

# THE CAMPAIGN FOR MSU DEVELOPMENTS

FALL 2005

## VERDEHR GIFT TO SUPPORT STUDENT MUSICIANS, NEW MUSIC BUILDING

**D**edication to profession and to institution is something that Walter and Elsa Verdehr know well. Walter, professor of violin, and Elsa, professor of clarinet, have been on the faculty of the School of Music since 1962 and 1968, respectively. They married in 1971 and established the unique Verdehr Trio in 1972 as a way to travel and perform together.

There was a lack of music for the violin-clarinet-piano combination at the time, so the Verdehrs took matters into their own hands by commissioning works to expand the repertoire for this unique instrumentation. They have commissioned more than 170 new works from some of the world's most famous composers, including William Bolcom, Gian Carlo Menotti, Ned Rorem, Joan Tower, and Peter Schickele, to name a few.

The Verdehrs have given generously of their time and talents to MSU, the School of Music, its students and patrons through their work as teachers, scholars, and performers—on campus and around the world. In March 2005, the Verdehrs joined the university's prestigious Robert S. Shaw Society when, during *The Campaign for MSU*, they documented a gift to the School of Music through bequests in their wills. The Shaw Society recognizes donors who have made cash gifts of at least \$500,000 or planned gifts of at least \$1,000,000.



Elsa and Walter Verdehr

"We feel it has been a real privilege to teach at MSU all these years," the Verdehrs said. "MSU has provided a wonderful environment for us to accomplish many different goals as teachers and performers. We have watched the astounding growth of MSU over the 40 years we have both taught here and have been very pleased to see the institution develop in the ways it has. It makes us very proud to be a part of this great university and we wish to show this in a tangible way, one that will benefit future generations of students and teachers."

The Verdehrs' planned gift, which is directed primarily to establishing endowed named fellowships in violin and clarinet, will serve as a tremendous future recruitment tool to ensure these areas continue to attract the most musically talented graduate students. The Verdehrs also plan to direct a portion of their estate gift toward the construction of the much-needed new building for the School of Music.

"The School of Music and Michigan State University have greatly benefited from the lifetime commitment the Verdehrs have made to this institution," said James Forger, director of the School of Music. "Through their teaching and example, they leave a legacy of talented musicians who keep music vital through participation and leadership on university faculties and in symphony orchestras around the world. Now they will be leaving a most generous financial legacy, which will help maintain MSU as a leading center for the study of clarinet and violin by providing financial support in perpetuity for future generations of talented music students."

*For more information on how you can support the MSU School of Music through a planned gift from your estate or in other ways, contact College of Arts & Letters Director of Development Rebecca Surian at (517) 353-4725 or surian@msu.edu.*

## Foss Endowment Established In Mechanical Engineering

**W**hen John F. Foss, Ph.D. and his wife of more than 45 years, Jacquie, were deciding how to direct their charitable contributions, they agreed to create an endowed fund to be known as the John F. & Jacqueline K. Foss Endowment for Experimental Fluid Dynamics. The fund may be used to support any number of initiatives within the program, including but not limited to graduate fellowships, professional travel stipends, conference fees, seminars, research and/or salary support, journal and book purchases, academic initiatives and student programs.

Dr. Foss is a professor in Michigan State University's Department of Mechanical Engineering who specializes in the area of fluid mechanics. A long-standing faculty member, he is respected by colleagues and by former students. He is engaged in studies of basic properties of turbulent shear flows, as well as automotive



Jacquie and John Foss

research focused on air flow patterns in HVAC systems, cooling fan flows for under hood applications and mass air flow sensors.

"The opportunities provided to me and my family have made our lives secure and most

*continued on page 2*



# GIFTS TO ART MUSEUM CAMPAIGN ON THE RISE

**F**aculty, staff and retirees of Michigan State University have given more than \$55 million since the start of *The Campaign for MSU*.

With that degree of generosity, it is perhaps not surprising to learn that one particular area that has been positively impacted by gifts from these campus insiders is the Campaign for a Better Art Museum, or BAM as it is known.

The goal of BAM is to fund an expanded and renovated facility and bring a dramatic and visible presence for fine arts exhibitions and educational programs to MSU's campus. Faculty, staff and retirees have played a significant role in BAM since the inception of the Better Art Museum—Because Art Matters Committee. The BAM Committee's founding members have given generously to the project, including the commitment of \$75,000 to name the entrance loggia.

Other faculty, staff and retirees have supported the new art facility project as well. For example, math faculty member Dr. Richard Hill and his wife, Alice, a docent at the Art Museum, recently pledged \$15,000 to fund and name a display case.

This past summer, Dr. Marvis Richardson, retired researcher in the College of Natural Science, pledged an additional \$500,000 to the Art Museum, this after she provided \$250,000 to name the Works on Paper Gallery. Dr.

Richardson also gave a signed Marc Chagall lithograph to the Kresge Works on Paper collection. At age 95, she has expressed that she would really like to see the new museum built during her lifetime!

"These people live and work in the greater university community and are committed to the arts, culture and the quality of life we enjoy in the region," stated Susan Bandes, director of Kresge Art Museum. "They believe as I do that the new Art Museum at MSU will do for the visual arts what Wharton Center has done for the performing arts."

Founded in 1959, the Kresge Art Museum is the only accredited art museum in Mid-Michigan.



University Artist Bob Brent's depiction of the dramatic entrance, Grand Lobby and Art Promenade of the new Art Museum at MSU, as conceived by HGA Architects of Minneapolis. In the background and to the right is the existing Kresge Art Center.

As MSU has received gifts of art and even entire collections, the holdings of the Kresge Art Museum have grown to over 7,000 items. Expanded, renovated and updated galleries and facilities for education programs and special events are critically needed and are a priority in the university's capital campaign.

Faculty, staff and retiree donors to the BAM Campaign are finding that their gifts can make an impact and play an important role in a project

that positively affects the quality of life in the MSU community. Emerita faculty member Linda Nelson and her mother, Gertrude, have funded and named the Discovery Gallery; Selma Hollander and her late husband Stanley (a Marketing & Logistics retired faculty member) have named the Museum Gift Shop; and Milt Muelder, vice president emeritus, has generously funded the Museum Director's office. Also, the Museum's Docents, which include a number of faculty, staff and emeriti, have committed \$150,000 to name the Learning Center.

Other recent gifts—including a commitment of \$185,000 from the Howard and Viv Ballein family and Student Book Store—have brought the BAM Campaign's total to \$3.6 million. While there is a long way to go to successfully reach the campaign's goal of \$17.3 million, numerous fundraising activities are underway, including finding donors for the naming opportunities that are still available. A grant from the Capital Region Community Foundation has also been completed and challenges members of the community to give matching funds to the campaign.

MSU hopes to complete fundraising in 2007 in order to open the new facility in time for the Art Museum's 50th anniversary in 2009. When the BAM Campaign is completed, gifts from faculty, staff and retirees who value great art will be responsible in large part for helping create an Art Museum that

anchors a vibrant arts district unlike the university has known before.

*If you would like to discuss available naming opportunities and ways to give to the BAM Campaign, contact Mark Terman, director of development for special projects in The Campaign for MSU, at (517) 353-4725 or at [termans@msu.edu](mailto:termans@msu.edu).*

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University Development  
Michigan State University  
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*Charles H. Webb, Vice President  
for University Development  
Marti K.S. Heil, Associate Vice President  
and Director of Development*

*Marketing Programs:  
Rick Seguin, Assistant Director/Editor  
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Karen Peterson, Assistant*

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## Foss Endowment *continued from cover*

enjoyable," John said. "We donate to other causes—such as church, United Way, and Red Cross—in appreciation of what they do for others. This donation to MSU is in great appreciation for what MSU has done for us."

They showed their appreciation by documenting a future gift utilizing qualified retirement plan assets to make the Foss Fund an endowed discretionary fund within the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The fact that the fund is endowed means that the principal of the gift will be invested while the interest earned will fund the intended purposes. The gift, therefore, remains in place and in support of experimental fluid dynamics forever.

In addition, John and Jacquie expect to establish the fund with cash support in the next few years so that they might see the benefit of the fund during their lifetimes. The fact that they have indicated their gift is for unrestricted uses within this particular field of research helps assure their wishes are fulfilled now and in the future.

"Flexible, unencumbered funds are a rarity in the university setting. By establishing this endowment, experimental fluid mechanics faculty who are nurturing future students and post docs will

have resources to expend as they see fit," John explained. "The deliberative process regarding how the annual funds will be spent—or retained for a larger expenditure—will be good to cause the kind of creative thinking that will help to sustain the vibrancy of this field."

Jacquie, who received her master's degree from the MSU College of Education in 1979, met John while both were students at Purdue University. Despite the Purdue connection, they clearly have indicated their loyalty is with MSU. While the university appreciates their generosity by recognizing them as members of MSU's prestigious Abbot Society, they feel the process of documenting their planned gift and establishing the endowed Foss Fund actually increased their fondness for MSU.

"We have always felt close to our department," John said. "But the interaction with the University Development staff and other university officials has made us feel closer to MSU itself."

*If you would like more information about planning a gift with assets from your estate and/or establishing a fund to benefit the College of Engineering, contact Senior Director of Development Kris Bradley at (517) 355-8339 or [kbradley@egr.msu.edu](mailto:kbradley@egr.msu.edu).*

## 1855 Club Donors Are Making A Difference

**I** believe in this institution, and the reason each of us work here is to help the students—and faculty and staff—achieve their academic, social and professional goals,” said Sharri Margraves, director of Marketing Communications in MSU’s Division of Housing & Food Services. “There are quality people at MSU who demonstrate their dedication each day, from the custodial staff, to the dining services staff, to the atom-smashing researchers. I look at giving back monetarily to the university as an investment in our collective future.”

And so this year, Sharri, who had already been making what gifts she was able to afford for several years, took advantage of a new giving opportunity when she joined the 1855 Club. New in 2004, the 1855 Club is the first donor club created specifically for MSU’s faculty, staff and retirees. Recognition in the club requires an annual gift of \$1,000 per year (or \$84 per month) for five years to any MSU designation or combination of designations that the donor chooses.

“When I started donating, it was really a small amount,” Sharri said. “I just increased it a bit when I got a raise. The bonus is that you can specify where your money will go and know that 100% of the contribution will go to that fund.”

Sharri earmarked her 1855 Club pledge to benefit the Housing & Food Services Employee



Sharri Margraves, the director of Marketing Communications in the Division of Housing & Food Services, has been a contributor and All University Campaign volunteer for several years. She joined the 1855 Club earlier this year to continue to support several areas at MSU that are important to her.

Recognition Fund, the Spartan Child Development Center, Volleyball and Women’s Gymnastics. Much to the university’s delight, many other MSU faculty, staff and retirees have chosen to join the 1855 Club as well. Their gifts and pledges are benefiting dozens of areas around campus, including music, entomology, business and osteopathic

medicine as well as the Cyclotron, MSU Safe Place, Wharton Center, MSU Food Bank and several other funds and scholarships.

Such commitments are important at MSU because they give programs a continuous and stable source of support. To date, MSU faculty, staff and retirees have given and pledged nearly

\$56 million during *The Campaign for MSU*.

“MSU provides so much to each employee, and it is important to give back,” Sharri said. “Every little bit helps.”

*Donors at the 1855 Club level each receive a uniquely designed lapel pin, the donor focused newsletter Developments, and invitations to faculty and staff campaign events and recognition programs. College or unit-based recognition may be applicable as well. For more information, visit [www.givingto.msu.edu](http://www.givingto.msu.edu) and click All U Faculty/Staff Giving.*

MSU gymnast Chayla Hill competed on the vault and floor at the NCAA Central Regional Championships in April of this year. Women’s gymnastics is one of dozens of areas across campus being supported through gifts from MSU faculty, staff and retirees who join the 1855 Club.



## HARRELL ENDOWMENTS HONOR MSU AND PRESIDENT SIMON

**I**n celebration of years of association with Michigan State University, Susanna F. (Adams) Harrell (Susie) and Dr. Gilbert D. Harrell (Gil), Professor of Marketing and Supply Chain Management, established ten endowments with a significant charitable bequest. After careful consideration, they decided their legacy should benefit a large number of students, faculty and programs at MSU and honor the selection of the first woman president of MSU, Lou Anna K. Simon. Their hope is that these endowments will ensure a steady stream of funding for efforts that are dear to their hearts.



Gil and Susie Harrell look at a rare book published in 1578 that is now housed in Special Collections at the MSU Library.

Both Michigan natives and graduates of MSU, the Harrells established two undergraduate scholarships for graduates from their respective high schools; one for a Marketing & Supply Chain Management major from Big Rapids High School and another for a Music major from Williamston High School.

Susie’s interest in rare books and high regard for books as cultural treasures began when she worked in the Rare Books Collection as a student at MSU. Therefore, the Harrells have established an endowment for the conservation of rare books. The fund also allows the use of technology to save the intellectual content of rare books that cannot be conserved.

Frequently present at MSU music venues, their enjoyment of music prompted two discretionary endowments: one for the School of Music for community engagement in support of both classical and popular music and the other for the Wharton Center arts education program. Susie and Gil hope that the Wharton Center and the School of Music will continue to enrich the lives of children who otherwise might not have the financial means to attend performances. They believe music and performing arts are central to greater cultural appreciation in our society.

Gil and Susie are also avid sports fans. Great admirers of student-athletes, they wanted to establish an endowment to help student-athletes reach full academic potential. A discretionary endowment in support of non-revenue generating Olympic sports was created along with an endowment for the Clara Bell Smith Student-Athlete Academic Support Center.

In memory of their dear friend Stanley Hollander, Gil and Susie established an endowment from which proceeds will be divided between the James B. Henry Center for Executive Development and the Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management. The late Dr. Hollander was an admired teacher, colleague and friend fondly remembered for his wit and positive outlook on life.

As testament to their support for the selection of President Lou Anna K. Simon as the first woman president at this critical time in MSU’s history, a gift was directed to the Libraries’ Faculty Book Collection. The Faculty Collection is a favorite source of value of President Simon and the Harrells. The Faculty Collection encompasses an immense variety of discipline areas that represent the broad scope of the faculty’s scholarly works. These books reflect the university’s commitment to the highest standards of research and the communication of knowledge.

As a reflection of their family’s interest in film, they have created an endowment that will fund film collections in multiple discipline areas, including the acquisition of books about film as an art form and a science, and any effort to promote the understanding and appreciation of films.

Gil and Susie have generously established these endowments for the MSU community. They are university citizens who are deeply committed to leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit those who follow. Their gifts will impact future students and the MSU community in many disciplines for generations to come.

*For more information about making a gift to MSU Libraries, contact Belinda Cook at (517) 432-6123, extension 137. For information about making a bequest, contact the Office of Planned Giving at (517) 353-9268.*



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## Your Philanthropy At Work

**T**hrough a gift of real estate and cash contributions, Dr. Steven T. Spees, Jr., a faculty member in the College of Natural Science, and his wife, Esther, created the Steven T. and Esther M. Spees Lecture Series Fund. Steven, a physical inorganic chemist interested in coordination compounds, spectroscopy and photochemistry, has been with Lyman Briggs School since 1967, and his involvement in campus life has included academic governance at the unit, college and university levels. He still wanted to do more.

“The opportunity to interact with students and faculty in many different disciplines for more than

35 years has been especially satisfying,” Steven said. “I would be remiss not to acknowledge the support of my wife of over 50 years, Esther.”

Esther Spees graduated from Ball State University, taught a wide variety of business courses, and completed her teaching career at Lansing Community College. Now, Esther and Steven’s generosity will support the Lyman Briggs Seminar Series in general, with a significant portion of their gift used to bring someone of national stature to give a public lecture and, if possible, interact with students in a number of Lyman Briggs classes.

Steven T. and Esther M. Spees established a lecture series for Lyman Briggs School students with a gift of real estate.

## Huerta Visit Benefits Rivera Endowment

**P**edro Rivera, late husband of MSU librarian Diana Rivera, was an MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine alumnus and Lansing area physician who worked with underserved populations. He saw retirement as an opportunity to practice medicine in support of the efforts of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez’s United Farm Workers. So, it made perfect sense for Diana to help coordinate a “Salute to Dolores Huerta” when the union leader visited Lansing the week of October 5. During her two day visit, Huerta attended a welcome reception, visited with student leaders and a UAW group, and held two question and answer sessions, one with MSU students, faculty, staff and community members at the MSU Library and the other with about 150 girls from MacDonald Middle School in East Lansing. Huerta’s visit culminated with a concert premiering a jazz suite which was composed in her honor by MSU Jazz Studies instructor Diego Rivera, Pedro and Diana’s son, and which at times moved her to tears. Proceeds from the concert went to the Pedro Rivera, D.O. Mexican American Culture Endowment within the Center for Great Lakes Culture housed at the MSU Museum.



Dolores Huerta held a question and answer session with about 150 girls from MacDonald Middle School in East Lansing. The group talked about women in leadership and self esteem.



University Distinguished Professor James Potchen (right), chair of MSU’s Radiology Department, hosted a welcoming reception and visited with Dolores Huerta and Julio Cesar Guerrero, clinical instructor in the MSU School of Social Work.



Dolores Huerta visited with Kurt Dewhurst, director of the MSU Museum and the Center for Great Lakes Culture which administers the Pedro Rivera, D.O. Mexican American Culture Endowment.



Diana Rivera (right), member of the All University Campaign Advisory Cabinet and librarian responsible for the Cesar E. Chavez Collection and Ethnic Studies bibliographer, visited with United Farm Workers union leader Dolores Huerta (center) and MSU alumna Yalile Ramirez at the Hannah Community Center where a jazz concert took place.

Saxophonist Diego Rivera, seated with Dolores Huerta, wrote a jazz suite in Huerta’s honor and premiered it with The Diego Rivera Quartet featuring (left to right) Lawrence Leathers, John Nam and Andrew Klein.

