



## Club crew team finds a new home in an unexpected place

CITY+CAMPUS, PAGE 3

## Student brings his disc jockey skills to East Lansing parties

FEATURES, PAGE 7

## Hockey coach talks potential upgrades to Munn, new arena

SPORTS, PAGE B

### MEDICAL

## POLITICIANS QUESTION MANDATORY HEALTH CARE

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THE STATE NEWS

Since arriving at MSU this year, Kiara Farrell-Stirling hasn't had an easy time with the university's health care system.

After struggling with what she described as misleading insurance billing from Olin Health Center, the James Madison freshman discussed the possibility of switching to MSU's student health care policy with her doctor back home. But she was told she wouldn't be able to get coverage at home with the university plan.

"I have to have it," Farrell-Stirling said of her personal health care plan. "But it doesn't do anything for me."

After a subcommittee of the Michigan House called MSU administrators to testify next Wednesday in defense of the university's health care policy—which requires students to carry health insurance to attend—members of the MSU community are taking a harder look.

"Personally I don't think they should bill people if they don't have (insurance)," Farrell-Stirling said. "College is already expensive."

Starting with this year's freshman class, students are required to prove they carry health insurance, which counts being covered under a parent's plan, or facing being automatically billed for the university plan.

The individual plan, offered through Aetna insurance, costs \$1,505 per year for domestic students.

While Republicans in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education have argued the policy creates another barrier to college by adding unnecessary costs, the policy is on par with the some experts' expectations.

"Mandatory student health insurance requirements is not a new thing," Anita Barkin, president of the American College Health Association, or ACHA.

Some schools have been doing this for awhile.

A study from the U.S. Government Accountability Office shows 22 percent of public universities required students to have health care in the 2007-08 academic year, compared to 62 percent of private schools.

ACHA standards recommend a college policy that requires health insurance to attend; these policies protect students' physical health and prevent them from dropping out of school when costs from a health crisis add up, Barkin said.

Compared to MSU's plan, HealthPlus, another insurance provider, offers a individual young adult plan for about \$900 a year.

But the MSU plan has other benefits. For instance, the university plan covers prescriptions up to \$2,000 a year, while HealthPlus only provides a pharmacy discount card.

MSU is the first school in Michigan to have such a requirement, while several other Big Ten universities have implemented similar policies. A decision on its legality from the legislature would not only affect MSU students, but college students across Michigan for years to come.

More than 90 percent of incoming freshman already have health

See HEALTH on page 2

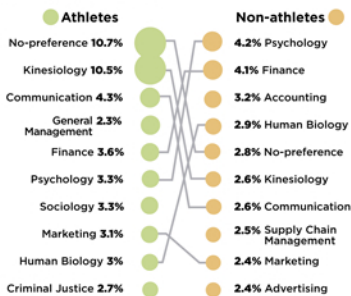
# MAJOR MISUNDERSTANDINGS



JACLYN MCNEAL/THE STATE NEWS

Senior guard Austin Thornton takes notes in class Wednesday at Berkey Hall. Thornton graduated with a human resource management degree spring 2011 and is currently pursuing his second bachelor's degree.

## TOP 10 MAJORS AT MSU



GRADUATION SUCCESS RATE Six year rate (select teams only)



INFOGRAPHIC BY LIAM ZANYK MCLEAN | SN  
SOURCES: OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, NCAA.ORG

## Student-athletes break academic stereotypes

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THE STATE NEWS

Many students and community members throughout the country count on student-athletes at major universities to carry their sports programs, but when looked at in the classroom setting, many are being stereotyped as academically inadequate.

When looking at college athletics from an academics standpoint, some can be quick to judge, said Jim Pignataro, associate athletics director for student services and director of student-athlete support services.

"Every subpopulation has stereotypes of some sort," Pignataro said. "It's really up to the individu-

al—within every sport we have a wide range of majors, academic ability and overall academic interest."

Certain stereotypes associated with student-athletes also are recognized by those outside of the athletic department and student population at MSU.

Associate sociology professor Toby Ten Eyck, who taught a sports sociology class last fall, said there are a lot of negative stigmas surrounding athletes and what they choose to pursue academically. Often, people assume athletes choose "easy" majors rather than ones perceived to be more difficult, such as majors in math or science fields, he said.

"There's a history of athletes and certain majors here at MSU," Ten Eyck said. "When one athlete is seen by others as being success-

ful in a major, it is emulated ... these (successes) can lead some athletes to think it's also the right major for them."

This stereotype isn't specific just to MSU, but rather to all large universities with renowned athletic programs, he said.

"It's not much different if you're at Ohio State, Michigan or Notre Dame," Ten Eyck said. "There's always pressure there because people probably care more about whether you make the tackle or 3-pointer than if you're getting a 4.0 in advanced calculus."

Having been an athlete himself, Ten Eyck said he knows the stereotype is true to some extent, but many students are starting to prove they can strive in both areas.

"Although there's been

See ATHLETES on page 2

### BASKETBALL

## Spartans beat Penn State, look ahead to OSU

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THE STATE NEWS

The No. 11 men's basketball team now can look to MSU 77 Saturday's tilt with No. 19 PSU 57 3 Ohio State after pulling out a 77-57 victory against Penn State on Wednesday night.

MSU (19-5 overall, 8-3 Big Ten) pulled off the rough conference win, despite the first points coming with 16:36 left in the first half when sophomore guard Keith Appling hit two free throws.

Senior forward Draymond Green said he wasn't thinking about Saturday's game and

it was his job to make sure his team was on the same page.

"It was very important to get this win," Green said. "Every single game is a big game when you're in the position we're in. It's not just about Saturday, it's

To read more from Wednesday night's win and post game, go to [statenews.com/sports](http://statenews.com/sports)

about Michigan State as well. "You can't get better if you're looking forward to something else."

Appling scored the game's first field goal with 15:10 left in

the half. MSU built up a 9-0 lead before Penn State (10-15, 2-10) hit a three, and the Spartans eventually built up a 22-point lead.

The Spartans shot 26.6 percent in the first half, but used a 65.2 percent in the second half to up the game percentage to 43.4.

The second half started a little quicker with MSU picking up five points in the first 40 seconds.

Penn State began to chip away at the MSU lead and whittled it down to six with 7:19 left in the game. The Nittany Lions shot 53.6 percent in the second half, 38.5 percent for the game.

"We were up big, and were kind of relaxed," sophomore guard Keith Appling said. "We

See BASKETBALL on page 2



Senior forward Draymond Green stretches to the basket in order to complete a layup. The Spartans defeated the Penn State Nittany Lions on Wednesday evening at Breslin Center.

ANTHONY THIBODEAU/THE STATE NEWS