



Spartan Sentinel

MSU Varsity Alumni 'S' Club

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 53 ISSUE 3

2010 Varsity Alumni Reunion Weekend Scheduled for October 1 & 2, 2010

Featuring: Breslin/Jackson/Bullough Awards, Lifetime Coaches Award,
30-40-50-60 Year Anniversary Awards, and Honorary Inductees

Sponsored by: MSU Dept. of Intercollegiate Athletics
and the Varsity Alumni 'S' Club

This year our reunion will be part of a new "Celebrate 2010 Weekend" being instituted by the MSU Athletic Department, and will include the MSU Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, announcement of the Varsity 'S' Club award winners, the Athletic Department award winners, and the inaugural Letter Jacket Presentation. The new Letter Jacket Presentation ceremonies have come about as a result of a suggestion from former Club President Eldon Van Spybrook. All of these activities coming together in one great weekend have resulted in a few changes in our usual itinerary.

Thursday, September 30, 2010 - 7:00-8:30 PM - **Varsity Letter Jacket Presentation** - Wharton Center's Pasant Theater - CEREMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Friday, October 1, 2010 - 8:30 AM - **Morning refreshments in Varsity 'S' Club Room**

9:00 AM - **Tour of Skandalaris and Clara Bell Smith Centers.**

11:00 AM - **Downtown Coaches Luncheon:** 'S' Club Award Winners and Hall of Fame Inductees honored at Eagle Eye Golf Club

1:30 PM - Picture taking of groups and individuals at the outdoor Sparty statue.

2:15-5:00 PM - **Varsity Alumni 'S' Club Room Open House** - Light refreshments

6:30-7:70 PM - **Hall of Fame Program** - Smith Center - INVITATION ONLY

Saturday, October 2, 2010 - 3.5 Hours before game time - **Varsity Alumni 'S' Club Awards Presentations, Brunch, and Pep Rally** - Jenison Field House. The 30-40-50-60 Year Anniversary Awards will also be presented at this time. In addition, there will be a brief Varsity 'S' Alumni Club membership meeting at the beginning of the brunch (see the notices below and on page 7).

Halftime of Football game - MSU Vs. Wisconsin - "Celebrate 2010" Halftime Show - Student athletes who earned letter jackets, Athletic Dept major award winners, Varsity Alumni 'S' Club award winners and Hall of Fame inductees recognized.

The host hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express - 2924 West Rd. - E. Lansing, MI 48823 - 517/333-0300. A limited number of rooms are available for Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

You should have received the registration form by email or postal mail by now. It also is available on the Club website. See you there!

Membership Meeting - October 2

Please see the "Notice to Membership" on page 7. There will be a brief membership meeting during the annual Reunion Weekend's brunch on Saturday morning for the purpose of discussing and voting on approval of a new Club constitution.



2009-2010

Varsity Alumni 'S' Club

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

- President: Colin Cronin '94
1st Vice President: Cheryl Gilliam '81
2nd Vice President: Wally Dobler '58
Secretary: Mike Vorkapich '94
Treasurer: David Brogan '56
Past President: Eldon VanSpybrook '60

Board of Directors

- Terms Expires 2010: Tim Bograkos '04, Kevin Miller '88, Alexandra Wiesner '91
Term Expires 2011: Don Behm '67, Ron Berby '64, Michael Decker '80, R. Paul Vance '01

Office Staff: Marilyn Bria (Office hours: M-Th 12-4, F 12-3)

Newsletter Editors: Ron Berby and Eric D. Zemper

Elections for the Board of Directors of the Varsity Alumni 'S' Club are held each Winter. If you would like to serve on the Board, simply visit our website, click on the application tab, print the form, complete and mail to the office.

Michigan State University
Varsity Alumni 'S' Club
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East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone (517) 355-8523
Fax (517) 355-7708
E-mail varsitys@msu.edu
Website www.msufactyvarsityclub.org

NCAA Compliance: It's time for our annual reminder that, while it is fairly obvious that our club is considered a "booster organization" by the NCAA, you need to be aware that you also, by virtue of the fact that you were a varsity athlete at MSU, are considered an MSU representative or "booster" by the NCAA. Please be aware of what you can and cannot do with regard to supporting MSU athletics. If you are in doubt, go to the MSU compliance website (https://www.msu.edu/user/msuncaa/).

Show your true colors!

Varsity 'S' Alumni Club shirts, caps, jackets and other gear is available on the Club website, and will be available in the club-room on game days this fall.



Check out the club website at:

http://www.msufactyvarsityclub.org

ACCESS TO CLUB ROOM DURING FOOTBALL GAMES

As noted in previous years, because we had been experiencing ongoing problems with inappropriate access to the Varsity Alumni 'S' Club Room during football games, your Board of Directors has implemented a new policy regarding access during games that began with the 2008 season. Members will still have access as they have in the past, but the new policy will limit access to those with current membership, and will also limit the number of guests members may bring in with them. Letter winners will be limited to bringing no more than 5 family members/guests. All family members/guests must enter with the Club member. Members must present a current membership card upon entry. If your membership is not current, you will have an opportunity to renew your membership at the door.

Two rows of stars with a central paragraph: "We value your opinion and want to know what you think about the Varsity Alumni 'S' Club Newsletter. Send us an e-mail, call or fax with items or topics you would like to see included in future newsletters. If you have suggestions on how to improve the publication, let us know."



Message From the President

Fellow Spartans,

The second half of 2010 is shaping up to be a very exciting few months for your Varsity Alumni 'S' Club. With the vision and direction of MSU Athletic Director Mark Hollis, we are proud to assist the MSU Athletic Department in creating a new tradition at Michigan State University. In conjunction with the Varsity Alumni 'S' Reunion Weekend, the MSU Athletic Department will hold our first Varsity Jacket Presentation Ceremony for all new undergraduate letter winners, the Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremonies, and our Varsity Alumni 'S' Club Award Ceremonies, all culminating in a presentation taking up the entire half-time show at the home football game against Wisconsin on October 2nd. This awards weekend represents the coming together of the present, past, and legends of the Spartan Athletic family, and represents the core principles of what the Varsity Alumni 'S' Club represents by helping Varsity Alumni 'S' Letter Winners reconnect with teammates, other Varsity Letter Winners, and the MSU Athletic Department.

In addition to the upcoming Reunion Weekend, we are starting a new Varsity 'S' Club Young Alumni program to reach out to recent graduates and help build the base of the club for years to come. In years gone by there was an undergraduate Varsity 'S' Club that many of you will probably remember, but with the current NCAA rules, we can not directly connect and assist current student athletes, so we are focusing our efforts on recent graduates for now. This program is being lead by Cheryl Gilliam (Vice President of the Varsity Alumni 'S' Club).

Over the second half of 2010 we also will be finalizing a review of the Varsity Alumni 'S' Club constitution, and working to get approval of an updated constitution and operating procedures, which have not been updated for nearly 20 years. We believe the significant modifications and structural updates will help your Varsity Alumni 'S' Club operate smoothly for the next 25 years and hopefully beyond. (Please see the announcement on page X for more information.)

On behalf of myself and your volunteer Board of Directors, it is our pleasure to serve the club, and we are committed to helping ensure a strong and growing Varsity Alumni 'S' Club. If you would like to become more involved with your club, please contact the club office (staff@msuvarsityclub.org) or me personally (ccronin@dtmgt.com).

Go Green!

Colin Cronin
Football '90-'94
President, MSU Varsity Alumni 'S' Club

2010 Varsity Alumni 'S' Club Golf Outing Recap (rainout)

The 2010 Golf Outing started out to be another tremendous success, then Mother Nature set in and chased us off the course and back inside. Now I know why weathermen have such a hard job here in Michigan. We tried delaying the start of the golf outing by 45 minutes to give us a good chance at letting the rain pass, or so the radar said. Then after 9 holes of golf in a torrential down-pour, with the rain actually switching between straight down and sideways, Forest Akers staff asked us to clear the course to protect the pristine Forest Akers West tournament course from unnecessary damage. Of course, as soon as we halted play, the sun came out and the afternoon turned beautiful as we had dinner, and announced our Major Award Winners and new Honorary Members.

Even though slightly soggy, or very wet in some cases, the Award Winners and new Honorary Members were very gracious in accepting their awards. Thanks to Mark Hollis for joining us in the rain, and at dinner making the formal announcement of the MSU Athletic Department Hall of Fame weekend in conjunction with the Varsity Alumni 'S' Club Reunion weekend. Congratulations again to our Award Winners: Ryan Miller winner of the Henry C. Bullough Service Award, Deborah Traxinger winner of the Nell Jackson Outstanding Alumna Award, Jim Cotter winner of the Jack Breslin Lifetime Achievement Award, Amo Bessone winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Retired Coaches, and Jill Witzenburg, Kris Smith, Tom Newton our new Honorary Members.

Please save the date on your calendar for the 2011 Golf Outing on Wednesday, June 1st, 2011. Hope to see you all there.

- *Colin Cronin*



Varsity Jacket Replacement Program Update

With the cooperation of the MSU Athletic Department and AD Mark Hollis, your Varsity 'S' Alumni Club has been able to make available replacement varsity jackets for MSU letterwinners, through the Holden-Reid clothing store in East Lansing. See the Club website for details and an order form. This program is for letterwinners only. If you place an order, please make the check out to "Holden-Reid" and mail it with the application form to the Club office (MSU Varsity 'S' Alumni Club, 242 Spartan Way, East Lansing, MI 48824).

Spano Fellowship Applications for 2011 Now Available

Applications for the 2011 Spano Graduate Fellowship are now available on the Club website (<http://www.msuvarsityclub.org/>). This will be the third year that the Varsity 'S' Alumni Club will be awarding the Spano Fellowship to a recent MSU graduate who is a member of the Club, to continue their education in an MSU graduate program. The 2009 Spano Fellowship was awarded to former MSU ice hockey player Kurt Kovisto to continue studies in engineering, and the 2010 Spano Fellowship went to former MSU gymnast Kelly Moffitt, who is continuing graduate work in kinesiology and sports administration. Full details about the Fellowship and eligibility, as well as the application form, are available on the Club website.

VARSITY ALUMNI 'S' CLUB 2010 GOLF OUTING HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual Varsity Alumni 'S' Club Golf Outing was held on Wednesday, June 2, with over 160 attending. The weather wasn't the best for golfing, but 34 foursomes braved the elements and took advantage of the opportunity to play on the Forrest Akers course. At the banquet following the golfing activities, the 2010 award winners and new honorary members were presented.



Jack Breslin Award: Jim Cotter - Baseball '77-'79
 Nell Jackson Award: Deb Traxinger - Basketball '79-'82; Softball '80
 Henry C. Bullough Award: Ryan Miller - Ice Hockey '00-'02
 Lifetime Coaches Award: Amo Bessone - Ice Hockey Coach '51- '79
 Honorary Member Inductees: Tom Newton, Kris Smith, Jill Witzenberg

During the Golf Outing activities, the Varsity 'S' Club presented the 2010 Award Winners and Honorary Members



2010 Jack Breslin Award
Jim Cotter



2010 Nell Jackson Award
Deb Traxinger



2010 Bullough Award
Brother Kevin fills in for Ryan Miller



2010 Lifetime Coaches Award
Amo Bessone

2010 Honorary Inductees



2010 Honorary
Tom Newton



2010 Honorary
Kris Smith



2010 Honorary
Jill Witzenberg



Former Club President Joey Spano, Asst. AD Shelly Applebaum, Rich Bader, AD Mark Hollis and 2008 Jackson Award winner Mary Jo Truesdale



2010 Spano Fellowship Winner
Kelly Moffitt with Joey Spano

Michigan State University Varsity Alumni 'S' Club Membership Benefit / Merchant Discount Program

The Varsity 'S' Club has initiated a program with several campus-area merchants to give club members a discount on purchases when you present your membership card. So if you live in the East Lansing area, or when you visit campus, please patronize these fine merchants who support MSU athletics. Listed below are the merchants participating in the program. *Discount amounts vary by merchant.* Promotions offered up to 20%.

Applebee's - 2284 Woodlake Dr, Okemos
Arby's - 1982 W Grand River Ave, Okemos
Bell's Greek Pizza - 1135 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing
Bravo! Cucina Italiana - Eastwood Town Center, Lansing
College Book Store - Hagadorn Shopping Center
Cosi - 301 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing
Dusty's Cellar - 1839 W Grand River Ave, Okemos
Emil's Italian Restaurant - 2012 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing
Forest Akers West Pro Shop - MSU Golf Courses
Grand Traverse Pie Company - 1403 E. Grand River, East Lansing
Grand Traverse Pie Company - 3536 Meridian Crossing Drive, Okemos
Gilbert and Blake's Steak and Seafood - 3554 Okemos Road, Okemos
Harpers - 131 Albert Ave, East Lansing
Holden & Reid Clothiers - Frandor Shopping Center
Kellogg Hotel - State Room Restaurant - MSU Campus
Kellogg Hotel - Gift Shop - MSU Campus
Michael's (Framing department) - Frandor Shopping Center
Panera Bread - Frandor Shopping Center
Panera Bread - 4738 Central Park Dr, Okemos
Playmakers - 2299 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos
Spartan Book Store - International Center- MSU Campus
Student Book Store - 421 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing
Spartan Hall of Fame Café - 1601 W. Lake Lansing Rd, East Lansing
Trippers - Frandor Shopping Center
Velocipede Peddler - 2758 Grand River, East Lansing

Additional merchants will be added as the program develops. If you need additional information about the program contact the Varsity 'S' Club office at 517-355-8523, or the committee members listed below:

Ron Berby, Club Member, 517-290-8043
Marilyn Bria, Receptionist, 517-355-8523
Eldon VanSpybrook, Past President, 248-895-0015

'WHERE ARE THEY NOW?'

1950s

Mike Vorkapich, Baseball 1950-52 - Mike is a retired high school teacher in Leamington, Ontario, and now stays active playing lob-ball and bowling, and chasing after grand-kids.

1960s

Stan Gordon (Tarshis), Gymnastics 1957-60 - Stan is married with two children, lives in Encino, CA, and has been a private investigator for 41 years.

Bob Jenkins, Baseball Mgr. 1962-65 - After working for the St. Petersburg (FL) Times for nearly 40 years, Bob is now staying active as a free-lance travel writer, and looks forward to getting back to visit "the prettiest campus in America".

1970s

Karen Dedow-Armstrong, Swimming 1976-77 - Karen lives in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia and works for Northrup Grumman as a buyer for ma-

terials to build aircraft carriers and submarines.

Nance (Lyons) Hall, Field Hockey 1976-78, Softball 1976-79 - Nance resides in CT and is employed by Perkin-Elmer as Vice President and General Manager, Automation and Detection Solutions.

Duane Vernon, Honorary - 1977 - Duane is works in marketing and public relations for Credit Bureau Collection Services in DeWitt, and does pre-game radio shows for both football and men's basketball for WJIM in Lansing.

1980s

Cindy Coppola, Field Hockey 1982-86 Cindy lives in Alexandria, VA, and is a Supervisory Special Agent with the FBI.

Monte Falcoff, Fencing 1982-86 - Monte is a patent attorney in Troy, MI, and an adjunct professor in MSU's College of Law, as well as the chair of the AES Alumni Board for the MSU Col-

lege of Engineering. He has a son and daughter who compete in swimming.

1990s

Heather (Cooper) Kim, Gymnastics 1991-95 - Heather is a sales manager for the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau, has been married to 10 years and has two children.

Kristin Lester, Soccer 1993-96 - Kristin lives in Chicago where she is the director of financial reporting for Career-builders.com.

Jim Stros, Baseball 1987-90 - After playing pro ball for three years, Jim became an umpire for twenty years, and now serves as National Director of the National Umpires Association in Kennesaw, GA.

2000s

Margaret Giddens, Field Hockey 2002-05 - Margaret is a personal trainer in Wilmington, DE, and also works as a field hockey official at Div. I collegiate and international competitions.

Notice to Club Membership

A formal *meeting of the Club membership* has been scheduled by the Board of Directors to take place during the Club's Annual Reunion Weekend at the time of the Pre-Game Brunch on Saturday, October 2. *The purpose of this meeting is to review and request membership approval of a new Club constitution and operating procedures.*

The current Club constitution is nearly 40 years old, and the most recent amendments to update it are nearly 20 years old. Much of the old constitution is out of date and does not correspond with the current activities of the Club or the way the Club currently operates. Earlier this year the Board of Directors appointed a small committee to review the constitution and suggest changes to bring it into line with current conditions. After finding that a very large number of changes would be necessary, the committee decided to start from scratch and write a new constitution and an associated set of operating procedures for the Club. The basic purposes and structure of the Club from the old constitution have been retained, and they have been expanded to encompass the Club's current structure and operations.

After reviewing and discussing the proposed new constitution and operating procedures at meetings over the summer, the Board of Directors has unanimously voted to submit the documents to the membership for approval. Adoption of the new constitution and operating procedures must be approved by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting members of the Club present at an annual meeting. This serves as notice to the membership of that annual meeting.

Please review the draft of the new constitution and operating procedures at the Club's website (<http://www.varsityclub.org/>). There will be a link to the documents on the front page of the website. *Please come to the Reunion Weekend brunch in Jenison Fieldhouse on Saturday, October 2, prepared to discuss and vote upon approval of the new constitution.* Approval of these documents by the membership will provide the Club with a solid foundation for its operations now and in the future.



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Varsity Alumni 'S' Club
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East Lansing, MI 48824

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Due to the high costs of printing and postage, we ask that you help us by keeping your contact information current. **Also, please inform us of any e-mail address changes.** We don't want you to miss out on any of our events.

SAVE THE DATES

VARSITY ALUMNI 'S' CLUB REUNION WEEKEND

It all takes place during the weekend of
MSU vs WISCONSIN FOOTBALL
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2010

Check the Club website for details

**2011 VARSITY ALUMNI 'S' CLUB
GOLF OUTING**
Wednesday, June 1, 2011