

# 8 THINGS TO LOOK BACK ON FROM '08-'09

It's been a rough year for the nation and some of its effects have trickled through to campus. The economy has tanked, jobs are scarce, education funding continues to be threatened and mourning the deceased was all too common across campus this school year. But Spartans have shown their prowess on the athletic fields and courts and learned FRIB is coming to our crib, among other positive events. The State News looks back at the nine biggest stories of the 2008-09 academic year at MSU, leading off with a new president in the White House:

— Jacob Carpenter, *The State News*



Then-Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., holds an "Obama 08" MSU jersey given to him at the rally Oct. 2, 2008, at Adams Field.

### The Obama administration

"I've gotten really frustrated with politics in this country. This election has refreshed a sense of hope."

— premedical junior Sarah Losinski on President Barack Obama's Inauguration Day

The country changed hands in January when Obama took office as the 44th U.S. president, filling the Oval Office seat vacated by former President George W. Bush. An estimated crowd of more than 1 million people covered the National Mall as Obama, who also visited campus this fall, set out on term in office, preaching optimism in the face of a national recession.

### In memoriam

"Don was a great inspiration to everyone who met him, even if they only had a few encounters. ... We were touched by his passion for others."

— Amber Arashiro, Office of International Students and Scholars adviser, on Don Ausman, one of eight MSU students who died this academic year



Ausman



Barton



Brown



Parks



Watson

Tragedy hit MSU's campus too often after the deaths of Ausman, Joe Barton, Kevin Boskey, Katherine Brown, Shane Collins, Josh Parks, Katrina Tagget and Jeremy Watson. The campus community banded together all year for vigils, remembrances and memorial funds for the deceased.

### The boys of April

"I feel like it's a blessing that I made it here. Nobody ever gave us a chance. Only two teams in America were left in the tournament, so (in the) rankings we're going to be the second-best team in the nation, and nobody picked us to be that."

— MSU senior guard and captain Travis Walton on the Spartans' run through the NCAA Tournament

The upstart Spartans upset two No. 1 seeds en route to the championship game, using a blend of youthful exuberance and senior leadership. The Spartans fulfilled a dream of head coach Tom Izzo to play the Final Four in Detroit, won an outright Big Ten championship and set themselves up for another deep tournament run in 2010.

### FRIB at MSU

"This may be the biggest accomplishment in the history of Michigan State. Getting FRIB tells the entire world what an excellent university Michigan State is."

— MSU Trustee Faylene Owen on the university's selection for the federally-funded Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, or FRIB, in December

The \$550 million project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy will make MSU a globally known nuclear physics institution and generate an estimated \$1 billion in economic growth for the state. Construction of FRIB is scheduled to start in 2013.

See more of the year's highlights on page 2A

MSU head coach Tom Izzo holds up the NCAA Midwest Regional trophy with the rest of the MSU men's basketball team.



Astrophysics freshman Caitlin Brecklin takes a model of an isotope out of the model cyclotron at a demonstration to bring awareness to the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) at the Rock.



GABRIELLE MOORE/THE STATE NEWS

Check out our Graduation Guide in section C of today's paper

Check out [stateneews.com](http://stateneews.com) for an audio slideshow of the year's highlights.