GLOBAL PROBLEMS
MEET YOUR MATCH
Sure Signs of Spring: Senior outfielder Anthony Cheky and the Spartans are off and running at their McLane Baseball Stadium home, named for Drayton McLane, Jr. (’59, Business)—former owner of the Houston Astros—who’s $4M gift built it in 2009.

DEVELOPMENTS

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Insuring Success
Kaufman gift of $1M

Learn more at:
go.msu.edu/empower

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The generosity of thousands of alumni and friends empowers MSU to advance knowledge and transform lives every day.
Cultivating Food Entrepreneurs: A $150,000 gift from the Detroit-based Kresge Foundation has helped the Michigan State University College of Law establish the Detroit Food Law Clinic at Detroit’s Eastern Market.

Under the direction of adjunct clinical professor Jayesh Patel, the clinic will be staffed by MSU law students, who will provide legal services and advocacy for Detroit-based small businesses, entrepreneurs and nonprofits that focus on food.

A story of philanthropy REWRITTEN ONCE A YEAR

by Patricia Grauer

It was 1959 when Alan Potts, D.O., newly installed president of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (now the Michigan Osteopathic Association), made a breathtaking pronouncement during his presidential address: Michigan would be the home of the next college of osteopathic medicine. It was an ambitious task, because no new colleges had been established in more than 30 years. The vehicle in which this dream would ride was the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation, a trust fund for which each MAOPKS member was taxed $2,000 (an enormous sum at the time), payable over 10 years. It was successful. By 1969, the Michigan College of Osteopathic Medicine was established in Pontiac, became part of Michigan State University in 1971, and has grown into the world-class institution we know as MSUCOM.

“That legacy of giving—so characteristic of the osteopathic profession—is what made our college what it is today,” says Dean William D. Strampel. “The MOCF stands as a testament to the generosity of osteopathic physicians, their commitment to sustaining their profession for the future, and their appreciation for excellence in education and research.”

But that’s not the end of the story. Through careful management and creative fundraising, the MOCF is still thriving today, with a corpus of nearly $8 million. It’s the college’s silent partner, so much so that in 1997 MSU President Peter McPherson presented the MOCF board with the Frank S. Keelke Society memento in recognition of its $1 million in contributions.

In 2005, to sharply reduce the foundation’s administrative costs, the fund’s management was transferred to MSU as an endowment, providing for a guaranteed income and protection of the principal from market fluctuations. The MOCF Ball, an annual gala event that brings together members of the osteopathic profession from across Michigan, is nearly as old as the fund itself, and was initially organized and executed by the MAOPKS Auxiliary. When the MOCF was moved to campus, so did responsibility for the ball. Three co-chairs, who work in the dean’s office, manage all of its aspects. They are Colleen Kniffen, management analyst; Kimberly Betts, executive staff assistant; and Ann Cook, graphic artist.

In 2006, the first MSU-led Ball attracted 400 people and raised $129,000 for the foundation. In 2014, an astounding $420,000 was garnered, and more than 800 people attended, filling the venue at The Henry in Dearborn. In the past 10 years alone, the MOCF Ball has raised more than $2.5 million to support MSUCOM.

A primary objective is providing scholarships to help MSUCOM students defray the high cost of medical education, allowing them to focus on their studies instead of their finances, and offering them more freedom, ultimately, in their specialty choices. The scholarships range from $7,000 annually for four years, to $25,000 annually for MSUCOM’s D.O.-Ph.D. students, to a full ride of $36,000 annually.

For more information on making a gift to the College of Osteopathic Medicine contact Director of Development Christopher Surian at surianc@msu.edu or call (517) 355-8355.
Michigan State University is launching a new program designed to help students who didn’t receive the pre-college math and science training they need to pursue degrees and, ultimately, careers in science-related fields. Called STEM Success, the endeavor is funded by a $5 million grant from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation. “Employees and educators agree that preparing students to be leaders in science and technology is a priority. It’s an economic imperative to strengthen and expand STEM education for students in Michigan,” said Mike Whiting, Jr., president of the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation. “The foundation was made possible because of innovations in science and technology. We are proud to help launch a new program that will draw upon Michigan State’s leadership in STEM education and help more students prepare for careers in the essential STEM professions.”

The program is expected to accept about 500 newly enrolled MSU students annually who are interested in STEM-related careers.

Playing a major role in the program will be MSU’s Neighborhood Initiative, a new concept in on-campus living that brings together a variety of student services under one roof. MSU is divided into five neighborhoods, each providing advising, tutoring, health care, intercultural education, career planning and other services right where students live.

The students will be clustered in two of the five neighborhoods to take advantage of concentrated professional and peer support and to foster a community of STEM scholars. Support from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation will fund neighborhood professional advisers and peer mentors to work with the students.

Half of the $5 million grant will fund the program in its first three years. The rest will go into an endowment fund, the proceeds of which will provide funding for peer mentors and for students to participate in research.

“We are grateful to the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation for their partnership and their endorsement of the considerable work already done at MSU around expanding opportunities in STEM-related disciplines,” says MSU Provost June Youatt. “We appreciate their investment in our work and our students, and we share optimism in what this can mean for the students, their communities and the state of Michigan.”

In partnership with Visa, Inc., the MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) will provide $250,000 in funding for the next eight years to underwrite the Financial Peer Education Program, which will be available to MSU students beginning in Fall 2015.

The program’s curriculum will be developed by MSUFCU and will include financial topics relevant for college students, such as budgeting, understanding credit and identity theft. It will feature peer educators providing one-on-one sessions to assist students in establishing their budgets.

“For most of our students, coming to Michigan State University is an induction into adult independence and its responsibilities,” said MSU Provost June Pierce Youatt. “The opportunity afforded through this generous gift from Visa and the MSU Federal Credit Union will help students gain skills and understanding that will be invaluable to them whether they are just beginning their college experience or getting ready to graduate and begin their professional careers.” In addition to this new financial education program, MSUFCU also offers Financial 4.0, a financial website geared toward college-age students. The site houses blogs on financial topics, financial education videos, free financial resources, and contests, all providing students with the opportunity to improve their financial literacy.

“We’re very pleased to have the opportunity to enhance our partnership with MSU by creating a bigger financial education presence on campus,” said April Cobles, president and CEO of MSUFCU. “We are pleased to provide students with the financial knowledge and resources that will help them achieve their goals and dreams—shaping college and beyond.”
Developments   |  Summer 2015  |  givingto.msu.edu

MSU’s Department of Entomology celebrated a gift launched by one of its most esteemed alumni, former MSU President Gordon Guyer (’50, ’52, Agriculture and Natural Resources). A significant lead gift by Gordon and Mary Guyer inspired faculty, alumni and friends to join them in contributing a total of $80,000 to upgrade the department’s conference room.

Guyer is a graduate of the department and along with a distinguished career as a professor, served as chairperson prior to being director of MSU Extension. He also was appointed to direct the state Department of Natural Resources and led the Department of Agriculture.

GUYER CONFERENCE ROOM: AN ACADEMIC METAMORPHOSIS

In addition to committee meetings, the department uses The Gordon Guyer conference room for teaching, weekly seminars and faculty meetings. It has a computer projection system that meets today’s digital requirements and allows presenters easy control over its capabilities. To inspire younger entomologists, the room also includes memorabilia from Guyer’s diverse and august career.

For more information on making a gift to the College of Natural Science, contact Associate Director of Development Samantha Adler at adlersa2@msu.edu or call (517) 353-4749.

SETTING A TONE IN THE KEY OF GIVING

College of Music volunteer leadership council funds endowed scholarship

The 16-member College of Music National Leadership Council (NLC) has established the first collectively funded, endowed scholarship through MSU’s Empower Extraordinary campaign. The collective pledge of more than $150,000, members say, demonstrates a united commitment, strengthens the impact of individual gifts, and serves as a model for other volunteer committees.

“Our hope is that every volunteer group is as personally committed and involved with their MSU support,” says April Clobes, president and CEO of the MSU Federal Credit Union, member of the NLC, and alumna. “That is what truly makes the difference in empowering Spartans Will.”

Council member and alumnus Craig Murray also commented on group gifts as a way to advance the mission of MSU.

“Giving as a team is uniquely Michigan State,” says Murray. “Spartans give because it’s the right thing to do.”

Alkeem Davidson of Lancaster, PA will be the first recipient of the NLC Endowed Scholarship. He plans to begin his master’s studies this fall with University Distinguished Professor of Clarinet Elsa Verdehr.

“The NLC are people of action who have positively impacted MSU and the College of Music through their guidance, advocacy, and generosity,” says James Forger, dean of the College of Music. The National Leadership Council consists of MSU alumni and supporters who share a passion for music and the university. The council was formed in 2006 to provide guidance to the then School of Music as it transitioned to College status, and continues to advance programming, fundraising and scholarships that contribute to the recruitment and retention of highly talented students.

For more information on making a gift to the College of Music, contact Senior Director of Development Rebecca Surian at surian@msu.edu or call (517) 353-9872.

A Better Bessey Hall

Ernst Bessey Hall, built in 1961, is used daily by more than 30 different departments and 10,000 students. Thanks to a recent $1 million grant from the Forest H. Akers Trust Fund, the academic building is now home to seven active learning environments and two ‘Rooms for Engaged and Active Learning’ or ‘REAL Rooms.’ Within these new spaces on the third floor—named the Forest H. Akers Trust Floor—students will benefit from state-of-the-art technology and flexible furnishings designed specifically to enable lively interaction, enhance learning and increase faculty-student engagement. This gift leveraged university classroom funds, resulting in a much greater impact from existing funds.

In 1961, MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon; Forest H. Akers Trust Fund representatives Stephen Terry, Nancy Craig and Roger Wilkinson; and Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education & Dean of Undergraduate Studies Douglas Estry.

A Better Bessey Hall

Members of the College of Music National Leadership Council during a fall meeting. The full membership (not pictured here) includes Kenneth Ball, William David Brohn, Kurt A. Burmeister, Joanne S. Church, April M. Clobes, Howard J. Gourwitz, Douglas F. Jewell, Merritt M. Lutz, Carol and Clare S. Mackey, Craig R. Murray, Steven H. Noll, Ray J. Simon, Byron J. and Dee Cook, and John D. and Deborah J. Withrow.
Today we have cell phones the creators of Star Trek could not have imagined. An Internet that puts encyclopedias of information at our finger tips. Nanotechnology. Hybridized crops. Treatments to stop cancer. All things that exist thanks to research at universities.

Where else would leading experts in fields as diverse as engineering, veterinary medicine, agriculture and natural science come together? Who else can follow promising ideas wherever they might lead? How else would research move beyond a focus on developing products for short-term profit to finding solutions to complex, multi-faceted problems?

With more than 2,000 research-active faculty, MSU has a scholarly footprint spanning scores of disciplines and a strong tradition of research excellence and impact, says MSU’s Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Stephen Hsu. As a result, MSU is helping to find and test potential solutions to some of the world’s “grand challenges” such as drug-resistant disease, food security, clean water and clean energy.

Now, through the $300 million research funding goal of the Empower Extraordinary campaign, MSU has the opportunity to expand and strengthen that tradition.
“MSU has a long history of successful interdisciplinary research,” says Hsu. “It actually underlies its strengths. It tends not to brag about the great things it does.” Many Spartans believe MSU is a no-nonsense place that values teamwork. It’s a good place to raise a family while making important discoveries in the lab.

Increasingly, faculty also are finding MSU is a place with seed funding, often through priority support, that enables the groundbreaking to test bold new ideas. Groundwork that leads to larger public support through federal grants. And, ultimately, to discoveries that could change the world.

Two such faculty are Michael Hamm and Robert Altvater.

Harvesting hope

When Michael (Mike) Hamm surveys a Lansing urban garden, visits Detroit’s Eastern Market or stands inside an MSU Student Organic Farm hoop house, he sees pieces to an important puzzle.

As the C.S. Mott Professor for Sustainable Agriculture, he envisions a thriving state economy centered on locally produced food that is healthy, green, fair and affordable. He is driven to find new paths for a sustainable, resilient and secure food supply not just in Michigan but for the world.

In the past few months alone, Hamm and his team have secured a USDA grant to help new farmers get started. CRFS staff published the results of a statewide survey showing the capacity of Michigan food producers to supply food to schools and other institutions that are eager to provide fresher, local foods. CRFS staff also documented the impact of local food policy councils in Michigan and released case studies on the first 30 months of the Michigan Food Hub Learning and Innovation Network as a model for food hub networks nationwide. Additionally, CRFS helped a local NGO launch a pilot Women-in-Agriculture Network in the Flint area. CRFS has partnered with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation which has provided about $6 million in support through two recent grants. One grant focuses on activities that expand fresh food access in schools, advance local food access by limited-resource families, and provide support for farmers through unheated hoophouse acquisition. The second grant builds capacity and marshals action on the Michigan Good Food Charter. The charter was created in 2010 through CRFS with statewide input. The goal is to spur efforts toward local food production and consumption and other practices that will lead to a healthier and more sustainable food supply for all Michiganders.

Right now, Hamm is on sabbatical in the United Kingdom as a visiting fellow at the University of Oxford’s Mansfield College and is working at the Environmental Change Institute. He’s busy building new partnerships and identifying new opportunities to collaborate with UK and European universities around food systems and sustainable agriculture.

“It is exciting to have the Bayer’s endowment to catalyze a broad range of research to help ensure good, healthy food for our children, grandchildren and beyond,” Hamm says. “This endowment will expand our capacity to collaborate and to go past conventional research, where big insights can come. Over the next couple of years it is my intention that these funds will be used to seed research that in turn yields federal funds for both domestic and international research.”

Learn more about the work of Mike Hamm at go.msu.edu/hamm
Our opponents aren’t Michigan or Ohio State or Stanford. The rivals we face together are deadly diseases.

Robert Schultz

Shedding new light on a dark disease

As you step into the laboratory of Robert Abramovitch, you sense that something extraordinary is taking place. The microbiology and molecular genetics faculty member has assembled a burgeoning group of researchers. The team includes undergraduate students, graduate students, research associates, post docs and a lab manager. All are hard at work, addressing multiple experiments, gathering and analyzing teams of data. They are often in close collaboration with other researchers including those from MSU’s Colleges of Natural Science, Human Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

They are motivated by one of the biggest health threats facing the world: tuberculosis (TB), which takes the lives of approximately 1.5 million people each year.

“One of the nice things about being at MSU,” says Abramovitch, “is that it’s a really positive, collaborative environment. People actively reach out to other researchers to launch projects and collaborations and solve problems.”

In the United States, cases of TB have been declining for more than 20 years (to fewer than 10,000 in 2013) rendering it of little interest to major pharmaceutical companies. Yet more than 2 million Americans are estimated to have latent TB infection with the potential to develop the disease. Current treatments are nearly 50 years old and involve a lengthy and costly drug-regimen of six months to two years. The response to an epidemic of drug-resistant tuberculosis in New York City that peaked in 1992 was estimated to have taken more than a decade and cost well over $1 billion to bring under control.

Abramovitch’s team uses novel approaches that have the potential to not only conquer TB but to provide new methods for understanding other drug-resistant diseases. For example, Abramovitch has employed a synthetic biosensor that glows in response to conditions that mimic TB infection. Developing biosensor strains has allowed the team to screen more than 890,000 molecular compounds to find likely candidates to inhibit TB disease. Their ideas received seed funding from the Grand Challenges Explorations program funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Abramovitch received an initial $100,000 to conduct screenings. Recently, he became one of 15 researchers worldwide to receive a follow-up grant in the program. The new grant of $820,000 is directed toward testing selected, optimized compounds for their ability to block infection.

Team Abramovitch recently expanded with a group of very welcome walk-ons: the members of Robert J. Schultz’s family. The story behind the lab led to the use of the world’s most widely employed and effective anti-cancer drugs.

Back in the 1970s, a serendipitous observation in an MSU lab led to the use of the world’s most widely employed and effective anti-cancer drugs. To this day, the drugs, cisplatin (Platinol) and carboplatin (Paraplatin), are key ingredients in many of the treatment protocols that make cancer survivable for millions of patients.

Our opponents aren’t Michigan or Ohio State or Stanford,” he says. “The rivals we face together are deadly diseases.”

In the competition for federal and foundation funding, Abramovitch sees the difference that private support, such as that from the Schultz family, can make. With it, he was able to bring in an additional staff member to work on the project, generating additional data for his latest federal grant application.

“Sometimes it’s even small amounts of seed funding that allow you to do one or two more experiments. The last piece of important data you gain can put you over the top for receiving a long-term grant,” he says. “Seed funding is very important for a research lab.”

Learn more about the work of Robert Abramovitch at go.msu.edu/abramovitch

Lab technician Loreta Van Camp and Professor Barnett Rosenberg in the 1970s laboratory that would change the face of research at MSU.
apparatus using platinum poles to create an electric field in a culture containing bacterial cells. They noticed a surprising result: the bacteria grew to a hundred times their normal lengths but did not divide. The team suspected the platinum, not the electric field, was the cause and set up the experiments needed to test their hypothesis. They learned that a chemical compound identified as cisplatin created the tumor growth. Rosenberg immediately saw its potential for inhibiting tumors.

The team set up further experiments in laboratory animals, leading to human clinical trials. By 1978, cisplatin was in wide use to treat testicular and ovarian cancer. Carboplatin, also patented for cancer treatment by the team, would later join cisplatin in wide use with equal effectiveness.

A present that drives the future

In addition to the lives that are being saved, the impact of Rosenberg’s anti-cancer discoveries—because they happened at a research university—can be measured another way. More than $300 million in patent royalty income from the sales of cisplatin and carboplatin poured into the MSU Foundation, permitting reinvestment to support MSU’s research enterprise in a big way.

Income from the foundation has funded endowed chair positions at MSU, including the Rosenberg Chair in Neuroscience, held by Marc Brennlohe, and the Rosenberg Professorship in Plant Biology, held by Robert L. Last.

Moreover, the bulk of the foundation’s income, built through the years of work by MSU faculty and other investment, provides grants to initiate and expand promising research projects across the university.

This past year, support from the MSU Foundation enabled the university to designate six outstanding faculty researchers as MSU Foundation Professors. Many of them will receive five years of supplemental funding, which is to double MSU’s number of endowed chair positions.

Named professorships are part of an initiative to attract and retain highly successful faculty members. These foundation professorships serve as a short-term bridge, as MSU seeks to provide permanently funded endowed professorships. One of the top goals of MSU’s Empower Extraordinary campaign is to double MSU’s number of endowed chair positions from 100 to 200.

Professors and endowed chair positions are an essential component to build strength in the next set of research frontiers. Establishing these positions also is in lock step with increasing private, unrestricted funding for research support. “Outstanding faculty members are the main drivers behind what happens on campus,” says Hsu. “They run large laboratories and research groups, and mentor students. Through hard work and with our financial support, their ideas become the important discoveries that make the future better than today.”

Like Barnett Rosenberg, they also leave an imprint for the ages.

To explore how you might make a gift to support global problem-solving research at MSU, contact the development officer in your college or unit; or call (517) 884-1000.
The Countdown to solving some of the world's most pressing problems starts here:

1. INVESTMENT SOARS
   Every year, royalties from patents and other results are invested by the MSU Foundation to generate lasting support for research, teaching and the commercialization of technologies.
   Licensing deals on MSU technologies increased 93 percent in 2014.

2. RESULTS PARACHUTE
   Analysis sparks new ideas, driving new research.

3. BOOSTER TWO
   Public and private support combine, creating a network of resources that enable scientists to work toward a common goal.
   MSU received $528 million in external funding in 2013-14—up from $351 million a decade ago.

4. FUNDING THRUST
   Initial data and analysis fuels chances for the best ideas to receive a major support blast-off.

5. MISSION CONTROL
   The pilot work validates viable solutions.

6. LAUNCH PREP
   With seed support in place, the team can test pilot promising ideas and approaches.
   The Empower Extraordinary campaign goal is to raise $100M for global problem solving research.

7. BOOSTER ONE
   Private dollars, the MSU Foundation and other partners deliver needed support.
   In 2014, 19 percent of MSU's external research funding came from private sources.

8. GROUNDWORK
   The more than 2.3M square feet devoted to research at MSU provides the foundation for work.
   The Empower Extraordinary campaign goal is to raise $200M to enhance facilities.

9. BOLD PARTNERSHIPS
   Diverse experts from across campus and around the world are drawn in to join teams.
   MSU has more than 280 formal international partnership agreements.

10. AMBITIOUS THINKING
    The ideas of more than 2,000 research-active faculty and their teams are always percolating—generating questions, plans, new methods.
**The economics of an endowment**

Endowed positions, like the ones the Addys created in finance and economics, have a ripple effect. Good professors attract good graduate students, and a community of such talented people creates a strong department.

Thanks to Fred and Marilyn’s belief that undergraduate students should also have access to high-quality faculty members, the ripple effect doesn’t stop there. Their endowments have helped bring these professors—and all of their knowledge and experience—to the chalkboard in undergraduate classes, too.

As the economics department’s first-ever endowed faculty chair, Professor Vogelsang has been so successful in making the Addy’s vision for a strong, competitive program a reality that they recently decided to fund a second endowed chair for the department.

**Production, distribution and consumption of knowledge**

Once a year, the Addys and the Vogelsangs meet at the Kellogg Center State Room to catch up over a bottle of wine.

“The first time we met, we really clicked on a personal level,” Vogelsang says of the initial meeting that led to their friendship. “He’s become almost like an uncle to me, and it’s very satisfying to know that he is right way, and suddenly see that the students understand.”

Outside the classroom, Vogelsang uses the Addys’ support the same way. The endowment has given him the freedom to pursue his research, publish his work, and attend international conferences as he sees fit, with few constraints—something he may not have been able to do at a university that doesn’t put such vast resources behind them.

For Vogelsang, the move to this Midwest giant proved to be exactly right. “Good things are happening in economics here,” Vogelsang says. If you ask Fred Addy, he’ll tell you that Vogelsang is one of those good things. “If you’ve never looked up Tim Vogelsang on the Internet, you should. Students think he’s spectacular. They maintain he’s the toughest professor they’ve ever had, but he’s also one of the best at Michigan State.”

**For more information on supporting the College of Social Science, contact Senior Director of Development Nick McLaren at mclarenn@msu.edu or by calling (517) 884-2189.**
The shorthand for Craig Menear’s rise to corporate CEO reads like the American Dream, Spartan Chapter. Son of a Flint General Motors tool and die maker, as a kid he started a neighborhood lawn care business. He used his own savings to buy his first car. And he drove it to Michigan State where he slogged his way through two years of math and statistics that didn’t come easy. After graduation, he began his career at the modest, now defunct retailer Montgomery Ward.

Today, Craig is charman of the Board, CEO and president of an American icon: The Home Depot. He says he got from “there to here” through a lot of hard work and because a lot of people were willing to invest in him. “I tried to always focus on the job at hand,” Craig says. “And I was incredibly fortunate to be able to work for some great people during my career who helped me progress.”

Once a mentee now a role model, he says his goal is to uphold the company’s founding values: “take care of your customers, take care of your associates and everything else will take care of itself.”

Craig also is taking care of his alma mater with a $500,000 gift to the Eli Broad College of Business to support building a Graduate Pavilion. This facility, funded in part by a $25 million challenge grant from Eli and Edythe Broad, will benefit students of the Eli Broad School of Management. It’s part of a bold plan in MSU’s Empower Extraordinary campaign—to provide the latest technology and collaborative learning spaces needed to launch groundbreaking initiatives in education.

“Michigan State was a great economic opportunity to be able to get a great education and a great life,” he says. “I am very happy to be able to give back some of what was given to me.”

This spring, Craig shared insights and advice with students as the Broad College commencement speaker. If the humble candor of his comments to Spartans at a recent reception in Atlanta is any indication, the graduates heard a few surprises. Consider these nuggets. Admittedly competitive and comfortable out in front, turns out he’s naturally an introvert who likes to unwind with a good jigsaw puzzle. A family man with two daughters, he says he couldn’t have accomplished anything without the support of his wife. Integrity is number one when The Home Depot hires new talent. And the one thing that may have sealed the deal for him to become a Spartan? Watching Michigan State decisively beat Ohio State in a memorable football game.

Craig may not officially change The Home Depot’s signature orange color, but his allegiance to the green and white is as strong as ever.

For more information on making a gift to the Broad College of Business, contact Senior Director of Development Vivian Leung at leungv@msu.edu or call (517) 355-8504.
Michigan State University researchers and their partners plan to create a model for teaching science while also improving students’ skills in math, reading and writing. The project is funded by a five-year, $5 million grant from Lucas Education Research, a division of the George Lucas Educational Foundation. Executive Director Kristin De Vivo says the goal is to bring the benefits of project-based learning—an approach that encourages kids to explore real-world problems— to more classrooms throughout the nation.

"Educators are in agreement based on classroom experience that project-based learning keeps students engaged and promotes deeper understanding," says De Vivo. "However, very little research currently exists to prove the curriculum effective but also personally relevant in students’ lives. Krajcik says the project will build on previous research and help teachers make stronger connections between two sets of education standards now being implemented in most states: the Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core State Standards in language arts and mathematics. “We are pleased that Lucas Education Research shares our excitement about what project-based learning can do for our schools and our students,” says Krajcik. "This grant makes it possible for us to design a curriculum that will bring science to life for young learners with thoughtful incorporation of literacy, mathematics and learning technologies to promote collaboration and agency.”

“Michigan State University is at the forefront of conducting research on STEM education and applying the results—a pressing need in our state, across the country and around the world,” says MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon. "We are grateful to the George Lucas Educational Foundation for partnering with us in our quest to enhance STEM skills in students of all ages. Literacy researcher Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar, a professor at U-M, is co-principal investigator on the project. Other team members include Deborah Perk-Brown of MSU, Elliot Sobolow of U-M and Emily Miller of the University of Wisconsin.

For more information on making a gift to the College of Education, contact Senior Director of Development Melissa Phillips Lynch at phil125@msu.edu or by calling (517) 432-1983.
The Empower Extraordinary campaign is propelling this great university forward with you at its side. To date, more than 60 percent of the $1.5 billion needed to meet our objectives has been raised. But, there is much more work to be done.

To learn more, visit go.msu.edu/empower #EmpowerMSU

$917,573,908 has been raised as of April 30, 2015

Funding goal $1.5B

446 new endowments of $100K or more

$367.2M raised toward endowment

17 endowed faculty positions created towards a goal of 100

PROGRESS BY PRIORITY

A Global Problem Solver
for research support

$178M

Funding Goal $300M

An Engine of Opportunity
for student support

$252M

Funding Goal $400M

A Vibrant Community
for facilities and programs

$298M

Funding Goal $450M

A Force for Creativity, Discovery, and Learning
for faculty support

$189M

Funding Goal $350M
Helping to ensure the future success of Michigan State University athletics, alumni Peter and Joan Secchia have made a $3 million gift that is being directed toward the endowment of the defensive coordinator position with the MSU football team and capital improvements for the MSU men’s basketball program.

"Peter and Joan Secchia have been steadfast champions of MSU for decades," says MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon. “Their commitment to their alma mater has enriched MSU in numerous ways that will be felt for generations. We are grateful for this new gift, which will help us to continue to pursue excellence in our athletic programs." Athletics has a goal to raise $262 million in the Empower Extraordinary campaign and is focused on championship-level facilities, increasing its endowment and devoted annual giving. Named coaching endowments will play a key role in attracting and retaining elite coaches and mentors.

"This gift couldn’t come at a better time," says MSU Athletics Director Mark Hollis. "As we continue the momentum from the public launch of our campaign, this gift touches on two of our critical needs – facilities and endowment, both of which are critical to providing the resources that will ensure the success of future Spartan student-athletes."

The campaign goal for endowments is $250 million. There are three areas of endowment support within MSU Athletics – scholarship, program and coaching endowments.

"After two United States Marine Corps enlistments, MSU allowed me back to finish my degree," says Secchia. “While I was chairman of the MSU graduation celebration in spring of 1962 I said to myself, ‘do not ever forget these people who were good to you’. Michigan State has been good to me and it always makes me proud of my certificate of graduation from the college of business. I have not forgotten.”

Peter Secchia, a 1965 graduate of MSU’s Eli Broad College of Business and the former U.S. Ambassador to Italy, is a member of the Athletic Director’s Campaign Leadership Council, a group of 33 campaign volunteers and leaders from across the country.

As one of the people most responsible for helping MSU bring its College of Human Medicine to Grand Rapids, Ambassador Secchia provided the lead gift for the college’s new headquarters there, now known as The Secchia Center. He also provided the largest outright cash gift received by an MSU women’s intercollegiate sports program to build the Secchia Softball Stadium on Old College Field. In 1997, he received an honorary doctorate of humanities from MSU.

Together with his wife Joan, a 1964 graduate of MSU’s College of Education, he has hosted dozens of university events and has chaired several campus building projects. Joan serves on the campaign board of the College of Education and has long been an active community advocate in Grand Rapids, serving on many boards of charitable organizations.

Last fall, MSU announced the Secchiars are serving as honorary chairs on President Simon’s Campaign Cabinet. Peter previously served on the 2002-2007 President’s Campaign Cabinet for The Campaign for MSU.

For more information on making a gift to Spartan Athletics, contact the Spartan Fund at (517) 432-4610.
It was calculus—a class where you're typically more likely to find the derivative of a function than find love—that brought MSU alumni Bob Nuber and Betty Shanahan together on campus in the mid 1970s.

Now, with a $1.3 million bequest through their estate plans, the Chicago couple has established the Bob Nuber and Betty Shanahan Endowed Professorship, which will make it possible for the College of Engineering to recruit and retain top-notch faculty that will inspire and empower the next generation of Spartan engineers to change the world.

In the years since Nuber and Shanahan's fateful calculus class and their graduation in 1978 from computer science and electrical engineering, respectively, they have certainly made their mark on the world. Nuber, who has logged almost 40 years in software development for every type of business imaginable, is now the managing director of镝男神, where he and his team are responsible for content management systems for Tribune's entire portfolio of publications. Shanahan has brought MSU alumni Bob Nuber and Betty Shanahan together on campus in the mid 1970s.

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Nuber, who has logged almost 40 years in software development for every type of business imaginable, is now the managing director of Tribune Co., where he and his team are responsible for content management systems for Tribune's entire portfolio of publications. Shanahan also donates her time as a member of the college's Alumni Advisory Board and the Cornerstone and Residential Experience Sounding Board.

They hope that both their involvement and their choice to give will have far-reaching effects. “Our goal is to deliver on the potential of philanthropy among Spartan engineers,” Shanahan says. “We invite others to express their passion and Spartan pride by joining in the excitement of this campaign. We found this to be both personally rewarding and impactful for MSU.”

For more information on making a gift to the College of Engineering contact Senior Director of Development Stephen Bates at batesst@msu.edu or call (517) 355-8339.
I think that I was fortunate to have been raised by a ‘Renaissance Woman.’ I learned more from my mother than anyone else.

She taught me that ‘laughing is the best medicine.’ She was extremely witty herself, and saw humor in most everything. She also taught me, at a very young age, that if you don’t love your work, you can’t be a happy person. It’s impossible.

My parents had everything taken away from them during the Russian Revolution. Up until then, they had been living comfortably in Ukraine, which, at that time, was part of Russia. For a while, they wandered around Russia just trying to survive. Luckily, with help from Canada—they were able to move there in 1927.

So, imagine you’re a woman of 24 in the 1920s, having to learn a new language and start over with nothing; living in a very modest manner to put it mildly. And you’ve had to give away or leave behind everything you had. And there is no running water, the toilet is in the backyard, and you have no money. Yet, somehow, you need to learn—to figure out how to get an education.

And she did. My mother was not formally educated, but she became one of the most well educated people I’ve ever known through reading books. I was amazed to learn, later in life, that our mother used to have a book club in, of all places, our home! And that was when book clubs were largely unheard of.

My siblings and I were raised with the love of music. Even though my parents had little money during the Depression, somehow they found money for us to use musical instruments. And in my case, it was a clarinet. We also sang a lot at home and that was the basis for my singing in men’s adult chorus groups all my life. I can’t think of anything that has given me as much joy as music, thanks to my parents.

My sister and I were both given a music scholarship to Michigan State University, I was encouraged to take a lot of liberal arts courses. And that was back when class sizes were 16, 18 or 20 students. So, I thought that an endowed faculty position in the liberal arts in her honor would be a wonderful thing to do in memory of our mother, and a great way to give back to MSU.

That said, I’m so pleased about the selection of Kyle Whyte as the first professor to hold the Timnick Chair in the Humanities, and I’m sure my mother would be pleased with his selection, too. Kyle has framed and hung a lovely photograph and write-up about my mother in the room he occupies as Timnick Chair. It’s a simple, yet meaningful way to connect the two.

My mother set a tone of being very generous to others, too, even when our funds were limited, and that philosophy has remained with me. In life, there are varying shades of generosity and people’s attitudes towards giving and taking. And she felt strongly that people who are given are much happier.

So, we were given a great interest in being deserving of whatever we achieved. And even with such limited resources, our mother told us we must share with others. Essentially, if you’re lucky enough to make some money, you give back.

Bobvirkis had taken all of my parents’ money away, so for my mother to see her was get back the family well-being was a joy. She loved that I’d also picked up on being generous, and was extremely happy about that.

One time, in her later years, I was in Victoria with my mother, sisters Emma and Ruthie, to celebrate her birthday. So, I asked my mother:

‘What do you think are two or three of the things you are most proud of accomplishing?’

Without missing a beat, she immediately replied, ‘Seeing you grow into the man you have become; and seeing you being generous to your brother and sisters, and your generosity to others, that is the happiest of my life accomplishments.’

In her definition, it is impossible to be happy without being generous. So, when I started going back, I realized I had to think about where I ought to give back.

In this country, we spend money on wars in other countries, and yet, there’s not enough money to take care of our National Parks or for education.

So, I decided to give back to community colleges, to help MSU, and to help my school, Luther College, and its music department; in great part, to honor my mother, Ottilie Timnick. It’s why I funded the Tilchen Computer Lab (Tilchen was my mother’s nickname), as well as two dorms named after my sisters at a Lutheran primary school in Tanzania, and the Timnick Garden at Luther Court in Victoria, British Columbia.

My mother was an incredible woman—especially when she was 108! Her only regret was that, back in Russia, she had been promised an education and, as she said, ‘Of course, I had to learn on my own.’

As for me, while I was a student at Michigan State University, I was encouraged to take a lot of liberal arts courses. And that was back when class sizes were 16, 18 or 20 students. So, I thought that an endowed faculty position in the liberal arts in her honor would be a wonderful thing to do in memory of our mother, and a great way to give back to MSU.

That said, I’m so pleased about the selection of Kyle Whyte as the first professor to hold the Timnick Chair in the Humanities, and I’m sure my mother would be pleased with his selection, too. Kyle has framed and hung a lovely photograph and write-up about my mother in the room he occupies as Timnick Chair. It’s a simple, yet meaningful way to connect the two.

That way, any succeeding Timnick Chair will know the incredible woman he or she represents. And it just may jog others into thinking about possibly doing something in honor of their parents. Now, as some know, I do have a degree from the Business School, and have given to it, as well. But the humanities often do not get the level of funding that the professional schools do. And when I think of my mother, I have to believe that the MSU College of Arts and Letters represents who my mother was.”

And when I think of my mother, I have to believe that the MSU College of Arts and Letters represents who my mother was.

My Mother

Ottilie Schroeter Timnick
and a Son’s Life Lessons Learned

By Mike Jenkins

In January 2015, Kyle Powys Whyte, a professor in the MSU College of Arts and Letters Department of Philosophy, was named Timnick Chair in the Humanities at Michigan State University.

MSU alumnus and retired businessman Henry O. Timnick (‘55, College of Arts and Letters; ’58, MA, Business) established the position, funding it through the Henry O. Timnick Endowment Fund, in honor of his mother, Ottilie Schroeter Timnick.

Recently, Mr. Timnick shared his thoughts about the reasoning behind his gift in honor of his mother, including some personal remembrances of her.
Kyle Powys Whyte, an expert in the moral and political issues around climate policy and indigenous peoples, has been named as the inaugural Timnick Chair in the Humanities at Michigan State University.

MSU alumnus and retired businessman Henry O. Timnick (BA 1955, MA 1958, Business) endowed the position in honor of his mother, Ottilie Schroeter Timnick (see page 30).

Whyte’s work in the cooperative relationships between indigenous peoples and climate science organizations has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Climate Science Center, Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Center, the Sustainable Michigan Endowed Program, and Spencer Foundation.

“I’m honored to accept this chair as I am committed to creating unique and engaging learning experiences for MSU students and for the scientists and environmental professionals I work with in my research,” Whyte says.

He is currently a professor in the MSU College of Arts and Letters Department of Philosophy and an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

“The Timnick Faculty Position in the Humanities was established to impart through excellence in teaching, the habits of mind embodied by Henry Timnick’s mother: her humanist sensibility, cultural curiosity, and active engagement with the humanities,” says College of Arts and Letters Acting Dean Elizabeth H. Simmons.

Whyte is a faculty member of the Environmental Philosophy & Ethics graduate concentration, and is affiliated faculty at Michigan State for Peace and Justice Studies, Environmental Science and Policy, the Center for Regional Food Systems, Animal Studies and American Indian Studies.

For more information on making a gift to the College of Arts and Letters, contact Director of Development Bridget Paff at paff@msu.edu or call (317) 353-4726.

Now you know

The work you do to advocate on behalf of Michigan State is critical for recruiting and retaining outstanding students and to continue to build our network of Spartans across the country and around the world. All alumni, donors and friends of MSU can point with pride to the many accomplishments of our university, such as these:

MBA Top 10
MSU’s Broad College of Business MBA program is on U.S. News and World Report’s list of top 10 MBA Programs with the Most Employed Graduates, with 99.6 percent of full-time MBA graduates landing a job three months after graduating in 2014.

Elite Eight Debate
The MSU debate team finished in the Elite Eight of the 2015 National Debate Tournament. MSU juniors Tyler Thir and Margaret Strong defeated seven teams including from Georgetown University, the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Michigan, during the preliminary and elimination rounds.

Largest Class of Fellows Yet
Nineteen MSU National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows were selected for 2015—the largest class of fellows for MSU since the program began in 1952. Fellows benefit from a $32,000 three-year annual stipend, a $12,000 allowance for tuition and fees, opportunities for international research and professional development, and the freedom to conduct their own research at any accredited U.S. institution.

Upcoming Events
Watch your mail and email for more information on upcoming events. Unless otherwise noted, those listed here take place in East Lansing.

Final Four Once More
With its overtime Elite Eight win against Louisville, the MSU men’s basketball team advanced to a nation-best seventh Final Four in 17 seasons. Here, Spartans applaud the team at a Pep Rally in Indianapolis. Visit go.msu.edu/football15 for additional photos.

Grandparents University
June 30 – July 2, 2015

MSU at the Traverse City Film Festival
 Traverse City
July 26, 2015

Empower Extraordinary Volunteer Meeting
September 12, 2015

President’s Football Program
“Branch” before MSU vs. Oregon night game
September 12, 2015

Empower West Michigan Grand Rapids
September 24, 2015

Grand Awards Gala
October 1, 2015

MSU Homecoming
October 2-3, 2015

Empower Southeast Michigan Detroit
November 5 or 6, 2015

Green and White Brunch
October 3, 2015

Empower Extraordinary Volunteer Meeting

Thanks for Giving Luncheon for MSU faculty, staff and retiree donors
November 2, 2015
Leader of the Pack

Sarah MacLachlan, a zoology junior from Pittsburgh, Pa., learned a lesson or two from hyenas and lions this year.

As an MSU Beckman Scholar working with one of the world’s leading behavioral ecologists, MSU Professor Kay E. Holekamp, Sarah studied the complex cooperative behavior of hyenas when they are interacting with lions.

“We can apply our knowledge to help create therapies for people with cooperative, communicative or emotional problems,” says Sarah. “My research makes me feel like I’m getting the absolute most out of my time at MSU.”

Learn more at go.msu.edu/maclachlan