

Two MSU professors' lives extend far beyond time spent in the classroom

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JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

About 110 pins mark all the places Tom Page has visited on a map inside his office in the Business College Complex.

The State News

From left: Phil Ausman, father, Jim Wauldron, step-father, and Renee Wauldron, mother of Don Ausman — the MSU senior who was found dead in his Spartan Village apartment Jan. 28 — participate in a candlelight vigil Tuesday night at the rock on Farm Lane. Phil Ausman said he had no idea how many lives Don had touched until the funeral, when hundreds of people showed and waited in line for hours to pay their respects.

SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS



Family, friends gather to remember the life of MSU senior Don Ausman

"I have to celebrate his life now, because that's all I have."

Renee Wauldron, mother of 22-year-old MSU senior Don Ausman

By Kyle Feldscher
THE STATE NEWS

"Dance on Don."
Family members and friends scrawled these words on the rock on Farm Lane Tuesday night, as more than 100 people gathered at a candlelight vigil to honor Don Ausman's life. Through laughter and tears, friends and family placed roses on the rock in Ausman's memory and shared stories of a life that many said ended far too soon.
Ausman's mother, Renee Wauldron, said the gathering helped her cope with the loss of her son.
"I have to celebrate his life now, because that's all I have," Wauldron said of her son, a 22-year-old interdisciplinary studies in social science and international studies senior.
"I am so proud of my son and I love him so much, and that will make my heart smile when I think of him, every minute of every hour of every day, every step I take."
Ausman was found dead in his Spartan Village apartment the morning of Jan. 28. An autopsy performed the next day was inconclusive and medical examiners are waiting for further test results to determine what caused Ausman's death.

Wauldron said her son was determined to spend his life helping others less fortunate than him, a goal evidenced by the humanitarian work Ausman did all over the globe. Wauldron said spreading HIV/AIDS awareness was her son's great passion.
Ausman had been interested in the cause since he traveled to Ghana to do volunteer work. Wauldron didn't realize the extent of Ausman's passion for helping others until the days following his death.
"He was the type of person who wouldn't brag, and kept to himself and wouldn't pat himself on the back," she said.
Ausman traveled to Mexico last year as a member of an

Alternative Spring Break, or ASB, group, where he helped paint elementary schools in an impoverished area.
Alicia Barajas, a special education and interdisciplinary studies senior and ASB co-chairperson, said Ausman's passion for the program during their Mexico trip was infectious. She said Ausman also was an animal rights activist who lived as a vegan but never tried to push his beliefs on others.
"He could tell you exactly why he believed what he did and never judged anyone who didn't think the same way," Barajas said. "He could tell you why he didn't eat meat, but it

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ADDRESS

GRANHOLM SAYS LITTLE ON PLAN TO HALT RISE IN TUITION

By Allison Bush
THE STATE NEWS

Lansing — Gov. Jennifer Granholm spent no more than a few seconds mentioning her proposal for in-state public universities to lock in tuition during her annual State of the State address Tuesday.

"As we accelerate our push to get more kids to college, we cannot have them priced out of the market by tuition increases," Granholm said.
The governor announced the proposal earlier this week, but did not elaborate on how she plans to implement the freeze, or how much tax relief universities would receive for taking part in it.
The \$870 billion federal stimulus package will likely factor into any relief universities would receive. About \$6 billion

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EAST LANSING

Council signs off on historic greek district

By Jeff Kanan
THE STATE NEWS

Six fraternity and sorority buildings are now protected from changes to their architecture and design after the East Lansing City Council approved Tuesday the creation of a Fraternity-Sorority Historic District.
The district doesn't fall under any geographic boundaries like the city's other historic districts, Councilmember Roger Peters said.
"We looked at the buildings that would be worthy of preservation and protection," Peters said. "Since they're scattered around the city, we'd be linking them together by theme."

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SPEECH

Simon addresses tuition, cutting costs

By Justin Harris
THE STATE NEWS

As part of her State of the University address Tuesday, MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon expressed concern about a freeze in tuition suggested this week by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.
For the first time, Simon publicly addressed Granholm's proposal urging state universities to institute a tuition freeze in exchange for a portion of funds from the federal stimulus bill. She stressed the importance of communication between the university and state government before making decisions regarding tuition freezes and other higher education issues.
"Partnership requires two-

way communication," she said. "It requires a bridge to somewhere, as opposed to a bridge to nowhere."
She said freezing tuition could compromise MSU's academic fortitude.
"There are some times you can freeze things, take them back out and pop them in the microwave and they work out just fine," she said. "Academic programs aren't like that."
Simon acknowledged the economic hardships the university has faced the past year and will face in 2009. She offered explanation for the tuition increases MSU has implemented recently, while criticizing the state for its lack of financial support.
If the state had given higher

education as much of an increase in funding as given to the Department of Corrections, MSU would be able to reduce tuition by about \$2,000 for each full-time student, Simon said.
She also pointed out Michigan's last-place ranking for funding increases in higher education during the past five years. If the state had increased funding at the national average rate for the past 10 years, Simon said MSU would be able to lower tuition by 26 percent.
Because Michigan's funding for public institutions has dwindled recently, Simon said tuition increases were necessary.
"Some of the increases in



NICK DENTAMARO/THE STATE NEWS

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon delivers the State of the University address on Tuesday in Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre.

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