Forest Akers Trust Endows Scholarships

In February of 2006, the Forest Akers Trust formalized an agreement to give $1 million to Michigan State University to establish the Forest Akers Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“This endowment gives a tremendous opportunity for students who otherwise would have to forgo Study Abroad due to financial constraints. Because of the support and generosity of the Forest Akers Trust, students who demonstrate a need, yet are financially ineligible for federal Pell Grant assistance, will now be able to participate in an important component of the total Michigan State University experience,” said MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon.

Forest Akers scholars will work and study around the world in places like Münstermaifeld, Germany.

Fort Dodge Sponsors Veterinary Residency in Dairy Production Medicine

For the next three years, a new residency in the College of Veterinary Medicine will be supported in part by a grant from Fort Dodge Animal Health (Fort Dodge).

The Fort Dodge Resident Scholar in Dairy Production Medicine will receive an annual salary paid by Fort Dodge, with benefits, insurance and graduate school tuition covered by Michigan State University.

The veterinary resident will work primarily at the MSU Training Center for Dairy Professionals at Green Meadow Farms, Inc. in Elsie,
prepared to work, to lead and to make a difference in an interconnected world.”

“We try to make the international experience comparable in cost to a semester on campus,” added Kathleen Fairfax, director of the Office of Study Abroad. “Nevertheless, many students hold jobs while attending school to help cover expenses. In order to make it affordable for them to go abroad, they need to replace that income. The grant from the Forest H. Akers Trust is a tremendous boost to the Study Abroad program. This grant enables MSU to make the international opportunity available and affordable to more students each semester.”

Forest Akers was elected by the people of Michigan to three terms on the MSU Board of Trustees where he served from 1940 to 1958. In the early 1960s, Mr. Akers established the Forest Akers Trust to support the faculty, staff and students of Michigan State University and Oakland University (a branch of MSU at that time).

Over the years, the trust has provided substantial support to projects with broad appeal to the MSU community including two golf courses; J.A. Hannah Professorships; the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts; the Jack Breslin Student Events Center; the Evans Scholars program; Beaumont Tower renovations; the Clara Bell Smith Student-Athlete Academic Center; and most recently $1.7 million for two capital projects—improvements to Forest Akers West Golf Course near the James B. Henry Center for Executive Development and the Alfred Berkowitz Basketball Complex expansion at the Breslin Center. In 2001, the trust was inducted into the Joseph R. Williams Society in recognition of its more than $5 million in contributions to MSU.

Today’s Forest Akers Trustees—Roger Wilkinson, Stephen Terry, Brian Breslin and Nancy E. Craig—continue the tradition of giving to MSU that Forest Akers initiated more than 40 years ago.

Michigan. This is an active dairy operation that milks approximately 3,200 cows. Green Meadow Farms is ideally suited for this program because of its advanced health management and data management capabilities, including a farm-wide intranet and comprehensive, computerized animal health records.

The Fort Dodge Dairy Production Medicine Resident will work actively on the farm and be involved in animal health management, teaching, and research. The resident will pursue a graduate degree while working under the supervision of faculty in the MSU Training Center for Dairy Professionals and the Center for Comparative Epidemiology. In addition, the resident will receive training and experience as an adjunct member of the Professional Services veterinary group at Fort Dodge Animal Health.

Fort Dodge Animal Health, a division of Wyeth, is a leading manufacturer and distributor of animal health care products for the livestock, swine, poultry, equine and companion animal industries in the United States and international markets. Fort Dodge Animal Health has successfully secured USDA registration for numerous vaccines, received FDA approval for many pharmaceuticals, and enjoys an impressive history of “firsts”—the world’s first four-way, single-dose, adjuvanted, modified-live vaccine for cattle, the first West Nile virus vaccine for horses, and the first Mycoplasma vaccine for swine. Fort Dodge Animal Health is located in Overland Park, Kansas.
Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation Gives $3.5 Million

In 1959, in his first presidential address as head of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOP&S), Dr. Alan Potts announced that Michigan would be the home of the next College of Osteopathic Medicine. The challenge to the MAOP&S membership was direct and daunting, particularly since no new osteopathic school had opened anywhere in 30 years.

Michigan’s osteopathic physicians responded to the challenge by creating the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation and by voting to tax each member of the MAOP&S $2,000 to create the corpus of the trust fund. The members’ dedication and continued financial support led to the establishment in 1969 of the Michigan College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pontiac. Two years later, the College of Osteopathic Medicine became part of Michigan State University and moved to the MSU campus.

The Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation has remained an important private supporter of the college throughout its history, with gifts that have supported scholarships and program needs, such as the Kobiljak Computer Center, the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Fellows Program, graduation, and the Communique magazine.

Culminating its relationship with MSUCOM, the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation in 2005 made a gift of its entire assets—$3.5 million—to establish the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation Endowment. “We are very proud of our role in establishing and partnering with the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine,” said Eugene Oliveri, D.O., president of the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation. “We not only achieved Dr. Alan Potts’ vision of building an osteopathic college in Michigan, but we have seen it grow into one of the finest medical schools in the nation.”

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—Dr. Eugene Oliveri, president, Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation

Today, MSUCOM is nationally recognized and respected. The 2007 edition of America’s Best Graduate Schools from U.S. News & World Report ranks MSUCOM fourth in the nation for primary care training. “Since 2000, we’ve been the top-ranking osteopathic college and in the top 10 of all medical schools nationally for primary care education,” said William Strampel, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. “To achieve fourth of 144 institutions is a great honor, a nice recognition among our peers.”

“We are very aware of and grateful for our partnership with the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons and the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation,” said Dean Strampel. “Their forethought, determination and support through the years have contributed exponentially to the health care profession in our state and region.”

The Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation will continue to operate in order to process outstanding loans and collect future gifts, which may periodically be made to the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation Endowment in MSUCOM. The Foundation board will continue to advocate for MSUCOM and the profession in the state of Michigan.

In 2005, the foundation was inducted into MSU’s Joseph R. Williams society in recognition of $5 million in contributions to MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM).
Increasing the number of engineering graduates, especially women and under-represented groups, is the focus of the 3M Engineering Student Retention Initiative. In the 2004-05 academic year, the 3M Foundation awarded grants to four Big Ten universities, including Michigan State University, to recruit and retain students in their colleges of engineering.

“The awards address the looming shortage of engineers and technical workers by helping interested students stay and succeed in the sciences,” said Barbara Kaufman, manager, Education Giving, 3M Foundation. “The grant to Michigan State University enables the College of Engineering to build upon existing programs, it encourages collaboration between students, faculty and administrators, and it provides support for the college to connect with middle and high school educators.”

“We are very grateful for the support from the 3M Foundation,” said Dr. Aurles U. Wiggins, director of the Diversity Programs Office, MSU College of Engineering. “With the first year grant of $100,000, we have taken steps to increase the intensity of our efforts to recruit and retain students admitted to the College of Engineering, especially under-represented minorities and women.”

The first step was the hiring of Theodore D. Caldwell, a 1996 MSU graduate in Communication Arts and Sciences, in the position of Recruitment and Retention Coordinator. Mr. Caldwell started in his new job on April 24, 2006.

“Theo has outstanding attributes that are ideal for this position,” said Dr. Wiggins. “He has a background in marketing, an excellent grasp of what the position is about, tremendous enthusiasm, and a talent for connecting with young people. His assignments will revolve around activities that engage first and second year students in the College of Engineering environment and the instructional support services that address behaviors and habits that lead to academic success. By the end of his first year, Theo will know 100 percent of the students in the program,” said Dr. Wiggins. “He will also be my teaching assistant in Engineering 160, an orientation seminar for freshmen and sophomores that addresses transitional problems, identifies career options, and teaches communication skills.”

Mr. Caldwell’s recruitment activities will include extensive outreach to middle and high school educators and to community leaders involved in pre-college activities that promote proficiency in science, technology, engineering and math. One objective is to increase the visibility of the MSU College of Engineering to pre-college students who have an interest in math, technology and the sciences.

“By the second year, we will add more layers to the outreach component,” said Dr. Wiggins. The Summer Math Intensive Bridge Program will provide students with an on-campus summer experience prior to entering college. The Bridge Program will help to prepare students for first year college level math classes, build study and classroom skills to facilitate academic success, and enhance student achievement and retention levels in their first year of college.

The 3M Foundation Engineering Student Retention Initiative is a four-year program with an annual application process. Continued funding, up to a maximum of $650,000 per grantee over the four-year period, is dependent upon an annual program impact report submitted each year by the participating universities.
Last October, Michigan State University alumna Julie Fasone-Holder (B.A., General Business Administration) became a member of the Office of the Chief Executive for Dow Chemical Company and assumed the position of Corporate Vice President of Human Resources, Diversity and Inclusion and Public Affairs. On March 10, Ms. Fasone-Holder returned to campus in another new role for her at Dow—MSU Key Executive.

Along with her Dow colleagues and fellow MSU graduates—Mike McDonald (Supply Chain New Business Development), Pete Pendergast, (marketing manager, Specialty Chemicals), and Patrick Smith (Research and Development scientist)—Ms. Fasone-Holder devoted a full day to a series of meetings with university faculty and administrators, with the primary focus on academic programs and research activities in the fields of business, chemistry and engineering. MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon also met with the Dow executives to talk about the university’s extensive global activities.

“We look forward to working closely with Julie Fasone-Holder to define a new strategic relationship that aligns the university’s strengths with the company’s interests.”

Michigan State University also recently welcomed to campus on separate occasions executives from the Robert Bosch Corporation, Siemens Corporation, Honeywell, and General Electric Company, who have been assigned by their companies to the role of Key Executive for MSU.

In 2005, MSU traded site visits with General Electric. In July, Eann Patterson, director, Department of Mechanical Engineering, led a small group from MSU on a visit to the GE Aircraft Engine headquarters in Cincinnati. In October, Key Executive Brett BeGole, general manager, Global Locomotive Operations, GE–Transportation, and MSU Campus Recruit Leader Brian Green, GE–Infrastructure–Aviation, Military Inlet & Exhaust Systems, were hosted on campus, where they had a chance to talk with the president and provost, as well as to discuss matters of interest with faculty and staff in Engineering, Business, Labor and Industrial Relations, and Career Placement Services.

Representing Honeywell, Key Executive Mary Anne Robinson, vice president for corporate human relations, and John Martinson, general manager, Honeywell Automation and Control Solutions, met with faculty and staff in Engineering, Business and Labor and Industrial Relations during their campus visit in late January.

From the Robert Bosch Corporation, Key Executive Lee Manduzzi, executive vice president for automotive sales, Rick Puchalski, director of automotive sales and program management, and Jaime Buttigieg, corporate recruiting and diversity, met with leading faculty and administrators in academic and research areas of interest to the company during a visit in April.

MSU was pleased to host a three-day visit in early April by Siemens Corporation representatives Curt Estes, director of procurement, Siemens VDO, Troy; Maureen Conn, staffing manager, Siemens VDO, Auburn Hills; Peter Olfs, senior director emeritus, Siemens AG; Mary Kordys, Siemens USA university relations manager; Ozzie Smith, senior marketing specialist, Siemens Power Generation, Orlando; and Scott Lee, engineering support restraint systems, Siemens VDO, Troy. The extended campus visit provided great opportunities for the Siemens contingent to tour research facilities, enjoy in-depth conversation with teaching and research faculty from Engineering and other academic areas of interest, and to interact with the university’s Career Services and Placement professionals.
Groundbreaking ceremonies were held November 18, 2005 for the Energy and Automotive Research Laboratories (EARL), a 29,000-square-foot research complex. In the new laboratories, researchers will identify ways to realize greater fuel efficiency, determine how to collect waste heat and convert it to electricity, and work to develop new biobased fuels.

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon, MSU Trustees, and faculty leaders were joined in celebrating the start of construction by major contributors to the facility, including representatives of the Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, Consumers Energy, and individual donors Richard H. Brown, Roy and Dawn Link, and John and Dortha Withrow.

Distinctive features of the new research complex include two engine test cells, a cold start room for sub-zero testing and an existing powertrain research laboratory that will be relocated from MSU’s Hulett Road research facility.

“Once completed, EARL will be one of only a handful of these types of research facilities in the nation,” said Eann Patterson, chairperson of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

EARL will house a world-class center for synergistic research and
development, bringing together in one facility the researchers and students who are working to address today’s and tomorrow’s energy concerns. “For instance, test cells will allow for further development of hybrid technologies, the creation of more efficient combustion engines and the pursuit of biobased fuels,” Patterson said.

“Activities within the new energy labs will also complement research programs in electric drives and power electronics that are taking place elsewhere in the college,” said Satish Udpa, acting dean of the College of Engineering.

“This first-class research facility will allow us to enhance our research partnerships and put us in a much better position to respond to the needs of the energy and automotive industries,” Udpa said.

Lynn Bechtel, team coordinator at MSU, General Motors University Relations, and chairperson, College of Engineering Alumni Board, spoke at the post-ceremony lunch.

In addition to the new labs, the facility will include control rooms, fuel rooms and research preparation rooms. It will also house faculty and graduate student offices, along with a conference room for lectures, seminars and industry meetings. Construction of the new facility—which will be connected via a walkway to an existing research complex—will more than double the current automotive and energy research space.

The new facility is going up next to the existing Engineering Research Complex located at Service Road and Bogue Street, south of the Clinical Center and the Life Sciences Building on the MSU campus. The building is scheduled for completion this year. After equipment installation, a dedication ceremony is planned for summer 2007.
Cultivating leadership that bridges diverse and sometimes competing interests is the focus of a new academy being launched by the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Eli Broad College of Business with help from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The Kellogg Foundation has awarded a $390,000 startup grant to fund the first two years of operation of the Great Lakes Leadership Academy (GLLA), an outreach initiative that will help current and emerging leaders from Michigan’s manufacturing, agriculture and natural resources sectors develop collaborative relationships and enhance leadership skills. The academy will initially offer two leadership concentrations—the Leadership Skills Development program and the Leadership Advancement program.

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“The Great Lakes Leadership Academy brings together leaders from key sectors of the economy to hone their leadership skills and develop relationships that promote positive change, economic vitality, resource conservation and enhanced quality of life in Michigan,” said Jeffrey Armstrong, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “We are excited because we are seeing strong support across industries for leadership development efforts that advance leadership for the common good.”

“I am delighted that the W.K. Kellogg Foundation is supporting a leadership development program at Michigan State University,” said Gail Imig, program director for food systems and rural development at the Kellogg Foundation. “We are confident that this program will assist current and future Michigan leaders in addressing critical issues to assure a bright future for the state.”

The Leadership Advancement concentration is a two-year commitment designed for individuals preparing for senior leadership roles. It includes classroom and experiential learning, as well as state and international travel. It is patterned after a Kellogg Foundation supported agricultural leadership program developed in the 1960s at MSU, a program that became a national and international model.

The GLLA Leadership Skills Development concentration is designed for potential and current leaders seeking continuing professional development. It is an extension of the Natural Resource Leadership Project conducted by the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife since 2002. The program focuses on developing individual and organizational leadership skills and applying those skills in a collaborative fashion to the common issues of diverse communities.

Mike Kovacic, director of the GLLA, says the academy will likely add more programs over time, including an alumni network for program graduates.

“We feel there is a significant opportunity to stimulate increased networking and industry leadership through our leadership development programs and an active alumni network,” said Kovacic, who is also director of stakeholder relations for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “It is our intent to support graduates by providing opportunities to communicate and collaborate on key issues facing their industries and the state.”

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 “to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations.” Its programming activities center around the common vision of a world in which each person has a sense of worth; accepts responsibility for self, family, community and societal well-being; and has the capacity to be productive and to help create nurturing families, responsive institutions and healthy communities.
Supported by a $67,000 gift from the Shell Oil Company, the Shell SITES (Students Interested in Technology, Engineering and Science) Program at Michigan State University offers new opportunities for K-12 students to explore the fascinating world of science and technology.

“This program aligns with our workforce development initiative, aimed at cultivating prospective engineers and geoscientists to ensure our industry has the skilled workforce required for the future,” said William Fitzpatrick, executive vice president, human resources and administration for Shell Trading, and Shell’s Key Executive for MSU.

The MSU College of Engineering received $33,000 of the Shell gift to expand the presence of FIRST LEGO League (FLL) at MSU. FLL is the result of an alliance between FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a multinational nonprofit organization, and the LEGO Company. An international program, FLL challenges youngsters aged nine through 14 to build, program and test fully autonomous robots made exclusively from LEGO blocks.

Shell’s support will increase the number of MSU-sponsored teams representing elementary and middle schools in the Greater Lansing Area from two to ten.

The Shell gift also makes it possible for MSU to become a site for one of the regional tournaments held each fall. A portion of the Shell contribution will be available as travel stipends for the winning teams to attend the statewide FLL competition in Novi, Michigan.

Drew Kim, director of recruitment and K-12 outreach for the College of Engineering, said, “The Shell grant is very timely. It’s a great way for us to reach out to the community and collaborate with area school students, teachers, and parents in order to produce well prepared future engineers.”

The other part of the Shell gift, $34,000, will be used by the MSU College of Natural Science to establish Shell Scholars Day as part of the annual Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Day at MSU. Up to 20 students in the 10th and 11th grades from winning teams in the Michigan Science Olympiad in April 2006 will be invited to campus on SET Day in February 2007 to participate in programs and activities.

The Shell Scholars Day funds will also be used to award up to four $5,000 scholarships to students accepted to the MSU College of Natural Science, with preference given to those majoring in geological sciences.
In February 2006, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation announced the results of its first Operations Research on AIDS Care and Treatment in Africa (ORACTA) competition. The goal of the ORACTA program is to improve the care and treatment of AIDS patients in resource-limited settings, inform antiretroviral therapy (ART) policy and practice, and improve outcomes of the roll-out and scale-up of ART in Africa.

“While significant new funding is available for delivering antiretroviral therapy to African populations, little research has been done to determine the most effective means of doing so amid the diverse and often daunting constraints of individual African countries,” said Joan E. Spero, president of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

The ORACTA competition attracted 73 proposals from investigators working in 18 African countries. The foundation selected 20 teams to receive two-year grants of $200,000 each.

One ORACTA team is led by Gretchen L. Birbeck, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of epidemiology and neurology and ophthalmology, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Beginning in June 2006, Dr. Birbeck and her team will begin data collection for a study in Zambia to assess factors that may affect adherence/nonadherence to AIDS treatments among remote, rural populations.

“More than 20 years into the AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, antiretroviral therapy is finally becoming available to the general public. The initial roll-out primarily served populations near large teaching hospitals and other urban healthcare facilities,” said Dr. Birbeck. “Now, ART is slowly becoming available in rural regions, where over half of the people living in Africa reside.”

Dr. Birbeck will work out of three ART clinics in Zambia’s Southern Province. The team will review clinic records as well as interview and examine patients to determine adherence rates and will assess potential determinants including:

- Demographics—age, gender, position in family unit, childcare responsibilities, employment status, household location.
- Economic—food security, housing quality, income, wealth (including animal ownership), indirect cost of care.
- Medical—HIV stage, co-morbid disease, pre-treatment nutritional status, psychiatric co-morbidity, dementia, active substance abuse.

Adherence to ART treatment will be characterized based on clinic attendance, patient report and pill counts. ART treatment includes a monthly supply of pills. Patients who fail to return for their scheduled monthly follow-up will be termed “non-adherent” and will receive home visits to ascertain why they are not continuing the treatment.

“The biggest single cost for this research project will be transportation so that we can get to the villages and outlying regions where the patients live.”

—Gretchen L. Birbeck, M.D., M.P.H., College of Osteopathic Medicine
possibility if the patient does not take the drug as prescribed or repeatedly goes on and off the medication. If a resistant virus spreads in the population, then the antiretroviral therapy becomes ineffective and new therapies have to be developed at greater cost in money and in lives.”

There can be many reasons for non-adherence, and those reasons increase in rural settings where ART treatment is still a novelty. Education levels combined with traditional beliefs can come into play. Subjects may not accept the idea that their illness was created by an unseen virus. Perhaps the patient is the sole caregiver in a family and cannot take the time to make the long trip (often on foot) to go to a clinic. Or perhaps side-effects from the drug cause the patient to stop using it. The challenge for Dr. Birbeck’s team will be to quantify the factors that impact adherence and non-adherence. With greater understanding of the reasons for non-adherence—whether educational, socioeconomic, or other—the less guesswork there will be in making effective adjustments for the provision of ART therapy to rural sub-Saharan populations.

Dr. Gretchen Birbeck’s photograph of a typical remote village in rural Zambia, where her research team will interview and examine patients.

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education. RCPD Director Michael Hudson said, “The DeLapas remind us all that many of life’s greatest accomplishments begin with a helping hand somewhere along the way. The generosity shown here is incredibly significant to all of us.”

Judy and Jim hope that their initial gift to the new scholarship endowment will inspire other members of the Spartan community to give back. Working with Mr. Hudson, the DeLapas will embark on an initiative to encourage others to give to the Samaritan Scholar Awards. “The DeLapas challenge each of us to fully invest in helping others reach their educational goals, and this endowment evidences their work toward that outcome,” said Mr. Hudson.

For information about giving to the RCPD, contact Erin Slayter at (517) 355-7535.
Samaritan Scholar Awards Benefit Students with Disabilities

Alumni Judy and Jim DeLapa have supported MSU for many years, personally and through the Samaritan Foundation, which they established. Their most recent gift of $30,000 has created the endowed Samaritan Scholar Awards to provide annual scholarships for MSU students with disabilities.

Since 2002, through the Samaritan Foundation the DeLapas have provided five annual scholarships to students with disabilities and financial need. By choosing now to endow the Samaritan Scholar Awards, Judy and Jim DeLapa will ensure these important scholarships continue in perpetuity. “Over the years, we have given to many different causes, and we shall continue to do so.

Increasingly, we make a point of investing our charitable dollars as strategically as we invest our other resources,” said Judy DeLapa.

“How is an investment different than a handout?” Ms. DeLapa continued. “An investment is something that pays dividends. Each year when I speak at the awards ceremony for the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD), I emphasize the expectation that someday, when the recipients are in a position to do so, it will be their turn to give back and help pave the way for those who follow. As for ourselves, we have found no better investment than to provide scholarships and opportunities for persons with disabilities to maximize their potential.”

Judy and Jim DeLapa met while attending MSU, where both received scholarship support for their...