Dr. Linda J. Nelson, a retired professor of Family and Child Ecology at MSU, has been an avid lover of art since her childhood. Her mother, Gertrude, a home economics teacher, taught her many traditional crafts, and Dr. Nelson still has her mother’s hand-painted color and value charts from her art lessons in the 1920s. This long history of arts appreciation has led Dr. Nelson to pledge $200,000 toward a project unveiled recently to expand MSU’s art museum. Specifically, her gift will name the Gertrude Z. and Linda J. Nelson Discovery Gallery.

Dr. Nelson, a charter member of the Friends of Kresge and the first major donor to the expansion project, hopes that the initiative and the fundraising it requires moves along swiftly. “I hope that the construction can be completed quickly so that the whole community can enjoy the increased space, the opportunity to see more of the collections, and that people of all ages can be enriched by art experiences,” she said. “The arts belong in a beautiful setting as part of the total learning opportunity. Arts should be experienced and appreciated throughout life. We need to encourage and support this valued part of human expression.”

For more information about the art museum expansion, contact Arts & Letters Director of Development Rebecca Surian at (517) 353-4725 or surian@msu.edu.
A bout 130 new scholarships for MSU study abroad programs will be funded each year by a $2.5 million gift from the MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU). When fully funded in five years, the MSUFCU Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship will offer scholarships in amounts from $500 to $2,000 to all qualified students, regardless of their class level and degree program.

“Michigan State University has a long history of fostering global perspectives in teaching, research and outreach,” said MSU Provost Lou Anna K. Simon, during her tenure as interim president. “Today’s students are not fully educated unless they have a meaningful international experience, and this transformational gift will bring that experience within reach of many more students.”

MSU’s Study Abroad program is the largest of any single-campus university in the nation with nearly 200 programs in more than 60 countries on all seven continents. “It is the credit union’s goal to be the leader in serving MSU, as well as our local community,” said MSUFCU President and CEO Patrick M. McPharlin. “Our board of directors feels that the Study Abroad Program will enhance our students’ confidence, offer them a broad perspective on human relations, and will make them more valuable world citizens. Our commitment to the university through the creation of this scholarship can only further enhance the long-term partnership enjoyed by both MSU and the credit union.”

Dean of International Studies and Programs John Hudzik noted the importance of the new scholarships. “The MSUFCU gift for study abroad scholarships is a magnificent contribution toward making study abroad—and the many benefits it affords—possible for our students,” Hudzik said. “It is also a true leadership gift which we hope will prompt others to be as farsighted in the interest of providing access to all students.”

The MSUFCU Board of Directors poses with Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon (center) after the gift agreement was signed. The MSUFCU has supported MSU for nearly a quarter century. In 1999, it established the Endowed Chair in Financial Institutions/Investments, currently underwrites the annual All University Campaign and provides ongoing support for a variety of MSU initiatives. With this latest gift, the MSUFCU joins a prestigious group of donors who are recognized in the Williams Society.

The MSUFCU, chartered by a group of MSU professors in 1937, is now the largest university-based credit union in the world. Serving 117,000 members worldwide, it has assets of more than $1.2 billion and offers a full range of personal financial services.

For more information on how you can follow the leadership of the MSUFCU and help support MSU students wishing to study abroad, contact University Development at (517) 355-8257 or (800) 232-4MSU.
Schmitt Planned Gift Benefits College Of Social Science

Michigan State University is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity institution.

The goal of the endowment is to help students enrich their academic experience from participating in co-curricular activities related to the engineering profession; such as study abroad, attendance at national professional conferences, and competing in national events (i.e., steel bridge and dance at national professional conferences, and engineering profession; such as study abroad, attendance at national professional conferences, and competing in national events (i.e., steel bridge and concrete canoe programs). Eligible recipients will be Civil Engineering students and other students participating in Civil Engineering sponsored programs, including graduate, undergraduate and international students.

For more information about creating an endowment in the College of Engineering, contact Associate Director of Development Jonathan Hill at (517) 355-8339 or jhill89@msu.edu.

Malecks continued from cover

Their gift qualifies them for recognition in the John A. Hannah Society. Tom is using payroll deduction to fulfill their pledge, and it is their intent to further support this fund once the pledge commitment is completed. Tom stated, “We both have been fortunate to have been awarded multiple academic degrees from Michigan State University. In deep appreciation for what Michigan State University has done for us, we have established this fund to aid future MSU students.”

The goal of the endowment is to help students enrich their academic experience from participating in co-curricular activities related to the engineering profession; such as study abroad, attendance at national professional conferences, and competing in national events (i.e., steel bridge and concrete canoe programs). Eligible recipients will be Civil Engineering students and other students participating in Civil Engineering sponsored programs, including graduate, undergraduate and international students.

For more information about creating an endowment in the College of Engineering, contact Associate Director of Development Jonathan Hill at (517) 355-8339 or jhill89@msu.edu.

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 Melanie S. Heil, Associate Vice President and Director of Development Communications, Marketing & Stewardship: Linda Dunn, Assistant Director/Editor Rick Seguin, Assistant Director Bob Thomas, Director Bob Brent, University Artist Christina Schaffer, Editorial Assistant Randy Brown, Webmaster Alicia Crandall, Assistant Director Becky Miller, Assistant Brenda Samson, Assistant Michigan State University is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity institution.
Family Fund Scholarship Benefits MSU Employees

The Family Fund scholarship is funded by the MSU family of faculty, staff, and retirees and is designed to benefit the children and grandchildren of eligible MSU employees. During the 2002-2003 year, the Family Fund received almost $5,000 in new gifts from 50 faculty, staff, and retiree donors. As of June 30, 2003, there was a total of just over $75,000 in the fund.

This year, twelve incoming students were awarded $1,000 each to help defray their college expenses. The interests and experiences of these students vary from Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Technology, to Horticulture and Arts and Letters.

Transfer student Jeff Aldrich attended another Michigan university for awhile, but didn’t do very well—even though his standardized test scores were extremely high. He came back to the Lansing area and went to Lansing Community College for a short time, then enrolled at MSU. With the help of the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities, he is doing well at MSU. This scholarship has made a significant difference in the number of hours he needs to work while going to school. His mom, Barbara Walkington, who works in the Counseling Center, said that as an employee of MSU, she is privileged to know such wonderful people who have been able to help, advise and direct her son with his educational process. Barbara said, “This award is good for Jeff’s sense of self-esteem. We appreciate that this award has changed his life and he is working really hard to live up to his potential.”

Christopher Mouser, a Haslett native whose mother works at the Small Animal Diagnostic Lab as a microbiologist, and who plans to go to law school after receiving his undergraduate degree said, “With rising tuition costs coupled with the myriad of years I plan to attend school, this scholarship helps provide the monetary funds necessary for me to accomplish all of my academic goals. Furthermore, this scholarship allows me to forego a part-time job and focus more free-time on schoolwork.”

When asked what the scholarship meant to her, Jessica Kolp said, “It was an honor to be picked for this award. The recognition makes me really proud.” Her mother, Jill Kolp, a graduate secretary in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said about the Family Fund, “My husband and I plan to give back to this scholarship.”

Because her husband works for General Motors there will be a matching gift, so that for every dollar she gives, General Motors will also give one dollar to the same account.

As members of the MSU family, we should be proud of these students and proud of ourselves for making this money available to them.

For more information about contributing to the Family Fund, contact University Development at (517) 355-8257.

Staff Create Endowment For Campus Fountains

If all the world’s a stage, then somebody needs to be behind the scenes to keep it all running smoothly. That’s part of the inspiration for the gifts from staff members Mary Mertz-Smith and Gavin Smith. As Hannah Society members, they have pledged a combination of cash and planned gifts to numerous MSU units, in addition to creating an endowment to ensure that funds are available in perpetuity. Their contributions include gifts to: WKAR Radio and TV, MSU Museum, Radio Talking Book, SOAR Telescope, Kresge Art Museum, Wharton Center for Performing Arts, Horticulture Gardens, Abrams Planetarium, and Campus Park and Planning.

Mary and Gavin believe strongly in funding areas that often go underfunded because they are unseen. One example of this is their endowment to Campus Park and Planning, which will provide for maintenance of the fountains, irrigation needs, benches and outdoor furniture, and annual and perennial display beds. With parents that were gardeners, it seemed a great match for them.

Another bonus of giving back to MSU is the ease of setting up payments through payroll deduction. “With auto renewal and payroll deduction, we can continue giving to areas we’ve chosen without having to fill out forms every year,” Mary said. “And if we want to change our designated gifts, it’s very easy.”

When considering their philanthropic gifts, Gavin said, “We give to MSU because the university plays such a large role in our lives.” They have donated bricks to the Horticulture Gardens path, and enjoy walking through the gardens and seeing them there. Their gift to the SOAR Telescope came as a result of their interest in astronomy. Mary added, “I enjoy listening to WKAR Radio in my car, so that was an obvious reason to donate there.”

Gavin, whose dad was a professor at Central Michigan University, grew up in an academic environment. He stated, “We’ve chosen to remain close to academics, in a place where we are encouraged to think and continue learning.” Mary and Gavin enjoy the park-like atmosphere of the campus, which they feel enhances the unique learning experiences available at MSU. Gavin continued, “We wanted in some way to contribute to maintaining the beauty of campus in the hope that it would continue to attract world-class faculty who want to teach and conduct cutting-edge research in this special environment.”

Mary and Gavin met while working at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, which is another reason that the MSU campus is a special place for them. They have each moved on to other positions at the university, with Gavin serving as assistant director/director of operations at the Breslin Center, and Mary serving as executive assistant in the governmental affairs office. They were married at the MSU Alumni Chapel, forever linking them to the campus. “We hope our gift inspires others,” they both echoed.

www.givingto.msu.edu