developed.

It is evident that from its inception, the MSU Community Club has recognized and responded to the need of its members to meet more frequently than once a month and to easily affiliate with others with similar interests or needs. Establishing and nurturing a variety of interest groups has been the glue that has held the club together and enabled it to enjoy continuing viability – even in times when other clubs have failed.

The interest groups have never been political; nor have they been what might be called therapeutic. Through these groups, many members have developed strong bonds and long-term friendships, and they may well have become support groups as members married, divorced, became mothers and faced life’s ups and downs, including the death of family members.

Although the specific interest group offerings have changed with the times, each decade seems to have provided a variety of options that can be aggregated under a set of meaningful categories: recreational activities (walking, hiking, jogging, skiing,
bowling, golf, tennis, volleyball and bridge); literary opportunities (book exchange, book review, creative writers, discussion of novels, foreign language conversation); cultural interests (art, painting, interior design, music, dance, international hospitality); hobbies (gardening, antiques, crafts, sewing, knitting, stitchery, quilting); social interactions (gourmet eating clubs, out to lunch bunch, women's night out, parents' connection, women sans partners); business focus (networking, cyber seekers, investment clubs, working women, money management); volunteering (Clinical Center, Wharton Center, Kresge and MSU Museums, C.V.I.P., Safe Place, Literacy Coalition, MSU Service Learning Project and Volunteers for MSU.)

As membership demographics change and interests such as scrap-booking, pilates, yoga, water training, playing chamber music, doing genealogical research and currently undefined possibilities surface, it is hoped that MSUCC will seize the opportunity to encourage these new ventures and be wise enough to discontinue those interest groups that no longer have appeal. Don't you wonder what the list of interest groups will be in 2023 or 2053?

The Out to Lunch Bunch continues to attract many participants, as evidenced by this 2005 outing. The group often meets at restaurants that participate in TOT.

The quilt, "MSU Sesquicentennial 1855-2005, Advancing Knowledge, Transforming Lives," pleased MSU President Lou Anna Simon. The Quilting group created a float for the Sesquicentennial Parade. The quilt was selected as a finalist in the American Quilting Association 2006 Quilt Exposition. It has been on display the president's office area and at the Kellogg Center. L-R., President Lou Anna Simon, Bea Hughes, Martha Schwab.
Throughout its history, the MSU Community Club has prided itself in offering at least six stimulating monthly programs annually to complement such special events as the fall welcome reception and spring luncheon. These more recent meetings too may include meaningful speakers, as well as musical performances. The group has drawn heavily upon campus faculty and administrators as speakers, but club members and student groups have provided programs as well. Interest groups have often been responsible for presenting the monthly program in addition to supplying food for the social part of the meeting. Touring new campus facilities and learning about the innovative academic, cultural and athletic programs planned for them have supplied numerous popular outings for club members and guests.

As seems to have been true in other groups established in the 20s and 30s, music and dance were viewed as essential program elements. The presentation of short plays and special poetry readings was quite common at the meetings also. For example, the record shows that in 1926-27 programs included: some old-fashioned dances presented by members of the physical education department (December); music as entertainment (March); a violin program, two vocal numbers and two dances (May). Aesthetic dancing, performed by three women, was said to have been an “interesting feature” of the annual dancing party that year. During its first six decades, club programs regularly included music; since then it has tended be used to provide a background for special occasions or been the main entertainment at the spring luncheon.

Perhaps because international involvement has been a priority for several of the institution’s presidents beginning with Dr. Hannah, many programs have focused on the experiences of faculty members and their participation in campus outreach programs abroad. Sometimes the talks centered on the culture and politics of a country. Other programs highlighted a family’s overseas living experience or focused on the costumes and artifacts that were displayed as part of a lecture or slide presentation. Discussions about China and other Asian countries were most frequent, and a number of programs also reflected the university’s involvement in Africa.

Experienced traveler members have on occasion given advice on how to pack for an international holiday or what to expect when treated to foreign cuisine. Many of the most popular scholarship parties discussed in Chapter VII had international themes, as did quite a few of the dinner dances hosted by the club. Giving scholarships to international students or those enrolled in foreign colleges and universities was also characteristic of the organization.

Between 1938 and 2000, the club staged more than 35 style shows, usually with members as models. In 1940 a special program featured 30 bridal gowns worn between 1898 and 1939. Several historical style shows, usually narrated by Sue Neller, featured fashion through the years; and many local merchants have shown their wares. Also popular were such shows as those showcasing Japanese kimonos (1970), international women wearing their native costumes (1963) and the 1986 program, “Traditional Dress from Around the World.”
Perhaps the most interesting thing about the style shows was their wide variety of focus. They truly were designed to meet current trends such as the “Safari Look” in 1967. They also showed empathy for women of all sizes. For instance, the show in 1948 highlighted half sizes and clothes for the mature woman; models wore house dresses another year. “Bringing Paper Patterns to Life” in 1956 and “Home Sewing, Fashions and Accessories Created by Members.” (1961) illustrate that not all style shows emphasized glamorous or costly attire.

Sometimes the shows were of a seasonal nature: “Easter in Lansing: A Family Fashion Show” was scheduled in 1960; “Fashions for 1966” was presented by the Newcomers; and “Summer Sensations” were modeled in 1984. Children of members modeled whenever children’s clothing was included.

Occasionally the focus was only on hats or hats and hair styles; some also were designed to provide practical advice: “Fashions for Travel: How to Pack for a Three-week Trip to Europe” (1964) and “Your Wardrobe: The Art of Mixing and Matching” (2001).

Through the years, club members have responded positively to opportunities to visit new campus facilities and learn about programs offered in them. In 1948 a bus tour included stops at the following new facilities: Food Storage Plant, Science Building, Electrical Engineering Building, Agricultural Engineering Building, and the new dormitories for women: Gilcrest, Yakeley, and Landon Halls. When dorms later housed both men and women, touring those facilities was a “must” for club members (1962).

The group toured the new Clinical Center in 1976; visited the Cyclotron Laboratory in 1983 (and 2005). A tour of the Kellogg Biological Station, bird sanctuary, manor house, forest and dairy followed the next year. Other visits “inspected” the Erickson Kiva, Veterinary Clinic, Crop and Soil Science Building, Communication Arts Building and the National Food Safety and Toxicology Center. More recent tours were of the Eli Broad College of Business, the Animal Industry and Education Exhibition Pavilion, the
Dr. Rilla McHarris, physicist, led a large, attentive group around the MSU’s “world-class” National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, January 2006.

MSU Detroit College of Law Building, the Biomedical and Physical Sciences Building and the Radiology Garden.

Nor were athletic facilities ignored by club members. Especially popular were tours to the Munn Ice Arena, Breslin Center, the Clara Bell Smith Student Athletic Center and the expanded football stadium with its new office tower and suites. In fact, tours of these facilities often included well-attended presentations by coaches, including Coaches Dougherty, Smith and Izzo. Several presentations by Women’s Basketball Coach Joanne P. McCallie have been especially well received.

The Club has not hesitated to hold programs off campus and has toured the restored Capitol Building, attended plays in Homer on several occasions, enjoyed several outings to the Oakland University campus and toured historical homes along with visiting the Gerald R. Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, Meadow Brook Lodge, the Ford Museum and the Toledo Museum of Art. On one lovely fall day, a luncheon cruise on the Grand River was a big attraction. Tours of the Christmas Cellar, a lovely decorated Victorian home, also served as a fund-raiser at several holiday meetings.

From time to time the club has enjoyed dramatic presentations by outside speakers. On one occasion Nan Brooks portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt in a one-woman show. She never broke character, and everybody thought the program was wonderful – even though the restaurant served cold food, forgot beverage service for many of the tables and made a terrible racket in the kitchen. Women’s history came alive through a dramatic monolog by Sandra Hansen called “Kate’s Pants;” the actress portrayed: Amelia Bloomer, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth and Mrs. Sydney Blackman — women who played significant roles in American history. This program also had a fund-raising component.

Most programs have focused on adults, but on two occasions, children played an important part in providing successful programs. At the spring luncheon in 2000, 4th and 5th graders who comprised the Concert Choir of Wardcliff Elementary School sang beautifully. A few years later, children assisted the presenter in illustrating how one should tell stories to children. The youngsters were enthralled and sat on the edge of their seats as they listened to the story teller. It was a great experience for everyone.

Another memorable program – at least for some members – was a program about comparative orthopedic research. The speaker compared human knees and those of horses and dogs. As one person noted, “It was just awesome for me, but I’m sure there were some people who didn’t look at every slide because the speaker was a veterinarian and the slides were pretty graphic.”
The Faculty Folk/Community Club is not political, but speakers have often discussed issues of the day. The club does not play an advocacy role. Dating back to 1935 when the topic of the day was “Alcohol, Medicinal and Social Uses,” the group has addressed such subjects as: juvenile delinquency, canine narcotics programs, educational policies in the state, women’s rights, women in the world of work, the human factor in unemployment in Detroit, conflicts related to the freedom of artists, genetic engineering, climate changes affecting Michigan, geographical considerations in global terrorism and the rise of China and climate change.

During the past five or six years, national concerns have had a noticeable impact on programming such as: diet, health, exercise and wellness. Advances in biology and medicine, meal patterning, strength training, hypnosis and relaxation, complementary and alternative medicine, reducing chemical exposure in the home, wellness and aging and “Nutrition: Foods, Facts and Fairy Tales” have all been topics presented at the monthly meetings.

With the wealth of campus expertise available and the willingness of University and community professionals to share their knowledge, developing substantive, meaningful programs has not been difficult. Students enrolled in MSU’s excellent music programs continue to enrich special meetings as they have since the club’s beginning. Though new campus construction projects may have been pursued less aggressively than in the past, such tours will no doubt continue as campus facilities and other enhancements pique the interest of MSUCC members.

Santa Fe Artist Helenn Rumpel gave a slide show on “Fiber: An Extraordinary Vision” to a full room at the 2007 Annual Spring Luncheon. She exhibited twelve colorful stitcheries.

“Eleanor Roosevelt” talks with Norma Guyer at a luncheon in November 1998.

Karen Beauregard, Dispute Resolution Center, Lansing, told how citizens can get assistance in resolving con disputes at no or low cost (2003). R: Wilma Wagner

Dr. Sue Carter, author of Ordinary Women: An Arctic Adventure, shared her experiences related to an arduous trek of 12 women to the North Pole. She is an MSU journalism professor, former secretary to the MSU Board of Trustees and an organizer of the MSU Sesquicentennial celebration.
To Tell Club About Future Of Radar

Einar Wilden Sealey, of the
Radio Corporation of America, farm-
esty of East Lansing, will address
Peerless folk club of Michigan State
college on the future of radar next
Friday at 3 p.m. in the ballroom of
the Union Memorial building on the
campus.

Mr. Sealey, who is known through-
out the world as an authority on
the scientific and economic aspects
of radio, television and other elec-
tronic arts, will explain to the club
the common link between radar as
an instrument of war and television
as an instrument of peace. He will
illustrate his lecture with demon-
strations and slides.

The son of the late Dever Sealey,
then of the weather bureau at the
college prior to 1941, Mr. Sealey was
graduated from Michigan State col-
lege in 1926. His mother, Mrs. Ethel
VanDoren Sealey, of Kent, O., former
member of Peerless folk club, and his
wife, the former Frances Ayres, re-
membered here as an accomplished
cellist, still accompany him to East
Lansing and will be guests of Mr.
and Mrs. Gerald Robinson on Uni-
versity drive.

Mr. Sealey is head of the industry
service division of Radio Corpora-
tion of America. In 1940, he was
given the Modern Pioneers Award
by the National Association of Man-
ufacturers for outstanding contri-
butions toward the advancement of
the electronics arts. In 1941, he was
made a fellow of the Institute of
Radio Engineers.

Mrs. J. M. Delano and Mrs. A. A.
Arbogast, also members of the
Peerless meeting, Mrs. C. D. Ball,
tes chairman, is assisted by: Mrs.
E. C. Propehl, Mrs. C. W. Chapman,
Mrs. L. C. Price, Mrs. W. B. Moffatt,
Mrs. W. L. Dunn, Mrs. W. C. Cardinall,
Mrs. Fred K. Dunn, Mrs.
D. E. Ewing, and Mrs. Elizabeth
Morrison.

In 2005 Allison Sloutland described
how she started writing children’s
books when her husband’s football
coaching job meant she had to leave
her teaching job. She has published
four children’s books. Her first is
titled Reach for the Sky.

Jeannie Dawes, MSU Library, dis-
cussed proper storage and handling
techniques for a variety of collections,
from paper to photographs to objects.
She heads Binding and Collections
Care in the Preservation Directorate
at the Library of Congress.

Roy Saper, Saper Gallery,
East Lansing,
shared his ex-
pertise on col-
lecting art, in-
cluding tips on
how to check
on authen-
ticity, in 2003.
How do dancing and football differ?

A few notes about Spartans and Sports

Sports have long been of interest to many members. Football Coach Duffy Daugherty attracted 100 women to his four-part short course on understanding football. In 2005 the First Annual Tailgate Event featured Coach John L. Smith talking about the many aspects of football to 150 members, spouses and guests, including MSU’s emphasis on academic standards for all MSU athletes, noting that the

Continued on the next page
How do dancing and football differ?

By LYNNE TOTTEN
Towers Courier Staff Writer

It was only 3 days before the big game with Michigan, yet Coach Duffy Daugherty took time out from his busy schedule to talk with 100 female fans.

"We'd better beat Michigan, or else I'll be accused of spending too much time with the women," said Duffy, as he began.

To Duffy, this was a labor of love. For he was talking about his favorite subject - one which he knows best - football.

The occasion was MSU's new course in football for females, offered on 4 Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Kegel Center.

"The nation's Coach of the Year" had his work cut out for him. He must cram years of football knowledge and experience into just 6 hours - before a group of women.

But the Spartans' football magician proved he could handle the job, at least in the early going. He provided the girls with 2 full hours of football fundamentals, which should give them equal status with men when discussing the game.

"You may even want to start your own 'Quarterbacks Club,'" quipped Duffy.

With pencil and notepaper, the gals were busy marking circles (denoting players), straight and curved lines (for direction of movement) and letters (identifying guards, tackles, ends, etc.) to add them in understanding and remembering what Duffy explained.

They learned that a football field is 330 x 160 feet, that football began on the college level, and that a football weighs only 13 ounces.

"Anyone can carry it," said Duffy.

He pointed out that a football is the only ball that is not round, that it can bounce in a hundred different directions, and that this makes the game one of breaks and very unpredictable.

Duffy corrected a misconception by saying, "Football is not a contact sport, but a collision sport. Dancing is a contact sport."

At one point, when his quick explanations and use of football jargon went beyond the comprehension of the ladies, he amusingly admitted, "I used to think that anyone who didn't learn football as a kid had a misspent youth."

The girls learned that the huddle was not always used in football, but was added to make calling signals more secretive, that the quarterback is the only one who talks in the huddle and that the position of the players in the middle directly relates to their position in the line of scrimmage.

Duffy explained the meanings of a single wing, double or shotgun wing, and the wing-T formations. He also diagrammed the unbalanced line.

"To keep your eye on the action," said Duffy, "watch the near back - the player who is nearest to where you are seated in the stands."

After he showed the gals a film of several football plays and explained the directional movement of the near back, the ladies were able to call the plays almost before they were happening. They foresaw a forward dive or plunge, an end attack, a sweep to hit the outside tackle and a pass.

They also learned why passing is not used more often.

"Five things can happen when you go to pass," said Duffy, "and 4 of them are bad." The one good thing, of course, is when the passer is able to get off a good pass and the receiver is in the open and catches the ball, he explained.

In the 3 remaining sessions, Duffy and his assistants will cover the finer points of defending against pass and stopping a rush (both of which most women already know), and other defensive and offensive tactics.

Next week a tour of Spartan Stadium is planned where the ladies will visit the press box, the locker rooms and the field of play.

With discussion and enthusiasm at the close of their first lesson, the feminine football experts filed out of the classroom, looking forward to viewing the Michigan game with a new insight and Thursday's trip to the 'inside' of football.

Continued from previous page

Clara Bell Smith Student Athletic Academic Center is important to the effort along with strong encouragement from coaches. In addition, attendees toured the new Football Tower.

In October 2006, the Second Annual Tailgate event featured Basketball Coach Tom Izzo who talked about nurturing his MSU team and the team he coached short term on a military base in Kuwait. The MSU team’s Final Four victories have been aided by MSU’s “best basketball tape library in the Big Ten” that attendees toured after the talk.
75th Anniversary Celebration: Judy Hollingsworth, Gesela Weerts, Karen Harsh, Sue Hall, Ann Thompson (1997-98)

At the 2006 UClub Reception: Bruce Mcrystal signed many copies of his 484-page book, The Spirit of Michigan State; Geri Potchen is with Bruce. Right: Steph Barclay and Gretchen Forsythe.

All seats were filled and some stood to hear Coach John L. Smith talk about coaching, the press, and more (2005).

Many spirited Spartans (members, spouses, guests) came to hear Coach Izzo, eat tailgate food and tour MSU's state-of-the-art Basketball Tape Library.
6. Recurring Events
Keeping pace with the times

Some organizations use recurring special events to gain community awareness of their existence and programs. For some members, these annual events are highlights of the year, especially if they are pleasurable experiences or seen as worthwhile club projects. Having predictability in the club's calendar from year to year also may have appeal.

On the other hand, having too many recurring events may lead to program staleness and a sense of "been there – done that," a notion that can be a turn-off for members who appreciate variety and innovation. Striking an appropriate balance can be a challenge for club leaders. FFC/MSUCC has made wise choices in this regard throughout its history. Chapter V discussed the breadth and variety of programs offered; this chapter highlights some programs and special events that have been around for many years or that had impact for a time and then were discontinued due to a lack of interest or changing times.

Since the fall of 1924, a welcoming reception tea has been the "kick-off" of the organization's program year. For the first few years, the receptions were held in the Little Theatre of the Home Economics Building. Short talks by the club President and music or dance performances followed a receiving line of officers. Early receptions featured elaborately appointed tea tables and provided an opportunity for interest group registrations. In the 30s, the reception moved either to the Union Memorial Building or West Mary Mayo Hall, facilities that were better able to accommodate the growing number of women—often more than 300—who attended.

New members sometimes were presented with small corsages, as were members of the Brides' Club. The practice of presenting corsages to Newcomers came to an end in about 1964.

The reception in 1957 attracted more than six hundred guests, including 275 Newcomers. A number of the fall receptions about this time were held at the home of President and Mrs. Hannah. In the 1970s, the reception moved to the Big Ten Room of Kellogg Center. (Numerous welcoming/orientation visits and teas in member homes preceded the major fall event and no doubt encouraged participation by newcomers. In recent years, an early fall salad luncheon hosted by board members has provided an opportunity to acquaint newcomers with interest group options and club fund-raising activities. These recruitment activities are described in Chapter III.) Since the 1980s, the fall event has been held at the University Club.

It is difficult to imagine not having a lovely fall Welcome Reception. This gathering provides an effective venue for building interest in the year's program, indicating the desire to participate in an interest group or registering a willingness to volunteer. But perhaps the biggest advantage of the event is that it creates an opportunity to renew friendships after the summer break from club activities. While there have been changes in locale and a refinement of program elements, this is one recurring event that will no doubt continue as long as the club exists.

Since May of 1924, the club has concluded the year with a well-attended special breakfast or
luncheon. While the settings and agendas may have varied, each of these gatherings has held a special place in the hearts of members. That first year, 100 guests met in the dining room of the Women's Building for a three course breakfast prepared and served by coeds from the Home Economics Department. Harp and vocal selections preceded the business meeting. The next year, each guest received a small corsage of sweet peas. On another occasion, each guest received a small potted marigold plant as a favor. The program was moved to the Union Ballroom in the 1930s, and elaborate themes and decorations were common. Programs of music and dance, as well as short plays — sometimes original dramas — were presented by members. Domestic, as well as international students, frequently provided the entertainment.

In 1941 a tea replaced the May breakfast, a concession and sacrifice because of war conditions. The tea the following year was held in the Music Building. At the close of the installation of new officers that year (a practice that had begun in the 30s) the incoming president was presented a gavel made from wood taken from the first agricultural building on campus. In May 1944, the tea was held at Peoples Church, the location of meetings and child-care accommodations on many occasions.

The practice of holding a spring luncheon began in 1945, and the ballroom of the Union became the site of quite a few subsequent luncheons which often featured a style show as the main attraction of the day. For several years, the luncheon was moved off campus and combined with a tour of facilities related to MSU such as the Kellogg Manor (part of the Kellogg Biological Station) and Oakland University. Since the early 90s, the spring luncheon has been held at the University Club. The contributions of board members are acknowledged at this meeting, and new officers and board members are introduced.

Just as the Welcoming Tea is a cherished part of the club's tradition, so too is the closing meeting of the year. Whether a breakfast, tea or luncheon, this end of the year celebration has been a popular event, always attracting the participation of several hundred women. At times a featured speaker, such as the University President, has added interest to the occasion. Since 2003, it has been the time to recognize the recipient of the "Outstanding Woman of the Year Award." Judith von Bernuth, Irene Arens, Lillian Kumata, Karen Harsh and Mary Mather have been the first five award winners of the club's highest honor. (Club members make nominations, and past recipients serve as an ad hoc committee to make the selection.)

During its first year (1924), the Faculty Folk Club held a dancing party in the college gymnasium. A live orchestra played for dancing until midnight; during intermission the co-ed life-saving class gave a demonstration in the swimming pool. Mah-jongg and bridge were also enjoyed. The Dairy Department won the prize for having the best attendance. While this was the first such event, it was not the last; nor was it typical of the many dinner dances that followed, each with a distinctive theme, menu and special entertainment. For many years, these parties drew at least 150 couples, which were regularly co-sponsored with the Men's State College Club.

After a two year break during the early years of World War II, the December dinner dances resumed in 1944 and continued in one form or another until the early 1990s. For many years the event was held in December and used a holiday or winter theme; later on, it became a "sweetheart" or Valentine dinner dance in February. The event was often held in the Union Ballroom, but later the Kellogg Center and the University Club became the preferred locations. Perhaps because of the strong international dimension to the university's outreach and participation of many faculty families in international work, it was popular to have an international theme for these festive occasions.

Worthy of mention was the dance party of 1994 where vivid and so-called "bizarre" scenes of Russia provided the background for the event. In 1963 authentic German decorations and a carefully researched German menu helped to carry out the Old World theme. The entertainment in 1982 consisted of court dances from India, vocal and instrumental music from Korea and a temple dance from Thailand. Guests were requested to come in native dress from
around the world or to don historical dress or clothing representative of various parts of the United States. The menu also carried out an international theme: hors d'oeuvres from embassy kitchens, a Chinese meal followed by pastries from Europe served at 10 p.m.. The "Around the World in Eighty Days" theme used in 1987 boasted hors d'oeuvres from five different countries, and in 1991 the "International Odyssey," co-chaired by Eileen Magee and Kathleen Hawkins along with their husbands, highlighted the 24 countries where Michigan State University had programs at the time.

The February, 1945 "Country Fair" was probably one of the most unique of these events. This party, which was held in the Union ballroom, featured exhibits of crocheting, quilting, and canning. There were concession stands lining the midway, along with games of chance, fortune telling and other acts. There were even several "victory gardens" on display. Square dancing concluded the festivities.

The dinner dance was an activity that some were sorry to see pass from the scene; but decreasing attendance, the considerable amount of time and energy that was required to plan, organize and present this type of program and the preference for less formal or "fancy" evenings led to its demise. While some in the university community continue to wear evening gowns and tuxedos on special occasions, for the most part formal dress is not a regular or normal part of campus protocol. Community dinner dance groups of a similar nature also declined and ceased to exist about the same time as FFC members enjoyed their final dinner dance, reaffirming once again that Faculty Folk leaders were in sync with changing entertainment preferences and knew when to call a halt before events died in ignominious oblivion.

From the moment that the club decided to earn money for scholarships, fund raising events became an important part of the annual calendar. The evolution and changing design of these efforts is a fascinating story and is told in detail in Chapter VII.

FACULTY FOLK CLUB

Reception and Tea
Friday, October 21, 1966,
Union Parlors, 1:30 – 3:30

Do plan now to join us for the first meeting of the new year. The program for 1966-1967 is varied and thought provoking. The many interest groups will be stimulating. A new group has been added!

The annual dues of $2.50 will make one eligible for all the activities of the Club. Dues may be paid at the first meeting, or be mailed to:
Faculty Folk Treasurer
Mrs. John Bowman
537 Kodzie Drive, East Lansing
Newcomers Treasurer
Mrs. Archibald Shaw
8563 Hakuma Drive, Okemos

The First "Newcomers" Meeting
Tuesday, October 18, 6:00 P.M.
Union Building

Most cordially,

President

As stated in the text, interest groups are a significant part of the club's activities. The groups form and disband based on numbers and leadership.

This narrative also illustrates how the organization creatively changed fund-raising formats to maintain interest and build increasingly broader support to fund its scholarship outreach. Likewise, the nature of the monthly programs, an important part of the club's educational enhancement for members, has changed considerably through the years. However, interest group involvement and member and campus participation have been constant features. Chapter V includes a discussion of how program topics have changed and the ever shifting venues for meetings.
Welcome Events in the Fall
Welcome receptions, teas for newcomers, sign up or interest groups

Faculty Folk Club Meets For Tea

The newspaper clipping to the right is from the 1960s. Both clippings are from University Archives and Historical Collections (UAHC).
"First Ladies' Due At Faculty Event"

Mrs. Walter Adams, wife of Michigan State University's acting president, and Mrs. William Milliken, the state's first lady, will be special guests at the Faculty Folk reception and tea at 1:30 p.m. Friday in the Union parlor.

They will greet members in the receiving line, along with wives of MSU Board of Trustees members and the Faculty Folk board members.

Co-chairmen of the reception are Mrs. Terrence J. Carey and Mrs. Herbert E. Miller, assisted by Mrs. Robert Walton and Mrs. Joseph Byers, decoration; Mrs. Roger Wilkins, tea chairman; and Mrs. Jonathan Wright, hospitality.

Members will have an opportunity to select projects for the year from among 17 interest groups which include hiking, language study, bridge and antique.

Former Faculty Folk board members who will assist at the tea table are Mrs. Robert C. Boll, Mrs. Stephen H. Terry, Mrs. Robert C. White, Mrs. Clifton E. Erickson, Mr. W. Graydon Blank, Mrs. Lawrence H. Boger, Mrs. Bennett T. Sanschaggen, Mrs. John B. Harrison, Mrs. Wilbur E. Broesker, Mrs. W. Lowell Treadway, Mrs. James A. Porter, Mr. Theodore W. Forbes, Mrs. Hideya Kuma, Mrs. Andrew Timnick, Mrs. Leo A. Martin, and Mrs. J. Sutherland Frame.

Greeting guests will be Mrs. Stanley E. Hooper, Mrs. Paul E. Smith, Mrs. Charles J. Gau, Mrs. W. M. Stewart, Mrs. Peter I. Tuck, Mrs. Leslie W. Gysel, and Mrs. Moreau Maxwell.

A nursery will be available at Peoples Church. Reservations may be made with Mr. Andrew Timnick or Mrs. Herbert Miller.

This Lansing State Journal, October 12, 1969, reported that "First Ladies" would be attending the Faculty Folk reception and tea. The first ladies at that time were Mrs. Walter Adams (MSU) and Mrs. William Milliken (State of Michigan). Note that the article lists board members and greeters.

(UAHC)

Left to right: Mrs. Armand Hunter, co-chairman of the event, Mrs. John Swainson, wife of Gov. Swainson, Mrs. Alfred Seelye, chairman, and Mrs. Robert C. Mainfort, designed the centerpiece. October 1961, size reduced. (UAHC)

Tea Features Faculty Paintings

Painting show by members of the painting interest group of the Faculty Folk is on display for the reception. The painting show by members of the painting interest group of the Faculty Folk is on display for the reception. The painting show by members of the painting interest group of the Faculty Folk is on display for the reception.

Photo: Mrs. Gerald R. Miller, newcomer; Mrs. John Hannah, and Mrs. Andrew Timnick, president. October 1962, size reduced. (UAHC)

In the Union Ballroom, with the chrysanthemums centerpiece are Mrs. William T. Magee, Mrs. Edward C. Miller, Mrs. Charles Cross, Lansing State Journal, fall 1968. (UAHC)
Welcome receptions, teas for newcomers, sign up for interest groups

Welcome Reception display, fall 1999, showing the varied activities of a diverse membership

Talking next to the tea service—"a contemporary tradition"—are Doris Hawkins and Marilyn Moore

At the welcome reception in September of 1999 these interest group members were ready to tell about their special interests, including tennis (sign to the right).

University Club sponsored October reception

Cathy Kempel (left) and Jane Harrison at the October 2000 reception, next to a wide array of appetizers.

October 2006, Phyllis Riley, UCub director of catering sales, extended a warm welcome to all and listed some of the many benefits of belonging to the University Club.
October Newcomer Luncheons

A salad and dessert luncheon for newcomers and members was hosted by Jane Harrison in October 2000.

Using a Halloween theme, Lori Lechler turned her home into a haunted house and served specialties such as Blood Punch in October 2005. R: Iris Horner.

The newcomers and members who attended the Pre-Halloween Newcomers Luncheon at Kathy Esselman’s haunted house in October 2006 could sample Bloody Mary Aspic, moldy cheese cake, eyeball olives and other delectibles, some from the cauldron. Right: Amy Yang, Gaelan McNamara, Molly Greene Haywood.

Holiday Reception


At Cowles House in December 2000: Jelena Gill, Jane Harrison, Judy Loescher, Christel Berg.
Spring Events that Mark the End of the Academic Year

Below is the newspaper page-wide banner headline

Faculty Folk Club Members Hear M.S.C. Head Talk of Morale on Campus

President Hannah Tells Citizens’ Duty to Youth

In spite of rain which began to beat down just a short time before their hour of meeting Friday afternoon, nearly 200 members of Faculty Folk Club splashed through the puddles to hear Dr. John A. Hannah, president of Michigan State college, speak on "Campus and Community Morale." This meeting, which was held in the music building on the campus in East Lansing, closed the club's year and took place of the annual May breakfast which was sacrificed because of war conditions.

"It is the duty of every citizen of this community to do his bit to help the youth who come here to college to work out an appreciation for the principles and privileges that are fundamental to the American way of life," said President Hannah. "As Americans, we at Michigan State college believe in individual liberty, sanity of control, government by law, and God. I would rather die for these principles than with them," he emphasized.

Honored guests were Mrs. H. H. Holliday, founder of the club, two wives of members of the state board of agriculture, Mrs. Melville McPherson, Lowell, and Mrs. Clark Bresnay, and past presidents of the club.

All of the appointments of the meeting carried a patriotic theme. Two tea tables at which Mrs. McPherson, Mrs. Hannah, Mrs. Bresnay, and Mrs. Holliday presided, were adorned with bouquets of green, white pines, red carnations, and blue and yellow forget-me-not flowers. American flags with the pledge of allegiance at their bases. Members of the hostess committee were dressed in white muslin, combined heads, honorred guests, and officers red carnation, white carnation, and each guest received a red, white and blue bow for her lapel.

The M. S. C. Women's Civic club, under the direction of Josephine Mackley, sang "Baby's" Cicely "Silveh," and "The Last," "God Bless America," and "The Little Shepherd's Song." "Yankee Doodle Dandy" by Phyllis London played a selection, "Pledge."锅炉房, Accompanied by Miss Lightbody and Miss Gilbert, Mary Early, Fleming directed the glee club in singing "Shoo, Baa, Baa, Black Sheep." President A. C. Bresnay, the retiring president, turned the gavel over to the incoming president, Mrs. Jackson E. Towne.

Mrs. V. Weaver was chosen chairman of the meeting. At the front of the room was a large, central table covered with apple blossoms.

Mrs. B. E. Williams, Mrs. L. E.3. Van Asch, Mrs. E. C. Entwistle, Mrs. L. M. Weaver, Mrs. L. C. Engman, Mrs. E. V. Sadler, Mrs. J. E. Wilson, Mrs. E. E. Gilbert, Mrs. E. C. Seibert, Mrs. L. E.4. Rich, Mrs. C. E. Robinson, Mrs. E. C. McDonald, and Mrs. E. C. Sturgis.

In 1942, the "recurring event" for the end of the year featured MSC President John Hannah. A Saturday, May 16, 1942 article stated, the talk "took place of the annual May breakfast which was sacrificed because of war conditions."

(UAHC.)
FINAL FLING—A breakfast meeting at Kellogg Center on Friday, 9 a.m., will conclude the year's activities for members of M.S.U.'s Faculty Folk club. Among the guests will be Mrs. Andrew Timnick, new president of Faculty Folk; Mrs. Thomas Aylesworth, retiring president of Newcomer's club; and Mrs. Terrence Carey, incoming president of Newcomer's club. They are pictured at the Newcomer's tea on Thursday.

Spring 1962 (UAHC)
Spring Luncheon: Woman of the Year Award

Woman of the Year Award criteria:
be a member in good standing, have been a member of the board, given freely of her time and talents to the club, be a well rounded person who had demonstrated leadership skills in front or behind the scenes, participated in the club as well as other groups that benefit Michigan State University, have excellent rapport within the club and the MSU Community at large.
In April 1939, the club voted to give a $25 scholarship to a woman student at the college, and the long tradition of providing financial aid to students began. Concern for the financial well-being of students was not confined to the Faculty Folk Club. Other women's organizations such as the local chapters of Zonta, P.E.O. and A.A.U.W. also raised funds and provided financial assistance to students, especially women. But through the years, it has been the FFC that most consistently made fund-raising for MAC/MSU scholarships a priority.

Tracking the progress of fund generation indicates a willingness on the part of the Club to try new approaches in both raising money and distributing it. Major fund-raising events have played a big part of the strategy to earn "dollars for scholars," but a variety of other creative options have also contributed to the success of the scholarship program. A Scholarship Committee was first established during 1946-47 and continues to play an important role in the club.

Initially funds were distributed through the university's Financial Aid Department; in 1980 the decision was made to donate through the Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship. (Dr. Erickson was an active member of the club and served as its president in 1956-57.) Over a twenty-year period the club raised more than $110,000 for this scholarship fund. In 1999, with the establishment of the club's own endowed scholarship fund, the selection of recipients became the sole responsibility of FFC. Oversight of the fund has been provided by University Development.

The idea of creating an FFC endowed scholarship began in 1991 when Jackie Holecek was club president, but the idea was not popular at that time. Discussions began again in 1997 when Irene Arens was president. She and Jackie, along with Charlotte Poston, Mary Olson, Mary Mather, Marjorie Porter, Judy von Bernuth, Debbie Gift and Andrea Smith successfully facitated the FFC Endowed Scholarship Fund. After studying the advantages and disadvantages, based upon the committee's research, the board voted to establish an endowment. In a fairly short period, the Faculty Folk Endowment Fund accumulated the required $20,000. That meant the scholarship committee could select a scholarship recipient. FFC made an award of $2,000 in 2003.

The club has continued to have a close relationship with the Erickson Fellowship, and
Swing into Spring

It will be Spring in the Union parlors on February 11 as the Faculty Folk Club sponsors its annual scholarship benefit. The "Swing into Spring" theme will be carried out by ingenious decorations featuring branches with paper "blooms."

Mrs. Lawrence Boger and Mrs. Richard Byerum are Co-Chairman for the dessert-bridge, which is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Ticket Chairman is Mrs. Charles McCarty, ED 2-5990.

Proceeds of the benefit are used for scholarships for Michigan State University students.

Mrs. L. L. Boger, left, Chairman of the Benefit, and Mrs. Richard G. Byerum, right, Co-Chairman, meet with Mrs. E. A. Cardin, Hospitality Chairman, second from left, and Mrs. C. R. McCarley, who is in charge of tickets.

(Left to right) Mrs. Dan L. Pennesfeld, Mrs. John A. Frendlich, and Mrs. Clifton C. Nierlind began working on decorations in November.

Mrs. W. W. Armitstead, left, and Mrs. William P. Yostman work on decorations for the benefit.

Twig and popcorn are the materials being used for table decorations by (left to right) Mrs. Andrew Tamnok, Mrs. Armand L. Hunter, and Mrs. Hideya Kanata.
Women’s Association, a collaboration that ended in 1955 when the Faculty Women established a separate fund to honor Marie Dye, Dean of Home Economics. Often two bridge parties were held: one for women in the afternoon and one for couples in the evening. The bridge parties were well attended; in 1953, for example, 586 guests participated.

The amounts distributed varied from year to year: $250 to five women in 1952; $450 to four MSU students and one Nigerian in 1961; $675 to five MSU students and one foreign student in 1962; several years the money was distributed among four MSU students and two foreign students. Scholarships were granted primarily on the basis of “high academic standing, need and personal qualifications.” In 1968, the board added money from the club checking account so that a total of $1200 could be distributed; adding money from the checking account happened on a number of occasions. For a time beginning in the mid-1980s, $2.50 of each member’s dues went to scholarships.

A series of spring festivities held in homes replaced the bridge parties as the major fund-raiser for the next 15 years – 1969-1984. These socials featured special food, entertainment and displays. That first year, 13 parties were held and included: a Scandinavian Breakfast, an evening Turkish tea and luncheons that highlighted Brazil, Pakistan, Australia, Thailand and several other countries. The next year, 12 March events – two breakfasts, five lunches, three afternoon bridge parties and two evening bridge sessions raised $1100 for five scholarships.

In 1971, 14 lunches and breakfasts followed the international theme, “Global Gourmet Galas.” These parties provided the major portion of the funds ($1200) that were distributed to six students, including one foreign student. International themes continued to be very popular for the duration of these benefits, but in addition to ethnic menus, other themes were also well received. These included such events as a Derby Day Brunch, a Bridal Day Luncheon, a Frontier Sour Dough Daze and a Gallery Tearoom Luncheon. In later years, such options as coffee at the Governor’s residence with Mrs. Helen Miliken and lunch at the MSU President’s home.
Faculty Folk Set Benefit

To provide scholarships for students at Michigan State University and overseas universities assisted by MSU, the Faculty Folk Club will hold two bridge parties on Thursday.

The parties, open to the public, are slated for 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in MSU's Union building parlors, "Hearts and Flowers" in the theme.

The annual bridge benefit is now in its 25th year. Last year, scholarships were awarded to four MSU students, one to a student at the University of Michigan and one to a student at the University of Wisconsin.

Chairman for the party is Mrs. S. John Carew, with Mrs. Roland T. Kinzie as co-chairman. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Brauer and Mrs. Paul O. Hunter are co-chairmen of the scholarship committee.

Other committee members are Mrs. M. H. Coots, president; Mrs. Carl W. Hall, treasurer; Mrs. Alta T. Tarr, hospital, and Mrs. Howard B. Woods, secretary.

Serving on the hospitality committee are Mrs. Harry B. Lord, Mrs. William W. Lloyd, Mrs. William T. Massey, Mrs. John F. Neumann, Mrs. Lawrence M. Sommers and Mrs. Joseph Riedel.

Decorations committee members are Mrs. Jack M. Brink, Mrs. M. H. Chestick, Mrs. Donald H. Dewey, Mrs. Helen C. Hargett, Mrs. Donald J. Lee and Mrs. Charles H. Portenfeld.

For the afternoon party, luncheon is to be served with a net profit of $1063.47 realized. The following year, a total of $2736 from the parties and several other sources of income that will be described later in this chapter were distributed including $1776 to MSU students, $200 to C.V.I.P. (Community Volunteers International Program) and a first grant of $760 to the Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship.

From reading the FFC Trunk Full of Memories (history), it appears that throughout its existence, the group has consistently raised funds for MSU students.

It was difficult to maintain low costs for these special social gatherings, so it is not surprising that charges increased. In 1978, tickets for brunch or lunch cost $5.00; dinner reservations were $7.50 and bridge desserts were $3.50. Tickets in 1981 were $6.00 for brunch or lunch, $8.50 for dinner and $4.25 for a bridge dessert. Finally, in 1983 costs rose to $7.00 for brunch or lunch and $5.00 for bridge where dessert was served. A Spartan Meijer meal was priced at $4.00. The goal through the years was to net at least $2.00 for scholarships on each ticket sold.

Although the theme parties continued to be popular — 15 in 1977, 17 in 1978, 14 in 1979, 14 in 1981, 10 in 1982, 12 in 1983 and 9 in 1984 — a new fund-raising option begun in 1981 gathered momentum. That March the first soup kitchen was held at All Saints Episcopal Church. A donation of $3.00 was requested. A total of $2,515 was netted from all events that year and distributed to students and to C.V.I.P. in support of its Foreign Student Wives Scholarship Fund.

Some years a bake sale was part of the "Soups for Scholars" event, and on several occasions a
Faculty Folk Excursion

Gourmet ‘Trip’ Set

By KAREN ALDJAG
State Journal Staff Writer

For $3.50 you can take a gourmet’s trip around the world.

The trip offers you a chance to breakfast in either England or Scandinavia or lunch with a Jewish flair. Persian cuisine, South American delicacies, Italian treats, Japanese ceremony and so on...the choice is up to you.

The Faculty Folk at Michigan State University is sponsoring the Feb. 11 trip with proceeds going to the club’s scholarship fund. So they have cut transportation costs to a minimum. They are drawing on local foreign advisors at the university to help present the brunches and lunches right in the East Lansing area.

For instance, Miss Mansourieh of Tehran, Iran, is helping Mrs. Wayne Van Tersch plan for the Persian luncheon.

According to Miss Mansourieh, the menus will include an hors d’oeuvre, two main dishes, a salad and dessert.

The main dishes are Hachal-Polo featuring rice and chicken and Chelo-Khoresht-Fesenjan, a stew served on rice.

The salad will be a mixture of boiled potatoes, chicken, carrots, peas and pickled cucumbers. The dessert called Shirber-esh in a type of rice pudding topped with maple syrup.

Tickets for the gourmet trip are available from Mrs. James Boyd, 173 Orchard, East Lansing; Mrs. Victor Whitman, 110 E. Holt, East Lansing; and Mrs. Charles Cotta, 400 Ottawa, Okemos.

Brunches start promptly at 10 a.m. Lunch is at 1 p.m.

Hostess for the English Country hunt breakfast is Mrs. Walter Hodgeson, 411 Clineport, East Lansing and for the Scandinavian brunch, Mrs. Van Johnson, 231 Osage, Okemos, and Mrs. Erling Jorgenson, 1922 Oneida, Okemos.

Hostess for the Jewish “Es Gurmeishchit” luncheon is Mrs. Sheldon Chervinsky, 320 Margaret, East Lansing; soul food, Mrs. Robert Green, 1109 Bryant, East Lansing; Italian luncheon, the choice, “Friendly Victorian, Highly Romantic,” Mrs. Axel Anderson, 427 Whitman, East Lansing; Persian luncheon, Mrs. Van Tersch, 4250 Tacoma, Okemos; “Golden Circle of South America,” Mrs. John Hunter, 413 Stuart, East Lansing; Persian, Mrs. Paul Nilsson, 1823 Vassar; Roman Holiday, Mrs. Bill Stout, 241 Maplewood, East Lansing; Turkish luncheon, Mrs. Wilbur Brockway, 421 Hiram, East Lansing; Italian Nextime, Mrs. Howard Armstrong, 260 Duncan, Okemos; Chinese, Mrs. Robert

Lansing State Journal, February 7, 1971
child's menu consisting of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, milk and cookies was also available for a dollar. Although the soups changed from time to time, those served in 1984 were perhaps typical: chili, cream of broccoli, Portuguese vegetable, cheese chifflon and turkey noodle. Five years later, the choices included: Canadian cheese, Swiss apple, Portuguese bean, dilled vegetable, salmon bisque and chicken mushroom. Guests were offered a roll, dessert and a beverage along with the soup. A second bowl of soup cost an additional fifty cents. Ticket prices eventually rose to $5.00.

In 1991 the “Soups for Scholarships” moved to University Methodist Church and registered its highest attendance in its 11-year history. But a problem arose about that time. Since the soups could not always be refrigerated at the church where they were made and served on the first day, larger refrigeration units on campus were used for overnight storage. Transporting the soups from place to place concerned the Health Department.

A few times, soups were made in a home or another church and then transported to the serving location, also a food safety concern. With leadership from Margaret Blackman, this led to a different model in which the soups were prepared and served at the Kellogg Center. Faculty Folk members assisted with the set-up and serving, and Chef Robert Nelson and a student group prepared the food. While this resolved the food safety issue, it led to less profit for the club since profits had to be shared with other parties. Therefore, the approach was discontinued.

As a follow-up to the soup luncheons, “Soups for Scholarships—a NON-Event” was organized. Members were sent a tea bag and collection of soup recipes, along with a letter asking for a financial donation instead of a contribution of their time. It worked! Some women, according to Judy von Bernuth, placed their checks in a large soup pot at a club meeting. Others mailed them to the treasurer. People were very generous, and this fund-raiser actually generated more dollars for scholars than did the last soup lunch.

Both the theme parties and soup luncheons were very labor intensive and required a lot of coordination, as well as actual involvement by club members in preparing and serving the soups. Committees worked hard to provide quality fun experiences for guests. Dorothy Anderson, Beverly Newson and Charlotte Brighton served as co-chairpersons for coordinating many of the theme parties. Five or six women planned and served as hostesses for each of these benefits, making a total of at least 100 women involved in a given year. Child care at a local church or a member’s home was available on some occasions.

Among those giving leadership to the soup luncheons were: Gerry Klos, Bev Newson, Nancy Tombaugh, Anne Hogberg, Stella Cash, Lois Grethlein, Dorrie Dean, Mary Ann Dunn, Gwyneth Schroeder, Leona Rippen and Lois Walker. At least 30 women were involved in making and serving the soup each year; and as many as 50 additional women provided the homemade baked goods. A number of local merchants regularly donated ingredients for the soups, helping to increase profits.

On several occasions the Newcomers Club held additional fund raising events. In 1968, they sponsored a white elephant sale and auction; their 1971 project was a craft auction; in 1984, they sponsored a wine and cheese benefit at Impression 5 Museum.

Throughout the years, a number of other fund-raisers were held to generate funds for scholarships. For example in 1947, the FFC and State College Club sponsored “Footlight Parade,” a program.

FFC moved from Soups for Scholarships to a “NON” Event in 1996. Wine and cheese get-togethers evolved into the “Taste of the Town” at the Wharton Center’s Grand Tier.
that featured songs from 1897-1947, selected readings and the singing of “MSC Shadows.” Three $50 scholarships were awarded (13 applicants). The following year a scholarship benefit, “Is There a Doctor in the House?” was presented in the Music Auditorium. The audience witnessed the birth of the Basic College via costumed performers who sang, danced and performed magic tricks. On several occasions there was a fund-raising component to dinner dances that were hosted by the two organizations.

Holding garage sales was another fund-raising tool, one that required a lot of work but was a great bonding experience for members, as were the soup and theme events. Each of the five or six sales was a fun - as well as productive - way to generate dollars for scholarships. The garage sale held in April, 1987 raised $1860. In the fall of 1990, sales held at the homes of Dot Anderson and Norma Guyer netted $1555. Other sales were held at the homes of Mary Lou Gast, Anne Ritchie and Stephanie Barclay.

First the stitchery interest group (1985) and later the quilting interest group (1991 and 1996) created lovely quilts that generated $1347 and $2268 (tickets were sold all year) for scholarships when the quilts were raffled off at December and then May meetings. The latter projects were led by Mary Lou Gast, Bea Hughes and Annette Whims. The quilters also produced note cards that featured some of their quilts; about 500 packets of cards were sold or given as gifts, netting a profit of nearly $600 for scholarships.

In more recent years, the dollars for scholars bridge interest group has been a regular contributor to the scholarship fund. During the 1980s, the club also earned revenue via the publication and sale of a cookbook (3800 copies were sold over a four year period) and assisting the Provost's Office in assembling information packets for new faculty members. Later sales of kitchen "scrubbies" added almost $2,000 for scholarships. The latter items were crocheted and donated by a club member, Eleanor Carlin.

Memorial funds honoring several club members who were long-time club members and contributors have provided additional funds for scholarships. In 1989-90 a memorial in honor of Peggy Wright was established; Peggy served as club president in 1945-46. Kathryn S. Pierson, former chair and scholarship committee member, was honored with a Memorial Scholarship in the fall of 1991. The most recent club memorial (1998) was in honor of Dorothy Anderson, who served as president in 1984-85 and was the author of A Trunk Full of Memories. This history of the Faculty Folk Club covered the organization's first 80 years from 1923 until 1993. A special gift of $600 was given to the Endowed Fund in memory of Betty Drobac by the Creative Writers interest group, the group in which Betty had been very active.

Since the spring of 1987, the major fundraiser has been held at the Wharton Center. What began as a wine and cheese festival, under the leadership of FCC President Dee Ann Connor and Alumni Association Director Charles Webb, evolved into the popular "Taste of the Town" (TOT). The wine and cheese party preceded a concert by the MSU State Singers and Choral Union. The next year the event was followed by a George Gershwin program in the Great Hall at Wharton. Thanks to the assistance of MSU Viticulture Professor, Stan Howell, the wine was donated by St. Julian and Fenn Valley wineries. Non-alcoholic beverages were also available.

After two years, this benefit was enlarged and...
included participation by local eating establishments and caterers. The name of the event changed to the “Taste of the Town.” The Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship became a third sponsor of the fundraiser. In 1991, appetizers donated by 30 establishments led to a profit of $1800. Several years after it began (1993), sponsorship for the TOT became the purview of the Faculty Folk Club alone.

Each year, 15-20 women serve on the committee to recruit establishments and work with Wharton Center staff members to set-up and take down the serving stations. Many of these committee members have worked on more of these benefits than they can remember. Among the long-time committee members are: Pauline Wooley, Ann Shickluna, Mary Ishino, Mona Brandou and Donna Bernitt, Doris Anderson, Jamie Haley, and Judy von Bernuth).

Board members assist in selling tickets, serving as vendor aides and hosting guests. Judy von Bernuth and Stella Cash have served as co-chairs since 1997. When the Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship was a partner, they – along with the Faculty Folk Club members, Mary Lou Gast, Joyce Davis, Debbie Gift and Karen Harsh – provided the co-chairs for the benefit.

For the first few years, the ticket price for the benefit was $15; later it was raised to $20, where it has remained.

Half of the price may be deducted as a charitable contribution. From its inception, the event has been held in the Stoddard Grand Tier Lounge of the Wharton Center with typical attendance of over 400. Many consider it a lovely venue for such a gathering. Thanks to an excellent database managed by Judy von Bernuth, it is possible to track those who have attended and alert them each year of when the event will be held. Each year a number of patrons make cash contributions instead of buying tickets and attending.

On a number of occasions, special tribute was paid to members and their spouses who made particular contributions to scholarship efforts and other club initiatives. In 2002, the honoree was Norma Guyer, president in 1977-78; the following year tribute was paid to Pam and Gordon Rohman and Margaret (president in 1993-94) and Charles Blackman. Mary (1992-93 president) and Iwao Ishino were honored in 2004.

In 2007 nine “Charter Establishments” were recognized for 10 or more years of continuing participation. They were: Beggar’s Banquet, Campbell Catering, the Country Club of Lansing, the Golden Rose/Country House Catering, Hershey’s Steak & Seafood, Paramount Coffee, Special A’Fare Catering, the State Room at Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center and the University Club of MSU.

Background music, provided by local high school or university students, is a nice feature of recent TOT evenings. Special decorations add to the festive air as attention is drawn to the signage of the “taste” providers. One year individualized bird houses, created by members, decorated the stands holding the name of the vendor. Floral wreaths and arrangements of
Faculty Folk soup kitchen
to fatten scholarship fund

By MILICENT LANE
Staff Writer

Soup, which has inspired gourmets and stimulated appetites of queens, will be served next week to help fatten Mid-Michigan scholarship and volunteer funds.

Members of the Faculty Folk Club of Michigan State University will be serving up bowls of hearty meals for their second Soup Kitchen, March 11 and 12 in the All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot, East Lansing. The dinner bell will ring from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

A $4 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE ticket available at the door will bring a 12-ounce bowl of chili or soup, roll, homemade bar cookies and coffee or tea. Soup choices will be: Thursday — chili, chicken corn or vegetable soup; and Friday — chili, fish chowder or lentil soup with sausage.

Faculty Folk decided to repeat the Soup Kitchen because of last year’s successful effort appealing, in part, to the centuries-old popularity of soup celebrated in literature since the biblical Jacob’s “potage of lentil.”

FOR CENTURIES, cooks and writers have waxed lyrical about soup’s aromas and warming effects. Munchausen’s Ignace Paderewski and Lucille deKovska favored breakfast soup. Two English queens — Elizabeth I and Victoria — aldered soup to whiten on her finery and motion.

Beverly Newson of Faculty Folk said everyone will be treated regally at the Soup Kitchen to create food and music of the event the club hopes to make an annual tradition. Newson is in charge of the kitchen. Working with her are Dorothy Anderson of Okemos, Lou Walker of Bath and Charlotte Brighten, Nancy Trenchard and Gaye Men Schneider of East Lansing. Helen James and Margaret Gamble of East Lansing are in charge of the cookie brigade. Many other Faculty Folk will bake cookies, brew coffee, sit kettles and serve soup.

MONEY RAISED GOES mainly to the Mildred B. Erickson Fund for continuing education at MSU. It also goes to Community Volunteers for International Programs. About $200 was raised last year.

Faculty Folk members went through numerous recipes before this year’s menu was selected. They share three recipes to inspire people to break bread and sip soup with them.

Newson said the lentil soup recipe came from a friend who got it from a brother-in-law in California who traditionally serves the soup on Christmas Eve for a nourishing and tasty supper amidst the bustle and bustle of last minute holiday preparations. The soup is fairly thick. Some cooks may prefer to thin the soup.

LENTIL SOUP
1 lb. pkg lentils
3 qt. water
1 lb. bulk sausage
1 large onion, chopped
1 large rib celery, chopped
1 clove garlic minced
2 tsp. salt
2 tsp. sugar
2 tsp. dry mustard
1 tsp. paprika
1 tsp. ground cumin
1 tsp. cumin
1 tsp. turmeric
1 tsp. pepper
8 cups water
Cook lentils first medium heat in water. Add sausage to skillet; add poultry seasoning and salt to taste. Add onions, celery and garlic, cook until onion is clear. Do not brown garlic; it becomes bitter. Add sausage mixture and undiluted tomato soup to lentils and cook over low heat until lentils are cooked and soup is fairly thick, about one hour. Add more liquid if necessary. Check for seasoning. Makes eight to 10 servings.

This fish chowder recipe from Christine's Magazine, a Canadian publication:

FISH CHOWDER
1 lb. red or haddock fillets
3 slices bacon, diced
1/2 cup diced onions
1/2 cup diced celery
2 cups diced potatoes
1/2 cup water

Twenty-eight establishments contributed tastes of appetizers, soups, breads, entrees, desserts and beverages for the 2007 edition of the “Taste of the Town.” Proceeds that year amounted to more than $12,000. A special patron of the benefit for several years was the MSU Department of Radiology, chaired by Dr. James Potchen. In recent years, the event has annually raised a minimum of $10,000. Michigan State University Community Club has raised more than $200,000 for scholarships through this event and its various other fund-raising projects.

Since 2003-04, $2,000 scholarships have been awarded from the FFC/MSUCC Endowed Scholarship Fund. Recipients have been selected from several different colleges and majors. They are outstanding young people who have excelled academically and also been involved in significant service programs. In 2003, the scholarship was awarded to Emily Stefanski, a horticulture major. Nursing student, Eleni Amable was the recipient for 2004-05. Matt Stasiewicz, whose majors were
biosystems engineering and philosophy received the scholarship for 2005-06.

In 2006, there were three scholarships awarded; the two from the club's endowed fund went to Gina Kuhlauk in special education (learning disabilities) and Jennifer Weston in elementary education (Spanish and Japanese.) Lauren Wilton (child development) was the first recipient of the Arensch scholarship. One of the club's grants was designated for a returning student.

Most recently, Beverly Twiss and Jennifer Nash, both chemistry majors, along with Eric Wolf, a chemical physics major, were awarded $2,000 scholarships. Each recipient receives $1,000 at the beginning of fall and spring semesters.

While many establishments have enjoyed annual participation in the event, it is not uncommon for new restaurants in the community to partner with the club as a way to publicize their local presence. The number of vendors participating has varied between 25 and 30. While the "tastes" may vary from year to year, there are some favorites that are served each year, and guests have no trouble finding the offerings a more than adequate evening meal. Many repeat customers find it "the best meal deal in town" since half of the ticket price is tax deductible. It must be noted that other groups have begun to seize upon the idea and are starting to host their own tasting parties, which may in time diminish the effectiveness of this method of raising funds for scholarships. Hopefully, however, TOT will remain a popular and successful fund-raiser for years to come.
Taste of the Town
Saturday, April 14th, 2007 © 6:00-7:30 PM
Staggard Grand Tier Lounge
Wharton Center
Michigan State University
Pre-event music by Fatsapo
Curri Chapin Concerts and Marcone Horsey Ollie

- Reggae's Banquet
- Bravel Cucina Italiana
- Breadsmith of Okemos
- Campbell Catering
- Canada Dry Bottling Co.
  of Lansing
- The Cavalry Club of Lansing
- Dusty's Wine Bar
- El Ateneo
- Gilbert & Blake's
  Seafood & Steak Grill
- The Golden Rose
  Country House Catering
- Grand Traverse Pie Co.
- Hershey's Steak & Steakhof
- How Sweet It Is
- Mike's at the MAC
- Mike's Firehouse Grill
- Mortara's Fine Catering
- MSU Dairy Store
- Paramount Coffee
- P.F. Chang's China Bistro
- Red Cedar Grill
- Sahara's
- Special Affairs Catering
- The State Room
  at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
- Stillwater Grill
- The University Club
  of MSU

Tickets are $45.00 each. To purchase, contact Judy von Behrath.
Office: 517-432-1835 ext. 1
Email: jsbehrath@wisc.edu

Proceeds from the Taste of the Town event benefit the MSU Community Club
Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The Taste of the Town committee, would like to thank the Department of Food Science
and Technology at MSU for their generous sponsorship of Taste of the Town 2007.
Taste of the Town

Wonderful choices!

A joy to behold as well as a taster’s delight!

To express appreciation for helping to make Taste of Town such a big success, Char Rechase (left) and Karen Harsh (right) worked for months to create a “chef” hat for each participating restaurant and caterer. Helen LeBlanc machine stitched on the names.
In relatively few years, The Faculty Folk Club Endowed Scholarship Fund had grown enough to give a scholarship. After reviewing many applications, the Scholarship Committee chose Emily Stefanski (standing next to the poster) as the club's first recipient. She attended the club's annual spring luncheon on April 25, 2003. Committee members standing: Charlotte Poston, Mary Olson, Judy von Bernuth; seated, Jackie Holecek, Irene Arens. The poster honors Norma Guyer, president 1977-78, who had been a very active club member for many years.

**TOT HONOREES**

In 2002, the honoree was Norma Guyer, president in 1977-78.

In 1979: Pam and Gordon Rohman and Margaret (president in 1993-94) and Charles Blackman.

Mary (1992-93 president) and Iwao Ishino were honored in 2004.

1998: Stella Cash and Judy von Bernuth have long been very involved in helping to make Taste of the Town happen.

2003: Taste of the Town wrap-up celebration

Flutage: Musical entertainment before TOT opened.
Matt Stasiewicz (center) received the 2005-06 FFC Endowed Scholarship. Committee members, left to right, Joy Costar, Jackie Holecek, Mary Olson, Clarice Thompson, Jeanne Halloin.

Elkam Smable, the 2004 recipient of the Faculty Folk Club scholarship.

Committee co-chair Jeanne Halloin, 2006-07 scholarship recipients Gina Kulharvik, Jennifer Weston, and Lauren Wilton, co-chair Jackie Holecek.

MSUCC Scholarship recipients for 2007-08 are chemistry majors Beverly Twiss and Jennifer Nash. Irene Arens and chemical physics major Eric Wolf, recipient of the Irene B. Arens Scholarship.
8. Volunteering
Extending university resources

According to Webster’s Dictionary, a volunteer is “a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service.” Through the years, women certainly responded to the need/call for service at schools, hospitals, churches or synagogues and at the Red Cross or other charities. A recent analysis of who volunteers and who is most generous when it comes to making charitable contributions found that women, especially those who have an education, are at the top of the list.

Members of Faculty Folk/MSUCC have always been active volunteers, not only in assisting other community projects that depended upon volunteers; but they also have played a special role at M.A.C./M.S.U. in extending campus resources and assisting in times of particular need or forming new volunteer groups.

In 1942, 45 women of the club responded to President Hannah’s request for help at class registration. This was one of the first of many occasions when members could be found in the “pit,” handing out registration cards and assisting students and faculty with class sign up. What a cost saving before the advent of computers!

In 1943 the President urged the group to form a special committee to work with college military arrivals. The goal was to make the Army Air Corps Cadets stationed on campus feel at home. These young men were on campus for pre-flight training, sent to East Lansing as part of the College Training Detachment of the Army Air Force.

Faculty Folk volunteers helped out in numerous ways: serving as nursing aides in the college hospital; doing a variety of odd jobs such as sewing insignias on uniforms, obtaining home town newspapers and making them available for convalescing soldiers when they became ill, inviting soldiers for Sunday dinner in faculty homes and helping to entertain parents who came to visit their military sons. Almost every club member contributed on behalf of the “service boys.” That same year, 40 benefit bridge parties were held with the proceeds going to the war effort.

The club joined the Men’s Faculty Club in 1948 in preparing and sending 200 packages to assist two German universities, Giessen and Hohenheim, in their rebuilding process. This was the first of several outreach efforts to aid international universities and students that were jointly sponsored with the Men’s Faculty Club, as was indicated in the previous chapter.

1974-75 was a major year for volunteering and making an important thing happen on campus. The club co-sponsored the first benefit to raise funds for a new performing arts center; the goal was to raise $100,000. The idea for the club to take on this assignment was suggested to FFC President, Lillian Smuckler, by Delores Wharton, the university’s “first lady.” According to Ken Beachler, emeritus director of the Wharton Center, “Faculty Folk played a critical role at that time because although there was interest by a number of community organizations in building a performing arts center at M.S.U., what was needed was a core campus group to step forward and take the lead in making it happen.” The Faculty Folk Club was just that group!

Faculty Folk members answered two phone lines every day for six weeks in Beachler’s office to take ticket orders. More than 3,000 tickets were
sold for the event, a concert featuring music by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and starring Lena Horne and Tony Bennett in the MSU Auditorium. Elaborate floral and other decorations were in place when "mother nature" refused to co-operate. Rain and flooding that April were dreadful, and for the first time in history, the "aud" had a power outage. Attempts to make use of power in nearby buildings were unsuccessful, as was an attempt to bring in generators from Detroit.

With about four hours notice, President Wharton and Ted Simon, director of the Physical Plant, decided to move the concert to Munn Ice Arena. The ice had to be covered with a temporary wooden floor and the grand piano fork-lifted into place; last minute decorations were added to improve the ambience of the arena for the occasion. Guests arrived, dressed for the special occasion, and many – including Faculty Folk
members and spouses—enjoyed an elegant afterglow party at the University Club after a stellar performance by the visiting artists.

This special relationship with Wharton Center has continued since that time. A special "Thank You Program" of music and drama was presented there just for FFC members. While members are no longer called upon to answer phones in the ticket office, they continue to serve as volunteers for the center and formed the nucleus of what has become the Inner Circle of some 300 Wharton Center volunteers. FCC volunteers have been instrumental in the management and staffing of the Wharton Center's Gift Shop as well as serving as docents for Act One Educational Programs, programs that go into the schools to prepare classes of children who are coming to Wharton to see a performance.

When swine flu threatened to become an epidemic in 1976, Faculty Folk were asked to help with the inoculations, and once again they responded. Shortly after this, the need for regular volunteers at the Clinical Center was evident. Marty Simonds had some ideas about how an ongoing support group could be organized. Under the leadership of Virginia Boyd (Ralston) the Clinical Center Volunteers were established to assist with clerical, receptionist and other duties on a continuing basis. When asked, 120 FFC members expressed an interest in participating; 92 of them actually volunteered. Virginia took charge of the group, organizing, training and scheduling members to work. The club even furnished volunteers with special uniforms. Working at the Clinical Center continued through most of the 1990s, when computers and paid staff replaced the volunteers.

In the early 1980s, during a time of great need, the organization urged members to bring food for the Lansing Food Bank to the monthly and interest group meetings. Once again the
To benefit PAC

'Tony & Lena' to sing April 19

Tony Bennett and Lena Horne will bring their nationally acclaimed review "Tony and Lena Sing" to the MSU Auditorium April 19 in a special performance to help raise funds for the new Performing Arts Center.

"Tony and Lena Sing" features many hit songs of Broadway, Tin Pan Alley and Academy Award-winning composer Harold Arlen.

The show, arranged by the MSU Lecture-Concert Series and the MSU Faculty Folk organization, which is attempting to raise the first $100,000 for the center, will be a benefit for constructing the proposed $16 million facility.

Bennett, winner of 17 singer popularity polls who holds a gold record for "Because of You," and perennially young Miss Horne, singer, dancer and star of films "Cabin in the Sky" and "Stormy Weather," will perform with their own trios and a 32-piece orchestra.

When the curtain rises at 9 p.m., the two stars will sing together, then Miss Horne alone, followed by intermission, Bennett performing alone, then more duets.

"Tony and Lena Sing" has already brought the performers standing ovations in Miami Beach, sold-out performances in New York and packed houses in Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

Variety magazine calls the whole thing "soothing" and praises Miss Horne's "infinite variety." "She slinks, slithers and sings - can't miss," the reviewer says.

The review magazine also praises Bennett as a "voluble performer" and notes that a special feature of the duo's show is the rendition of songs by Harold Arlen, who won an Academy Award for "Over the Rainbow" and composed such hits as "It's Only a Paper Moon," "That Old Black Magic," and "Blues in the Night."

Kenneth Beachler, Lecture-Concert Series director, says "Bennett and Horne don't like to do one-night stands, but they're personally concerned that MSU's plans for a new Performing Arts Center are realized, and that's why they're playing here," he said.

Tickets to the event will be available to the general public April 1 at the Union Building Ticket Office or by mail from the Lecture-Concert Series Office.

Sponsor and patron tickets are priced at $50 and $100 apiece and entitle the purchasers to the listing of their names in the program and a champagne reception with the stars in the University Club following the performance.

Other tickets are $25 and $12.50, and tickets for MSU students are $6.25. "There are good seats available in all price ranges," Beachler said. "There'll be a late curtain, gala atmosphere, and everyone should have a good time."

The new performing arts and educational facility will be located in the southeast region of the campus.

The center will contain a great hall, main theatre, experimental theatre, full production facilities and a new home for the Department of Theatre.
club responded to a community need and made substantial voluntary contributions.

As additional opportunities for campus voluntary service increased, a sign-up to participate became a regular part of the fall Welcome Reception; for example, in the fall of 1993, members chose from such volunteer options as: the Kresge Art Museum, MSU Clinical Center, MSU Libraries, MSU Museum, MSU Veterinary Clinic and Wharton Center. These became core commitments for many years. More recently added to the list were C.V.I.P. (Community Volunteer International Program), MSU Safe Place and MSU Literacy Corps.

As many of these campus facilities and programs, building on the corps of FFC volunteers, developed their own volunteer organizations and programs, Faculty Folk was no longer needed as the catalyst for recruiting volunteers; members no longer felt the need to register their interest in participation each year though many have continued to serve. Act One (Wharton Center), Kresge Art Museum the MSU Museum, Safe Place and C.V.I.P. have developed their own systems to recruit, train and reward docents and other volunteers.

MSU Safe Place has been the beneficiary of the club's largesse since its early days. For several years Mary Mather volunteered at Safe Place. The club still makes annual monetary donations, as well as contributes gifts of toys, quilts and cash from members. In December 2006, the club gave the shelter a total of $1,165 plus gifts; $150 came from the club treasury.

For several years, the club directory did not list the places where members were invited to volunteer. But after the inauguration of President Lou Anna K. Simon, the FFC executive board decided to revisit the matter of volunteering with her; a meeting between President Simon
and Arlene Brophy, president, and Sally Pratt, first vice president, was most productive. As a result of renewed interest in having club members provide services, volunteering is of a somewhat different nature.

2005-2006 marked the beginning of new opportunities to extend the resources of the university. In November 2005, nine women provided assistance at the national Service Learning Research Conference held at Kellogg Center. Volunteers made sure that rooms were ready and equipped to meet presenter needs and facilitated several of the sessions by serving as conveners and helped with question periods.

On January 13, 2007, five members provided volunteer services at the reunion of MSU and Rust College. Rust College is an African American college that MSU assisted during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. (Rust College is a historically black liberal arts college located in Holly Springs, Mississippi. It is the second oldest private college in the state and is affiliated with the United Methodist Church.) The volunteers helped with registration and made sure that reunion attendees found their appropriate meeting areas. Conference support is expected to continue as a significant club-supported volunteer option.

Club members were on “stand-by” to welcome and assist faculty families who relocated temporarily to our campus after Hurricane Katrina closed their universities. As it turned out, only a few came to East Lansing so that need did not really materialize.

As a result of the conversation with the MSU President, a major new volunteer opportunity was presented to the membership the fall of 2006. The club was invited to provide volunteers to support the Service Learning activities of the university. Orientation was held for nine volunteers in January 2007. These women will work with MSU students in small groups three times during a semester. A wrap-up meeting will be held with volunteers and staff to share group experiences. While drawing upon their life experiences — personal and professional — to assist students in performing their off-campus outreach service in various settings, MSUCC members will benefit from a new learning experience themselves.

As resources diminish and creative new programs are developed, the University will no doubt explore other possibilities for MSU Community Club members to contribute in as yet undetermined ways. Club membership represents a wealth of human capital that has yet to be tapped to its full potential.

MSUCC volunteer interest group pictured left, front row are: Donna Anderson, Sandra Goodman, Arlene Brophy. Back row: Linda Brown, Laurie Koosheshahani, Jennifer Lindberg (MSU coordinator and trainer), and Sally Pratt.

During 2006-2007 MSUCC volunteers worked with the Service Learning Program at MSU as it did second semester of 2007. The volunteers worked in pairs to facilitate student discussion in groups of 10 to 12 students three times during the semester. The sessions focused on helping students make their volunteer work in the Lansing Community a positive learning experience. An MSU trainer provided orientation and training, including a handy notebook/guide, for each volunteer facilitator. Interest group chair Arlene Brophy reported that facilitators found it was a worthwhile, two-way learning experience.
9. Our Future
Challenges: next decade and beyond

If the old adage, "The past is but the prelude to the future," is true, then the MSU Community Club has a rich heritage upon which to build. Lessons learned in the past can become bridges to the next decade and beyond. Some concerns have been resolved; others remain. Some strategies that were useful in the past may need to be revisited and adapted to meet emerging challenges; and new initiatives, even taking risks may be necessary if the organization is to maintain its viability in the years ahead.

Past leaders of the club generally agree that a primary challenge now and in the foreseeable future is attracting and retaining new members. In 2006, 59% of U.S. women were employed; in 1987 that percentage was 41%; in 1930 the percentage was 22%, and in 1920 the census reported only 19.4% women ten years and older were part of the labor force. Obviously, women who are employed full-time have less time to socialize and are very selective about how they will spend their leisure hours. Working out at a gym and following an exercise regime is a "must" for many younger women; and taking a course on line may have more appeal for an upwardly mobile professional woman than attending an instructional program that, while interesting, may not have personal application.

The membership in many women's clubs is aging, and women who have been long-time members and workers are no longer able to assume leadership roles. Often these women tend to resist change whether it is the name of the organization, the time for the meetings or even the place meetings are held. Everyone treasures the good memories of an organization's history, and institutional memory sometimes blocks out the not-so-good parts of it. But the reality is that times do change, and organizations must adjust if they expect to survive. The views of "pioneer" members must be respected, even as adjustments are mandated.

The recent broadening of membership in MSUCC and the name change were steps that had to be made, no matter how difficult acceptance has been. The university went through several name changes as the need dictated, but a number of landmarks still carry the old nomenclature and are recalled with fondness and positive reflections upon the past. Likewise, the old club name can be recalled with respect and an understanding of why it was appropriate in 1923 but no longer fits in 2008 and beyond.

The use of faculty in the club's name seemed to limit membership to those who were faculty members or identified with the term "faculty" through marriage. However, the Faculty Folk Club never really limited its membership to that distinct group of women. Almost from the beginning, membership was open to other categories of college personnel: librarians, extension and research appointees and administrators. Honorary membership has been granted to the wives of past presidents of MSU as well as trustees and trustee spouses for some time. Perhaps a not well-publicized fact has been the possibility for interested community persons or alumni to seek affiliation via a request to the board. Rarely, if ever, have such requests been denied. By-law changes in 2007 added clarity to what has come to be accepted practice.

Because many alumni live in the greater Lansing area and continue to support the
university in numerous ways, it seems reasonable to recruit them as members and offer them an opportunity to participate fully in a club that has as a major focus fund-raising to provide scholarships to Michigan State students. In return, why not allow them to benefit from attendance at timely, well-delivered programs? Likewise, extending a clear invitation for membership to other groups of campus employees who contribute much to the successful operation of the institution appears to be reasonable. If there is a "fit" between an individual's schedule and interests, membership in MSUCC can be a win/win situation for both the club and the individual.

Women today have many organizational choices. Many groups are seeking to become more inclusive by broadening their membership in terms of age and ethnicity. It is also true that some others enjoy the distinctiveness of catering to persons of one age group, gender, race or ethnic heritage. Likewise, professional groups both on and off campus continue to provide desirable networking opportunities, as well as easy access to training and professional development programs. Every group, including this one, needs to make certain that leaders and members are clear about the nature of the organization — and what it wants to be in the future. What is the appropriate niche for MSUCC in the decades ahead, and how does it go about marketing itself to recruit new members?

A number of religious congregations no longer sponsor "circles" or other small groups for women because such models no longer appeal to younger and/or working women. Other churches and synagogues have opted to have morning, afternoon and evening groups to accommodate the schedules of various constituencies, and they recognize that not all women in the congregation wish to affiliate. Some have alternative patterns of meetings and find that while some prefer to meet monthly, others find quarterly meetings more to their liking. What — if anything — can the MSU Community Club learn from these adaptive practices?

In the early days, the Faculty Folk Club held a number of Saturday meetings to enable teaching faculty members to participate. The club has also experimented with different meeting times over the years. Is a Friday meeting at 12:30, 1:00 or 1:30 the best time for the monthly meetings? With the advent of so many new technologies, might there be a place for some of the "meetings" to be held via interactive video, computer or its newer cousins rather than in face-to-face gatherings?

A recurring problem for the club has been finding suitable locations to hold meetings. History records a frequent change of venue, something that continues today. Both size and parking are issues of concern. Meeting in a new place when the program features a tour of a new facility is one thing, but if the location changes from month to month depending simply upon space availability or the generosity of a department head, members become confused or frustrated and decide to skip attending. Perhaps the challenge is to show the MSU administration what a significant part of the university community MSUCC is and seek their support in identifying a permanent home for club meetings.

Identifying people who are willing to take on leadership roles has become a chronic problem in most organizations. Historically, the model used by many groups has been for a designated individual to progress through a series of offices, often serving two or three years before ascending to the presidency. This has been an excellent way for someone to attain leadership skills and competencies, as well as feel confident in the top leadership role. It allows a leadership team to build on institutional memory and provide for a smooth transition from year to year. Today, however, many organizations see cajoling somebody to take on the presidency — or vice-presidency — as a major challenge. MSUCC is no exception! The idea of making a multi-year commitment has lost its appeal.

Fortunately, some women continue to enjoy these leadership roles and are willing to make a major time commitment for two, three or more years to what can be an almost full-time and thankless job. Nevertheless, some other models may need to be explored. Job sharing in the business sector often works, so having co-presidents may be an option. Likewise, redefining
the job so it is less comprehensive may be feasible. Project work appeals to some women who are willing to make a commitment for a shorter duration than the normal term of office.

Delegation can work, but it is two-sided sword. Leaders should not micro-manage work that has been delegated, but those agreeing to take on the work must be responsible for accomplishing it. When they have a real interest in a project, feel genuine ownership in seeing it through to completion and are given the skills and resources necessary to do the job, most club members will fulfill their responsibilities and be accountable.

Delegating work and forming project teams can increase participation and involvement in club activities, but this approach is not without its own problems. Communication can become increasingly difficult, so special care must be taken to develop user-friendly vehicles and networks to insure that those who need to know can easily access needed information. Technology can be a help, but thoughtful consideration and planning of its effective use will pay large dividends in the long run.

Involving people is desirable, but questions arise concerning the appropriate number of people who should hold board positions, voting on policy decisions and attending meetings. At times "less is more," and fewer people are better able to productively manage the business of a club. Through the years, the FFC/MSUCC Board has increased considerably, and in the opinion of some past presidents, too many people have been invited to attend meetings and given a vote on matters that do not pertain to their roles as committee chairpersons or assistant officers. A regular review of structural matters of this kind can be fruitful.

Having some continuity is desirable for the smooth transition from year to year, however, most research on the subject indicates that organizations need "new blood," and it discourages the practice of having a few people continue in their roles indefinitely or exchange roles among themselves — no matter how talented and dedicated they are. For some women, knowing that they are not expected to serve in perpetuity makes accepting an office much more attractive. Moreover, limiting the time an individual serves negates the kind of "in-breeding" that can lead to stagnation and disengagement by others.

An important characteristic of FFC/MSUCC has always been its effort to welcome newcomers. This practice is perhaps even more important now than in the past, since the university community has become larger, more diverse and less tightly knit. Socialization within academic units has declined, and two-worker families find multi-tasking a growing challenge. Once new members have been recruited, it is essential that they be welcomed and quickly integrated into the club.

Embracing newcomers and making them feel a real part of the MSU community can be a significant ingredient in retaining them as members and helping create a positive attitude toward MSU. Home visits, neighborhood get-acquainted coffees and mentoring as "big sisters" seemed to be effective previously. Could these strategies work again with a modification or two? How might technology provide a more "with it" approach for staying in touch with new members in the next decade?

In the past, working on projects such as the soup kitchen or hosting theme parties was a great way for women to bond and really get to know one another. Currently, only the "Taste of the Town" and several of the interest groups offer that kind of in depth interactions. The renewed interest in extending university resources through participation as volunteers may open another door to build collegiality among members and attract new ones. The younger generation seems to take seriously the notion that giving back is part of one's obligation as a citizen, so the availability of interesting, meaningful volunteer opportunities could be viewed as a perk for joining MSUCC. The club may also want to explore other volunteer avenues than those directly related to the campus.

Clearly, staying current in terms of "hot topics" for programs and sponsoring educational
sessions that provide desired information are essential to the continued well-being of the organization. Discussing pertinent topics of general interest may also be a way to encourage men to attend meetings and become more actively involved in the club. Some clubs that have been around for a long time appear to be recruiting recently retired professionals, who are attracted by the requirement that the members present a paper every year or two. These women appreciate the challenge of once again doing research and making a public presentation, something they enjoyed doing while on the job.

Perhaps drawing upon the expertise of more members or interest groups as program presenters in a variety of formats might be a way to enhance member enthusiasm and appreciation for one another as well as adding another dimension to program offerings. Joining with other women's organizations that have similar interests in sponsoring public lectures, films or discussions could be an excellent way to increase visibility for the clubs and enhance recruitment efforts.

Young people are often asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” The same question can and should be asked of organizations. What is the mission of the MSU Community Club today? What should it be tomorrow? For what does the club wish to be known? What needs to be done to remain relevant in today's complex, global and ever-changing technological society? How can the organization honor its past and insure that its older deserving members have meetings they can enjoy and attend while at the same time appeal to younger persons with different interests whom the club needs in order to survive?

Raising money for scholarships is a noble undertaking and a long-time priority of this club. Many people are willing to commit time and energy to accomplish this goal. The big question for the future is, “In what new and/or additional ways may this end be achieved?” Are there other groups with a similar goal with whom MSUCC could partner so that the work load is shared? Who might these new partners be?

Numerous organizations in the greater Lansing area have comparable missions. Those that have several chapters in the area such as: Zonta, P.E.O. and religious groups often have joint meetings once a year. But for the most part women's groups operate independently. Many groups have a service dimension and are concerned with issues related to young people; many have mentoring programs and grant scholarships. How might these groups collaborate to make a bigger difference?

Are there new partners that would enhance MSUCC outreach? How about an alliance with Links' Inc., an organization chartered locally in 1972? Links members, an organization of 45-50 African American women, make grants to needy and promising scholars and mentor about 25 middle-school students annually. If MSUCC decides to consider volunteer options beyond the confines of MSU, partnering with Links could become a fruitful venture for both clubs — and think of the number of middle schoolers who would benefit!

The Faculty Folk Club/MSU Community Club has had a remarkable history. With creativity, open-mindedness and a willingness to take risks, it can continue to be an exemplar of organizational growth and productivity, a significant contributor to the greater Michigan State University community. Its future can be as promising and noteworthy as its past. However, the choices that are made today will determine the scope and depth of the footprints that lead to tomorrow. Will they be big enough, rich enough, clear enough and unique enough to insure continuing success in the next decade and beyond? Only time will tell.
Appendix

1. Milestones in Club History

2. Past Presidents
Milestones in Club History

December 3, 1923  Club organized under the leadership of Mrs. Herman H. Halladay
1924         First interest groups formed
1931 - 1977  Newcomers Club functioned as separate but complementary organization
1939         College student received first scholarship award
1942         Club members responded President Hannah's request to help at registration
1945-1969    Benefit bridge parties the major fund-raisers
1946         The first scholarship committee was organized
1966         Club members visited 350 wives of new faculty members in their homes and invited them to neighborhood coffees
1969         First investment club interest group formed
1944-1969    Spring themed parties became main fund raisers
1973         Club changed its name to Faculty Folk Club of MSU
1975         The first club membership directory published
1975-1976    Co-sponsored first fund-raiser to build Wharton Center
1976         Helped inoculate students for swine flu
1977         Dues jumped to $5.00
1979         Collaboration with Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship began
1981-1992    Soup for Scholarships generated funds to aid students
1985         Club membership records computerized; first Big Ten Conference of like organizations held
1987 - to present  Wine and Cheese Fund Raiser held at Wharton Center; precursor to Taste of the Town which continues as primary fund raiser of organization
1991         Last big dinner dance held
1999         Faculty Folk Endowed Scholarship Fund was established
2000 - 2001  Membership opened to men
September 15, 2006  Members voted to change the name of the club to Michigan State University Community Club
2007         Membership extended to MSU alumni and the broader university community
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>President Name</th>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>President Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>Mrs. H.H. Halladay*</td>
<td>1968-69</td>
<td>Mrs. B.T. Sandefur* (Louise)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-25</td>
<td>Mrs. W.G. Hedrick*</td>
<td>1969-70</td>
<td>Mrs. Frederic B. Dutton* (Faith)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-26</td>
<td>Mrs. J.W. Stack*</td>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>Mrs. Edward C. Miller (Marjorie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926-27</td>
<td>Mrs. E.L. Butterfield</td>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>Mrs. William Armistead* (Mary Wallace)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-28</td>
<td>Mrs. T.L. Sherburne</td>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>Mrs. Lawrence Boger* (Frances)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-29</td>
<td>Mrs. E.H. Ryder*</td>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>Mrs. William T. Magee (Eileen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929-30</td>
<td>Mrs. J.F. Cox</td>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>Mrs. Ralph Smuckler (Lillian)</td>
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<td>Mrs. S.D. Smith</td>
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<td>Mrs. Bernard Waldman* (Glenna)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Harlan Ritchie* (Lou)</td>
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<td>Mrs. E.J. Miller*</td>
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<td>Mrs. James Anderson* (Dorothy)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Larry Connor* (Dee Ann)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Edward Mather (Mary)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Andrea Smith* (William)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Jelena Gill* (John)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Leo Haak* (Edna)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Kathy Esselman (Walter)</td>
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<td>1963-64</td>
<td>Mrs. Thomas Cowden* (Clara)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Leo Martin* (Jean)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Theodore Forbes* (Louise)</td>
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About the author, Maxine Ferris

Maxine Ferris reviewed countless files and documents as she pursued writing Our Story.

Maxine Ferris retired in 1996 as a professor in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Education and Communication Systems and as Director of Outreach Communication at Michigan State University. For 15 years she led a team of professional communicators whose mission it was to help the public access the knowledge resources of the university. Ferris is the author of more than 50 popular publications focusing on communication, organizational development and management, including: Managing Extension Today, a comprehensive training manual that became a national model in the 1980s. She also authored a chapter on "Strategic Communication Planning" in the third edition of The Communicator’s Handbook, published by Maupin House in 1996; Thirty Years and Counting, a history of the Okemos Montessori Radmoor School, which she and her husband helped to found; and The Man from Milton, a biography of Albert Elwood Ferris of Milton, Indiana.

A somewhat passive member of the Faculty Folk Club of Michigan State for more than thirty years, she recently served as the club’s recording secretary and historian. Other board memberships have included: the University Club of Michigan State University, Zonta Club of East Lansing Area, Briarwood Home Owners, the Samaritan Counseling Center of Mid-Michigan, Okemos Montessori Radmoor School, P.E.O. Chapter BB, the Women of Peoples Church and the Council of Elders of Peoples Church.

Ferris, a graduate of the College of Wooster in Ohio, earned a Masters’ Degree from the Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. A former Dover, Ohio high school teacher, she was also a faculty member of the College of Wooster and Bowling Green State University and headed her own consulting firm prior to joining the Michigan State faculty.

In the early 1990s, Maxine was in the forefront of using computer technology for MSU Outreach Communications. Photo courtesy Michigan Agricultural Exention Service.