Jeff Cummings credits his parents and his education at MSU for opening many doors. To honor them, he has created and endowed the Nelson and Marlene Cummings Endowed Scholarship in James Madison College.

“My parents provided me, and my three brothers, with great examples of family values, leadership and community involvement,” Jeff said. "They devoted their careers to public affairs, civic activities and education. They also supported my education at James Madison College financially and in many other ways." Jeff, an attorney and partner with the Chicago law firm of Miner, Barnhill and Galland, PC, and a 1984 Phi Beta Kappa graduate, feels blessed for the opportunities he has had thus far.

“I am eternally grateful for the terrific opportunities I had at a residential college like JMC, and I have always wanted to honor my parents,” he said. "I wish and hope to do more; this scholarship is a start, something to build on. My goal is to help James Madison College spread the word about and outreach programs related to managing environment and natural resources in the face of urban sprawl. The chair, to be housed in the Department of Resource Development in the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will focus on preparing the next generation of leaders to serve nonprofit organizations that deal with resource conservation issues.

Conceived last fall, the Guyer & Seevers Chair has quickly surpassed the halfway mark on its way to becoming a $3 million, fully-funded endowment. Seeded with a generous gift of $1 million from Dr. Seevers, the endowment is a cooperative venture that also honors Dr. Guyer and his late wife, Norma.

In addition, a challenge grant of $500,000 has been recently pledged by the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation of Midland to assist the college in securing the remainder of the funds needed. The commitment of the foundation is appreciated and extremely valuable in reaching the goals of the endowment.

Dr. Seevers, a charter member of the Honors College in 1956 and its first student from CANR, received a B.S. in animal science and an M.S. and Ph.D. in agricultural economics. He is a generous contributor to the Michigan 4-H Foundation, to a scholarship fund for CANR students in the Honors College and other programs affiliated with the college.

An accomplished economist and financial market specialist, Dr. Seevers has had a distinguished career in Washington and on Wall Street as a member of the President’s Council of Advisors on Economic Policy.

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Alumni Distinguished Scholars Gather For First Reunion

In April 2002, the Honors College and Office of Admissions and Scholarships hosted the first reunion of Michigan State University’s Alumni Distinguished Scholars. The Alumni Distinguished Scholarship program and the Honors College were established in 1956, and to date, 460 individuals have received MSU’s most prestigious scholarship.

Representing a wide range of colleges and professions, over 65 alumni, guests, and current ADS students participated in the weekend activities. From the afternoon of Friday, April 12 through the morning of Sunday, April 14, the attendees enjoyed a series of thought-provoking panels and discussions with MSU President Peter McPherson, Provost Lou Anna K. Simon, and distinguished faculty. Tours of MSU’s beautiful campus and newest academic sites, including the new Biomedical and Physical Sciences Building, were also featured.

“It was very exciting to have so many Scholars back on campus,” Honors College Director Ron Fisher noted. “These individuals were among MSU’s most accomplished students and have since contributed to a wide variety of careers and professions across the nation. They represent investments by Michigan State University that have paid great dividends for all of society.”

Guyer & Seevers continued from front page

Economic Advisors, as a commissioner and acting chair of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and as a vice president and partner at Goldman Sachs. Now retired, he is a Limited Commissioner and as a vice president and partner acting chair of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Developments is published by:
University Development
Michigan State University
4700 South Hagadorn Road, Suite 220
East Lansing, MI 48823-5399
(517) 355-8257
Charles H. Webb, Vice President for University Development
Marti K.S. Heath, Associate Vice President and Director of Development
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Rich Seguin, Assistant Director/Editor
Linda Dunn, Assistant Director
Bob Thomas, Director
Bob Brent, University Artist
Christina Schaffer, Editorial Assistant
Randy Brown, Webmaster
Becky Miller, Assistant
Brenda Samson, Assistant
Michigan State University is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity institution.

Cummings continued from front page

its excellent undergraduate education to minority communities and encourage them to attend the college and MSU,” Jeff said. “Steve Smith set a great example with his donation to MSU by creating a scholarship for students from his high school. His gift helped motivate me to pursue this idea.”

Jeff fondly remembers his time in Case Hall, the home of JMC, as a place where he developed many special friendships and met other African-American students from Michigan and around the country. It is important to have this rich diversity at JMC.

The purpose of the Cummings Scholarship is to increase opportunities for African-American and other students from racial and ethnic groups who are under-represented at JMC. Madison is known for its small classes, articulate debate and discussion, and extra curricular activities, the importance of which cannot be overstated in the success of its students. A diverse student body also is a key factor in maintaining Madison’s ability to graduate students who have success in public policy, business, education and many other careers.

For more information or to contribute to the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship program, please contact the development office of the Honors College and Office of Admissions and Scholarships at (517) 355-2326.

For more information or to contribute to the Guyer & Seevers Chair, contact CANK Sensor Director of Development Brenda Parolini at (517) 355-0284.

For more information or to contribute to the Cummings Endowed Scholarship or to explore other giving opportunities, contact JMC Director of Development Rocky Beckett at (517) 432-2117.

For more information or to contribute to the Guyer & Seevers Chair, contact CANK Sensor Director of Development Brenda Parolini at (517) 355-0284.

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Veits Give Gift For Gardens

Gardeners know that perennials can grow vigorously many years after planting. The same can be said of friendship, as seeds sown many years before can blossom into relationships that span generations.

The good relationship between MSU and the Veit family is now blossoming into a garden that celebrates the promise of strong bonds. Gary and Monica Veit have made a gift to the university to establish the Anniversary Plaza within the MSU Horticultural Demonstration Gardens on campus.

The Anniversary Plaza, located at the back of the rose garden, will be filled with annuals, hanging baskets, plants and other colorful plantings to offer a picturesque setting for weddings, anniversary celebrations and other events. The garden plan includes a grassy area that will accommodate seating for up to 150 people, and a sound system for use during events.

“I attended all but four of the 31 annual bedding plant conferences at MSU,” said Gary Veit, who, together with his wife Monica, owns Sonnyside Flowers, Ltd. in Delhi, Ontario. “Dr. Will Carlson was a key player in those meetings. He helped us to transition from a small operation selling single boxes to a major wholesaler of bedding plants. Dr. Carlson has meant a great deal to our business.”

The Veit’s friendship with Dr. Carlson, MSU Distinguished Professor of Horticulture, took root in the 1960s when Gary’s father, Lloyd Veit, became one of the first growers in Canada to come to the MSU campus to attend MSU Extension programs for growers. Dr. Carlson served as a consultant to Veit’s bedding plant business, Fernlea Flowers. Gary Veit began joining his father on trips to the MSU Horticultural Demonstration Gardens on campus and his continuing support.

Horticulture and Dr. Carlson for business planning and varietal advice. “A good relationship is a circle,” notes Dr. Carlson. “We’ve worked closely with the Veits and they have become successful in their business. They value our help and contribute back to our programs in appreciation.”

The Veits are strong supporters of the MSU Department of Horticulture. They have been heavily involved in grower meetings, sent employees to many MSU-sponsored workshops and training programs, and also made financial contributions to research programs at MSU. Their gift to create the Anniversary Plaza is a generous continuation of their support.

The Anniversary Plaza, which will have its groundbreaking in September, will provide the perfect setting for those celebrating a special anniversary or other milestone. Opportunities exist to place a plaque on the site to commemorate such events. Classes, tour groups and other visitors will find the partially shaded seating areas of the garden a peaceful place to rest and reflect. Plant selections and bedding layout within the garden will change from year to year.

To schedule a wedding or other event at the Anniversary Plaza, contact Garden and Greenhouse Manager Doug Badgero at (517) 353-4800 or by e-mail at badgerr0@msu.edu. To learn more about commemorative plaques within the Horticultural Demonstration Gardens, contact the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Development Office at (517) 355-0284.

MSU Breaks Into Fundraising Top 20

For the first time in its history, Michigan State University is ranked in the top 20 nationally and number 10 among public, research, doctoral universities in the amount of private contributions raised. The rankings, released in April by the RAND Corporation’s Council for Aid to Education (CAE), are based on CAE’s annual Voluntary Support of Education survey of the 2000-01 fiscal year.

“Needless to say, we are extremely pleased to be in such good company,” said Vice President for University Development Chuck Webb. “Successes such as these are critical in building a solid foundation for our upcoming capital campaign.” For comparison, MSU was ranked 42nd in 1992.

The high ranking is due to last year’s record setting $202 million in private gifts. In the past two years, MSU has risen from ninth to sixth in the Big Ten in the amount of private gifts raised.

“We are fortunate to be a part of one of the most exciting periods in the university’s history,” said Lou Anna K. Simon, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at MSU. “These recent fundraising successes help underscore that our alumni and friends continue to appreciate the role private support plays in ensuring that current and future Spartans are equipped to explore the ever-expanding domain of scholarship and leadership.”

GIVING FY2001 (in millions) Top Twenty Universities Based on Total Giving FY2001

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Broad Funds Business Dean Position

During the recent search for a dean of The Eli Broad College of Business and The Eli Broad Graduate School of Management, Eli Broad himself helped assure the success of the process. He facilitated the search by committing to endow the dean’s position in perpetuity with a $5 million gift.

This endowment provides additional resources for the dean to use in support of Broad School initiatives. These resources can be used in a variety of ways including facility improvement, faculty recruitment and retention and MBA student support and scholarships. This year, for example, The Broad School has used a portion of these funds to renovate the MBA Placement and Career Services Center.

Endowment of the dean’s position is at a higher amount than a traditional chair. Having dollars available for a wide variety of uses is essential for The Broad School to move forward, for it allows the dean to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. “They are the single most important funds that a dean can have,” said Robert B. Duncan, The Eli and Edythe L. Broad Dean. “They give you the flexibility to use them where you need funding the most.”

Once again, Eli (Business, ’54) and Edythe Broad have shown their commitment to making The Broad School one of the best in the nation. “This is a very generous gift,” Duncan said. “We are most appreciative of the Broads and their continuing support.”
Kellogg Company Gives $49 Million In Patents

At a press conference on April 14, 2000, President Peter McPherson formally announced the university’s plans to add an auxiliary gymnasium and office space to the Jack Breslin Student Events Center. The new Alfred Berkowitz Basketball Complex is named in honor of the donor whose foundation provided a most generous $2 million gift. The addition is now 90% funded, and fundraising efforts continue for the last $750,000 of the project.

Construction began, other generous donors supported the project, and in January 2002, the new 9,000 square foot auxiliary gym was dedicated. The gym now relieves scheduling conflicts and allows focused practice time for both the men’s and women’s basketball teams. In addition, new staff offices now provide an opportunity for improved interaction among coaches, players, staff, and recruits, and include video review and conference rooms.

For more information or to contribute to the complex, contact Intercollegiate Athletics Director of Development Chris Ritrievi at (517) 355-8257 or (800) 232-4MSU, extension 421.

Above: Coach Joanne McCallie and Coach Tom Izzo address the crowd.

Left: The atrium of the Berkowitz Basketball Complex.

Below: Donors, MSU Trustees and university administrators participate in the official ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Michigan State University Board of Trustees accepted two sets of patents from the Kellogg Company related to functional foods – foods with a demonstrated health benefit – and consumer packaging. Kellogg estimates the market value of the total gift to be approximately $49 million. The value to MSU will be determined by how much interest the technology draws from the private sector.

MSU was selected for the Kellogg donation because of the university’s technical expertise in the fields of food science and packaging science explained Donna Banks, Kellogg Company senior vice president for research, quality and technology. “The intellectual property being donated, while no longer relevant to our core-products strategy, will provide MSU with the opportunity to further develop the technologies.”

The Kellogg donation consists of 11 U.S. and a number of international patents and patent applications along with related technical know-how. The patents could generate research funding and royalty revenue for MSU if the university successfully licenses the patents to companies that are in the business of manufacturing and marketing the patented products.

One set of patents focuses on new methods of processing and using psyllium in functional foods and bulk laxatives. The other set of patents covers a new pour-spout technology for paperboard containers.

“We are very grateful to the Kellogg Company for this important donation of patent properties,” MSU President Peter McPherson said. “In addition to the revenue-generating potential, this donation will allow our students to experience real-world problems in developing and improving these technologies and, thus, enhance their employment prospects.”
For the first time, the MBA class of 2002 created a class gift program. Its intent is to promote giving to the Broad School and to establish a culture of loyalty and contribution prior to graduation. As this is a new program, the primary goal was of participation, not dollars raised. To their delight, the class of 2002 was highly successful on both fronts.

In their first campaign, the class of 94 full-time students had a 65 percent participation rate and pledged over $50,000. The class also voted to dedicate the funds to renovations for the MBA Placement and Career Services Center at the Broad School.

Another positive aspect of this class gift program is that over time it will assist the MBA program in reaching its goal of being a “top 20” school by helping to establish an alumni network, providing improvement resources, and allowing each class to make a meaningful contribution to the future of the program. More importantly, it will establish—an expectation of giving back to the MBA program.

For more information regarding the MBA class gift program, contact The Broad College Assistant Director of Development Maura Benton at (517) 432-9472 or benton@bus.msu.edu.
Mary Blyth Honored Through Telecommunication Fund

John and Mary Blyth were college sweethearts. They met at Michigan State University as classmates when Mary was one of very few women enrolled in engineering physics. Theirs was to become a wonderful romance that lasted more than 65 years.

Before Mary passed away in November 2001, she and John shared much success in their years together. John (Engineering, '38 & '40), of Dearborn, Michigan, enjoyed a successful career in telecommunication that spanned more than 50 years. Mary (Mathematics, '37) raised their two sons and later carved out a career for herself as a college professor while earning her doctoral degree. Together, they wrote a college textbook on the telecommunication industry – a book used on MSU’s campus for several years.

Honoring Mary is perhaps the most compelling reason John decided to create the Mary and John Blyth Enrichment Fund in Telecommunication (TC) through a future gift from his charitable remainder annuity trust. The fund will benefit the TC department within the College of Communication Arts & Sciences at MSU.

Mary Blyth Honored Through Telecommunication Fund

The Blyth Enrichment Fund is named for its standards of excellence. As John stated, “I was in the telecommunication industry for a long time, and I think it has contributed more to the great changes throughout the 20th century than any other industry. My wife and I would be proud if this fund could help it continue that way.”

The Blyth Enrichment Fund is unrestricted within the department and may be used for graduate fellowships, expenses associated with visiting faculty and professionals, and equipment, and for teaching laboratories. John purposefully structured the fund in this way to allow experts in the department to determine the area of greatest need.

“Upon my death, you need a lot of equipment in addition to scholarships,” John said. “It’s important that we don’t tie the hands of the departments in terms of what they decide they need to buy. Things may change, and they need to be able to adjust.”

John’s observations of the quality of telecommunication studies at MSU motivated him to direct his generosity in this way. “There aren’t very many colleges or universities that specialize in telecommunication,” he said, “and I think Michigan State has done an outstanding job. I love the institution, and this fund will strengthen its ability to remain a leader in this field and produce the men and women who are going to make the world tick.”

The process of arranging his planned gift went smoothly. The development officers from the Office of Planned Giving and the College of Communication Arts & Sciences “never once put any pressure on me and never did anything that was less than kind, generous and helpful,” John said. “I give them the highest marks I can.”

For more information, contact Dan Chegwidden in the Office of Planned Giving at (517) 353-9268 or (800) 232-4MSU, or Brenda Betts in the College of Communication Arts & Sciences at (517) 432-5672.

Faculty, Staff & Retirees Give Back to MSU Through All U Campaign

The All University Campaign is the annual campaign that provides an opportunity for faculty, staff, and retirees to make a financial gift to Michigan State University. The campaign theme, “Imagine the Future,” encourages faculty, staff and retirees to think about how their gifts will influence the future of MSU. The campaign kickoff celebration for donors and campaign volunteers was hosted by President and Mrs. McPherson at Cowles House in April.

Co-chairs of the 2002 All University Campaign are two dynamic members of the MSU community, Paulette Granberry-Russell and Stella Cash. Paulette (Social Science, 77) is the Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity and

Paulette Granberry-Russell

Stella Cash

Director of Affirmative Action, Compliance and Monitoring, Stella (Human Ecology, 80) is director emeritus of the MSU dietetics program, recognized nationally and internationally for its standards of excellence.

“It’s not the amount that individuals give that is important, it’s the concept of giving – making a personal commitment at whatever level feels right.” Stella said. Her sentiments are echoed by co-chair Paulette Granberry-Russell. “We provide an example to others through our giving. After all, we know better than anyone else the value of the work done at Michigan State.”

Many of the colleges and programs across campus plan to run their own campaigns. Faculty, staff and retiree volunteers will conduct a variety of activities, including sharing information and materials with colleagues and holding special events. Many of these campaigns will identify internal priorities and highlight one or two areas for employee gifts. During fiscal year 2000, approximately 4,500 faculty, staff and retirees gave and pledged over $48 million, including planned gifts. In fiscal year 2001, donors gave and pledged over $57 million, a 16% increase over the previous year. This support is essential to the university’s mission and provides a compelling case as the university seeks financial support from government agencies, corporations, foundations, individuals, alumni, parents and friends of MSU.

MSU Federal Credit Union provides a generous grant to the All University Campaign as part of its ongoing effort to support MSU programs. The Credit Union support is essential to the campaign’s ability to focus attention on MSU programs and giving to the university.
Godfreys Launch CNS Dean’s Strategic Vision Fund

John and Velda Godfrey believe in the importance of supporting education in our country. They also believe in allowing experts in the field to determine the greatest needs and most useful way to utilize resources. As a result, they have provided a generous gift of $155,980, the first contribution to the College of Natural Science (CNS) Dean’s Strategic Vision Fund. The long-term effect of giving the dean of the college access to a significant source of private funds, such as the gift from the Godfreys, is extremely important. “Ideally, such gifts motivate competent people to take the initiative in improving education,” John said. “It can minimize the micro management of projects by bureaucratic sources and place this responsibility upon the shoulders of proven educators who supply most of the important ideas.”

John, Mathematics, ’49 & ’50, a native of Lansing enjoying retirement since 1980, is an applied mathematician who started a time share computer company, On-Line Systems, that he later sold to a precursor of Sprint. He earned great respect in the field of computers, working for IBM and General Electric, and taught mathematics for many years at the college and 7-12th grade levels. John served in the Air Force and flew B-17 Bombers—35 missions—and continues to fly today. He and Velda met in high school and married after his return from the service. They have four children, eight grandchildren, and recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.

John’s positive and fond feelings for his experiences at Michigan State, and his appreciation for CNS Dean George Leroi, played a major part in his and Velda’s decision to leave their gift to the college unrestricted. “I enjoyed the education I received immensely,” John said. “As a result, I always felt that I would like to help others receive an education later if possible.”

Regional Campaign Happenings

Regional Meetings Help MSU Prepare for Campaign

From Texas to California and back in East Lansing, donors have been gathering to enjoy great Spartan camaraderie while helping Michigan State University prepare for the biggest fundraising campaign in its history. Many at these gatherings engaged in conversations and provided feedback about the direction and goals of MSU during the campaign.

On February 26, 2002, a group of Texas alumni joined together for a major donor event in San Antonio. Two prominent alumni donors, Drayton McLane (Business, ’59), owner of the Houston Astros baseball team, and Steve Smith, forward for the San Antonio Spurs basketball team, met with the group of 26 in the MVP Icon Room in the Alamodome. It was an informative and fun time for all in discovering something they had in common—a love of Michigan State University and a desire to assure that the campaign will be a success.

In California, two weekend events on April 27 and 28 took place at the homes of Glenn (Business, ’71) and Susan Schafer in Dana Point and Bill (Arts & Letters, ’73) and Carol (Justin Morrill College, ’73) Mechanic in Beverly Hills. President Peter McPherson, MSU Trustee, Dee Cook and Vice President for Development Chuck Webb enjoyed meeting with more than 50 alumni at each gathering and provided an update on campus life and the soon-to-be-announced capital campaign. Donor and alumni activity in the region has increased a great deal since the inception of the West Coast Regional Council. Members of the council and alumni at these gatherings have a keen interest in the success of the campaign and MSU’s future, and their insights are invaluable.

On campus in East Lansing, yet additional campaign-focused events took place. On February 26, Trustee Emeritus Barbara Sawyer-Koch (Education, ’70, Social Science, ’90) and Donald Koch, Professor Emeritus, Physiology, hosted an intimate major donor dinner in the Green Room of Wharton Center. The group, in a lively exchange with Provost Lou Anna K. Simon, discussed the campaign case statement that will be used to tell others about the upcoming campaign’s objectives. Similarly, Dr. James Potchen, Chair of Radiology, hosted a small major donor dinner on April 10 on the Board Room of the Radiology Building. Provost Simon led this group, too, through a meaningful discussion about the campaign, its goals, and how alumni see themselves helping.

The fact is, whether a Spartan donor event takes place on campus or 3,000 miles away, the outcome is always worthwhile. Our donors recognize the importance of the campaign effort and wish to take its sweeping ideas and make them a reality.

Plan For A Fun Kickoff Weekend

The weekend of September 20 and 21, 2002, will prove to be an exciting and energizing Spartan experience as MSU celebrates the public announcement of its first capital campaign of the 21st century. First, at 4 p.m. (Please note this is a time change from a previous announcement), Wharton Center will be the site of a celebration of both MSU’s unique heritage and our promising future. The event is open to everyone in the Spartan community. MSU faculty, staff, alumni and friends are welcome to attend this free event.

For many donors, the weekend will have just begun. In addition to the Wharton Center event, donors recognized in celebration following the ceremony. The 2002 Presidents’ Brunch will be held the next day, three hours prior to the kickoff of the MSU/Notre Dame football game.

This is sure to be an unforgettable weekend. The excitement is just beginning.
Building Dedication Ushers In New Era Of Scientific Discovery

Following in the tradition of scientists who have discovered cancer treatments, made milk safer to drink, and found ways to grow crops more resistant to cold, researchers at MSU entered a new era of scientific advancement with the opening of the new Biomedical and Physical Sciences Building.

Over 600 people, including donors, faculty, staff and friends of MSU, attended the formal dedication on April 12, 2002. Standing six stories tall and housing more than 360,000 gross square feet of space, the building is now home to MSU’s departments of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Physics and Astronomy, and Physiology. It also houses many MSU interdisciplinary centers and projects, including the newly founded Chronic Disease Initiative.