

# THE BEST OF YOUR ENTERTAINMENT 2008

LOWDOWN, PAGE 1B

## The State News

PHOTO COURTESY OF HANDOUT/MCT



## CRIME

### POLICE SEEK MISSING MSU STUDENT'S RECORDS

By Abby Lubbers and Kyle Feldscher

THE STATE NEWS

Police have executed warrants for phone and financial records of Krista R. Lueth, a 34-year-old MSU student who has been missing for more than three weeks.

"We go where the case takes us; we are still interviewing everyone," Michigan State Police Sgt. Kevin Mark said.

"Just doing normal police work, so we have executed warrants on the missing person case." It is standard procedure to review phone records, bank and credit card statements in missing person cases. Police are looking to see who contacted Lueth, if she contacted anyone since her disappearance and if she still is spending money, Mark said.

"We contact everyone that deals with the financial stuff to make sure what's on the reports is factual," he said. Lueth, who is pursuing her second bachelor's degree in horticulture, was last seen by her neighbor and friend of eight years, Rick Stilgenbauer. Stilgenbauer has rented a unit below Lueth's in a home on the 1100 block of Eureka Street in Lansing for the past five months.

Lueth's apartment looked as though she had left but was intending to return, he said. "It looked like she just stepped out to get cigarettes or a loaf of bread," Stilgenbauer said. Police are still interviewing anyone who might have come into contact with Lueth since her disappearance, he said. Lueth's father, Roy Lueth, 67, said his role in the investigation has decreased after a whirlwind two weeks during the initial

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## MSU CRUSHED BY UNC, 98-63

By Cash Kruth

THE STATE NEWS

Detroit — In a game viewed by many as a potential Final Four preview, No. 1 North Carolina came to the site of the 2009 Final Four and showed why it has been unanimously tabbed as the best team in the country.

The Tar Heels trio of forward Tyler Hansbrough, guard Ty Lawson and guard Wayne Ellington combined for 59 points as North Carolina rolled over No. 13 MSU 98-63 on Wednesday night at Ford Field in the 10th annual ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

The Spartans committed a season-high 22 turnovers — 11 of which came in the first half — and finished the game shooting only 35 percent from the floor.

The Spartans held a lead for only 58 seconds the entire game, when a lay-in by junior forward Raymar Morgan gave them a 4-2 lead just more than a minute into the game.

A lob to Hansbrough soon thereafter tied the game, and the athletic North Carolina combo of forward/guard Danny Green and Ellington put the Tar Heels up 10 midway through the half.

A three-pointer by MSU sophomore guard Chris Allen with 6:29 remaining in the first half made the score 33-29 to bring the Spartans within four, but North Carolina doubled MSU's output the rest of the half as the Spartans went into halftime down 53-39.

The two teams traded baskets in the opening minutes of the second half, but the Spartans went on a six-minute scoreless drought as the Tar Heels jumped out to a 26-

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Junior forward Raymar Morgan deflects the ball from North Carolina forward Tyler Hansbrough Wednesday night while attempting to score in the second half at Ford Field. MSU lost to the Tar Heels 98-63.

JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

For more photos of the game, visit statenews.com.

## CAMPUS

### 2 trustees prepare for last meeting on MSU board

By Justin Harris

THE STATE NEWS

MSU Trustees Scott Romney and Dorothy Gonzales will take their seats as members of the university's governing body for the last time Friday.

With Trustees-elect Diann Woodard and Dianne Byrum waiting to take their places, Romney and Gonzales will finish their eight-year terms Jan. 1, 2009.

Romney served for eight years after being elected in 2000 and Gonzales served for 16 years after joining the board in 1993.

"I've enjoyed very much the opportunity to serve the university," Romney said. "I love Michigan State and it's been an honor to be on the board and to be able to be of some service to the university."

The MSU Board of Trustees will meet at 9:30 a.m. Friday in the Administration Building.

In November, Romney ran for re-election but lost to Woodard and Byrum. Gonzales wasn't selected to run by the Democrats at the state convention.

During the duo's time on the board, they selected Lou Anna K. Simon as the university president, Kim Wilcox as provost and helped manage the MSU budget as state appropriations have dwindled in recent years.

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## ACADEMICS

## Applications show increased interest in MSU

By Heather Guenther

THE STATE NEWS

Kristi Mathis knew she had what it took to earn a spot at MSU.

Mathis, an interdisciplinary studies in social science and health studies sophomore, headed two clubs and played two varsity sports in high school to complement a perfect grade-point average.

But Mathis' high-achieving mentality isn't shared by all MSU students.

"In some classes that I'm in, I'm like, 'Wow, how did these kids get in here?'" Mathis said.

The number of applications sent to MSU has increased by 18.3 percent since 1998, but the percentage of admitted students decreased by about 7.9 percent during the same peri-

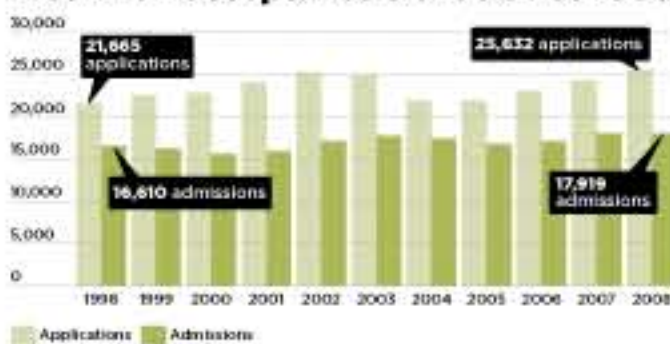
od of time, according to data from the Office of Admissions and the Office of Planning and Budgets.

However, MSU's percentage of admitted students has remained relatively steady throughout the past 10 years, said Jim Cotter, MSU's director of admissions.

"Michigan State University's academic profile is improving, but it's improving on the margins," Cotter said. "Is it a more selective institution than it was 30 years ago? I think it's a very different review process than it was 30 years ago."

The percentage of accepted first-time students dropped by more than 14 percent since 2004, but freshman class size and the percentage of students who will decide to come to campus will affect final admittance percentages, Cotter said.

### Freshman acceptance trends since 1998



SOURCE: OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS, OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGETS

DAVE BARTHOLOMEW | SM

In the past 10 years, the number of students who accepted a spot at MSU fluctuated between a high of 43.5 percent in 2005 to a low of 38.7 percent in 2003.

MSU takes a holistic approach when deciding who will get an acceptance letter, Cotter said. Past transcripts and standard-

ized test scores have a large impact on the final decision, but aren't the only factors to come into play.

"A component that we take into consideration is what the student will bring to campus," Cotter said. "How do they enrich our university based on

their experiences?"

A new admissions requirement added in 2004 could explain a drop of more than 3,000 applicants that year compared with the 24,073 received in 2003, Cotter said.

"In 2004, we implemented that a personal statement was required," Cotter said. "We assumed, to some degree, that probably discouraged some fringe applicants, those students who were not all that sure about their interest in Michigan State."

Almost a quarter of this year's freshman class left high school as an 'A' student, Cotter said.

"It's a quality class," he said. "I don't know I'd say we're more selective. We're more comprehensive in our review."

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## TECHNOLOGY

The university will launch a new e-mail system later this month that will include more storage space, page 3A.

## LIGHTING UP

Officials reflect on the smoking ban in campus buildings and dorms, page 3A.

Weather

Snow

High 27° | Low 18°

Three-day forecast, Page 2A