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HEALTH H1N1 vaccine available to lower-risk MSU students

By Marissa Cumbers
THE STATE NEWS

Olin Health Center has made the H1N1 vaccine available to all MSU students after receiving another round of doses.

The health center began offering the vaccine to high-risk students in mid-November, but until receiving an additional 1,000 doses of the vaccine before Thanksgiving, wasn't able to offer the vaccine to lower-risk students. Olin widened the criteria Monday and now is offering it to healthy students through age 24, Olin spokeswoman Kathy Braunlich said.

The vaccine costs \$10 if students pay at the time of an appointment and \$19.84 if they pay later or bill their insurance, Braunlich said.

"For people who are not sure whether their insurance will cover it or not, it's probably better to just pay the \$10," she said.

Since making the vaccine available to all students through age 24, Olin has received about 300 requests for the vaccine, Braunlich said. The vaccine also is available to staff and students older than 24 who have high risk medical conditions, as well as pregnant women, Braunlich said.

To get the H1N1 vaccine at Olin, students need to fill out a request form on the Olin Web site. They then will be contacted to set up an appointment, Braunlich said.

Plant biology junior Alex Seddon said having access to the vaccine on campus will be more convenient for students.

"If it's available that closely and is cheap, it's worth going because the flu can mess with your schedule," Seddon said. "With finals coming up, it's not a good thing to be dealing with."

Previously, university officials had advised students seeking the vaccine to visit free clinics at various locations across Ingham County.

Ingham County Health Department spokesman Marcus Cheatham said H1N1 cases are decreasing nationwide, but people still should get the vaccine if they can.

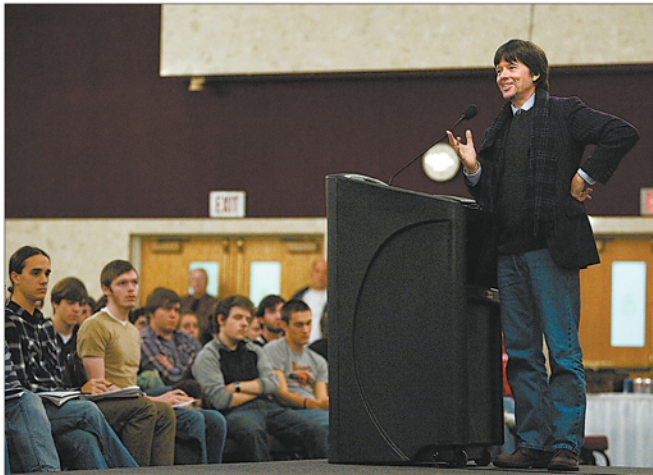
The H1N1 virus still is considered a national pandemic, but there no longer is a shortage of the vaccine, Cheatham said.

"We're seeing less cases than we used to but ... there are other

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LIFE, CAMERA, ACTION

Award winning filmmaker Ken Burns visits campus, touts new film studies major



Award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns laughs Wednesday after a student colloquium at the Union Ballroom. Burns spoke to a group of students and also held a question-and-answer session.

GEORGIA RHODES/THE STATE NEWS

"To see the university revitalized by ramping up the film program — all of that has added energy and enthusiasm in what otherwise are relatively dark times."

Ken Burns, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker

By Ian Johnson
THE STATE NEWS

In a crowd overflowing with students ready to try their talents in the movie industry, a 30-year film veteran gave insight Wednesday afternoon on how to find your voice and create a story and how determination will breed success, not only in their careers, but in one of MSU's newest majors.

Ken Burns, an Emmy Award-winning and Academy Award-nominated documentary filmmaker, was brought to the Union Ballroom to commemorate the closing of the first semester of the university's new film studies major.

Offered by the Department of English, the major was introduced this fall alongside a film studies minor in conjunction with the Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies and Media.

Both departments are collaborating to offer a complete filmmaking experience and it is a great sign for the state of Michigan and its film industry, Burns said.

"It's thrilling and particularly honoring for me to be in Michigan, because it's my home state and to come back and see people excited about filmmaking, excited about what I've done, excited about the possibility — particularly in tough times

— about a film initiative at the state level that I think could really transform things," he said. "To see the university revitalized by ramping up the film program — all of that has added energy and enthusiasm in what otherwise are relatively dark times."

Michigan began offering tax incentives to production companies in April 2008 and brought in about 35 movies that year, spending more than \$216 million in the state and creating about 2,700 jobs.

"The fact that the university has now expanded its film specialization degrees is a compliment to what the state's trying to do at a larger level," Burns said. "If we're going to encourage people to make films here and encourage people to hire us here, then we're going to have to have people that are skilled and talented and know how to do it."

Film classes have existed at MSU for about seven years, but mainly focused on film theory, screenwriting and history as opposed to filmmaking itself, said Jennifer Fay, director of film studies.

With the Department of English helping teach film theory and the Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies and Media instructing the technical aspects of film, MSU students finally can learn how to write, shoot, edit and produce their own films, Fay said.

"To make a film and to have really good

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Burns

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Academic Assembly passes bill to revamp MSU course retake policy

By Zane McMillin
THE STATE NEWS

Students hoping to retake a class who find themselves not meeting the university's retake criteria might have an ally in ASMSU.

MSU's undergraduate student government is looking at suggesting changes to MSU's current course retake policy. The Code and Policy Committee of the group's Academic Assembly passed a bill Tuesday recommending the university revamp its policy.

The bill will go before the full assembly Dec. 8. If passed, representatives who sit on the University Committee on Academic Policy, or UCAP, will include the recommendations in further discussions on the matter, which might take place as early as next semester.

"The retake policy is disadvantageous to both students and the university in its current form," said Michael Lipphardt, a representative of the College of Social Science who sits on UCAP.

Currently, MSU policy dictates a student only can complete 20

credits of retakes. There also is no limit to the number of times a student is allowed to retake a course, but it cannot be retaken if a grade-point average of 2.0 or higher was achieved.

If Academic Assembly passes the bill next Tuesday, it would recommend to UCAP the policy be changed to completely remove the GPA threshold. It would recommend maintaining the current 20 credit limit and would seek to limit the number of times a student can retake a course to two,

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RIVALRY WITH CAROLINA CONTINUES TONIGHT

By Matt Bishop
THE STATE NEWS

A rivalry has been developing between the basketball programs at MSU and North Carolina the past few seasons.



Merchant

for the third time in the past two seasons. But although the rivalry has been exclusive to

the men's teams in recent years, the women's teams will get in on the act when the No. 4 Tar Heels come to Breslin Center to battle the No. 22 Spartans at 8:30 p.m. tonight in the Big Ten/ACC Challenge.

"It's good for our conference, certainly, to go up against and have a challenge, especially with the ACC," MSU head coach Suzie Merchant said.

"Hopefully, it's an opportunity for all the Big Ten teams to step up and have a good showing this year."

This will be the third challenge on the women's side. The Spartans are 1-1 in their games, beating Clemson in East Lansing in

2007 and losing at Georgia Tech last season. The ACC has won the challenge both seasons, posting a 12-1 record in those games.

The challenge gives the Spartans the chance to represent the league on a magnified national stage. But, with it being such a Big Game that they are in trouble in the incident as opposed to just being there," Ferguson said. "No one knows that they were involved."

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UNIVERSITY

PLAYERS MIGHT HAVE LIED TO DANTONIO, FERGUSON SAYS

By Brittany Shammass
THE STATE NEWS

The eight MSU football players suspended from the team by head coach Mark Dantonio on Monday might have been suspended for lying to the coach, said Joel Ferguson, chairman of the MSU Board of Trustees, on Wednesday.

Ferguson said it isn't clear how involved the players were in a Nov. 22 assault in the lounge of Rafter Hall. Members of Iota Phi Theta said members of the football team took part in an assault while the fraternity was cleaning up after an event. Nothing has been settled on the issue and MSU police are continuing their investigation, Ferguson added.

"The coach just has a standard that players on the team are truthful and forthright," he said.

Ferguson said he obtained his information from speaking with Dantonio.

Dantonio suspended sophomore wide receiver B.J. Cunningham, junior wide receiver Mark Dell, sophomore running back Ashby Leggett, junior cornerback Chris L. Rucker, sophomore wide receiver Fred Smith, redshirt freshman linebacker Brynden Trawick, sophomore defensive tackle Ishmy Johnson and redshirt freshman linebacker Jamihir Williams for violation of team rules, according to a statement released Tuesday afternoon by MSU.

Last week, sophomore running back Glenn Winderick and junior safety Rodent Jenrette also were dismissed from the team.

The suspensions came after university officials identified the players as being present at the Rafter Hall assault. Some of the witnesses at the event described the assaults as members of the football team.

University spokesman Terry Denbow wouldn't comment further Wednesday night, saying the players were temporarily removed for a violation of team rules.

Ferguson said people have jumped to conclusions about the players level of involvement and they were suspended for not being truthful. The suspension has nothing to do with the fight, he said.

The press release distributed by the university stated the suspended members of the football team were present during the Rafter Hall altercation. That incident possibly stemmed from another fight at The Small Planet, 1600 Chandler Road, on Nov. 21.

"People think it was my trouble in the incident as opposed to just being there," Ferguson said. "No one knows that they were involved."