

TOWN & GOWN

Announcing the new

Town & Gown

discussion series for seniors in the Greater Lansing area
to connect and engage with MSU faculty and one another

The Senior Ambassador Program, an initiative created by Prime Time, MSU's AgeAlive and the Social Science Scholars Program, is launching the Town and Gown series to provide Greater Lansing area seniors with opportunities for social connection and engagement in meaningful activities.

The series involves weekly discussions via Zoom led by MSU faculty who will talk about their cutting-edge research on a wide variety of fascinating and accessible topics – from history and geography to law and psychology – and answer

questions from participants. **Participation is free, but each session will be limited to 30 participants** so that everyone has a chance to ask questions if they wish.

To register for one or more of these sessions, please visit the AgeAlive website (www.agealive.org) and complete the registration form. For more information, please email agealive.sap@msu.edu. If you're among the first 30 community members to email, we'll send you a Zoom link for the session. If not, we'll put you on a waiting list and contact you in the event of a cancellation.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Oct. 30, 2020**

Bill Chopik

Dept. of Psychology

Dating in the Modern Age

Professor Bill Chopik focuses on the factors, ranging from social pressures to hormones, which influence how we connect with another. Dr. Chopik is the recipient of the 2020 AgeAlive award for aging-related research. Chopnik has advanced degrees in personality and social contexts from U of M.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Nov. 6, 2020**

Kelly Klump

Dept. of Psychology

Why Don't Women Eat and Drink like Men?

Professor Kelly Klump researches the role of hormones in the onset of eating disorders and is the co-director of the Michigan State University Twin Registry. Klump received her Ph.D and M.A. degrees in clinical psychology from the University of Minnesota.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Nov. 13, 2020**

Brian Kalt

MSU College of Law

Presidential Disability: How Does the Constitution Handle It (Or Not)?

Professor Brian Kalt researches presidential impeachment and electoral recounts. His most recent book is "Constitutional Cliffhangers: A Legal Guide for Presidents and Their Enemies." Kalt received his J.D. from Yale Law School.

Meet the students helping to make this happen



Wisdom Henry is a junior at MSU double majoring in Urban and Regional Planning and Pre-Law with a minor in Cities. She is passionate about housing equality for marginalized groups in major cities. After graduation Wisdom plans to obtain her master's degree in Urban Planning and attend law school.



Tyler Hoguet is a junior at MSU studying Political Science with minors in Public Policy, International Development, and Fisheries and Wildlife. After graduation Tyler plans on either attending law school or pursuing a career in environmental advocacy.

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**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Nov. 20, 2020**

Siddharth Chandra

Dept. of Economics & James Madison College

Lessons from the 1918 Influenza Pandemic in U.S. & Asia Research

Professor Siddharth Chandra received an A.M. in economics from the University of Chicago and his Ph.D. in economics from Cornell University. Chandra's research interests include behavior and policy relating to addictive substances, the causes of genocide, and the history of disease.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Dec. 4, 2020**

Nwando Achebe

Dept. of History

Readings from Female Monarchs and Merchant Queens in Africa

Professor Nwando Achebe received her Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2000. She is an award-winning author, teacher, and historian at MSU. Achebe's most recent book is "Female Monarchs and Merchant Queens in Africa." She has also appeared in and consulted on documentaries for the History Channel and A&E Network.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Dec. 18, 2020**

Jason Moser

Dept. of Psychology

Can We Make Managing Stress and Anxiety More Manageable? Insights from Psychological Science and Neuroscience

Professor Jason Moser received his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware in 2009. He is now an associate professor of Psychology and runs the Clinical Psychophysiology Lab. Moser's research seeks to uncover how differently the brain works in those suffering from anxiety.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Nov. 27, 2020**

John Waller

Dept. of History

The World's Strangest Event? The Bizarre Dancing Plague of Strasburg, AD 1518

Professor John Waller received degrees in history from the universities of Oxford and London and is the director of MSU's Social Science Scholars Program. He is the author of books on the nature of scientific discovery, the history of medicine, the history of child labor, episodes of mass psychogenic illness, and the history of genetics and ideas about race.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Dec. 11, 2020**

Alan F. Arbogast

Dept. of Geography, Chair

The Geography and Evolution of Michigan's Coastal Sand Dunes

Professor Alan F. Arbogast obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in 1995. A physical geographer, Arbogast specializes in the formation of American landscapes, including the Great Plains and the dunes of the Great Lake region. His textbook, "Discovering Physical Geography," is used at over 60 colleges and universities around the country.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Jan. 8, 2021**

Betsy Sneller

Dept. of Linguistics

Michigan COVID Diaries: Documenting Language Change During a Pandemic

Professor Betsy Sneller received her Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania and is the co-director of the MSU Sociolinguistics Lab. She works on language change in general (ranging from how kids acquire language variation and push forward language change, to large-scale population studies of dialect change) and is now studying how social distancing during the pandemic is affecting ongoing language changes in Michigan.

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**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Jan. 15, 2021**

Joe Darden

Dept. of Geography

Structural Racism and Black Residential Segregation by Neighborhood Socioeconomic Characteristics: The Case of Metropolitan Detroit

Professor Joe Darden received his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1972. A former Fulbright Scholar and recipient of a Distinguished Faculty Award, Darden has written several books on African American history and the history of Detroit. He is currently working on a book entitled “Detroit After Bankruptcy: Are There Trends Toward an Inclusive City?”



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Jan. 29, 2021**

Clare Luz

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Addressing the Caregiver Shortage in America

Professor Clare Luz, Ph.D. is a gerontologist in the College of Osteopathic Medicine and founding director of AgeAlive, IMPART Alliance, and the Senior Ambassador Program. She has over 40 years of experience in the field of aging. The majority of her research has focused on the direct care workforce and the intersection of the arts, humanities and health.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Feb. 26, 2021**

James Galligan

Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology

The Enteric Nervous System – The Little Brain in the Gut

Professor James Galligan received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in 1983. He is a Professor in Pharmacology and Toxicology and he is the Neuroscience program director. Galligan’s research is focused on the enteric nervous system (the little brain in the gastrointestinal tract) and how it controls GI function and local blood flow.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Jan. 22, 2021**

Charles Ballard

Dept. of Economics

Black/White Earnings Differences: Sobering Trends, Especially in Michigan

Professor Charles ‘Charley’ Ballard received his undergraduate degree in economics from Princeton University and his Masters and his Ph.D. from Stanford. Ballard specializes in analyzing tax systems, economic inequality, foreign investment in the United States, government welfare funding, and the economy of Michigan.



**Friday, 5 p.m.,
Feb. 5, 2021**

Helen Veit

Dept. of History

The History of Picky Eating

Professor Helen Zoe Veit received her Ph.D. from Yale University and specializes in the history of food in the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She has written or edited several books on the history of food consumption and ideas about nutrition and is writing a book called “Picky: A History of American Children’s Food,” which traces the emergence of picky eating among children in the United States.