Welch Funds Study Abroad Scholarship

To viewers of WKAR-TV, Carol Welch is perhaps a familiar face. She did, after all, enjoy a long career at the television station as its volunteer coordinator and is recognizable after having worked many years as an on-air fundraiser and auctioneer. And while Welch (English, ’64) relishes the many opportunities her long MSU career gave her, she believes that perhaps there is such a thing as too much familiarity, specifically as it relates to one’s surroundings. Her steadfast belief in the benefits of international travel and the personal growth students experience when they venture out of their comfort zones prompted her to create the Carol Welch Study Abroad Endowment.

“Travel abroad is an important part of what our students need in order to know where we fit in the world and how MSU can remain a first-class university,” Welch said. “It was a tremendous experience. International travel is a life changing experience. It brings into focus that we are not the only people on the Earth, and the world is getting smaller and smaller. We need to learn that the world doesn’t revolve around us.”

International Studies and Programs will select scholarship recipients. While preference may be given to students from Michigan or Brooklyn, New York—Welch’s home town—the endowed scholarship is intended to benefit all colleges and units with study abroad programs.

“My thought is that this type of gift doesn’t limit where the student has to go on their study abroad trip to use the funds,” Welch said. The fact that the fund is endowed means that the principal will continue to grow while only a portion of the interest earned will be expended, enabling the scholarship to help more and more students as time goes on.

Welch, who is now retired from her volunteer coordinator position at WKAR-TV, continues to work for the station as an associate producer for the popular QuizBusters and QB Jr. shows and volunteer as an auctioneer on the Lightning Board. Thanks to her generosity, more MSU students will now have the chance to expand their horizons through international travel.

Sowards Gift To CAMP Realizes Scholarship Dream

For two years on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, friends and coworkers of Steven Sowards, head of Collections at the MSU Libraries, have gathered during lunch to knit scarves in memory of his wife Patricia Patrick, who worked in the Office of Supportive Services at MSU. Patricia was committed to working with students from migrant family backgrounds enrolled through the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), and she nurtured, befriended and mentored CAMP students as they overcame challenges to completing their degrees.

Patricia had a tradition of personally knitting scarves for all CAMP students. Since her death, librarians including Leslie Behm, Faye Backie, Janet Bordner, Wen-ying Lu, Stephanie Perentesis, Agnes Widdler, Terrie Wilson, Jane Arnold, Kathy Ayers and Carolin Sage have knitted one hundred scarves. The scarves have been distributed by Rudy Ramos in the CAMP office.

Sowards, who died in September 2005, was the former office manager of the Office of Supportive Services. In addition, he was a former staff member of the Office of Supportive Services.

Former MSU staff member Patricia Patrick and her brother, Miles Patrick, who have been memorialized by their family through a scholarship fund in their names.

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Miles was a man of great talent as an artist and a master cook. He followed his lifelong dream of becoming a head chef in his own restaurant by moving to Belize. It was the wish of Steven Sowards, and Patricia’s family members Jack Patrick and his wife Jill Olson Patrick, to honor the memories of both Patricia and Miles with the creation of a scholarship endowment for migrant students enrolled in CAMP or students whose personal or family income falls below the national poverty level.

Patricia and Miles were caring individuals who willingly faced and overcame obstacles to pursue their personal dreams and make better lives for themselves and their families.

The Patricia Patrick and Miles Patrick Memorial Scholarship

Endowment, created in their honor, will be awarded as scholarships during the junior year because it is a critical time for students when study in their academic majors places increased demands on their personal resources. It is the hope of Steven, Jack and Jill that this endowment will help MSU students realize their dreams and establish a lasting legacy in memory of Patricia and Miles for a purpose that is dear to the hearts of both families.

For more information about making a gift to CAMP, contact Barbara Ball McClure in the Office of Admissions and Scholarships at (517) 432-7330. For information about making a gift to the MSU Libraries, contact Rilinda Cook at (517) 432-6123, extension 137.

The Patricia Patrick and Miles Patrick Memorial Scholarship

Poverty level. If a personal or family income falls below the national

Simons Donate Raises To MSU

When the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University established President Lou Anna K. Simon’s new annual salary, President Simon immediately announced that she and her husband, Roy J. Simon, Ph.D., director of Telecommunication and Transportation Systems at MSU, will donate their salary adjustments for this year to the university’s capital campaign. President Simon began her second year as MSU’s 20th president on January 1 of this year.

“The board is extremely pleased with and proud of the progress and promise of the Simon presidency. Consideration of an appropriate market adjustment and a merit increase reflected and responded to the nationally recognized momentum—from taking MSU ‘from land-grant to world-grant’ to her ‘Boldness by Design’ initiatives—that’s been achieved during her tenure,” noted Board of Trustees Chairperson Chuck Webb, vice president for University Development.

“The Simons have been leaders in philanthropy at MSU for more than 30 years,” said Chuck Webb, vice president for University Development. “They have donated to numerous areas across campus, and their generosity has had broad and deep impact.” Marti K.S. Heil, associate vice president for University Development, added that “the Simons’ generosity to MSU has included more than $500,000 in cash gifts, and they are recognized as members of the university’s prestigious Shaw Society for top-level donors.”

“In making our gift to the university, Roy and I directly and appreciatively relate the board’s action to the contributions of all members of ‘Team MSU’ in achieving the progress and the potential they cited. Our gift honors them and thanks them for these contributions,” Simon said. “There is an exciting momentum at MSU, and opportunities, problems and opportunities, frankly, which we at MSU are specially and sometimes even uniquely positioned to address.”

The All University Campaign At A Glance

In fiscal year 2005, MSU faculty, staff and retirees pledged $101 million to Michigan State University, continuing their incredible outpouring of support for the university during The Campaign for MSU. To date, faculty, staff and retirees have given more than $62 million to MSU since the start of the campaign which has an overall goal of $1.2 billion.

The 2006 All University Campaign kicked off on March 14 with a breakfast event at Cowles House. Packets of campaign materials including pledge forms were mailed the first week of March, and students began calling faculty, staff and retirees on March 27.

Once again, the All University Campaign is pleased to have the support of a stellar Advisory Cabinet consisting of seven members including Stella Cash, senior academic specialist emeritus, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition; Jim Forger, director, MSU School of Music; Gordon Gajarski, professor emeritus and MSU’s 18th president; Patrick Hesch, arborist assistant with Grounds Maintenance; Phyllis Kacos, secretary in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office; Pat Lowrie, director, Women’s Resource Center; and Diana Huizar Rivera, librarian, MSU Libraries. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Annie James at (517) 884-1125, or jamesanj@msu.edu.

Steven Sowards poses with some of the librarians who continue Patricia Patrick’s tradition of knitting scarves for CAMP students.
ALL U CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS FUNDS

Be All University Campaign is the annual opportunity for faculty, staff and retirees to provide critical financial support to programs that enrich the MSU community. Each year, several funds are highlighted in hopes of generating additional resources for unique and in some cases lesser-known programs.

Campaign organizers feel it is important to remember and support special programs on campus. “There are so many fantastic efforts underway at MSU at any given moment, and every campaign year it is important to draw attention to a few of them,” said All U Advisory Cabinet member Pat Hesch, an arborist assistant with Grounds Maintenance.

The following funds are being highlighted in the 2006 All University Campaign.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES EMPOWERMENT FUND

Disabilities need not preclude the achievement of goals and dreams. Rather, they mandate a greater level of creativity, commitment and a repertoire of compensatory techniques. The team of professionals at the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) is ready to assist students, employees and visitors with resources that create an environment of opportunity. The staff values full integration of persons with disabilities throughout the university mission, programs and services. RCPD further believes that persons with disabilities at MSU are as much in control of their educational/work experience as a person without a disability. This fund provides essential services for students and employees.

KRESGE ART MUSEUM FACILITIES FUND

The Kresge Art Museum is the only accredited art museum in mid-Michigan. This first major renovation to the facility will give the Art Museum a dramatic identity by making it more inviting and accommodating to visitors. The planned $17.2 million expansion project is sited at one corner of a future fine arts district that will bring the Art Museum, departments of Art and Art History and Theatre, School of Music and a residential college near Arts and Humanities into close proximity.

The goal for the new museum is to complete fundraising by 2007 and to open by its 50th anniversary in 2009. The exhibition space will double, allowing for more displays and hosting of major traveling exhibitions.

NEH CHALLENGE GRANT

The Symposium on Science, Reason, and Modern Democracy is dedicated to fostering intellectual debate at MSU and helping to expose students to ideas and voices that usually do not have a role within a traditional university setting. In 2004, MSU was chosen to receive the “We The People” Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This prestigious honor was bestowed upon the university for the purpose of creating a permanent endowment for the Symposium. The NEH award has propelled us into an elite group of 17 institutions and two universities to receive this grant. However, we must raise three dollars from private sources for every dollar provided by the NEH—so every dollar you give will help MSU meet this challenge.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship commemorates Dr. King’s efforts and dream to have a nation united in peace and justice, and a nation that embraces all cultural and economic backgrounds. In honor of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., social activism, community involvement and service have been established as its most important qualifying criteria. Such involvement strengthens lines of communication between the campus and outside communities, and is essential to the development of effective, lasting relationships that advance social change within a community. Other criteria are demonstrated leadership, financial need, academic achievement, one year of full-time study at MSU, and current full-time status.

COLLEGE ASSISTANCE MIGRANT PROGRAM AND HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM ENDOWMENT

These programs were established to give students from migrant and seasonal farm worker communities essential support in their transition to and success in university academic life. Because of their unique life experience of constant travel and hard work, many bright and deserving students have been unable to obtain high school diplomas, making the dream of a college education unreachable. MSU HEP provides special assistance to migrant farm worker students, helping them prepare for and successfully complete GED exams while gaining career preparation, computer literacy, and academic life and skills. Students are assisted in applying for or seeking opportunities at colleges and universities, vocational institutions, military services, and other venues. MSU CAMP provides a community of social, academic and financial support that can be necessary to a migrant student’s successful transition into university academic life.

For more information on gift opportunities within MSU’s colleges and programs, visit www.givingto.msu.edu/allu. For information on planned giving opportunities and how they can be an important aspect of your overall estate planning and contributions to MSU, contact MSU Office of Planned Giving at (517) 884-1000.

MSU Federal Credit Union Supports 2006 All University Campaign

The Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) has been a steadfast champion of MSU and the surrounding community for decades. Their support includes several areas, notably their multi-year pledge to establish the MSU Federal Credit Union Study Abroad Scholarship which has now been awarded to dozens of students and continues to grow.

These scholarships are funded in perpetuity by a generous endowment gift and are indicative of the credit union’s ongoing partnership with the university community. The same is true for the credit union’s financial backing of the All University Campaign. In 2006, the MSUFCU is once again underwriting the campaign. They sponsor events and help improve awareness of the All University Campaign, playing a key role in generating the funds raised from MSU faculty, staff and retirees. The MSU Federal Credit Union has served the faculty and staff of MSU since 1937 and provides services to MSU employees, students, MSU Alumni Association members, and their families.
In 1994, alumni, faculty, and friends of the College of Arts & Letters established a fund that became known as the Varg-Sullivan Graduate Award in Arts & Letters. Since then, gifts and pledges to the fund have grown to nearly $100,000, allowing the college valuable resources to retain talented graduate students.

The award is named in honor of the college’s first two deans, Dr. Paul Varg and Dr. Richard Sullivan. Both Varg and Sullivan were respected scholars, known for their research, lecturing, and teaching capabilities. In their capacities as deans, they each faced the challenges of establishing a new liberal arts college, and the experience confirmed their belief in the value of personal investment by faculty and staff.

The Varg-Sullivan Award is an endowment, which means the funds are invested and each year only a portion of the invested income earned is spent to make annual awards while the remainder adds to principal growth.

Recently, current College of Arts & Letters Acting Dean Patrick McConeghy made a generous pledge to the fund. He recognizes, too, the benefit to the college of retaining talented graduate students who exhibit outstanding work in the arts and humanities.

If you are interested in supporting outstanding graduate students of today and tomorrow while honoring these two former College of Arts & Letters pioneers, information on making a gift to the Varg-Sullivan fund can be obtained by calling (517) 353-4725.