DeVos $5 million challenge to spark Secchia Center campaign finish

As the College of Human Medicine’s Secchia Center receives its finishing touches and becomes the medical school’s new state-of-the-art home in downtown Grand Rapids, donors can now receive a dollar-for-dollar match for gifts to the project. Longtime community supporters Rich and Helen DeVos recently pledged to match donations up to $5 million, hoping their gift will serve as the catalyst to conclude the Campaign for the Secchia Center.

Slated for dedication on September 10, 2010, the Secchia Center is uniquely funded through private giving and named in honor of lead donors Ambassador Peter and Joan Secchia, both MSU alumni.

Since its inception, the Secchia Center has created a buzz in Grand Rapids that is both serious and exciting, according to donors David and Karen Custer. “When you can say ‘Grand Rapids’ in the same sentence as Johns Hopkins, or Harvard or Mayo Clinic, that makes this a pretty cool place to live, work, raise a family or build a business. That’s important not only for us, but for the next generation of people who call this place home,” they wrote in a recent testimonial on the campaign Web site.

Al, Laurie and Jamie Forte noted that they are more excited about their gift to the Secchia Center than any other gift they have ever made. “It is awe-inspiring to think that we are leaving an indelible mark on Grand Rapids through our contribution,” they wrote in their testimonial, adding: “We can’t wait to see this building open and then watch the tidal wave of change that will sweep over Grand Rapids because of it.”

To date, nearly $40 million has been raised toward the $50 million private fundraising goal for the Secchia Center.

“Nothing excites me more than to see a dream become a reality,” said Rich DeVos, co-founder of Amway, a recent recipient of an MSU honorary degree and, together with his wife, a noted healthcare supporter. “Helen and I are proud to be among those who have already answered the call to bring about the new home of the MSU College of Human Medicine in Grand Rapids, but we have decided to do more, with the help of the community.”

For more information about making a gift to the Campaign for the Secchia Center, contact Senior Director of Development Susan Lane at (616) 234-2614; lanes@msu.edu. To learn more, including a sneak preview of the new facility, visit the Campaign Web site at www.secchia-center.com.

Abbie Lukens has donated property in picturesque Northern Michigan which will generate scholarships as MSU selectively harvests hardwood.

What began as an exploration of options for reducing a tax burden on a vacation property has grown to a rewarding way for Abbie Lukens to continue to enjoy a family tradition while helping MSU students.

Abbie’s brother Karl originally purchased a large lot on Lake Michigan near Onekama as an investment. He built a small cottage on the place and the family has enjoyed vacationing there ever since, adding on additional rooms and a garage over the years. The main attraction, however, was quieter acres of pristine woods leading to a bluff with a breathtaking view of the lake.

In the early 90s, the growing property tax obligation began to undermine the ability of the family to retain their retreat. Karl, who passed in 1991, left the property to Abbie but instructed her to sell it if she could not find a solution for managing the tax liability.

Abbie had no previous connection to Michigan State University and hoped that Michigan’s Department of Natural Resources might take the property as a forest reserve. Some friends she met in Michigan, Leonard ’49, Engineering) and Ruth Klein, suggested that Michigan State University was uniquely qualified to manage the forest. Her alumnus nephew Bill Lukens ’71, Social Science)
Nursing gift leverages grant, inspires others

Thanks to a $7 million commitment from the Timothy and Bernadette Marquez Foundation which helped secure a $7.45 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Research Resources and inspired more than 1,000 other benefactors, MSU will break ground on the Bort Building for Nursing Education and Research this summer.

“We are extremely pleased that the university is ready to break ground on the new nursing building,” said Bernadette Marquez. “In a little more than two years, our vision will become a reality.”

Fundraising for the building has concluded with the inspiring efforts of the 60 for SIXTY Challenge. Honoring the College of Nursing’s upcoming 60th anniversary, the challenge was created to provide benefactors the opportunity to have a named legacy in the new building by providing support for 60 modular pods that will serve as workstations for teams of students and faculty assigned to funded nursing research.

Pods were priced at $20,000; however, the college made a commitment to match all contributions on a 1:1 basis which allowed individual and group benefactors to name a Pod for a $10,000 commitment. This unique opportunity motivated more than 500 individuals and group benefactors to become a part of nursing history.

“The new building will be a nucleus for the nursing community where students, faculty, staff, alumni and partners come together and influence the future of healthcare,” said College of Nursing Dean Mary H. Mundt. “It will enable new opportunities for collaboration and integration of the research mission of the college with the education and clinical practice missions.”

For more information about making a gift to the College of Nursing, contact Director of Development Monique Dozier at (517) 432-1187; dozierm@msu.edu.

2010 NCAA Final Four celebrated with Spartan style

With Coach Tom Izzo’s traditional March Magic, it came as no surprise to see MSU edge opponents throughout the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament, securing their spot in the Final Four for the sixth time in 12 years. Donors and friends celebrated the team’s success at a luncheon in Indianapolis and were treated to remarks from President Lou Anna K. Simon, Athletics Director Mark Hollis and some other high-achieving Spartans: the members of the MSU Debate Team who were recently named the 2010 National Debate Champions. See more photos from this and other events at http://www.givingto.msu.edu/eventphotos.cfm.

MSU students Carly Wunderlich and Eric Lanning, who were recently named the 2010 National Debate Champions, were recognized for their victory.
**A storied career and passion for living**

Living a robust life is what it’s all about for Bob Parenti (51, Detroit College of Law).

Giving back to MSU College of Law through a charitable gift annuity is his way of helping other veterans pursue law degrees.

Multi-faceted, Parenti is a romantic at heart who also enjoys writing. His book *A Story of Love and War* portrays his experiences as a World War II soldier through the letters he sent to Laurie, his girlfriend who became his wife in 1946.

Unbeknownst to him, she had kept those letters safely tucked away in a large box, which he found in 2001. He realized his letters held interest, reporting on his life as a soldier and providing a diversion from the daily grind and horrors of war.

“I had the luck of the soldier,” Parenti said. “I was lucky to have survived the war.”

Parenti has contributed the proceeds of the book, now also a 30-minute documentary, to war memorial initiatives in public parks.

In a similar spirit, the Parentis’ future gift to the MSU College of Law will provide financial assistance for students who are veterans. Their gift is set up as a one life charitable gift annuity, providing Laurie with a fixed and guaranteed stream of income for the rest of her life. At Laurie’s death, the balance of the gift will be directed to the MSU College of Law for the veteran’s clinic program. Charitable gift annuities qualify for a tax deduction in the year in which the gift annuity is established and much of the annual income may be received tax-free.

Parenti worked in private practice in Michigan for 30 years and for five years in Florida. He capped his career by joining forces with Willie Gary, senior partner of Gary, Williams, Finney, et al, becoming the first Caucasian partner in a leading African-American firm.

Parenti is now counsel at the Gary law firm. His newest book, *Giant Killers*, details some of the firm’s cases; among them a $500 million-verdict against a Canadian conglomerate attempting to monopolize the funeral home business in Mississippi, and the family of baseball legend Roger Maris’s case against Anheuser-Busch, Inc. for attempting to monopolize the funeral home business.

Astor and Nick Uppal, then MSU undergraduate students from the U.P. According to Tom Kuschinski, he and Nick Uppal first met Clifton Rautiola through a mutual interest in purchasing the same investment property. Clifton became an investor in DTN and also a friend of Tom and Nick.

Clifton passed in 2007, but he and Patricia’s Rautiola’s children and family members joined DTN Management partners Thomas and Mary Kuschinski, and Iqbal “Nick” and Nancy Uppal to establish a $750,000 endowment to honor Clifton. The endowment will be funded through a $450,000 gift from the Rautiola family and two $150,000 pledges from the Upps and the Kuschinskis. Fittingly, the endowment will support MSU undergraduate students from the U.P.

According to Tom Kuschinski, he and Nick Uppal first met Clifton Rautiola through a mutual interest in purchasing the same investment property. Clifton became an investor in DTN and also a friend of Tom and Nick.

Clifton passed in 2007, but he and Patricia’s interests and partnership in DTN Management Corporation continues today through their children and family members Eric and Carol Rautiola, John and Katrina Roscut, and Gary and Kirsten Perkins.

The Clifton and Patricia Rautiola and DTN Communities Endowment will award its first scholarships in the fall of 2010.

For more information about making a gift to University Scholarships and Fellowships, contact Assistant Director of Development Maura Benton at (517) 353-0007, bentonm@msu.edu.
Consumers Energy powers up engineering program

With a $150,000 gift made through the Consumers Energy Foundation, Consumers Energy became the first corporate partner in a new initiative designed to immerse College of Engineering students in real-world issues facing the energy industry.

In the new partnership, Consumers Energy will present an energy-related engineering problem each year to students in the Residential Experience and Cornerstone Engineering program. Student involvement could include developing ideas to solve energy industry issues, leading environmental initiatives, working on energy-related projects that emphasize an interest in technology with a low carbon footprint, job shadowing and field trips to Consumers Energy facilities.

“I am convinced that this partnership will be a great way to educate our students about the power industry and encourage them to consider pursuing careers in this field,” said Satish Udpa, dean of the College of Engineering.

Students in the Residential Experience program live, take classes, meet with advisors and receive training—all in Wilson Hall and with students from many other disciplines. They learn from each other and through hands-on and co-curricular activities, gain skills for functioning in a collaborative, team-based, diverse and increasingly global setting.

With the addition of this partnership gift, Consumers Energy and the Consumers Energy Foundation have provided more than $3 million in support for Michigan State. Their recent gift includes support for the program’s student design projects, supplies, graduate teaching assistants, undergraduate mentors, a co-curricular adviser and computer lab equipment.

“Consumers Energy believes in higher education, in the development of our young people,” said David Joos, recently retired president and CEO of CMS Energy and its principal subsidiary, Consumers Energy, and now chairman of the CMS Energy board. “We think this new model – this residential program – is an excellent way to accomplish that in a very effective manner. It develops the young people, and it develops our relationships with them. It’s good for us, it’s good for the students and it’s good for the state.”

The support from Consumers Energy will help students explore careers in a vital field.

“Thanks to corporate partners such as Consumers Energy, we will have additional resources to prepare students for the highest-value energy jobs and simultaneously add to the state of Michigan’s portfolio of assets for a 21st-century work force.”

For more information on giving to the College of Engineering, contact Director of Development Stephen Bates at (517) 355-8339; batesst@egr.msu.edu.

MSU Federal Credit Union gift

More MSU students can serve at public schools and community centers outside East Lansing thanks to a donation from the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union.

A $20,000 grant from the MSUSFCU to MSU’s Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement provided something essential for students to serve and learn — transportation. The funds cover the costs of leasing and running three vans.

Some students can utilize existing transportation, such as city buses, but the vans make it possible for more students to get to volunteer sites throughout the area and within tight class schedules. During Spring semester, 95 additional students were able to get to schools and other sites that otherwise would not have benefited from the MSU service-learning opportunities, according to Karen Mc Knight Casey, center director.

One beneficiary of the vans was Wexford Montessori Magnet School in South Lansing. In previous years, only one or two MSU students were able to volunteer in the afterschool program each week, but the vans brought three or four MSU student volunteers...
**Assessment expert bolsters MSU leadership in teacher training**

Renowned educational assessment expert Rick Stiggins says he built his career on the basis of doctoral study in Michigan State University’s College of Education. Now he hopes to help his alma mater become the nation’s leader on improving teacher training in assessment.

Stiggins, who received his Ph.D. in educational psychology in 1972, created the successful Assessment Training Institute. He believes the MSU College of Education has the commitment and potential needed to generate widespread changes, starting with its own top-ranked teacher education program.

He established the Richard Stiggins Endowment in Classroom Assessment at MSU to research program improvements to produce educators who can use day-to-day assessment strategies that go far beyond mere grading to stimulate their students’ learning and improve schools.

“MSU is, by reputation and reality, an international center for innovative thinking about teacher preparation,” he said. “It’s a high powered place – and a place I love.”

The new endowment pays for faculty research, field testing and conferences, including a two-day seminar in Erickson Hall last January that was attended by representatives from seven education institutions across the country.

Stiggins served as director of test development at ACT in Iowa City, Iowa, and later as director of research and development in performance and classroom assessment at the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in Portland, Oregon. He turned his attention to classroom assessment exclusively and, in 1990, he and his wife Nancy Bridgeford created the Assessment Training Institute (ATI) to support educators as they face the challenges of day-to-day grading, testing and other assessment activities.

At ATI, Stiggins and his colleagues created professional development experiences needed to fill chronic gaps in ‘assessment literacy’ among teachers and school administrators. And the profitable business, now owned by Pearson, eventually gave him the means to give back.

“This is a big thank you,” Stiggins said of his decision to invest in MSU, where his commitment to improving teacher practices will continue – and grow.

For more information on a gift to the College of Education, contact Senior Director of Development Michelle Mertz at (517) 432-1983; mmertz@msu.edu.

**New scholarship echoes lifetimes of sharing music**

The East Lansing home where Henry and Phyllis Nelson lived for decades is full of musical reminders.

There’s the tuba in the living room – at the ready for rehearsal – and the flute, piccolo and baritone saxophone in a back room. And there’s a stack of songbooks that Phyllis Nelson left.

A lifetime of interesting experiences were “all through music,” Henry said, and he’s found a way to give back and honor his late wife of 63 years.

The Henry M. and Phyllis J. Nelson Endowed Scholarship in Music Education will be given to undergraduate students in the Music Education area of Michigan State’s College of Music. The Nelsons both graduated from the music education program at then-Michigan State College in the 1940s and went on to distinguished teaching careers – she in vocal music, he in band. They were named Michigan Teachers of the Year in their fields in 1978. Two of their three children received band scholarships to MSU and two grandchildren also played in the marching band.

The university and its music education program remain near and dear to Henry’s heart. He’s especially mindful of helping students pursue their love of teaching music.

“This endowment makes it possible for us to acknowledge and provide support for the strongest music education students as they are nearing the completion of their degrees, when the financial stresses of paying for a university degree are most acute,” said Cynthia Taggart, chair of the music education program.

The 160 undergraduates endure a rigorous admission process – including auditions – and must meet very high expectations in a jam-packed five-year program.

Asked about the value of music in schools, Nelson tells the story of bumping into a former student, not uncommon for someone with such a long and storied career. He asked his past student, “Without thinking, she replied, ‘Discipline,’” said Nelson.

“An appreciation of music will be with them the rest of their lives. That’s probably the most important thing.”

For more information on making a gift to the College of Music, contact Assistant Director of Development Linda Connolly at (517) 353-9872; connl@msu.edu.

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**Lift drives student volunteerism**

To celebrate this new partnership, President Lou Anna K. Simon and MSUFCU leaders rode with the MSU volunteers to Wexford and participated in a March is Reading month initiative.

The credit union donates nearly $750,000 to MSU each year, said April Globes, vice president of marketing and e-commerce. The credit union became interested in the center because of its involvement in the community and the positive impact to the MSU students.

“We support and encourage volunteerism and community engagement,” she said. “This is very important, not only for university outreach, but for every student to help the community.”

For more information on giving to MSU’s Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, contact Director of Development Ann Marie Lindley at (517) 432-7543; alindley@vps.msu.edu.

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**Henry Nelson, a distinguished College of Music alumnus, has established an endowed scholarship for future music educators.**

**Phyllis Nelson**

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**The university and its music education program remain near and dear to Henry’s heart. He’s especially mindful of helping students pursue their love of teaching music.**

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**www.givingto.msu.edu**
Krohn Clarke’s Spartan Scholarship: Help that lasts

Many donors name endowed scholarships in honor of their parents, but few parents name endowments to honor their children.

Roger (’78, Business, Accounting) and Kim Pitzer chose to pay tribute to their two daughters, both recent MSU alumnae, by establishing an endowed scholarship in each daughter’s name. Jenny and Susie Pitzer were surprised by the honor and thrilled to choose what area of MSU would benefit from their parents’ gifts. Jenny’s first reaction was: “Thanks so much for honoring us this way; hopefully one day I will be able to do the same way.” Susie added, “How nice it is of you two to allow us to direct the scholarship to an area of our choice at MSU.”

The Susie Pitzer Spartan Scholarship Challenge Endowment takes advantage of the matching funds program (see side bar) to provide a needs-based scholarship that follows a student throughout his or her MSU experience provided a 2.5 GPA is maintained. Susie (’09) completed her degree in dietetics. She believes that many students struggle financially. “Scholarship money allows students to spend more time on their educations and less time working to pay for them,” Susie said.

The Jenny Pitzer Scholarship for Intercollegiate Athletics will support a student-athlete in a non-revenue sport. Jenny (’08) graduated with dual majors in communications and Spanish.

She believes that athletics often generates interest in and excitement about MSU and may be the thing people hear about the most. “A strong, broad based athletics program with successful student-athletes will help MSU in its mission,” Jenny said.

Another reason for thanking mom and dad

Some 17-year-old who started at MSU and worked three jobs to get through, Juno-Ann Krohn Clarke (’56, Human Ecology) recalls, “I was just focused on getting a degree, a job and more than one pair of shoes. But MSU was much more than that and offered so many things I had never had an opportunity to do before.”

Now retired from a successful and dynamic academic career, Juno-Ann found the Spartan Scholarship Challenge provided a new means for her to help ease the financial stress for future MSU students. She previously funded a five-year scholarship in honor of Barbara Kuhl Hoopingarner, her former MSU roommate at Gilchrist Hall, and more recently a grant to help students participate in Study Abroad. She had wanted to create an endowed scholarship in order to provide enduring help, but found the amount a little daunting. The one-to-two match opportunity from the Spartan Scholarship Challenge (see below) allowed her to create the scholarship she had hoped for.

Spartan Scholarship Challenge: Make your present a Spartan’s future

Available until December 31, 2010, the Spartan Scholarship Challenge maximizes donors’ gifts through a $1 match for every $2 in new endowed gifts, providing fresh resources for students struggling to finance their educations.

The initiative leverages $7 million from an anonymous gift to match gifts of $20,000 to $1 million to generate financial assistance for undergraduate students.

Since its inception, the Spartan Scholarship Challenge has raised more than $1.76 million and has created 57 new endowed scholarships.

Learn more at http://www.givingto.msu.edu/ssc or contact Director of Development for University Scholarships and Fellowships Jennifer Bertram at (517) 432-7332 or speak with the development officer in your college or unit.
Milton Muelder, who for more than 50 years served Michigan State University as a faculty member, administrator and benefactor whose gifts benefited the arts, science and athletics, died Thursday, May 6. He was 101.

“We often over-use terms like ‘legend’ and ‘icon,’ but in Mil’s case they are appropriate—even understatements—at his MSU,” said MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon.

“Milt was an engaged renaissance scholar, a generous philanthropist and an academic visionary. He was a witness to and central participant in a dramatic, indeed historic, transformation of this university. His zest for learning, his intellectual curiosity and his love for MSU were as evident as a centenarian as they were as a young faculty member. We have lost a mentor, a role model and a friend.”

Muelder’s MSU career began in 1935 when he joined the faculty. During his 41 years of service to MSU, he served as chairperson of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration (1949-52), dean of the College of Science and Arts (1952-59), and was MSU’s first vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School (1959-76). Additionally, he was appointed as the first executive director of the MSU Foundation (1974-76).

Muelder is credited with recommending to then MSU President John Hannah the establishment of an Office of International Studies and Programs. He also worked to secure the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory at MSU, and establish the Institute of Water Research and the Kellogg Biological Station at Gull Lake. As a commissioned naval officer during World War II, Muelder assisted the Army with his administrative expertise and was awarded the Legion of Merit. Since retiring in 1976, Muelder contributed more than $1 million to MSU to units across campus, among them Kresge Art Museum, the MSU Museum, the Sothern Astrophysical Research (SOAR) telescope, and the Community Music School. Many of his gifts reflected the love for art, gardening and music that he shared with his first wife, Kathleen D. Muelder Japanese garden is but one testament to the life and legacy of Milt at MSU.

A devoted New Yorker, he believes his love of the Big Apple has a common thread with his love for Michigan State. “With both, he enjoys being a part of something big, dynamic and very accomplished. “No matter how much I think I know about MSU, every time I go there I learn something new that is jaw-dropping,” he said.

During his tenure as president of the NYC alumni club, membership has grown tenfold, an exciting phenomenon he credits to the rise of MSU’s Broad Business College that dovetailed with university engagement efforts in the region. “It has been a bit like riding a bucking bronco,” Greg says.

Greg is in his tenth year of service as president of the NYC Alumni Association leader, Greg Hauser, has remembered MSU in his estate plans. Long-time MSU leader and benefactor, Milton Muelder, dies
World-class art museum building under way

Construction for MSU’s Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum began March 16 with a groundbreaking for the building designed by world-renowned architect Zaha Hadid. Hundreds of donors, friends, alumni and members of the community attended the ceremony followed by a celebration at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts. The facility is named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift for the museum. The Broads’ gift of $28 million, with $21.5 million designated for construction of the building and $6.5 million to be used for acquisitions, exhibitions and operations, was the catalyst for the world-class project. Approximately $9 million is needed to complete fundraising toward the $40 million goal. Attractive significant gift naming opportunities still are available for garden, exhibit, special features, administrative and educational spaces.

To learn more about the project, including a live Web cast of the construction site, visit http://broadmuseum.msu.edu. For information about giving to the museum, contact College of Arts and Letters Director of Development Bridget Paff at (517) 353-4725.

Eli and Edythe Broad, Zaha Hadid and Governor Jennifer Granholm joined university officials and students in the ceremonial groundbreaking punctuated by a surprise appearance by Sparty.

Nearly 600 guests gathered under a large tent at the museum site.

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