FEAST IN THE FIELD

AN EVENING TO BENEFIT THE MSU STUDENT ORGANIC FARM

SUNDAY
OCT. 8TH | 2017
Social responsibility is one of our core divisional values. It is also a core value of Michigan State. Simply stated, social responsibility is about creating a better world for our students, our team members, our university and our broader community, as well as the state and the world.

As Spartans, we are inspired to make a difference in the world. We don’t necessarily even consciously think about it. We simply act.

I am always heartened by the random acts of kindness performed by our team members. Whether helping guests find their way to their destinations or contributing hours toward food drives or personal funds toward nonprofit activities to help the less fortunate, they repeatedly offer their time and resources for the betterment of society.

As a division, we have lived this value through our sustainability efforts to reduce the waste stream and our environmental footprint. We have supported the local agriculture community by being intentional in our food purchasing decisions. We (team members and students) have donated countless hours of community service.

We do this because we are Spartans. We live our land grant heritage every day. MSU was founded to improve the lives of the citizens of Michigan and the world. Social responsibility is in our DNA.

I am particularly proud to be a part of this division because our team members demonstrate care and commitment in making this a better place every day. Thank you for your Spartan Will.

Vennie Gore
Vice President, Auxiliary Enterprises
The 1855 Place Development project aims to enhance the student experience and reflect the university’s culture of high performance. The project, located in the heart of the MSU campus, will revitalize the area with new retail, office, and student-focused spaces. The project includes the following:

- Apartments for single students and student families
- Retail space including Sparty’s Market, Starbucks, Spartan Spirit Shop, and Spartan Ticket Office
- Student resources, including fitness room, bookable community space, Student Employment Office, Housing Assignments Office, community gardens, outdoor play space, and more
- Office space for RHS and Intercollegiate Athletics administrators
- Event parking

Any questions about 1855 Place can be directed to redevelopment@rhs.msu.edu

Keep up with the latest news on 1855 PLACE at future.rhs.msu.edu
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INTRODUCING OUR TEAM MEMBERS
MSU offers a variety of food services to students and team members as well as the greater Lansing community, such as residential dining halls, MSU Bakers, Sparty’s retail locations, the Eat at State on-the-go food truck, The State Room Restaurant and Kellogg Catering. With services and practices focused on food sustainability measures, RHS is ready to serve you and ensure you’ll be Spartan Green!

1 vendor partnerships
With more than 150 local and 300 regional vendor partnerships, Culinary Services (CS) supports local businesses and individuals. Sourcing close to East Lansing also reduces the environmental impact produced by transportation. Some of CS’ local partners include Hudsonville Ice Cream, Glazed and Confused, Woody’s Oasis, Paramount Coffee, Country Fresh, Breadsith of Okemos and the MSU Dairy Store. Yum!

2 campus grown ingredients
Chefs from CS and Spartan Hospitality Group collaborate with the MSU Student Organic Farm (SOF) to bring campus-grown ingredients right to guests. In addition, the Bailey GREENhouse and Urban Farm, an unheated solar greenhouse located by Bailey Hall, supplies delicious farm herbs to various eateries on campus.

3 academic partnerships
Through academic partnerships, CS is able to bring products grown and raised right on campus to students and other guests. Collaborating with the Department of Animal Science Swine Teaching and Research Center affords CS the opportunity to bring MSU pork to menus, and MSU beef is often served through the division’s connection with the SOF.

4 Michigan products
In addition to tying local ingredients to menu planning, RHS incorporates dining venues that are dedicated to showcasing what the great state of Michigan has to offer in the agricultural arena. For example, the Great Lakes Plate venue in South Pointe at Case Hall serves entrées made with ingredients from Michigan and the Midwest, including fresh fish, roasted turkey and smoked brisket.

5 anaerobic digester
RHS Sustainability partners with academic units on campus to support the university’s Energy Transition Plan by providing food waste to the South Campus Anaerobic Digester. The digester converts food and farm waste to energy that is used on campus.
Diners can do their part to keep MSU sustainable and reduce food waste, too! Simple steps such as exploring the entire menu before filling your plate, taking smaller portions and going back for seconds, and going trayless in halls not designed to be trayless reduce unnecessary waste. MSU currently has three trayless halls, which supports energy and water conservation.

CS partners with the Greater Lansing Food Bank and MSU Student Food Bank to donate items throughout the year. From 2012–16, the average per-patron waste dropped from 4.03 to 3.36 ounces. While that may not seem significant on first reading, a 0.65 ounce per-patron drop amounts to a daily savings of 1,219 pounds of food waste.

Education and awareness play a large role in reaching zero waste and closing the food loop. The annual Clean Plates at State initiative and recurring food waste audit help put environmental sustainability into perspective for campus diners.

From 2012–16, the average per-patron waste dropped from 4.03 to 3.36 ounces. While that may not seem significant on first reading, a 0.65 ounce per-patron drop amounts to a daily savings of 1,219 pounds of food waste.

Special events help inform guests of RHS’ sustainable practices. In 2016, CS hosted dinner events to honor local and regional partners as well as on-campus partners. The Midwest Best – Celebrating Local dinner highlighted Michigan-made products and expanded guests’ knowledge of local growing seasons and sourcing opportunities. The Taste of MSU featured seasonal produce, unique recipes from the Eat at State ON-THE-GO Food Truck, natural cheeses from the MSU Dairy Store and protein dishes that reinforce the MSU Beef and Pork academic partnerships.
THERE IS NO “I” IN CONFERENCES
Collaboration is key when preparing for conference season at Michigan State University. With more than 200 conferences booked throughout the summer, teams across the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services come together to collaborate with campus and local partners in order to accommodate each individual event.

The Planning and Projects Office (PPO), Culinary Services (CS), Residence Education and Housing Services (REHS), Information Services (IS) and Spartan Hospitality Group (SHG) all have a hand in making summer conferences run smoothly. In addition to internal coordination, the division also works with outside groups, such as MSU Police, Infrastructure Planning and Facilities (IPF), local area transportation, such as Indian Trails, local businesses, hotels, MSU IT, and academic partners.

“Personally, it gives me a chance to do something different,” says IS Strategic Integration Manager Denise Ngubeni. “Planning conferences isn’t a request I get normally throughout the year, so I get to contact people outside the division I’m not used to. It’s kind of working a little differently. I imagine for others it’s like that, too.”

During the summer months, team members throughout RHS get the chance to push themselves beyond their day-to-day responsibilities while being invested in delivering an outstanding Spartan experience to conference guests.

When a conference is held at MSU, the campus sustainability department is armed with plans to keep the campus Spartan Green. Events can make use of the Spartan Green Event Certification program to stay eco-friendly, employing tactics such as choosing local food sourcing, using silverware instead of plastic, picking places close to bus stops and/or biking and walking paths, and using public recycling bins. When groups act green, they’re rewarded with a certification and seal as well as a promotion on MSU’s social channels.

In addition to basic green practices, events can connect with MSU Recycling to use food composting, effectively becoming the embodiment of Spartan Green.

**INFORMATION SERVICES (IS):** This summer, 54 laptops were loaned to residence halls specifically for conferences. For everyday conferences, the software team uses a software called Kinetic, which maintains details of tech needs for the conferences. IS performs maintenance and upgrades on this software year-round to make sure it’s up and running.

IS takes care of everything from giving guests access to Wi-Fi and wired networks, to making printers and rental equipment available to them. The department also assists in specialized needs, including copiers, printers and special access. For the many sports camps throughout the summer, IS has developed a digital check-in to aid in securing safety information required for athletic activities.

The IS Creative Services team, which specializes in marketing and communications solutions, also collaborates with conferences by opening and updating service requests throughout the duration of the summer. This past summer, IS Creative Services received more than 70 service requests for the Odyssey of the Mind conference alone.
CULINARY SERVICES (CS): Dining halls are open for conferences of 200 or more attendees, and all summer conference attendees, with the exception of those staying in Owen Hall, are required under contract to have meals in the dining halls. These meals are assigned to a conference card upon check in. Approximately 10,000 to 12,000 meal tickets are issued each summer, and student employees throughout the division are shared with CS to ensure enough staff members are available to operate the dining halls when conferences are in session. In return, CS shares their full-time staff with REHS to help clean the rooms when conferences are not in session.

This summer, the incoming student Academic Orientation Program attendees dined at Case Hall, while Holden and Wilson Halls were designated sports camps dining facilities, Shaw Hall fed youth groups, The Edge at Akers Hall fed a variety of different conferences housed there, Akers Hall and Holmes Hall fed Grandparents University and 4H, and Brody Square and The Gallery were open to the public.

RHS NEIGHBORHOODS: When conference attendees arrive at MSU, they first have a representative attend an intake meeting where all the information about their group is entered into Kinetics. If the conference runs longer than a week, the representative attends weekly meetings to cover what happened during that week. After which, MSU staff members create a calendar for the week for all staff. After the initial meeting, attendees have cards programed for the meals of choice and then hosts are given daily lists to know how many attendees are eating in the respective dining hall.

If there are any special food concerns, they are addressed with an MSU staff member who then follows up with RHS’ registered dietitian who works with the chefs to make sure the attendee gets a safe and tasty meal.

With close to 5,000 conference attendees staying in East Neighborhood over the summer, the staff faced a busy season. From the RHS Summer Picnic to assisting with the Lansing Farmer’s Market — this staff likes to put its nose to the ground. East also puts a focus on sustainability, working with the Student Organic Farm to come up with ways MSU can stay Spartan Green.

Just as South Neighborhood hosts all the collegiate athletes who stay on campus during the school year, it also hosts athletes in the summer, though a bit younger. South is the Rome of Michigan State, supporting various sports camps as well as the Victory Games.

The Victory Games, hosted by the Michigan Disability Sports Alliance, is a nonprofit dedicated to giving athletes with physical disabilities the chance to compete in recreational sports. These athletes move into South where they are treated to opening and closing ceremonies, food, and various other treats.

Serving guests with the Spartan spirit, South Neighborhood readily accommodates everyone. From packing specialized box lunches so hockey players don’t have to get out of their gear to providing guests with proper seating for their comfort, South does it all.

RHS partners with MSU Athletics to host summer sports camps. With various requests from conference organizers, MSU is able to showcase...
various arms such as Residence Education, Linen Services, Facilities and Culinary Services to entertain guests.

In addition to summer camps, South also hosts MSU’s Academic Orientation Program (AOP). This program is required for all incoming freshmen and transfer students. Freshmen are required to stay overnight at MSU, during which REHS and Culinary Services provide AOP attendees with an authentic daily Spartan experience.

**SPARTAN HOSPITALITY GROUP (SHG):** Parents are also on campus in the summer for the Parent Orientation Program (POP). Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center is the host site for every POP. Many of the orientation guests stay at the hotel during this time as well. The Breslin Student Events Center is used for sports camps and shows for specific conferences, which differ every year. Additionally, Kellogg Catering provided box lunches throughout the four-day First Tee Conference at Forest Akers Golf Courses.

**CONCESSIONS:** In addition to dining halls, conferences have the option to work with the division’s concessions stands. For Odyssey of the Mind’s opening and closing ceremonies and competitions, MSU Concessions opened B&M Fun Foods. The team also set up a water stand at the Breslin Center and an after party at Cherry Lane Field that offered a variety of tasty treats.

**RESIDENCE EDUCATION AND HOUSING SERVICES (REHS):** Residence Education and Housing Services’ employees deal with room assignments, room keys, access cards and more. Conferences range from one night to up to two and a half months with extended-stay groups, which means that attendees need a place to sleep. Rooms in East Neighborhood, South Neighborhood, McDonel, Shaw, Mason, Abbot, Snyder, Phillips and four halls in West Circle are prepared for overnighters. REHS housed more than 22,000 youth participants just this past summer and had nine extended-stay groups that stayed longer than 28 days. In order to prepare the turnover of rooms, REHS must have a full hand of team members at all times. Sometimes, staff has as little as a few hours to turn over rooms.

_Feh Ndifontah, Graduate Student Public Health Major, Student HR Assistant_

“It’s a fun experience working over the summer because we get to make the lunch boxes for the summer conference youth sports camps and have the opportunity to meet different kids from all over the nation who participate in basketball, football, soccer and volleyball camps.”
This summer, RHS Facilities had only eight days after spring semester move out to prepare for the mega conference, Odyssey of the Mind, where 7,500 participants visited MSU. In order to prepare the rooms, facilities first needs to go through a process called “bag and tag,” where team members check each room after residents have moved out to make sure that residents did not leave any personal belongings behind. After bag and tag, cleaning crews clean the rooms, bathroom crews clean the bathrooms, furniture crews lower the beds and paint crews touch up any spots on the walls that need to be fixed. They also make sure attendees have linen packs and check for any issues that may arise during attendees’ stays to take care of them in a timely manner.

**A BUSY SUMMER**

RHS’ goal is to give conference attendees the experience of seeing what Michigan State has to offer. It’s an opportunity to plant a seed in someone who has not yet had exposure to MSU’s campus or experienced what it means to be a Spartan.

“Facilities’ role in summer conferences is to give our guests a taste of what it is like to live on MSU’s campus and what it is like to be a Spartan,” explains Facilities Departmental Aide Hannah Somsel. “Since a lot of our conferences have younger participants, our hope is that they enjoyed staying on campus so much that they will want to come to MSU after they graduate high school.”

“We actually did have a student who was here on a conference and they ended up attending MSU and living in Holmes Hall, so that was pretty cool to be able to have some sort of impact on someone,” says Facilities Departmental Aide Maria Knupfer. “Visitors during conferences will ask us how we like MSU, and we tell them the truth: It’s great to be a Spartan.”

**CONFERENCES BY THE NUMBERS**

- In Holmes Hall, there are 660 suite-style rooms.
- In Hubbard Hall, 624 suite-style rooms.
- In Akers Hall, 326 quad-style rooms.
- For the Odyssey of the Mind, there were 8,400 people who stayed on campus and 7,000 people who stayed off campus during the conference.
- Grandparents University had approximately 2,400 people stay in East Neighborhood.
- 4H had approximately 1,200 people housed on campus.
Hannah Somsel, Graduated Spanish Major, Facilities Departmental Aide

“My favorite thing is all the relationships I’ve formed and all the people I’ve met, like my friend Maria. You meet people of all walks of life, and you get to learn from their experiences – especially from summer conferences. I met people from China and Poland who I would’ve never met before.”
With more than 30,000 applicants a year, Michigan State University is a premier dream for young people across all 50 states and 133 various countries. That dream intensifies when these budding college students tour MSU’s 5,200-acre campus with a trained Residence Education and Housing Services (REHS) tour guide.

“Our goal is to get them here, keep them here and weave them into the Spartan experience for student success,” said Karen Corley, senior associate director of REHS.

MSU is one of the few innovative schools to combine its tour program with its admissions and housing teams. In the past, REHS would handle residence hall tours while MSU’s Student Alumni would handle those focused on the campus overall. When Student Alumni came to REHS to let them know that they would no longer handle tours, Admissions and REHS both realized they would need to revamp the system. “We came together and came up with a system that combines both of our cultures that would be set out in phases,” said Corley.

The meetings resulted in the following system: costs are currently split 70-30 between REHS and Admissions, REHS would handle tours for Academic Orientation, Be a Spartan, Green and White Days, Field Trips/Outreach Tours, fall and spring Prospect and Transfer as well as athlete tours. Admissions would handle Summer Programs and share responsibility for Be a Spartan, Green and White Days, and transfer student tours.

Training of the 110 tour guides would be completed by both REHS and Admissions utilizing Desire 2 Learn, in which guides learn talking points, brand messaging and trails to take guests on. Guides now cross-train with both Admissions and REHS to get a complete education on the process.

“Now, after the unavoidable growing pains that everyone goes through, it’s just a normal work environment. It feels like we are co-workers — one big staff,” says MSU Student Ambassador Meredith Chesney.
Student ambassadors like Chesney and tour guides learn a wealth of life skills that will help them further future careers. “Before I worked as a student ambassador, I was a little nervous to talk in front of big crowds. Now, I could talk in front of 700 people because I do that every week,” said Chesney.

While on tours, Chesney offers a variety of need-to-know facts while also handling parent and potential student questions. The questions span from maintenance details to personal questions about Chesney’s personal experience at MSU.

Alongside public speaking skills, team members get a chance to develop and display their leadership, charisma, humor, memory and passion. “Sometimes when I hang out with my friends, they have to tell me to turn off the MSU fact machine in my head,” said Chesney.

In addition to the standard tours MSU provides, the university also scouts out future Spartans early — fourth to eighth graders to be specific. A new program, coordinated by REHS, is a scavenger-hunt-like tour through MSU campus. This next generation is being offered the chance to explore Michigan State through answering clues that lead them to MSU artifacts and historical sites.

With the help of a trained aide, they are also taught facts about the university and all the wondrous things about it. From being taught about the university’s top 10 programs to getting to feed the ducks on the Red Cedar, this scavenger hunt provides an interactive experience that forges future Spartans.

With the help of people like Chesney and Corley, MSU has a constant stream of incoming freshman — roughly 10,000 every year. Looking toward the future, Corley is making sure MSU keeps up with the trends.

“We are trying to be more accommodating to our many international students by looking into guides who speak Spanish, Chinese and some Indian languages to give prospective international students a more personal experience.”

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**MSU TOURS STAFF**

**Tour guide:** Student staff hired to give residence hall and campus tours.

**Neighborhood host:** Outreach student supervisors trained to guide and schedule tours and supervise tour guides.

**Ambassadors:** Office of Admissions students assigned to special projects such as social media, data entry and tele-counseling who are also trained to give tours during spring yield programs.
Spartan Linen Shows Long-term Dedication to Helping Migrant Student Workers Thrive
Demonstrating a commitment to social responsibility means not only caring about what defines the world’s future, but also investing in tomorrow’s leaders. With more than 50,000 of them at Michigan State University, the opportunities to make a lasting impression are endless.

Every day, team members from the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services (RHS) go above and beyond to enhance the student experience and complement classroom learning. And for a unique group of undergraduates on campus, this means more than you may know.

Students with migrant or seasonal farm work backgrounds are often immersed in hard labor at a young age. They face financial hardships and hours of stressful work before they even reach their teenage years. For more than 10 years, the Spartan Linen Services (SLS) team has built a lasting partnership with the MSU College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) to motivate these students, provide them with an opportunity to earn a paycheck and, most importantly, help deliver a well-rounded experience.

Mike Hull, recently retired SLS manager, received a Distinguished Service Award from CAMP in April 2017 to recognize the efforts of his team. Through a sustained connection, he helped establish the collaboration with CAMP shortly after the program launched, and from there, the partnership thrived.

The SLS team continues to demonstrate the importance of honing people skills and encourages a realization within these distinctive students that working in their facility is more than just a job.

ADAPTING TO MSU

Each year, nearly 70 first-year CAMP students with migrant or seasonal farm work backgrounds come to MSU, pursuing the unique opportunity to begin an undergraduate program.

Established in 2000 and funded by the Michigan Department of Education, the CAMP Scholars Initiative provides academic, social and financial support to enable these students to complete their first year of college. They reside in Holden Hall near the CAMP office during their first year and have convenient access to staff and resources, helping them adapt to the different culture and environment.

“We operate an intrusive program to keep tabs on how these students are transitioning to the institution,” says Elias Lopez, associate director of CAMP. “This mobile population is constantly on the go, so they’re not used to starting school when a semester starts and ending when a semester ends. Some of them attend four or five different high schools in a year. The risk level of them not being successful when they come to MSU is already very high.”

That’s where the one-on-one attention and intrusiveness becomes crucial to keeping them on track. From the time they arrive at MSU, CAMP staff helps these students see opportunities to undertake new things, make connections, and learn about new cultures and themselves, all while broadening their knowledge and view of the world.

CAMP operates with certain requirements for scholars, too. For example, first-year students who hold a part-time employment like the positions offered by SLS cannot work more than 15 hours per week. Additionally, they are required to study abroad during their spring semester. Through the International Engagement in Mexico program offered by the Office of Study Abroad, students are able to explore and engage with the local culture, visit historic sites, connect with community agencies and people, and participate in special events.

These requirements help establish a sense of responsibility among CAMP students, breaking down barriers and increasing the potential for them to reach their goals. Partnerships are also held in high regard by program team members because they provide extra support. Connections across the university allow CAMP students to benefit from exposure to the unfamiliar.

FOSTERING A SHARED PASSION

Rudy Raul Ramos, the former associate director of CAMP, established a relationship with Hull at the start of their careers. While working in the criminal justice field, both had developed an interest in helping students change their lives for the better.

Over the years, their shared passion led to many collaborations, including service on the board of directors for Highfields, an organization that provides opportunities for children, youth and families to become more responsible for their own lives and strengthen their relationships.

When their career paths led them to MSU, another chance to make an impact surfaced. Ramos proposed the idea of Hull hiring some of the CAMP students to work at the Linen Services Building on campus.

“Rudy and I have always been passionate about working closely with the youth,” Hull says. “Our facility allows us to expose them to a different type of work that they’re not accustomed to.”

Students enrolled in the program are drawn to earning what they receive. The average income for a family of five in this segment of the population is $10,000 annually, so giving them the option to hold a job is important to addressing their financial need while on campus.

When they come to SLS, they have the experience of not only
Shawn Deverell, Junior, Social Relations and Policy Major, Spartan Spirit Shop at Kellogg Center

“Since starting working here, I have gained more experience working with different groups of people and have learned to work in a more diverse setting.”

ENCOUNTERING UNIQUE CHALLENGES
As with any work environment and collaboration, there have been obstacles. Occasionally, CAMP students value labor so highly that they put it before academics. They’re concerned about what’s happening at home, and whether food is on the table and bills are getting paid. Sometimes they’re sending money home before they even take care of personal needs at MSU.

“One of the beautiful things about our relationship with Mike and SLS is they understand that CAMP enrollees are students,” Lopez says. “They put an emphasis on training to ensure they’re instilling valuable skills that will translate well to other careers. We work together very closely, and if they become aware of a problem students are facing, they let us know right away and vice versa. They become like a secondary support system for our students.”

Positive experiences become important to retention. CAMP is funded to recruit only first-year college students, recognizing that getting them involved in this opportunity early on increases the chances that they’ll stay on campus.

The most important transition is when students head into their first summer after freshman year.

“Every time they go home, we have about a 60 percent chance of losing them,” Lopez says. “And, often times, we do. When departments on campus like SLS provide summer jobs, they get to stay, make some money and continue taking classes in a positive environment. It can really allow them to remain on the right path.”

“Really what it becomes is a mentorship. It goes back to saying that it’s not just a job. I wish our students were placed in those types of environments everywhere they work."

— Elias Lopez
The connection between CAMP and SLS has become so strong that the number of newcomers grows organically. Many CAMP students, like Gonzalez, remain SLS team members throughout their undergraduate years, and some have even recruited siblings who come to study at MSU.

“It’s a very family-oriented workplace,” says Alexis Moore, a senior majoring in human development and family studies. “It’s almost like a second family when you’re working at Linen Services.”

“Sheila Hull, Facilities Departmental Aide 3

“My favorite thing about working in the summer is that I have a family here in the office. I also get to see all the conferences and meet different parents and students to get them excited about coming to Michigan State.”

Maria Knupfer, Graduated Media and Information Major, Facilities Departmental Aide 4

“It’s a very family-oriented workplace. It’s almost like a second family when you’re working at Linen Services.”

— Alexis Moore

PAYING IT FORWARD

Many students who have gone through the program have seen great success, and overall, CAMP sees a 74 percent graduation rate among enrollees. Lopez is a CAMP graduate himself, serving as a member of the initial cohort in 2001.

Aleida Martinez went through the same class and now serves as associate director of the National Migrant Scholars Internship Initiative for MSU Migrant Student Services. “We made it, and now we’re lucky enough to serve in roles where we can give back,” said Martinez.

Beyond their time working in Linen Services, students can rely on the SLS team to serve as a lasting resource. Lopez is close friends with a Ph.D. student who has remained in contact with Hull, after having worked at SLS for several years.

“Really, what it becomes is a mentorship,” Lopez says. “It goes back to saying that it’s not just a job. I wish our students were placed in those types of environments everywhere they work.”

Some CAMP students are fortunate to remain on campus and transition to full-time roles. Jesus Gonzalez, who worked at SLS for six years, graduated from MSU with a Landscape Architecture degree. He now serves as a groundskeeper for Infrastructure Planning and Facilities.
MEET RHS
INTRODUCING OUR TEAM MEMBERS

MEET DESTINEE GUNTER
BRODY SQUARE HR COORDINATOR, CULINARY SERVICES

Out of her many passions in life, she says helping people is the one she holds dearest to her heart. Luckily for Destinee Gunter, her job as Brody Square’s HR coordinator allows her to do what she loves.

An alumna of Michigan State with a degree in interdisciplinary studies focused on community governance and a cognition in history, Destinee has been working for MSU since 2011, starting as a general kitchen worker, later becoming a host/receptionist and then HR student assistant before settling in to her current role.

In that role, Destinee does a multitude of things — hiring, payroll, and disciplinary as well as being the shoulder and anchor for her employees. She credits her team for her success at Brody Square, saying she, “hands down, could not do all of this without them.”

Outside of her day-to-day work, Destinee loves to learn new stories, which she says is what makes her job great. “Brody is a great group of diverse people, and getting to learn from them has made for some of my favorite moments.”

MEET DIANE SELKE
HEAD TENNIS PROFESSIONAL, MSU TENNIS CENTER, SHG

Diane Selke, the MSU Tennis Center’s head tennis professional has been serving up forehanded volleys at Michigan State since 1979. With nearly 40 years of coaching experience at commercial clubs in Denver, she is back at her alma mater to train a whole new generation of players and show them what it takes to play like a Spartan.

Diane’s credentials speak for themselves. As a student at MSU, she became a Big Ten singles and doubles champion and went on to earn MSU’s Doctor Nell Jackson Lifetime Achievement Award. She holds a Master Professional certification from the United States Professional Tennis Association (UAPTA), their highest category, and also serves on UAPTA’s board of directors.

“My greatest passion in life is seeing someone develop from a beginner to an advanced player. If someone learns the great game of tennis, they can play for a lifetime.”

Diane earned a Bachelor of Science in physical education at MSU and uses these skills to create innovative lesson plans for all types of players.

“Anyone who comes to my lessons will have fun, get a workout and learn at least one thing.”

Diane is happy to be back home in Spartan Country, which she cites as “the best place to work.”
MEET JAMIE RAMOS
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, REHS

“Unpredictable, but loving it” is the way Jamie Ramos sums up her job as executive assistant to both Executive Director of Residence Education and Housing Services (REHS) Dr. Ray Gasser and Senior Associate Director of REHS Karen Corley.

Jamie’s day-to-day responsibilities differ, ranging from being a directional aide at conferences to serving as a liaison with directors and administrators on budget, personnel and operational matters. While managing these varying tasks within an air-tight schedule would be a lot for any one person, Jamie credits the working dynamics of her team for its success. “It is all hands on deck — everyone chips in working toward our common goal, and I love that.”

Jamie has been a part of the Spartan family for 20 years, spending time at MSU as an undergrad before serving as an executive secretary and research administrator. “My family and I bleed green,” she says.

Throughout those years on campus, Jamie has found many things to love, but she especially enjoys the vast community and opportunities MSU has provided her. At the end of the day, Jamie embraces a mantra of “doing everything with purpose and a helping hand,” whether it’s helping a student with a crisis or spending time with her husband and children, she is always ready to be there for those who need her.

MEET SAHIL SAINI
STUDENT TECH ASSISTANT, INFORMATION SERVICES

When you open the cover of a computer you can see all the intricate cogs that work to make the computer function. When you talk to Sahil Saini, you can see all the intricate pieces of his personality that make him Sahil.

From his dual degree in computer science and physiology, to his volunteer experience with the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign, Sahil truly does it all. When asked how he got started in tech, he explained it’s a “family affair” — his father is the current Assistant Director of IT at MSU, and both his brother and cousin graduated from MSU with a computer science degree.

Though a majority of his work is singular, Sahil says he couldn’t do it without his team.

“The interactions with my coworkers are my favorite part. I was lucky to have a mentor here for a few months who was instrumental in what I do here.”

After graduation Sahil plans to dream big — he would like to work on Microsoft’s artificial intelligence entity. Fortunately for Sahil, Michigan State is providing him with the skills to do so.
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NEW URBAN MARKET ON MSU’S CAMPUS

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Where food is our common ground

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CORNER OF HARRISON AND KALAMAZOO