

FOR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2021

DEVELOPMENTS

THE HEART *of a Scholarship*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Munn Renewal | Endowed Faculty Bridge New Futures with Research | Philanthropic Annual Report

WAITING FOR AN AUDIENCE

The MSU Alumni Chapel will look and sound very different when it opens its doors for services and performances once again. The brand-new Red Cedar Organ, custom built for the space by the famed Orgues Létourneau in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, was installed in the fall of 2020 after years of careful planning and preparation. This much-needed facelift to a beloved campus landmark was made possible thanks to donor support, particularly that of Ed and Wanda Eichler, who championed the project from the beginning to an absolutely beautiful conclusion.

LEARN MORE about how to support the Alumni Chapel Restoration Project by contacting Associate Director of Development Ann-Marie Lindley at alindley@msu.edu or by calling (517) 432-4889.

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EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS

Peter and Carol Walters create endowed fund in the Eli Broad College

THE ROLE OF ART IN HEALING AND JUSTICE

\$3 million Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant supports virtual and physical exhibits of art created globally during COVID-19

\$2.5 MILLION GIFT CREATES SOFTWARE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Leinweber Foundation supports computer science and engineering

\$1.3M GRANT TO INVESTIGATE TOOLS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE RISK

National collaborative for gun violence research awards MSU Criminal Justice

DEVELOPMENTS

Learn more at givingto.msu.edu

The generosity of thousands of alumni and friends empowers MSU's students, faculty and leaders to accomplish the extraordinary every day.

Ways to Support Michigan State

Online Giving

You may make a gift securely online using your credit card. Visit givingto.msu.edu.

Cash, Stock, Real Estate and Other Gifts

To explore how you might provide financial support to MSU, contact the University Advancement office in your college or unit or call (517) 884-1000.

Estate Planning

To remember MSU in your will, personal trust, qualified retirement plan or IRA, contact the Office of Gift Planning at (800) 232-4678 or (517) 884-1000.

The correct reference is Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, and the federal tax identification number is 38-6005984. If you have already named MSU in your estate plans, please contact us so we can welcome you to the Linda E. Landon Legacy Society. For more information, visit giftplanning.msu.edu.

For Donors and Friends of Michigan State University

MSU Developments, published three times each year, is devoted to the inspiration and impact of private philanthropy at Michigan State University.

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new DEVELOPMENTS

new DEVELOPMENTS

ALUMNI HELP CREATE VIRTUAL INTERNSHIPS

Helen Dashney, a finance department faculty member in the Eli Broad College of Business, wasn't going to let the COVID-19 pandemic take away the all-important summer internship experience for business students.

Thanks to her connections with Broad alumni around the country, Dashney launched the Summer Consulting Project, which provided meaningful remote work experiences for 33 students at companies like Amway, Apple, FUEL, Meritor, MSUFCU, Texties/Acceleron Corp., Tri-State Cast Technologies and Worldwide Express.

The students were given important, hands-on jobs that helped each of these companies tackle an emerging challenge or complete a special project that they might not have had the capacity to address in the remote environment.

Alumni not only provided valuable work opportunities across these companies, but also offered generous support to compensate the students involved. Gifts from alumni at the firms and other longtime donors, along with contributions from the firms themselves and some matching money from the Broad College, enabled student participants to receive fall semester scholarship awards for their efforts.

Priya Balasubramaniam ('01, MBA), VP of operations at Apple, not only offered work for eight graduate students, but also made a gift to support the Summer Consulting Project.

"As soon as I became aware about the program and what Helen was trying to do for the students, I immediately wanted to do everything I could to support her mission and vision," Balasubramaniam says.

Alumnus and Financial Markets Institute board member David Vargo ('79) and his wife, Sheila Collins, also contributed to the Summer Consulting Project support fund.

"Sheila and I feel strongly that internships are critical to student development: enhancing classroom experience, building resumes with relevant experience, providing exposure within a professional environment and supplying necessary income for fall tuition," Vargo says.

LEARN MORE about making a gift to the Eli Broad College of Business by contacting Senior Director of Development Sean Mulligan at mullig39@broad.msu.edu or by calling (517) 355-8504.



Priya Balasubramaniam, '01, VP of operations at Apple, provided learning opportunities for eight students.



Jabbar R. Bennett is MSU's newest vice president.

BENNETT APPOINTED AS MSU'S CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

Following a national search, MSU welcomed Jabbar R. Bennett as the university's vice president and chief diversity officer in December.

Prior to joining MSU, Bennett served as the inaugural associate provost for diversity and inclusion, as well as chief diversity officer, at Northwestern University. Previously, he worked as associate dean of the Graduate School and associate dean for diversity in the Division of Biology and Medicine at Brown University. He also held administrative appointments at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical

School, and United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, and served on the faculty at Harvard, Brown and Northwestern.

As vice president and chief diversity officer, Bennett will report directly to MSU's president. He'll collaborate with other university senior executives, deans, faculty, staff, students and alumni to develop and implement a comprehensive diversity, equity and inclusion plan. Bennett is also a professor of medicine in the College of Human Medicine.

Bennett received a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in Spanish

from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and earned a doctoral degree in biomedical sciences from Meharry Medical College. He completed postdoctoral research training at Harvard Medical School and is an alumnus of the Harvard University Administrative Fellows Program and Massachusetts Education Policy Fellowship Program.



LOOK WHAT'S WAITING FOR YOU

Mid-century modern furnishings donated by Herman Miller Company await visitors to the first-floor entertainment area of **Cowles House**. Thanks to a renovation project fully funded by donors, it stands ready for the next chapters in its role as a center of campus hospitality.

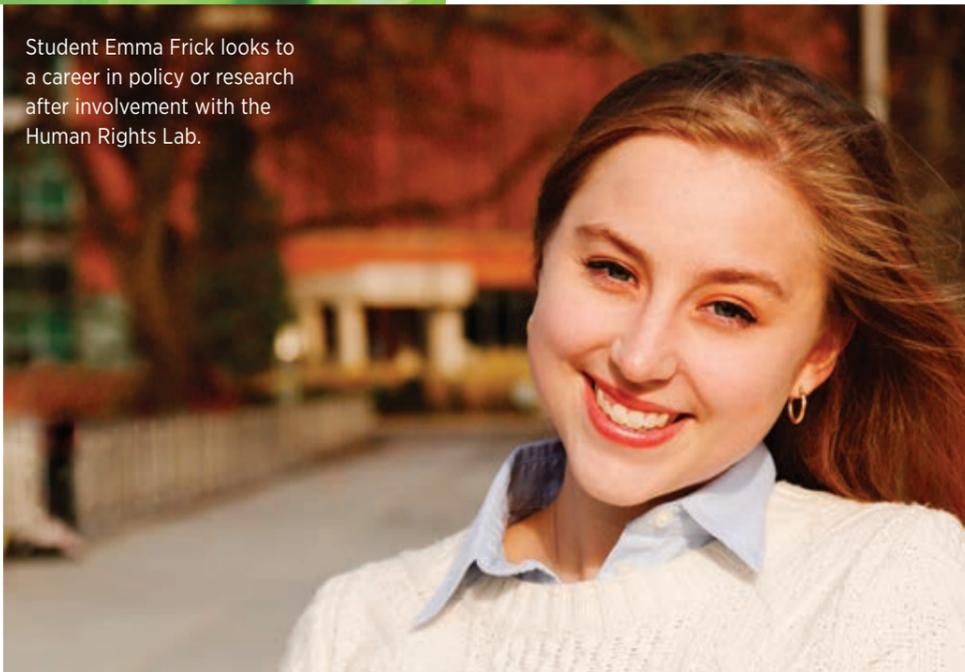
STUDENTS
BUILD HOME
STUDIOS WITH
DONOR HELP

When classes moved to remote learning last spring, students in the Department of Art, Art History, and Design (AAHD) faced the unique challenge of emulating studio spaces from home. Thanks to gifts, students received easels, clay, canvases, travel easels, screen printing materials, and other necessary and costly art materials needed to master and progress in their craft.

LEARN MORE about supporting the College of Arts & Letters by contacting Senior Director of Development Christine Radtke at rادتکه@msu.edu or by calling (517) 432-6693.



Lucas Curtis, Graphic Design junior from Dimondale, received more than 25 pounds of clay, enabling him to complete ceramics classes.



Student Emma Frick looks to a career in policy or research after involvement with the Human Rights Lab.

INTERNATIONAL CRIME INVESTIGATORS

The research of James Madison College students working in the Human Rights Lab has led to two evidence submissions to the International Criminal Court for human rights violations in Myanmar and Venezuela.

Their success helped prompt JMC alumnus Robert W. Rathke ('81) to boost the lab's efforts with a \$5,000 matching gift, which has grown to nearly \$14,000 in support from 80 additional donors.

Students, with the mentorship of the lab's creator, Professor Robert Brathwaite, use technology, such as Geographic Information System (GIS) and AIS ship transponder data, to help international legal organizations investigate crimes against humanity and other crimes of international concern. It is one of the only groups of its kind operating at the undergraduate level.

Recently, the lab's analysis of satellite imagery and other data provided evidence for a Swiss human rights organization in a case against a corporate entity suspected of engaging in illicit smuggling activities in Libya.

Emma Frick, an International Relations and Social Relations and Policy senior from Saline, once struggled with deciding what to do after graduation. "The skills I've gained, such as satellite imagery analysis, social media analysis and open-source data mining, will set me apart from others and open many doors in the areas like research and policy or report writing," she says.

Robert Rathke's giving is motivated by the student-faculty relationships he experienced as a student at MSU. In addition, his father was a faculty member at Montana State University whose life exemplified transformational experiences for students through his teaching and mentorship.

LEARN MORE about making a gift to James Madison College by contacting Director of Development Rocky Beckett at beckett@msu.edu or by calling (517) 884-1278.



IN WITH THE NEW, AS A NOD TO THE OLD

Munn Ice Arena is getting old, but, honestly, that's kind of a compliment.

BY DEVON BARRETT

Completed in 1974, the low-lying, metal-sided building is without a doubt the only athletic facility in the U.S.—and possibly the entire world—that is tucked into the side of a documented 16,000-year-old prehistoric inland sand dune. (Not to mention that there's a grove of pine trees growing atop the sand dune, making Munn one of the only places on campus where you can sing the lyrics to MSU Shadows, "beneath the pines we'll gather," and actually mean it.)

It is home to three national championship banners and nearly 80 alumni who went on to NHL careers, and the rafters are probably still rattling from the roar of 323 consecutive regular-season sellout crowds that had the building bursting at the seams from 1985 to 2004.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



IMPROVEMENTS TO FORM AND FUNCTION

What will \$22.5M do for Munn Ice Arena? Quite a lot...

- Provide the building with a grand entrance through the Hall of Hockey, highlighting the storied 80-year history of Spartan hockey
- Relocate Spartan hockey offices above ground to the south side, overlooking Munn Field and in the center of MSU's athletic facilities hub
- Add a 5,000-square-foot strength and conditioning facility
- Provide Spartan student-athletes with first-class amenities:
 - a brand-new locker room
 - a lounge area
 - shooting stations
 - a theater-style tiered film room
- Create state-of-the-art athletic training and therapy areas with three hydrotherapy pools, including an underwater treadmill

PROJECT COST: \$22.5M
TOTAL RAISED TO DATE: \$16.7M

There's something to be said for the feeling of playing and spectating in an arena that is nostalgia incarnate. But there's also something to be said for having the latest, greatest, shiniest athletic facilities.

When Munn Ice Arena's long-awaited renovation is complete, it will be the best of both worlds.

The 35,000-square-foot addition will bring offices, conference rooms, and administrative spaces out of the dark underbelly of the arena and into natural light on the main level.

A weight room and training room will mean that student-athletes won't have to trek down Red Cedar Road to the football building for conditioning. There will be a theater room for watching film, a space for studying, a place to practice shooting and brand-new locker rooms that will stand out to new recruits choosing between some of the best hockey programs in the country.

And for the fans: a beautiful and well-marked "front door" at the building's south entrance and an MSU hockey hall of fame to welcome them inside.

This dramatic exterior facelift and interior upgrade will help put Munn on par with other facilities in the Big Ten and

the NCAA at large. Munn is one of the oldest hockey facilities in the Big Ten, second only to Michigan's Yost Ice Arena, which was built in 1923 but has undergone a full interior overhaul in the last decade and a half.

From a campus perspective, the Munn renovation also marks the culmination of a series of major athletic facilities upgrades in recent years: football and basketball, but also baseball, softball, soccer and golf have all benefited from new and improved practice spaces and playing venues.

The \$22.5 million Munn renovation project is being funded solely through philanthropy, and while construction has largely been paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fundraising continues.

To date, \$16.7 million has been raised. Hockey alumnus Gary Harpell and five other donors, including Tom Izzo and the Forest Akers Trust, have committed over \$1M each to the facility. In all, 89 donors have stepped up with gifts of \$10,000 or more. Many of those gifts will be acknowledged by named spaces in the building, from the hall of honor at the entrance, to the coaches' offices, to the locker rooms, to each individual locker inside—and there are still more opportunities for donors and fans to leave their mark.

Plenty of people will try to call this the beginning of a new era for Spartan hockey. And in a way, it is. But it might also be safe to say that this is an effort to reclaim an old era when, win or lose, hockey was the hottest ticket in town.

That part of Munn Ice Arena—where it's night two of a home-and-home against the University of Michigan, and MSU is winning and the students are going insane in the northeast corner and That One Guy is yelling at the refs, and That Other Guy is dancing to the Spartan Brass during intermission, and the whole place feels like the roof might pop off when the clock finally runs out and we've swept the series? That part has always been there, and it can only get better from here.

.....
LEARN MORE about supporting the Munn Renovation Project by contacting Associate Athletics Director and Director of Major Gifts Mark Schoenl at mschoenl@ath.msu.edu or by calling 517-432-4610.

"IS THIS HEAVEN?" NO, IT'S MUNN ICE ARENA. "WELL, IT LOOKS A LOT LIKE HEAVEN TO ME."

IN HIS OWN WORDS: GARY HARPELL



Alumnus and former MSU hockey player Gary Harpell ('82) walked on to the team as a freshman in 1978, and the feeling he had the first time he saw the ice—and the person he became after four years of playing on it—is the reason he's become such an enthusiastic champion for the project.

Since 2016, Harpell has given more than \$1 million to the project, and has volunteered his time as part of a committee of fellow Spartan hockey alumni who are helping to drum up support and move the renovation and fundraising efforts forward.

He spoke recently about why this project means so much to him:

"Walking on and making that team in 1978 was the fulfillment of many, many years of dreaming, and a goal of mine to play D1 college hockey. I proved to myself that if I set my mind to something, I could really achieve it. I want that for everybody that comes through Michigan State.

"Making that team in 1978 was the springboard for me to be able to take risks. It gave me the confidence that I could go on and do pretty much whatever I wanted to do. I used it in my professional life, in my personal life, it had a profound effect on me.

"For me, investing in the Munn renovation project has been a little bit like taking a slap shot off the ankle to save the game. It hurt a bit when I first blocked the shot—when I first made the commitment. But as time goes on, the pain subsides, and what you're left with is this incredible feeling. It's indescribable, the amount of pride that I have in what's happening at Michigan State and in the hockey program."



ENDOWED FACULTY PAVING THE WAY

The vital role of basic research is front and center in the pandemic and beyond

While the names of private companies like Pfizer and Moderna are all over the news right now for being among the first to produce viable vaccines for the virus that causes COVID-19, they alone are not responsible for the exhaustive, basic research that enabled a safe, reliable vaccine to be produced so quickly in the first place.

That work took years, and it was done thanks to government and private funding at research institutes and universities.

In fact, many of the greatest medical or technological achievements in American history happened this way. Why? Because basic research is expensive and doesn't always pay immediate dividends, and the private sector isn't always willing to absorb that cost. But the government is—and so are universities, thanks, in part, to donors.

Each year, MSU hires and promotes brilliant researchers into endowed chair and professor positions created by donors whose vision and generosity enable exactly this kind of work.

In an ordinary academic year, these newly appointed endowed faculty members would be introduced and celebrated at the annual Investiture for Endowed Faculty ceremony held in the fall. This isn't an ordinary year, but they haven't stopped working, and here's what some of them are up to.



BARRY BRADFORD
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Barry Bradford, the new Clinton E. Meadows Endowed Chair for Dairy Management in the Department of Animal Science, is a leader in dairy nutrition research, focused on metabolic regulation of feed intake in dairy cattle. In this new leadership role as the Meadows Chair, he will split his time between research and outreach, in hopes of fostering cross-departmental partnerships that will enable as many people at MSU as possible to solve problems for the dairy industry.

The Clinton E. Meadows Endowed Chair was created and named in honor of Clinton Meadows, whose 23-year career at MSU earned him a distinguished faculty award and a proclamation from the Michigan Legislature in 1978.



JAMES DEARING
College of Communication Arts and Sciences

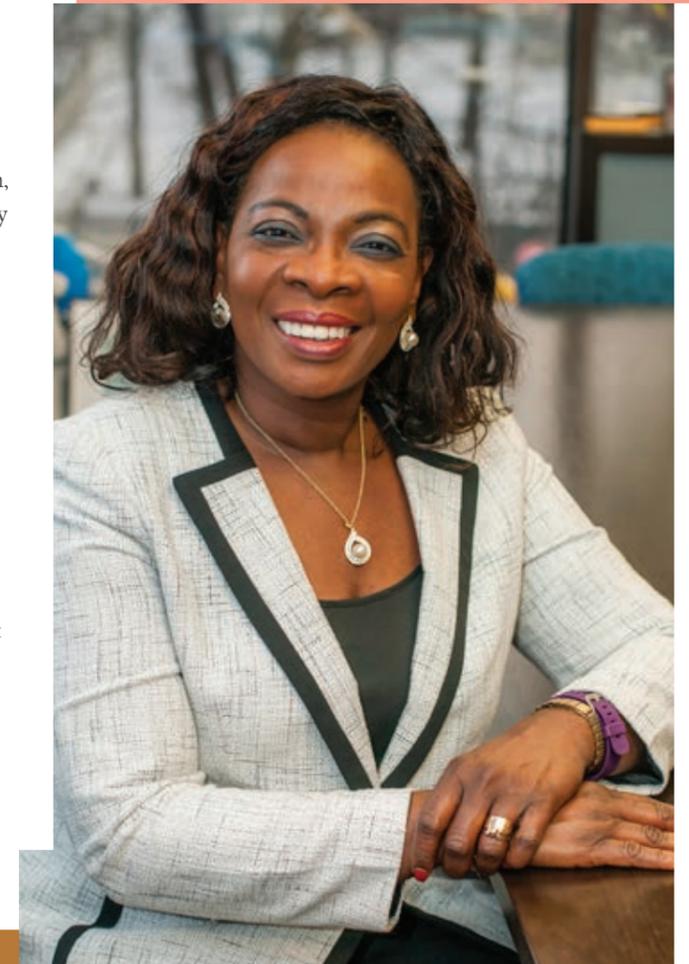
James Dearing, the newest Brandt Endowed Professor in the Department of Communication, has been ranked in the top 10 internationally in the growing discipline of dissemination and implementation science in health. His work most frequently focuses on organizational change and organizational strategy as they relate to creation, adaptation and adoption of innovations in organizational settings—most often in the fields of nursing care, climate change, injury and fatality prevention, public health, STEM education, environmental contamination and health care.

The Brandt Endowed Professorship was created thanks to an estate gift from alumnus Ellis “Ned” Brandt ('43), who wanted MSU to carry on the legacy of his long and distinguished career in communications.

ADESUWA OLOMU
College of Human Medicine

Adesuwa Olomu, the Blanch B. and Frederick C. Swartz Endowed Professor in Medicine, is also vice chair for Research, chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine and a faculty excellence advocate in the College of Human Medicine. She is a health services researcher whose work is nationally and internationally recognized. Her primary research interests include behavioral interventions and implementation; translating scientific evidence into clinical practice; health disparity research in cardiovascular disease; and improving patient care using mobile health technology.

The Blanch B. and Frederick C. Swartz Endowed Professorship was created through an estate gift from Dr. Frederick and Mrs. Blanch Swartz. Swartz was a Lansing-area physician who advocated early on for Michigan State to establish a medical school. He sought to create an endowment that would support an outstanding faculty member whose teaching and research interests lay in one of his two areas of passion: internal medicine or geriatric medicine.





MARK SCHRODER
Eli Broad College of Business

Mark Schroder, the A.J. Pasant Endowed Professor of Insurance in the Department of Finance, is a professor of undergraduate- and graduate-level finance courses. His research interests include optimal portfolio-consumption choice, derivatives pricing and optimal contracting. He has refereed for more than 20 academic journals.

The A.J. Pasant Endowed Professor of Insurance was established by alumnus A.J. Pasant ('49, College of Social Science), who founded Jackson National Life Insurance and wanted to encourage an interest in the insurance industry among faculty and students.

TYLER COCKER
College of Natural Science

Tyler Cocker, the Jerry Cowen Chair of Experimental Physics, is an assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. As the principal investigator in the Ultrafast Terahertz Nanoscopy Laboratory, he leads a team that's studying ultrafast dynamics on the nano and atomic scales, with the goal of informing future work on nanotechnology and molecular electronics.

The Jerry Cowen Chair of Experimental Physics was created by a gift from the family of the late Jerry Cowen ('50, '54, College of Natural Science), who, after graduating with his Ph.D. in physics, went on to teach in the department of physics and astronomy at MSU for 44 years. His family created the position in recognition of his love for research and instruction in the area of experimental physics.



LEO KEMPEL
College of Engineering

Leo Kempel is the dean of the College of Engineering and the new Dennis P. Nyquist Endowed Professor in Electromagnetics. Kempel's research interests include conformal antennas, engineered materials for microwave applications and computational electromagnetics. Kempel knew the late Dennis P. Nyquist personally, and counts him as a friend and mentor, especially during his first several years at MSU. He looks forward to using the Nyquist professorship as a means to help others launch successful teaching and research careers in engineering.

The Dennis P. Nyquist Endowed Professorship in Electromagnetics was established in 2014 through a \$1 million estate gift from Nyquist, who not only earned his Ph.D. in 1966 from MSU's College of Engineering, but served on the faculty for 36 years, during which he was named a University Distinguished Professor and earned an MSU Teacher-Scholar award.

REINCARNATING PLASTIC

LAMP CHAIR LEADS RESEARCH INITIATIVE TO "UPCYCLE" WASTE

More than 90% of America's plastic waste becomes garbage, often after only a single use. And even the small percentage that is recycled can end up being less valuable, pound for pound, than when it started.

John Dorgan, who joined MSU as the David L. and Denise M. Lamp Endowed Chair in Chemical Engineering in 2017, is working to change that.

Dorgan has assembled a team of MSU researchers who are pursuing the "upcycling" of commonly disposed plastics such as grocery bags into higher uses with funding from a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant.

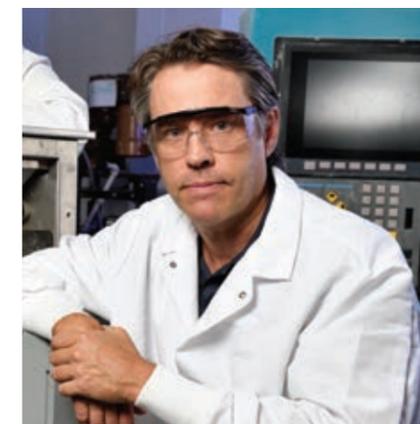
The project's goal is to break down polyethylene, then chemically resurrect it as a more valuable material, such as nylon

used in carpets, sporting goods and even automotive parts.

Plastic recycling now is mostly "downcycling," Dorgan says. For example, polyethylene recycled from plastic grocery bags frequently reenters the world as plastic lumber used in park benches. Although it's a good use, this kind of recycling is an overall value loss. Going to nylon instead would flip that script, as one pound of nylon can be worth more than five pounds of recycled polyethylene.

"Please make sure that you recycle your plastic," Dorgan says, "because the team at MSU is figuring out great things to do with it."

LEARN MORE about support for endowed faculty positions by contacting the development officer in your college or unit or by calling (517) 884-1000.



VISIT MSU's official Honored Faculty website, where you can search and sort by name, college or position to learn more about some of MSU's best and brightest faculty members, at msu.edu/honoredfaculty

The of a Scholarship

THE VALUE OF A SCHOLARSHIP OFTEN GOES WELL BEYOND ITS DOLLAR SIGN

College is a lot.

A lot of change. A lot of pressure. And a lot of financial stress.

When students look back on their college experience, sure, they remember the highlights: their most formative classes, their dearest friends, going to sporting events, trekking across campus in a blizzard and studying outside during finals week in the spring.

But they also, unfailingly, remember the people who stepped in when the change, the pressure or the money got to be too much.

For so many students, those people are kind and caring MSU faculty and staff members, and the safety net is the inestimable gift of a donor-funded scholarship.

While the financial impact of a scholarship is often its most tangible effect, there is also something to be said for its impact on a student's sense of self-worth and readiness to step out into the world on their own two feet and begin having the same impact on others.

A peek into the lives of two young women, both scholarship recipients making the most of their time at MSU, explains it best.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Jessica Wright holds a photo of her dad.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Help at a make-or-break moment

Jessica Wright had not looked at an MSU assignment in weeks. Most of the time, she couldn't eat, sleep or even get out of bed, let alone concentrate on a lecture or lab.

Like most students, her life was upended when the coronavirus pandemic forced a universitywide shutdown last March. Yet Jessica could have dealt with a switch to virtual learning and a move back home, even the loss of her residence hall job and the sudden social isolation.

What knocked her down was heartbreak when COVID-19 took her father in the second week.

"I was so close to quitting," says Jessica, who up until that point had been a thriving junior in the College of Natural Science (CNS). She was a Charles Drew Science Scholar, an active member of the MSU Dental Club and an Asian-Pilipino student society, and a volunteer Big Sister. She dreamed about becoming an orthodontist because she understood how much teeth can be a source of pain and self-doubt, especially in low-income populations, and she wanted to help. "I was so close to giving up on what I had been working so hard towards."

She knew she was falling behind, and the stress from that only made it harder for her to try and pick up the pieces of her academic life. One day in late April, she worked up the energy to just check her MSU email. A message from Carolyn Sekedat, a member of the CNS Dean's Office staff, immediately caught her eye. "Conner Scholarship Offer" was the subject line. And Carolyn's message said the deadline to accept was in two days.

Jessica took it as a wake-up call.

"That somebody out there saw my potential and decided to help me continue my journey through education, that had to

mean something," she says. "I couldn't just quit after knowing that somebody was graciously giving me something they had worked hard to earn."

For Carolyn, who helps to administer about 40 scholarship funds for the college, sending those emails to students is one of the most gratifying parts of her job. "It's not my money," she says, "but I get to facilitate it and, with stories like Jessica's, I am grateful that these funds exist because the support means so much to the students."

The donors, Bill and Mary Conner, earned Ph.D.s from MSU in 1970. They recall how their graduate assistantships were enough to cover all their expenses, from rent to food to textbooks. At the time, a Spartan Village apartment cost just \$90 a month, including utilities, and they were able to leave MSU debt-free. Over the years, they've kept an eye on the cost of a college education, and they created their scholarship to help today's students financially. More than that, though, trips back to campus have allowed them to meet other recipients like Jessica and to hear firsthand about the true impact a scholarship had on their lives.

"We found Jessica's story so moving when we first heard it last fall and were pleased to know that our scholarship would help her achieve her goals. She's a most deserving recipient!" say the Conners.

Today, Jessica is in her senior year at MSU, living with her mom in Westland. She recently landed a part-time job as a pharmacy technician—something she'll add to her portfolio for dental school. She knows she's on a path her father, a patient and charismatic paraprofessional who dedicated his life to students with special needs in Westland schools, definitely not only approved of but related to.

"Like my Dad, I want to help people feel better about themselves," she says.



A confidence boost that keeps on boosting

When you ask a young person what interests them, there are the predictable answers (Art! Animals! Sports! Computers!), and then there's Maysa Sitar's answer.

Maysa is a senior at MSU, a leader in student government and a Mitchell Scholar headed to study in Ireland after graduation. She is also a STARR Scholar from the small town of Newberry in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

And she's interested in...voting.

It started at a very young age, when her civically engaged parents would take her to the polls because she was too small to stay home by herself.

"I loved it—the polls were fun," she says of watching her mom do her civic duty. "And I was really surprised when so few of my friends were interested in voting once we were old enough. I ended up registering some of them and taking them to the polls with me."

To Maysa, voting symbolized something important: an opportunity for people—even those from a secluded rural area like her hometown—to have a say in something much bigger than themselves.

The idea of being involved in something bigger than oneself followed Maysa to MSU, where she found her niche, getting involved in organizations, initiatives and research projects that brought her even closer to the topics that interested her: voting behavior, electoral policies and the legislative process.

She served on the Associated Students of MSU as the vice president of governmental affairs.

She joined the Secretary of State's Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force, a group created in 2019 by Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson to address issues surrounding college-aged voters. The team of 33 students from 20 colleges around the state collaborated on a set of recommendations on how to increase collegiate voter turnout.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

"THAT SOMEBODY OUT THERE SAW MY POTENTIAL AND DECIDED TO HELP ME CONTINUE MY JOURNEY THROUGH EDUCATION, THAT HAD TO MEAN SOMETHING."

—JESSICA WRIGHT

Bill and Mary Conner created a scholarship, recalling how just graduate assistantships enabled them both to graduate from MSU debt-free.



"I NEVER, IN MY LIFE, THOUGHT I WOULD WIN A NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP LIKE THE MITCHELL. EVER. EVER. AND I THINK IT'S DEFINITELY VERY HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY BEING AWARDED THE STARR, AND EVERYTHING THAT HAS UNFOLDED SINCE."

—MAYSA SITAR

EMPOWERED STAFF



Every scholarship makes a difference, and every MSU staff member or administrator who is involved in awarding one gets to carry around the feeling that they have changed a young person's life for the better.

Doug Estry, associate provost for Undergraduate Education and dean of Undergraduate Studies emeritus, carries that around a hundredfold.

Doug Estry, dean emeritus of Undergraduate Studies, counts working with STARR scholars as a career highlight.

For more than a decade, he has helped direct the STARR Scholarship program, serving on the selection committee and helping to welcome each new STARR scholar to MSU.

He also acts as a mentor and a guide throughout their time on campus, and he cannot say enough about their capacity—as a group—to make an impact. They've certainly made one on him.

“From the first day we meet them on campus to the day they graduate, engaging with them, facilitating their success, helping them through challenges, being there when they need support, helping them appreciate that life is about growing their independence while understanding that real success is also about interdependence—it's an amazing feeling,” he says.

The STARR scholars come from different family backgrounds, ethnicities, sexual identities and may take widely different courses, but when they come together their connection and support for one another is instantaneous, Estry notes. “It's like a homecoming,” he says. “They share a common bond: they have been given an amazing gift by amazing donors and they deeply recognize it.”

“Over the last 12 years, I have come to know the STARR donors, who wish to remain anonymous. It has been one of my deepest honors to be able to help facilitate their vision for giving students—who might not otherwise have had the opportunity—a chance to study at an institution like MSU. Their generosity has fully funded over 200 students, and people need to know how one couple's generosity over 23 years has not only touched the lives of 200 students, but the lives of thousands of people that those students have touched as well.”

After MSU, STARR scholars have gone on to become doctors, nurses, engineers, authors, teachers and politicians. They have pursued advanced degrees, worked on groundbreaking research and started nonprofits; and have worked, lived and impacted the people around them all over the world. But they haven't forgotten where they came from: the STARR alumni have also started their own endowment to begin giving back in appreciation for what was given to them.

COVER STORY: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15



This past summer, Maysa interned remotely with Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin, and got a taste of politics in the lead-up to the 2020 elections.

And as election season rolled around, she became a deputized clerk for Ingham County, registered her fellow students to vote and helped count absentee ballots.

All of this was bolstered by her STARR scholarship, which gave her the financial freedom to fill her schedule with activities and opportunities that interested her, without having to worry about whether they paid.

But it also gave her something else: a sense of confidence, in herself and in her choices.

“Simply being chosen for the STARR scholarship made me more confident in my own abilities,” Maysa says. “When you find an opportunity that interests you, sometimes you have to put yourself out there, and you have to ask for it, and I don't know if I would've felt as confident doing that if I didn't have that built-in support network of the STARR behind me.”

Her involvement, her research pursuits and that sense of confidence were enough to earn her a prestigious scholarship for

the next chapter of her life, too.

The Mitchell Scholarship is awarded to no more than 12 U.S. students each year, and funds tuition, travel and a living stipend for one year of postgraduate study in Ireland. There, Maysa plans to broaden her research into elections, learn more about how they work around the world and bring back what she learns to the U.S.

After that? She wants to take both a research- and law-based approach to voting advocacy—one that will help inform voters, fight for their rights and break down the barriers to truly free and fair elections on a national scale.

Her 18-year-old self, registering a few friends and dragging them to the polls, would be proud of how much bigger her impact is going to be.

.....
LEARN MORE about scholarship support for students by contacting the Advancement Office in your college or unit, or Senior Director of Development for Scholarships and Fellowships Jennifer Bertram at bertram9@msu.edu or by calling (517) 432-7330.

PROVIDING FUNDS and ENCOURAGEMENT

When a student receives a scholarship award, the money means a lot and so does the message behind the money.

“When you give a scholarship, you're giving money, but you're also telling the recipient that you believe in them and want them to succeed,” says Chris Wright, who along with his father, David Wright ('75, Ph.D.), recently established an endowed scholarship at MSU. “And that's incredibly important.”

The Wright family has a multigenerational history of giving. Part of the war generation, Howard Wright and Doris Spahr (David's parents) understood self-sacrifice and knew the value of a strong community. They met in a chemistry class in 1941 and married in 1942. Howard worked in a munitions plant during the war and later at Abbott Labs as a synthetic organic chemist. After raising David and his three siblings, Doris went back to school and earned her master's degree in special education. Doris and Howard also established the Wright Home for severely disabled adults, and often took in kids from troubled homes who needed a stable living environment.

Five years ago, Chris, who earned a degree in communications from Stanford, approached his dad with the idea of starting a scholarship fund for high school students from immigrant families.

Chris, who was adopted from Russia, was inspired by a childhood friend who grew up in a family that did not have as many resources.

“He was able to get some college scholarships, earn his medical degree and become a successful physician,” Chris says. “But what if he hadn't been able to become a doctor and achieve his dreams?”

David adds: “I really liked the idea of giving to MSU because it's a land-grant university, it's for everybody.”

David retired in 2018 after 25 years of work in building NMR instrumentation and 22 years of design and implementation of mass spectrometry data processing techniques. Chris is currently the head of growth for an online reputation management company located in California.

“When I sent in that first amount of money for this MSU scholarship fund, it was so internally rewarding,” says Chris, who now wants to expand his giving. “I'm always asking my dad: What more could we be doing? What else can we be engaging with?”

It's just the Wright thing to do.



Father and son David and Chris Wright established the Wright Family Endowed Scholarship at MSU.

The 2020 Fiscal YEAR in PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy-wise, the 2020 fiscal year was on its way to looking just like any other non-campaign fiscal year at Michigan State.

Giving was down a bit from 2019, but that was expected in the wake of the record-breaking *Empower Extraordinary* campaign.

What wasn't expected was that in the second half of FY 2020, everything about MSU—academics, research, sports, student life and, yes, fundraising—would be profoundly affected by a pandemic.

During some of the darkest months of the coronavirus pandemic, MSU's steadfast community of donors continued to step up.

A \$6.1 million gift from Keelung Hong, Ph.D., in honor of his late spouse, alumnus Stephen O. Murray, was pledged to transform Special Collections at the MSU Libraries, and a \$19.5 million gift from Doug Meijer and the Meijer Foundation increased the outstanding impact of the College of Human Medicine's growing presence in Grand Rapids. In total, MSU received 35 gifts of \$1 million or more in FY 2020.

Nine MSU colleges and programs exceeded last year's fundraising totals—most notably Nursing, which nearly quadrupled last year's total, and Honors College, where a gift for the program's first-ever endowed faculty position helped them raise a total of \$4.8 million over last year's \$551,000.

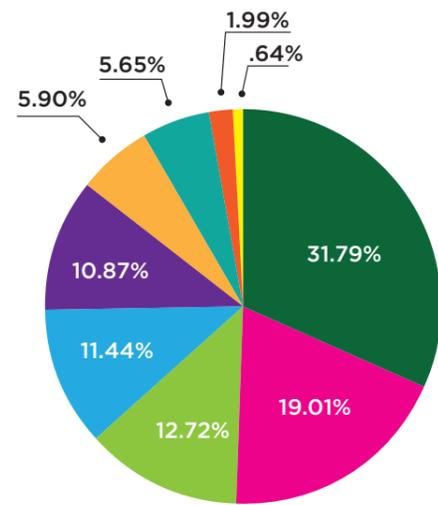
Additionally, donors from around the world answered the call for emergency funds to help students facing sudden financial hardship, unemployment or food insecurity.

Since 2012, financial support from the State of Michigan has accounted for less than 15% of MSU's total operating revenue. This year, we had some good news that state contributions would hold steady, showing a stabilization and support for MSU's mission and goals.

In all, 73,596 Spartans and friends made a gift to MSU, together committing \$186 million. Of that total, more than \$159 million already has been received and is currently at work, helping to ensure that Michigan State continues to be as life-changing for this year's students as it was for the last.



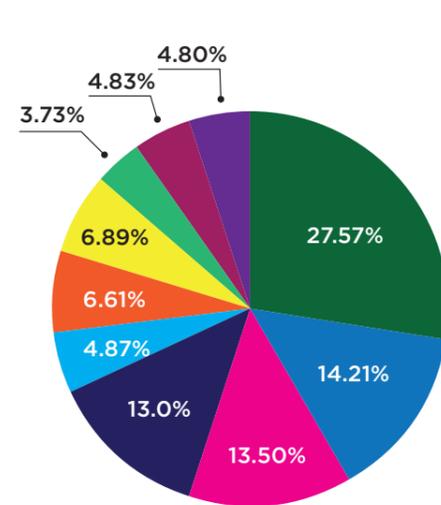
MSU OVERALL REVENUE, EXPENSES AND PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT, FY20



MSU REVENUE

Dollars in millions

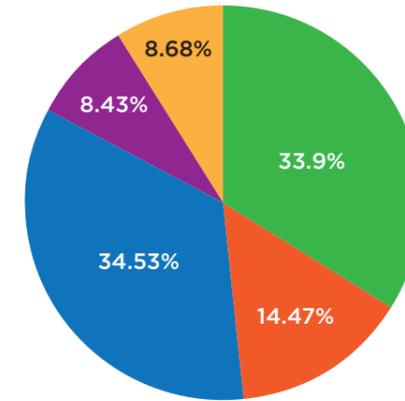
Net Tuition and Fees	\$895
Grants and Contracts	\$535
Net Auxiliary Enterprises	\$358
State Appropriations	\$322
Other Department Activities	\$306
Investment Income	\$166
Philanthropy	\$159
Capital Grants and Other	\$56
Draw on Accumulated Net Assets	\$18
TOTAL	\$2,815



MSU EXPENSES

Dollars in millions

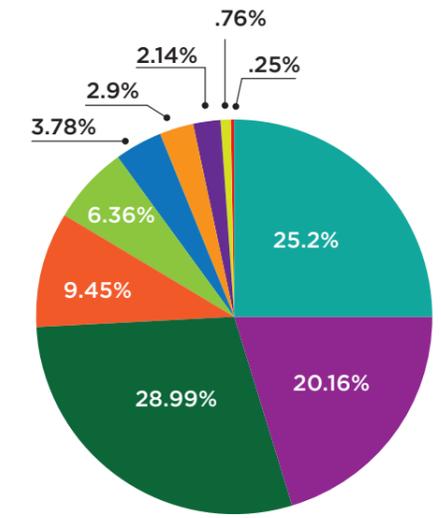
Instruction	\$776
Research	\$400
Public Service	\$380
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$366
Academic Support	\$137
Depreciation	\$186
Institutional Support	\$194
Student Aid	\$105
Maintenance of Plant	\$136
Other	\$135
TOTAL	\$2,815



WHERE *the* GIFTS CAME FROM

Dollars in millions

Alumni	\$53.9
Other Individuals	\$23
Foundations	\$54.9
Corporations	\$13.4
Other Organizations	\$13.8
TOTAL	\$159



WHERE *the* GIFTS WENT

Dollars in millions

Research	\$40
Physical Plant	\$32
Auxiliary Enterprises and Other Restricted	\$46
Academic Division	\$15
Student Financial Aid	\$10.1
Athletics	\$6
Public Service and Extension	\$4.6
Unrestricted	\$3.4
Library	\$1.2
Faculty and Staff	\$.4
TOTAL	\$159

SOURCE: MSU Annual Financial Report 2019-20. This is not an audited financial report

SOURCE: Voluntary Support of Education Survey by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education

COMMITMENTS TO SPECIFIC UNITS

THE FISCAL YEAR'S TOTAL PHILANTHROPIC COMMITMENTS — INCLUDING PLEDGES AND PLANNED GIFTS — WAS **\$186,031,856.**

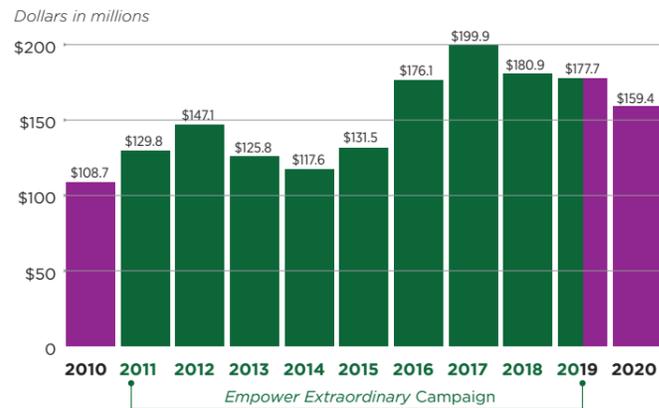
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES	\$14,674,189
COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS	\$4,008,761
ELI AND EDYTHE BROAD ART MUSEUM	\$774,229
ELI BROAD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS	\$14,811,378
BROADCASTING SERVICES	\$4,542,534
CAMPUS PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION	\$1,583,886
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION ARTS & SCIENCES	\$3,172,248
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	\$5,429,894
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING	\$6,987,312
GENERAL UNIVERSITY	\$12,335,449
GRADUATE SCHOOL	\$130,787

HONORS COLLEGE	\$4,830,549
COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE	\$30,912,633
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS	\$17,184,660
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND PROGRAMS	\$444,936
JAMES MADISON COLLEGE	\$1,652,004
COLLEGE OF LAW	\$812,492
LIBRARIES & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	\$7,465,762
LYMAN BRIGGS COLLEGE	\$274,036
MICHIGAN 4-H FOUNDATION	\$587,157
MSU MUSEUM	\$138,489
COLLEGE OF MUSIC	\$16,186,086

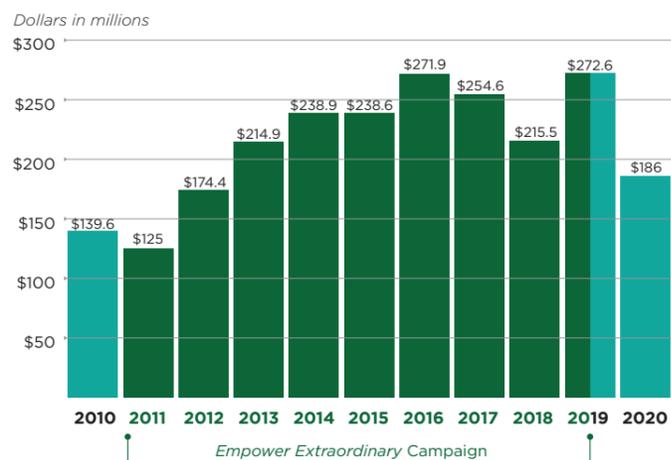
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE	\$5,787,326
COLLEGE OF NURSING	\$3,338,195
COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE	\$2,353,796
MSU PRESS	\$20,874
RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE IN THE ARTS & HUMANITIES	\$389,271
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE	\$6,516,049
STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SERVICES	\$1,802,373
UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS	\$7,686,572
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE	\$6,709,616
WHARTON CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS	\$2,488,313
TOTAL	\$186,031,856

THE *EMPOWER EXTRAORDINARY* CAMPAIGN, WHICH ENDED HALFWAY THROUGH FY19, CONTINUES TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON GIVING. FY20 TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS FROM DONOR SUPPORT ARE **68%** HIGHER THAN IN FY10, PRIOR TO THE START OF THE CAMPAIGN.

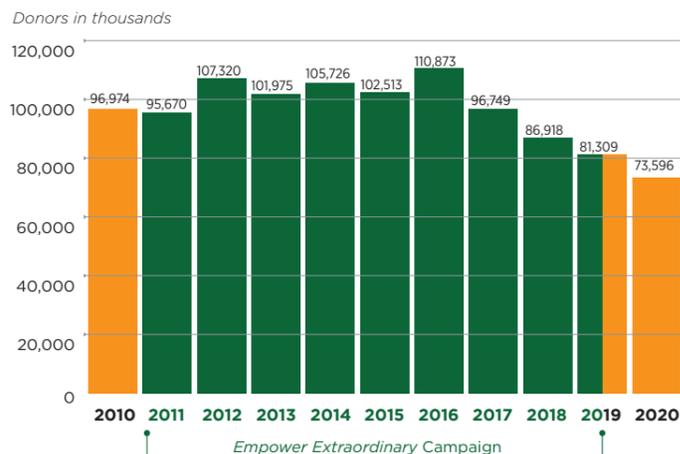
CASH RECEIPTS



TOTAL COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING PLEDGES AND PLANNED GIFTS



DONORS



MSU COMMON INVESTMENT FUND

The MSU endowment was valued at \$3.4 billion as of June 30, 2020—the end of fiscal year 2020 (see page 24). Over the past 10 years, the endowment produced more than \$1.052 billion to fund student scholarships, endowed faculty support, and program support, and to cover other annual university expenses.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, the common investment fund returned 5.1%, and our long-term performance has continued to allow us to meet our funding obligations to the university.

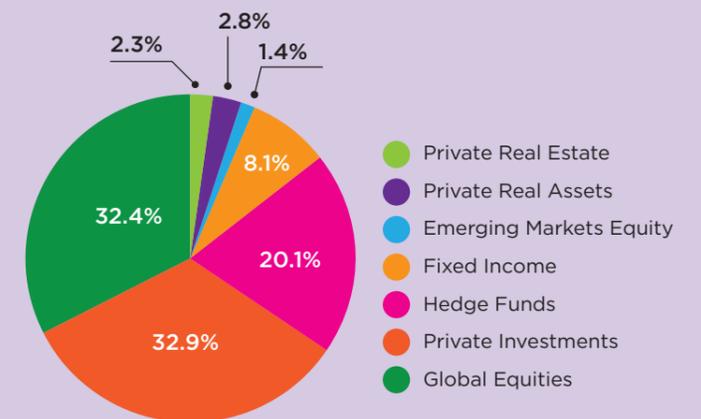
BENCHMARK RETURNS

The Common Investment Fund 10-year annualized return was 8.3%, the 70/30 10-year annualized return was 8.5% and the CPI-U 10-year annualized return was 1.7%. For quarter-by-quarter investment return information and copies of MSU's investment policies, visit investments.msu.edu

MSU seeks to achieve its investment objectives by diversifying across major asset classes as well as within each asset class. The investment policy, approved by MSU's Board of Trustees, outlines the asset allocation. Approximately 218 different investment vehicles are now used to invest the funds.

ASSET ALLOCATION

As of June 30, 2020



	1 YEAR	3 YEARS (Annualized)	5 YEARS (Annualized)	10 YEARS (Annualized)
CIF Total Return	5.1%	8.0%	6.9%	8.3%
CIF Policy	0.5%	5.1%	5.1%	7.3%
Simple (70% MSCI ACWI/30% BBG BC Agg) (1)	4.5%	6.2%	6.1%	7.8%
Simple (80% MSCI ACWI/20% BBG BC Agg) (2)	3.8%	6.2%	6.2%	8.3%

(1) 70% Morgan Stanley Capital International All Country World Index/30% BBG Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index.
 (2) 80% Morgan Stanley Capital International All Country World Index/20% BBG Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index.

SOURCE: Voluntary Support of Education Survey by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.
 NOTE: Support to Athletics recognized by premium seating is no longer recognized as gifts.

COMMON INVESTMENT FUND

Average Annual Returns as of June 30, 2020

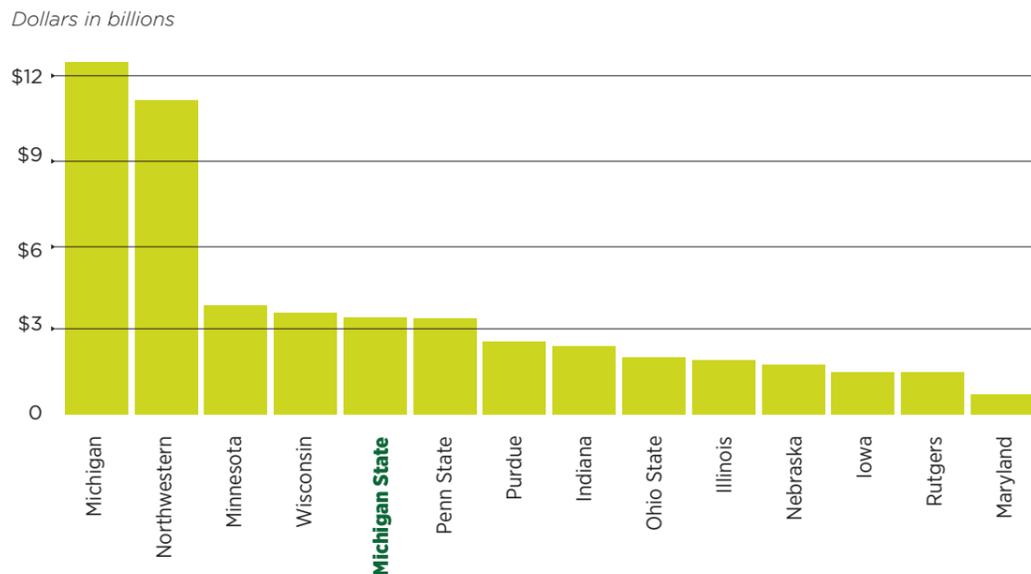
TOTAL ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE (MSU and MSU Foundation)



Includes total value of the Common Investment Fund and endowment dollars held by the MSU Foundation. **SOURCE:** As reported annually to the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education as part of Voluntary Support of Education Survey annual survey.

COMPARISON TO BIG TEN PEERS

Endowment Market Values as of June 30, 2020



SOURCE: Council for Advancement and Support of Education

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMON INVESTMENT FUND

1. Achieve a total rate of return sufficient to generate the amount annually made available for spending by the MSU programs supported by endowment funds.
2. Provide a modest increase in the inflation-adjusted value.
3. Achieve the desired return while assuming only moderate risk.

ENDOWMENT SPENDING POLICY

The programmatic spending rate currently stands at 4.4% of a 20-quarter average of the market value of those funds invested in the Common Investment Fund (CIF). The spending rate is reviewed annually against the projected long-term CIF returns and has remained 4.4% since the 2018/19 fiscal year. The rate is intended to protect against inflation and provide a modest increase for endowment growth.

Reasonable and appropriate investment fees will continue to be charged against the endowment. On Dec. 10, 2010, the MSU Board of Trustees amended the endowment spending policy to authorize annual assessments of up to 1% of the market value of these endowments in the CIF for reasonable and appropriate endowment stewardship costs, including fundraising. Based on recommendations of the investment advisory subcommittee, an endowment stewardship charge of 0.59% of the available 1% was implemented in the 2011/12 fiscal year, and the charge remained unchanged through the 2015/16 fiscal year. The stewardship charge was reduced to 0.55% beginning in the 2016/17 fiscal year and to 0.50% for the 2018/19 fiscal year. A rate of 0.50% remained for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

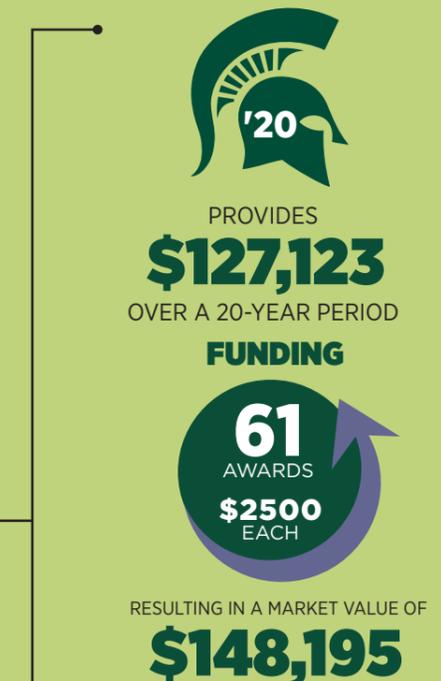
Returns above the programmatic spending rate and investment and stewardship charges are retained to grow the endowment and hedge against inflation.

HOW DO ENDOWMENTS WORK?

Based on MSU's investment performance, a \$100,000 endowment established July 1, 2000, now has a market value of approximately \$148,195 as of June 30, 2020, after having provided programmatic spending distributions of \$127,123 over the 20-year period.*

AN ENDOWMENT GIFT OF **\$100,000**

*Assumes \$2,500 scholarship, 4.4% payout and 8.9% average return with all excess funds reinvested



GIFT EXPANDS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS

Peter and Carol Walters create endowed fund in the Broad College

The Eli Broad College of Business has received a generous gift from Peter and Carol Walters to support its education abroad programs. The Walterses' gift is the largest MSU has ever received to directly support education abroad programs.

"It is critical that MSU graduates are prepared for the complex world that awaits them—one



Carol and Peter Walters

that is increasingly defined by rapid change and a need for global connection. Maintaining MSU's margin of excellence in this area is made possible through the generous support of alumni and friends," says President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D. "We are grateful to the Walterses for this significant gift, which will expand opportunities for business students that make their MSU education truly exceptional."

Through this gift, the Broad College Director of Education Abroad becomes an endowed position, ensuring that the person in this role will be 100% dedicated to supporting and expanding international learning opportunities and programs for students, for generations to come.

"MSU's highly ranked Education Abroad program is a cornerstone of our global education portfolio, equipping students with important perspective and experience as they become engaged global citizens," says Steven Hanson, associate provost and dean for International Studies and Programs. "This gift will help us strengthen and expand these opportunities and allow us to reach more students."

In addition, the gift will support other programmatic needs for education abroad, such as additional staff support and student scholarships.

The Broad College's current director of education abroad, Dr. Sarah Scott, has the esteemed privilege of becoming the inaugural Walters Family Director of Education Abroad. In this position, Scott will be able to grow and sustain the education abroad program to meet its strategic goals.

"Education abroad is one of the most powerful, transformational experiences many students have at MSU," Scott says. "The world has never been more interconnected or more interdependent, and studying abroad opens students' eyes to that reality, in many cases for the first time.

"This gift will allow the Broad College to expand the depth and breadth of education abroad opportunities in ways that otherwise simply wouldn't have been possible," she continues. "I'm incredibly energized and excited to think of the generations of Spartan students who will benefit from the Walterses' tremendous vision for Broad College education abroad."

Both Peter and Carol Walters are Spartan graduates who have a strong bond to their alma mater. They each hold a Master of Human Resources and Labor Relations degree from MSU, where Carol also earned her bachelor's in social work. The Walterses have previously made gifts to the Broad College to enable students to learn and grow through a space in the Edward J. Minskoff Pavilion and through its entrepreneurship program.

"Both Carol and I firmly believe that study abroad programs should be a part of every business school curriculum, and we are delighted to support the Broad College offerings," Peter says. "We desire to see Spartan business graduates known for their well-rounded capabilities, which includes international experience."

The Walterses' gift helps to further the Broad College's strategic priority of increasing student participation in its education abroad programs, aimed at growing from roughly 20% of the undergraduate business student body to at least 50%.

"We believe pursuing meaningful education abroad opportunities is the surest way to build our students' global mindset, a key attribute in the talent businesses seek to attract as they increasingly operate in a world that transcends borders and geographies," Eli and Edythe L. Broad Dean Sanjay Gupta says. "To address this business priority, the Broad College has committed to expanding education abroad opportunities for all Broad students. The extraordinary generosity of alumni like Peter and Carol Walters provides the margin of excellence to help our college advance in our ongoing quest of being a top-of-mind business school."

In conjunction with this gift, the Broad College is developing a variety of new programs around the world, from West Africa to Southeast Asia, many of which will allow students opportunities for service learning and international internships.

"From meeting with Israeli entrepreneurs to floating in the Dead Sea, my semester abroad was nothing short of amazing," Maxwell Gates, finance senior, says of his trip to Tel Aviv University in Israel. "The education abroad opportunities that MSU and the Broad College of Business provide are life changing. I urge every student to develop their global mindset and see the world as a Spartan."

LEARN MORE about making a gift to the Eli Broad College of Business by contacting Senior Director of Development Sean Mulligan at mullig39@broad.msu.edu or by calling (517) 432-7440.

THE ROLE OF ART IN HEALING AND JUSTICE

\$3 million Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant supports virtual and physical exhibits of art created globally during COVID-19



Faculty leaders, from left, Natalie Phillips, Nancy DeJoy and Julian Chambliss will continue to collect creative expressions from people hit hardest by the pandemic.

A \$3 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is enabling faculty members in the College of Arts and Letters to collect art from around the world in an exploration of how creativity helps people cope with the challenges and stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project, Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art as a Tool for Combating Inequity and Injustice, received

the funding from the foundation's Just Futures Initiative. The goal of the project is to provide validation, comfort and hope for all audiences by creating a community space to share collective stories of trauma, anger and joy amid COVID-19 and to show how art can help chart a new path for healing and justice.

MSU students helped inspire the project. After the university moved to online learning and asked students to return to their permanent residences last spring, two professors encouraged their students to use creativity to process their emotions. Students responded with efforts that expanded the definition of art to include gardening, cooking and social media videos.

"At some point, each student hit a low and the next day, they turned to art," says Natalie Phillips, associate professor of English and co-principal investigator on the grant. "I did not expect this at all, and it made me so excited to see art helping them get through this difficult time. I thought, if this helped students here, what about the larger community nationally or even internationally?"

Works gathered across the globe will be featured in online and physical exhibits in Lansing, and in satellite exhibits at the University of Buffalo, Washington University in St. Louis and the U.S. Air Force Academy. The professors hope to set a new standard for accessibility in museums, universities and online resources by offering Braille, American Sign Language, audio guided tours and adjusted sensory environments.

Over the next three years, Phillips, who is also the co-director of the Digital Humanities and Literary Cognition Lab; Nancy DeJoy, associate professor in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures; and Julian Chambliss, professor of English and co-director of the DHLC lab, will work with community partners to find and collect creative expressions from people who have been hardest hit during the pandemic. "COVID-19 isn't treating everyone equally," DeJoy says. "Being stuck at home is not the same for everyone."

Once the creative pieces have been collected, Chambliss, who is also the Val Berryman Curator of History at the MSU Museum, will create an online experience that complements the physical exhibit to preserve the art digitally.

"This project provided a unique opportunity in cataloguing and preserving the creative submissions for the future," Chambliss says. "Hopefully, people will see a story in the exhibit that reflects their trauma during the pandemic in a meaningful way."

The faculty took inspiration from this last stanza of a poem written by Raisa Morrison, a student in Phillips's Literature and Society class, who has since graduated with a degree in English:

*Tell me about them all
Collect their stories for me and sprinkle them in my coffee
So, I can stay awake during the nightly news
Turn off the timer, turn off the television, turn on the truth.
Tell me a story*

"Poetry was a great way to express my emotions while capturing what was occurring at that time," Morrison says. "Prior to COVID-19, I hadn't really written anything creative, let alone poetry. However, something about the lack of in-person social interaction inspired me to create."

The project aims to reframe the understanding of how people from every walk of life have found the courage to stand up, use their creativity and face societal challenges.

"We want to feature work from people who are feeling the effects of the pandemic disproportionately and are using creativity to respond in a variety of ways," DeJoy says. "We must make public spaces for these voices if we are to tell the full story of the pandemic and the inequities and structures of social injustice it exposes."

This grant builds on the Mellon Foundation's recent support of MSU humanities-focused initiatives such as the Less Commonly Taught Languages Consortium, HuMetricsHSS (Humane Metrics for the Humanities and Social Sciences), Enslaved: People of the Historic African Slave Trade, the Public Philosophy Journal, The Puerto Rico Disaster Archive, Ubuntu Dialogues and On These Grounds, a digital initiative to describe the history of enslavement found in archival materials at colleges and universities.

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LEARN MORE about supporting the College of Arts & Letters by contacting Senior Director of Development Christine Radtke at radtkech@msu.edu or by calling (517) 432-6693.



*Tell me a story about the girl
Where is she now?
Do you know the directions to her sanity,
I think I last saw it somewhere near the bathroom sink
slipping down the drain.*

-RAISA MORRISON - EXCERPT FROM FULL POEM



Students' creative pursuits demonstrated what they were coping with in their everyday lives in myriad ways and inspired a project to collect works made during the pandemic from across the globe.

Jordan Fitzpatrick ('20), a psychology major, painted brightly colored birds after days of disinfecting, cleaning and sanitizing in her job as a student employee with MSU's custodial services.



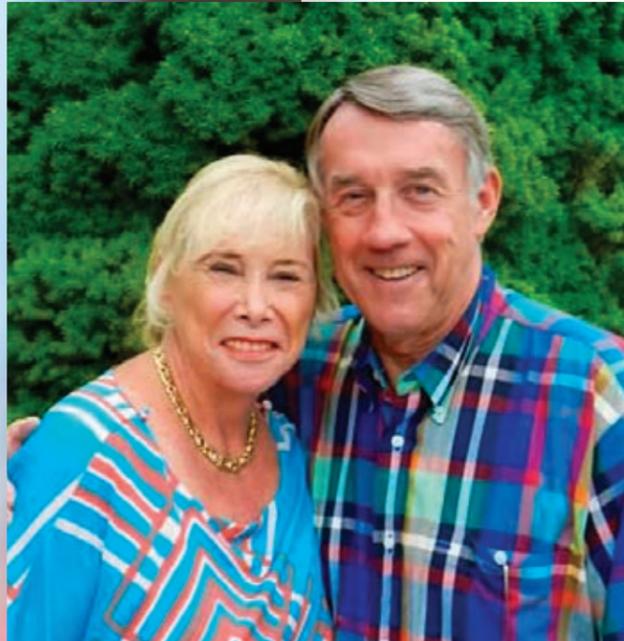
Kat Murray, an education major and cancer survivor, found her voice by creating protest signs for a local Black Lives Matter march.



Journalism student Colin Jankowski rebuilt this guitar after setting it on fire as a way of dealing with his emotions during the pandemic.

\$2.5 MILLION GIFT CREATES SOFTWARE SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT MSU

Leinweber Foundation supports computer science and engineering



Claudia Babiarz and Larry Leinweber

When Larry D. Leinweber was an undergraduate student at Michigan State University in the early 1960s, he held a student job at the then almost-new Kellogg Center. He worked as a waiter in the State Room for 30 hours or more a week, as he had to pay all his college expenses.

His drive helped build a career in an emerging industry that, decades later, is helping him support other Spartans with the grit to succeed through a \$2.5 million fund endowment.

At MSU, Leinweber put every penny he earned into his schooling, so he also made sure his summer jobs were interesting and paid well. Hitchhiking to the Pacific Northwest to work as a surveyor and forest firefighter proved worthwhile.

Growing up on a farm in Osceola County, about an hour south of Traverse City, he set high achievement goals for himself as a student in a rural one-room schoolhouse.

Leinweber graduated with a physical science degree from MSU in 1964 and started his software career as a systems engineer at IBM. The same ambition that fueled him through MSU guided his early career as well. He founded and led Advanced Computer Management Corporation at age 28, and

later became president and CEO for a software and service division of Citicorp.

He then founded and served as CEO for New World Systems Corporation in Troy, Michigan, a software company focused on enterprise resource planning applications for city and county governments.

Today, he is president of The Ascent Group, a technology investment firm he cofounded with his son, David Leinweber. Based in Detroit, they focus on early-stage software companies with the goal of building up the software industry in Michigan.

"I'm very interested in supporting the next generation of software entrepreneurs and engineers," Leinweber explains, "so my interest is a natural fit for encouraging students to pursue an important field that currently has a need."

His wife, Claudia Babiarz, also attended MSU, graduating in 1971 with a degree in mathematics before going on to earn her law degree at the Detroit College of Law. Leinweber and his family have also launched the Leinweber Foundation, and recently committed \$2.5 million to MSU to endow the Leinweber Software Scholars Fund. Undergraduate scholarships will support computer science and engineering students from underserved areas in Michigan, especially more rural counties.

"We are interested in elevating and expanding the software industry in Michigan by training the next generation and building a pipeline of talent for the new economy," says Jessica Leinweber, executive director of the Leinweber Foundation. "We want to alleviate some of the financial pressure on these students so that they may focus on their education, developing their talents and building up the Michigan economy along the way."

MSU President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., expressed gratitude for the generosity and vision of the donors.

"The Leinweber Foundation's gift will have a significant impact on our ability to prepare students by creating a unique learning community focused on an important industry in Michigan and beyond," he says. "We are tremendously thankful for gifts like these, which will offer opportunities to a wider range of students, elevate their experience here and enhance MSU's science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs."

MSU Engineering Dean Leo Kempel called the Leinweber Software Scholars a phenomenal gift to MSU and students from the state of Michigan.

"We thank the Leinwebers for their generosity and foresight in providing this gift to our Department of Computer Science and Engineering," Kempel says. "This extraordinary program provides talented computer science and engineering students from underserved parts of Michigan with an opportunity to impact the state's software industry."

The Leinweber Software Scholars endowed fund will provide half-tuition scholarships for five new Spartan students each year, with each student eligible to receive the scholarship for three years. Each cohort of 15 students will be part of the Leinweber Software Scholars Society to sustain and reinforce students through classes, internships, networking opportunities and finally entry into the state's software industry.

"Larry loves that Michigan State is a land-grant university, dedicated to students and citizens of the State of Michigan," Jessica Leinweber continues. "He knows that in the current landscape it is very difficult to work your way through school, like he did. We believe the Leinweber Software Scholars program will be a helpful vehicle to support students for years to come."

MSU is the second Michigan university to receive a Leinweber Software Scholars program. Spartan Engineers join the University of Michigan College of Engineering in receiving support from the Leinweber Foundation. Plans are to expand the program to other Michigan colleges and universities in the future.

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LEARN MORE about making a gift to the College of Engineering by contacting Senior Director of Development Stephen Bates at batesst@msu.edu or by calling (517) 355-8339.

\$1.3M GRANT TO INVESTIGATE TOOLS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE RISK

National Collaborative for Gun Violence Research awards MSU criminal justice

April M. Zeoli, associate professor in Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice, was awarded a two-year, \$1,357,336 grant by the National Collaborative for Gun Violence Research to investigate the use of extreme risk protection orders—a relatively new legal tool to reduce gun violence risk by temporarily suspending a high-risk individual's access to guns—and whether they are associated with reduced population-level suicide risk.

Zeoli's study was selected from among 48 full proposals invited by the Collaborative after receiving 238 letters of interest responding to its proposal request. Her study will examine extreme risk protection order, or ERPO, laws, characteristics of ERPO petitions, factors associated with petitions being granted or denied, and violence outcomes within and across six states representing varying policy and cultural contexts: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland and Washington.

Gun violence is one of the five leading causes of death among Americans aged 1-64, and yet, compared with other major causes of death and injury, the federal government has invested far less in research to prevent gun violence than for other leading causes of death.

"We selected these research projects based first and foremost on their scientific rigor," says Frank M. Clark, chair of the Research Advisory Committee and past chair of the Chicago Board of Education. "That is the only way to generate the evidence necessary for informing policy that both protects the public and preserves the rights of responsible gun owners."

Using ERPO petitions and orders, Zeoli and her team will identify factors associated with ERPOs being filed and granted. They will also conduct an analysis to determine if ERPOs are associated with reductions in county-level suicide rates.

"Because extreme risk protection orders are such a new legal tool, there is currently little research on their use or outcomes," Zeoli says. "It is important that we add to that knowledge base so that the public, stakeholders and policy makers have a solid evidence base to draw on when considering adopting or amending extreme risk protection order laws. We are embarking on the most comprehensive

and ambitious project on extreme risk protection orders to date and are excited to conduct rigorous scientific research in this area."

Zeoli's study is among more than \$10 million in grants announced by the Collaborative for 18 research projects that will produce evidence for improving gun policy in America. The grants build on a recent revival of gun violence research funding. In July 2019, the Collaborative awarded an initial round of \$9.8 million to 17 research projects. Then, for the first time in more than 20 years, the federal government committed \$25 million to support gun violence research at the end of 2019.

Collaborative Director Andrew Morral noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, both sales of firearms and deaths from gun violence have increased across the country—underscoring the urgent need for rigorous research that can inform effective gun policy.

"We must answer the question: What works and what doesn't to reduce gun violence?" Morral says. "Studies like Dr. Zeoli's fill a critical gap in our understanding of gun violence and how to prevent it."

Zeoli is a gun violence researcher whose research focuses on gun laws that restrict high-risk individuals from accessing guns and the implementation of those laws. She is a national expert on domestic violence-related gun laws and gun-related domestic violence. She is joined in this research by Shannon Frattaroli at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and an esteemed team of gun violence researchers.

The Collaborative funds rigorous scientific research with direct relevance to firearm-violence reduction in the United States. It was seeded with a \$20 million gift from Arnold Ventures and has been supported by contributions from other organizations, including Wells Fargo, Missouri Foundation for Health, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. For more information, go to www.ncgvr.org.

LEARN MORE about supporting the College of Social Science by contacting Senior Director of Development Alex Tripp at actripp@msu.edu or by calling (517) 432-1801.



STUDENT Spotlight



Astrophysics student Carl Fields is one of Forbes's 30 Under 30.

Now you know

Your voice is critical for recruiting and retaining outstanding students and building our network of Spartans everywhere. All alumni, donors and friends can point with pride to the many strengths of our university.

MSU to test wastewater statewide for early COVID-19 detection

MSU researchers have received \$2.1 million in grant funding to test for the novel coronavirus in wastewater, which has the potential to be an early warning system for the presence of COVID-19.

MSU graduation rates continue to improve

For the sixth year in a row, graduation rates for first-time, full-time students at MSU increased. At the same time, graduation rates for students identifying as Hispanic/Latinx increased by three percentage points, for Asian students by seven percentage points and for Black/African American students by two percentage points.

MSU ranks a best value

MSU is cited as a best value among the country's top institutions according to two prominent rankings. Money Magazine ranks MSU in the top 7% of all colleges and universities in the nation for educational quality, affordability and alumni success. Washington Monthly placed MSU No. 11 in the Midwest in the "Bang for the Buck" category.



A STAR IN OUR STARS

Astrophysics doctoral student Carl Fields is a rising young scientist to watch. Using supercomputers and other resources at MSU's Institute for Cyber-Enabled Research, he creates complex models that have significant implications for our understanding of how stars evolve and die in blindly bright explosions known as supernovae.

His work is being increasingly recognized for taking on a brilliance of its own. In September 2020, Carl was one of only two annual recipients of the Dr. Pliny A. and Margaret H. Price Prize from The Ohio State University Center for Cosmology and AstroParticle Physics for his research. This year, he was named one of Forbes 30 under 30 for Science.

Carl is supported at MSU by the Ford Foundation through a predoctoral fellowship, by the National Science Foundation through the Graduate Research Fellowship Program and by an Edward J. Petry Graduate Fellowship.

LEARN MORE about support for graduate students by contacting the Advancement Office in your college or unit, or Senior Director of Development for Scholarships and Fellowships Jennifer Bertram at bertram9@msu.edu or by calling (517) 432-7330.

Developments

University Advancement
Spartan Way
535 Chestnut Road, Room 300
East Lansing, MI 48824



IT'S ALMOST HERE

Give Green Day set for **March 16, 2021**

Six years ago, MSU alumni, donors and friends started something special called Give Green Day.

It's been a lifeline to many students, and they are counting on you to make it happen again this year on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

The 24-hour fundraising campaign engages Spartans and friends across the world in giving back to the causes they care about, all to support students at MSU.

Each of MSU's colleges will participate, as well as Athletics, the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, both campus museums,

MSU Safe Place and others. Additionally, alumni clubs around the country will ask their members and friends to support club scholarship funds.

Gifts to any of these causes will go right to work impacting the lives of MSU students and members of the larger MSU community.

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Learn more at givingday.msu.edu or follow the hashtag #GiveGreenDay.