

**Area children stay fit in local race that promotes activity**  
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**English professor Ellis, 39, dies of cancer; friends, students remember**  
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**Visit stateneews.com for a recap of the Red Wings' 3-1 victory**

## Summer classes pack punch in short span



Associate professor Richard Enbody, center, answers a question from graduate student Ahmed Rady, right, while teaching his introductory programming class Thursday afternoon in the Engineering Building. Usually, the class has about 15 students. This summer more than twice that amount are enrolled.

KATIE BAUSCH/THE STATE NEWS

**"I think it's easier to learn stuff because you don't have to wait so long to be tested."**

Jaclynn Maltese, finance senior

By Kayla Habermehl  
THE STATE NEWS

For many MSU students, summer isn't just about freezer pops and Slip 'N Slides — it's about classes. Jaclynn Maltese, a finance senior, who walked at graduation in May, is finishing her last nine credits during the first part of the summer.

Maltese is taking one 300-level accounting class and two 400-level finance classes. She said the material isn't harder, but the workload is heavier. Trying to fit in studying and homework is tough, but learning the material isn't as difficult, she said. "I think it's easier to learn stuff because you don't have to wait so long to be tested," Maltese said.

Many students such as Maltese are dealing with the heavy workload and faster pace of summer classes. Whether catching up on credits, getting ahead or finishing degrees, the number of students taking summer courses increased about 11.8 percent from

summer 2004 to summer 2008, according to data from the Office of the Registrar.

Robert Floden, a professor in the College of Education, said summer classes have pros and cons. "One advantage is the students are intently and intensely engaged in the material," Floden said. "The hardest thing... is being able to write a paper and then revise it. The pace is intense."

Floden is teaching a seven-week online class for education masters and nursing students. He said he makes sure his students are on top of their work.

"Every day they are think-

ing about the material," he said. "I have an online course where two assignments are due every week. I'm on their case making sure they keep up with the material."

The stress that comes with the increased workload and pace runs a thin line between being helpful and hurtful, said Thomas Carr, a professor of psychology.

"You need to be stressed or aroused enough to be able to pay attention — you don't want to be asleep or bored," Carr said. "If the pressure is too great, attention will be restricted and

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### CRIME

## MAN FACES PRISON TERM WITH NO PAROLE FOR 4 MURDERS

By Brittany Shammass  
THE STATE NEWS

Grand Haven — The silence between each guilty verdict Friday in Troy Brake's trial was broken by gasps from the prosecutor's side of the courtroom, as many people

wore rainbow-colored ribbons in memory of the four victims he was convicted of killing.

Three women, including the mother of victim and MSU student Katherine A. Brown, clasped hands, trembling.

"A lot of people put a lot of work into this to get justice for the families," said Ottawa County Sheriff's Department Detective Thomas Knapp, who was the lead investigator in the case. "That's where the focus needs to be, on regaining the normalcy for both families."

"I think justice has been served today."

Brake, 32, was found guilty of four counts of first-degree murder for the slayings of Brown, 18, her boyfriend Jeremy Zimmer, 20, his mother Sharmaine Zimmer, 53, and his brother, Tyler Zimmer, 17. He also was found guilty of three felony firearm charges in relation to the killings. He faces life in prison without the chance of parole and is scheduled to be sentenced July 6.

Brake's face was blank as the verdict was read. He looked down and around the room while facing forward as each count was announced. Several rows behind him, his family looked shocked and quickly left the courtroom without commenting.

The verdict came in Ottawa County's 20th Circuit Court after about nine hours of deliberation by the jury, which re-entered the courtroom shortly before the conviction to ask Judge Edward Post about the difference between first and second-degree murder.

"You could see the anxiety levels rising each day," Ottawa Coun-

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For audio of students talking about summer classes, visit [stateneews.com/multimedia](http://stateneews.com/multimedia).

### UNIVERSITY

## Nontenured faculty to unionize

By Marissa Cumbers  
THE STATE NEWS

Nontenured faculty will have the opportunity to unionize this fall after voting to do so on Friday.

The 240 to 113 vote came after the Union of Nontenure-track Faculty organizing committee spent a year gauging union support among employees at MSU, said Richard Manderfield, a committee member and visiting assistant professor of writing, rhetoric and American culture. Now that union support has been solidified, the group plans to create a contract outlining its requests.

"We hope to begin contract talks in the fall, and there will be all kinds of preliminary things going on this summer," Manderfield said. "We will survey our members and get their feelings about what is important, and we'll begin bargaining, and

when a contract is reached, we'll vote."

Terry Curry, associate provost and associate vice president for academic human resources, said the university would work to establish an open relationship with union members.

"MSU has always respected the collective bargaining process," Curry said in a statement released by the university. "Our focus now is on developing with this group the same kinds of trusting and candid information sharing and bargaining relationships we have with all other such units at MSU."

Some nontenured faculty at MSU have been employed by the university for up to 25 years and are still considered visiting faculty with short-term contracts, Manderfield said.

The union will be affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers Michigan.

Negotiations involving nontenured faculty at other universities have included issues such as baselines for salaries, benefits and yearly evaluations of expectations from administrators, said Stephen Thomas, a committee member and visiting assistant professor in the zoology department.

"Having some security and investment by the administration allows people to invest more in their chosen field with regards to teaching and student interaction," Thomas said. "If you are always afraid if you are going to be let go, it is harder to invest more."

Unionization recently has become a trend at colleges because of large increases of fixed-term, nontenured faculty, and MSU is no exception, Thomas said. In the past 10 years, fixed-term faculty at MSU has increased by about 70 percent, he said.

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### VIRGINIA AVENUE

## Housing project to move ahead this summer

By Kate Jacobson  
THE STATE NEWS

The revamp of the 600 block of Virginia Avenue will move forward this summer, with city officials planning to complete the neighborhood's alleyways and some housing construction.

The Avondale Square project, which started in 2004, is planned to create 30 housing units targeted at permanent residents in an area previously inhabited primarily by student renters. Currently, four homes have been built in the area. City officials also plan to build the first of three triplexes this summer.

"We actually are expecting to break ground on the first triplex building in the... month of June, if not then in the month of July,"

### Project investments

The overall budget for the Avondale Square project is \$11.3 million.

About \$7.2 million is in the construction of the actual units.

About \$4 million constitutes getting the area ready for construction, which includes property acquisition and demolition and reconstructing the water and sewer ways, streets and alleyways.

SOURCE: EAST LANSING

said Tim Schmitt, an East Lansing community development analyst.

The city has acquired all but three of the original 23 homes along the block. East Lansing officials are in negotiations with the property owners at 660 and 672 Virginia Ave., Schmitt said. No date

has been set for the project's conclusion.

While city officials negotiate for the remaining properties, they are preparing the rest of the lots for construction. The house at 612 Virginia Ave. is being moved Tuesday to Stoddard Avenue and the house at 618 Virginia Ave. is scheduled to be demolished later this month.

The property owner of 607 Virginia Ave. is not expected to sell the property to the city, said Tim Dempsey, the city's assistant director of Planning and Community Development. An alternative design has been built around the property for the planned alleyway.

"It would basically route the alleyway differently than (the current) plan, basically just a minor shift," Dempsey said.

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