

NEWS OF FACULTY, STAFF & RETIREE GIVING TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

# OUR IMPACT

SPRING 2015



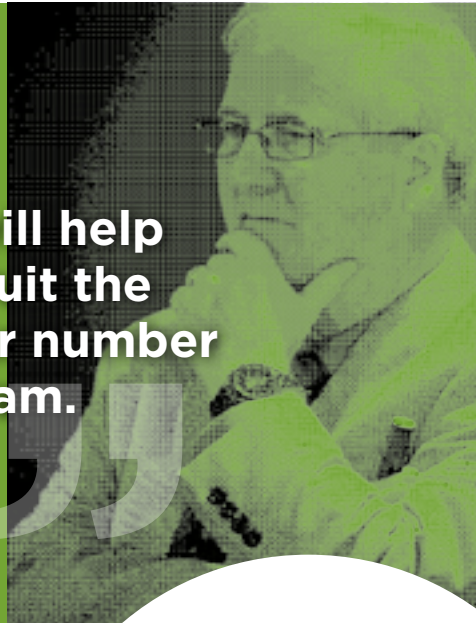
## Saving a Seat *for* Leaders

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION • SPARTAN SENTINELS

**OURIMPACT**  
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT  
SPARTAN WAY  
535 CHESTNUT ROAD, ROOM 300  
EAST LANSING, MI 48824

“Private support will help us retain and recruit the best faculty to our number one ranked program.”

**DAVID CLOSS**, John H. McConnell chair in Business Administration, Eli Broad College of Business



“By investing in research today, we make the future a better place.”

**STEPHEN HSU**, vice president for Research & Graduate Studies

“Having the opportunity to go, and to actually make change happen wouldn't have been possible without the support I was given.”

**SEAN FITZPATRICK**, MSU Federal Credit Union Study Abroad & Internship Scholarship recipient, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities



“Donors to this campaign can help us in the 21st Century be relevant, be responsive, and allow students to come into their own.”

**DENISE MAYBANK**, vice president for Student Affairs and Services





# NEW PROFESSORSHIP HELPS TO CREATE HUMAN RESOURCE LEADERS

## SHRLR ENHANCED BY ZISCHKE ENDOWMENTS



SHRLR Director Bill Cooke (center, left) joined student leaders Dana Grimm (center) and Isabel Hidalgo (center, right) to thank Marv (far left) and Donna (above, left) Zischke for their impact on the SHRLR program.

When Donna Zischke was a Michigan State University undergraduate in the late 1960s and early 1970s, she probably didn't realize the impact she would one day have on her alma mater.

Now, after a distinguished career at MSU, she and her husband Marvin are providing the means for the School of Human Resources and Labor Relations' (SHRLR) to attract prominent faculty and outstanding students equipped for innovation and leadership in the human resources profession.

Through a combination of their philanthropic vision for MSU and their comprehensive estate planning, the Zischkes have pledged a significant future gift to fund the Donna and Marvin Zischke Endowed Professorship in SHRLR which will enable the recruitment and perpetual funding of a faculty member who is prominent in the human resources discipline with an exceptional record of achievements.

In addition, Donna and Marvin pledged annual cash contributions to establish the Donna and Marvin Zischke Scholarship in SHRLR. Both the professorship and scholarship are endowed funds that will provide valuable long-term stability in the school. The couple sees the two gifts as interrelated.

"The endowed professorship will support faculty who are leaders in research and teaching, which will help to attract outstanding students," Donna says. "We see the scholarship as a way to help provide access to higher education and as an investment in outstanding students who will be future leaders in the human resources field."

Donna, an Honors College and Social Science alumna who earned her Psychology degree in 1971 and her Master's in Human Resources and Labor Relations in 1981, served MSU for 43 years in Academic Human Resources in the Office of the Provost, the last several as director. She also served as the associate director for the Committee on Institutional Cooperation's Academic Leadership Program from 1995 through 2001. Marvin ('70, Zoology) enjoyed a successful career as a corporate insurance specialist with the Michigan Bankers Association.

"I was fortunate to have earned my degrees at Michigan State and to have spent my entire career at MSU," Donna says. "Through my work, I came to understand the value of endowed professorships as a way of increasing the quality of the faculty and the value of the exceptional education that MSU provides."

The Zischkes' generosity will greatly improve the School of Human Resources and Labor Relations' (SHRLR) ambition to be the leading school of its kind in the world, says SHRLR Director Bill Cooke.

"In keeping with Donna's longstanding reputation across the MSU academic community for her exemplary leadership in human resources, these major gifts from Donna and Marv will attract top scholars and graduate students to MSU who will carry on Donna's legacy of human resource leadership," says Cooke. "We are all truly grateful for the Zischkes' gracious investment in our School's future."

Donna says creating the endowments was a way to express the couple's appreciation to MSU for all the benefits afforded to them by education and employment.



For more information on how you can support SHRLR and the College of Social Science during the Empower

Extraordinary Campaign, contact Senior Director of Development Nick McLaren toll-free at (866) 761-4199 or via email at [mclarenn@msu.edu](mailto:mclarenn@msu.edu).

## BRIGHT LIGHTS; BIG SUPPORT

When they're at their desks, in their lecture halls or labs, on the sidelines at the practice field or at the head of the conference room table, Michigan State's faculty, staff and retirees are all part of our vibrant community.

Like any community, Michigan State has the basics: several zip codes, a police force and a population of diverse people.

But unlike most communities, Michigan State has the Wharton Center, a far-reaching beacon of the arts that makes world-renowned acts and artists accessible, not just to its small campus hometown, but to Greater Lansing, Michigan and beyond. MSU faculty, staff and retirees love their Wharton Center.

Their love can certainly be measured by the number of times they leave work and head straight across campus to

see a show with their families; but it can also be measured by the generous contributions they've made to help Wharton continue coloring its community with culture. In the 2014 fiscal year, Wharton Center's annual fund received more than \$880,000 in cash donations from 2,721 donors.

Of those, 531 donors were MSU faculty, staff or retirees, who contributed upwards of \$204,000. That's more than 20 percent of the total dollars given.



## A GIFT WITH HORSE SENSE

If Dr. N. Edward Robinson had kept a professional "To-Do" list during his career at Michigan State, it would be covered in checkmarks.

The now-retired Matilda R. Wilson Professor of Large Animal Clinical Sciences spent the last four decades building a program, mentoring students, churning out publications and making MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine the world's pre-eminent institution for equine pulmonary disease research. Success? Check.

Though he credits much of that success to the team of researchers he assembled and their collective dedication to their work, Robinson also knows just how helpful it was to have the private funding from the Matilda R. Wilson Fund. "Private money gives you

the opportunity to test out new ideas, get the pilot data you need, hire the person you need, or, in our case, maintain a herd of research-ready horses," he says.

After 42 years of work, Robinson, who has contributed so much to his field, felt the need to contribute even more by creating some private funding of his own. Through a generous bequest to the College of Veterinary Medicine, Robinson is giving back in a way that will support the education of future veterinarians pursuing a research career and make it easier for them to jumpstart their research endeavors.

"If you've benefited from private money and you're in a position to give back—I feel I'm duty bound and I think it's something I have to do," Robinson says.

Paying it forward? Check.

For more of Robinson's story and other stories like his, visit [go.msu.edu/robinson](http://go.msu.edu/robinson).





# SENDING SMALL FISH TO BIGGER PONDS

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT OPENS UP  
STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

By Devon BARRETT



*Professor Shawn Riley and his wife Shari Gregory made a cash gift and bequest that will help students fund adventures abroad.*

**“Study Abroad experiences create those ‘Ah-ha!’ moments every student needs to be inspired to succeed in their own lives.”**

Professor Shawn J. Riley remembers the exact moment he realized where he could make more of a difference at Michigan State. He had just asked a class of juniors and seniors to raise their hands if they’d ever traveled outside the United States. “Only a few students blushing raised their hands,” Professor Riley recalled. “It made me stop and think, ‘This is where we can have an impact!’”

Riley, who has been teaching in the fisheries and wildlife department at Michigan State since 2001, spent time in Sweden as a Fulbright Scholar, and his wife Shari Gregory grew up traveling extensively. Both credit their adventures abroad with shaping and expanding their worldview and want Michigan State students to have the same horizon-broadening opportunities.

Enter: the Shawn J. Riley and Shari K. Gregory Endowment for Study Abroad. “Study Abroad experiences create those ‘Ah-ha!’ moments every student needs to be inspired to succeed in their

own lives,” says Riley, “MSU students have so much to offer the world. We just wanted to help in whatever way we could...while opening their minds to all the possibilities.”

Preference for Riley and Gregory’s scholarship will be given to fisheries and wildlife majors at the freshman or sophomore level who have lived in Michigan for at least a portion of their childhood and do not have previous substantial experience abroad.

“Our undergraduate student population in fisheries and wildlife is especially concentrated from Michigan, and too few have experiences that only come from getting out of their comfort zone,” Riley says. “Shari and I are most interested that students from Michigan connect in some way with other people, cultures and environments of the world. Those experiences will, we believe, enable MSU fisheries and wildlife graduates to become better stewards of the world’s natural resources.”

**GIVE ONLINE**

You may make a gift securely online using your credit card. Visit [givingto.msu.edu](http://givingto.msu.edu).

**MAKE A PLAN**

Many faculty, staff and retirees have provided future support by including MSU in their retirement plan, or through a charitable bequest in a will or personal trust. Visit [giftplanning.msu.edu](http://giftplanning.msu.edu) or call (800) 232-4678 to learn more.

**TALK TO US**

To explore how you might provide support to MSU through cash, stock, real estate and other gifts, contact the University Development office in your college or unit, or call (517) 884-1000.

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# EMPOWER EXTRAORDINARY

## THE CAMPAIGN *for* MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

On October 24, 2014, the MSU Board of Trustees approved a \$1.5 billion capital campaign. The Empower Extraordinary campaign focuses on four priority areas intended to build on MSU's traditions while empowering critical initiatives for the 21st century.

For three years prior, the campaign was in its silent phase with various fundraising efforts, resulting in significant progress in each of the priority areas.

To date, more than \$863 million has been raised, about 58 percent of the final goal. Of this grand total, faculty, staff and retirees have contributed more than \$46 million. In fact, faculty, staff and retirees represent more than 5 percent of campaign donors.

All faculty, staff and retirees serve as critical advocates for the campaign, helping alumni and friends of MSU become excited and engaged. So far, more than 205,000 donors have been inspired to contribute.

Below are the campaign priorities and progress on each to date. Visit [empower.msu.edu](http://empower.msu.edu) to learn more.

**AN ENGINE OF OPPORTUNITY**

Helping young people realize their potential calls for private support to keep our doors open to the best and the brightest regardless of their financial means.

**Gifts support:** student scholarships and fellowships, and strengthen student programs with global perspective.

MSU's areas of excellence align perfectly with the pressing problems of our time. But effective solutions require the necessary resources for these efforts to flourish.

**Gifts support:** research to address global problems and provide flexible funding to test new ideas and build multidisciplinary partnerships.

**A GLOBAL PROBLEM SOLVER**

**A FORCE FOR CREATIVITY, DISCOVERY, AND LEARNING**

To become great, MSU must recruit and retain great thinkers and leaders. With private support, MSU seeks to establish 100 new endowed faculty positions.

**Gifts support:** establishing 100 new endowed positions, and funding innovative academic and athletic programs.

With new investments, we can create spaces that make it possible for people to work together, converge disciplines, be creative, use technology and inspire the next generation.

**Gifts support:** programs and activities that enrich the community, and modernization of our infrastructure.

**A VIBRANT COMMUNITY**

