Brain Gain.

Funding 112 new endowed chairs and building world-leading networks of the best and brightest is making a huge difference at MSU ... thanks to you!
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.

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To explore how you might provide financial support to MSU, contact the University Development 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) 884-3000.

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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A NEW ERA FOR BUSINESS

Eli Broad College of Business students will return in the fall to find a new home for their studies. Great strides have been made in the construction of the Minskoff Pavilion. Office furniture is filling out spaces, and open-concept areas that promote collaboration and inspire innovation are receiving finishing touches. The opening of the building on September 27, 2019, will celebrate the beginning of a new era for preparing transformational business leaders at MSU.

LEARN MORE at givingto.msu.edu
INTRODUCING SAMUEL L. STANLEY JR., M.D.
President Stanley officially began his presidency at MSU on Aug. 1, 2019

T

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., as the 21st president of MSU, effective August 1, 2019. Dr. Stanley is a distinguished biomedical researcher who has served for the last 10 years as president of Stony Brook University. Stony Brook is an internationally respected research university, home to Brookhaven National Laboratory and a university hospital and, like MSU, a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities.

A year ago, the Board of Trustees appointed an 18-member search committee, co-chaired by Trustees Dianne Bynum and Melanie Foster. The committee solicited input through 22 campus-wide listening sessions and an online submission form, where community members shared their ideas.

The key qualities identified for the next president included having a focus on student success and well-being, demonstrating a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; possessing a background in research and scholarship; understanding Title IX issues; having experience in shared governance; and demonstrating an enduring commitment to excellence.

After graduating magna cum laude from the University of Chicago, Dr. Stanley earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed his resident-physician training at Massachusetts General Hospital. He went on to Washington University in St. Louis, where he completed a fellowship in infectious diseases and became a professor in the departments of Medicine and Molecular Microbiology and was one of the nation’s highest recipients of NIH funding. He was appointed vice chancellor for research at Washington University in 2006, serving in that position until he was appointed president at Stony Brook.

Dr. Stanley is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of American Universities and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and recently completed terms on the NCAA Board of Directors and NCAA Board of Governors. He served for seven years as chair of the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, which advises the United States government on issues related to the communication, dissemination and performance of sensitive biological research.

Dr. Stanley also has been a champion for student achievement, expanding access to higher education and for more state and national funding for financial aid at Stony Brook. He has been an international advocate for gender equality in his role as one of two U.S. university Impact Champions for the HeForShe UN Global Solidarity Movement for Gender Equality.

Trustee Bynum notes that Dr. Stanley was recommended from a diverse pool of candidates, saying: “Dr. Stanley is an empowering, compassionate and thoughtful leader, who will work tirelessly alongside our students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and broader Spartan community to meet the challenges we face together and to build our future.”

Welcoming events to meet the new MSU President are being planned in cities across the U.S. Watch your mail and email for more information.

A Message from the President
As I look at MSU, I see an incredible institution with the scope, scale and ambition to be a catalyst for good in our world. I see a breadth of expertise and excellence at the forefront of critical discoveries in areas as diverse as nuclear physics and African history. I see an outstanding faculty, one of the best in the world. I see excellent students and accomplished alumni—people with achievements that are second to none.

I am very excited to be engaged with a place that has such an extraordinary impact. MSU’s pioneering mission—focused on research and discovery that makes a difference in people’s lives, while also providing access to a world-class education for individuals to reach their full potential—creates a tremendous opportunity to do good.

MSU has made impressive strides in critical areas such as student success, diversity and inclusion, and expanding biomedical research—areas that have been important to me personally and a driving force in my career. I think there’s an opportunity at MSU to advance these ideals for even greater impact.

Of course, there are challenges ahead. After the events that took place here, we need to work on healing and restoring trust, and as we do that, every part of MSU is going to move forward in a much better way.

It is clear that MSU’s high quality and standards are reflected in the caliber of people who are associated with it. I look forward to getting to know you and becoming part of the Spartan community. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming receptions being planned around the country in the coming months.

Spartans Will.

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President
The Dow STEM Scholars program launched in 2014 with a $5 million grant from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to further their goal of increasing the number of STEM degree holders graduating from Michigan universities. MU’s program was designed to help students who did not receive the pre-college math training they needed to pursue degrees in science-related fields. Based on their pre-MSU math testing scores, the statistical prediction for these students to successfully graduate in a STEM field was less than 6 percent. At a recent Dow STEM Scholars honors ceremony, 92 students were recognized for academic achievements, including cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or higher. The inaugural graduates earned degrees, including cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or higher. After earning his veterinary degree from MSU in 1964, Liebler opened his veterinary practice in Caro, Michigan. While practicing, he became involved in land development and construction, and formed the Liebler Construction Company in 1967. He later decided to study law, graduating from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1981. It was important to him that future Dow STEM scholars be equipped with the knowledge and experience to thrive in the profession. His gift ensures that MSU veterinary students will have the opportunity to gain valuable practice management skills so they are able to make sound business decisions and have an understanding of the impact of law on their work.

LEARN MORE: go.msu.edu/Liebler
RAISING THE BAR FOR PACKAGING SCIENCE

Gifts from Chuck and Jackie Frasier spur renovations for the MSU School of Packaging building

Michigan State created packaging science as we know it.

The School of Packaging was the first of its kind when established in 1952. Today, it’s the nation’s premier packaging program, offering the only Ph.D. degree in packaging in the U.S.

It’s also the nation’s largest. In fact, more than half of all packaging engineers employed in the U.S. are Spartans. And MSU packaging doctoral alumni are found in nearly every packaging school across the globe.

As much as the School of Packaging is among the academic jewels of MSU, the building that houses it is among the most modest. When it was last updated in 1986, students didn’t yet use computers in classes. The learning landscape has significantly changed since then. Likewise the scope of the packaging discipline has significantly expanded.

Study in the School of Packaging entails engineering materials—glass, paper, plastic, metals—to house and transport all manner of goods. There is also design and prototyping, economics and cost controls, environmental and sustainability issues. More specialized fields delve into print and graphics, robotics, laws and regulations and the unique requirements of industries like food, energy and healthcare. Packaging in one form or another affects everyone, everywhere.

Preparing the next generation of packaging leaders will require top-notch research facilities and spaces that promote teamwork.

Pending MSU Board of Trustees approval, a $7.5 million renovation has been proposed for the packaging building. One that will:

- Replace stadium-style lecture halls with multifunctional spaces where students can reconﬁgure the furniture to work in groups or gather after classes to interact with industry leaders
- Provide community environments for graduate students to interact while working
- Offer world-class research laboratories
- Create study spaces where students can plug in and recharge electronic devices

All of that made a lot of sense to School of Packaging alumnus Charles “Chuck” Frasier (’70) and his wife, Jacqueline “Jackie,” who recently gave a $1.5 million gift to jump-start the project.

Chuck founded and served as chief executive officer for packaging and shipping companies operating around the world. In 1981, he established Dixie Box and Crating. The first location opened in Charleston, South Carolina, and after just a few years, the company expanded to two more divisions. By the time Chuck sold the business in 2005, the company had grown to 11 divisions coast to coast. He says his time at Michigan State gave him the training and background he needed to launch and grow his companies, which have been successful for decades.

When Chuck and Jackie heard about the goals for the School of Packaging, they decided it was the perfect opportunity to give back to the school that gave him his start.

“My wife and I have no children. As we thought about getting our estate in order and learned about the School of Packaging’s plan for renovations, we decided it was a great opportunity to start giving back,” Chuck says.

Their gift will name what will become the new atrium in the School of Packaging building. Additionally, they have committed another $1.5 million to endow a professorship through an estate gift.

“Chuck and Jackie Frasier’s leadership and support for the School of Packaging will help transform a space that continues to produce business and industry leaders,” says Ron Hendrick, dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, where the School of Packaging resides.

To attract the next generation of faculty and students, it is imperative that our academic spaces and laboratories reflect what we are—the top school in packaging,” Hendrick said. “People like the Frasers know that investing in our students, our faculty and our spaces allows us to continue to develop packaging as a science and become the starting places for students like Chuck was—curious and ambitious.”

To learn more about making a gift to support the school of packaging project by contacting Senior Director of Development Tami Baumann at bauman13@msu.edu or calling (517) 355-0284; or visit go.msu.edu/packaging

A CLOSER LOOK AT ESTATE PLANNING

Chuck and Jackie Frasier want others to know they can support what they love at MSU while also meeting their own long-term financial goals. The couple used Charitable Lead and Charitable Remainder Trusts to support the School of Packaging, which allowed them to still meet their financial needs in retirement. Here is how each trust works:

- **Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)**
  1. Initial transfer
  2. CLT makes payments over time to School of Packaging
  3. To donor or heirs

- **Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)**
  1. Initial transfer
  2. CRT makes payments over time to donor or heirs
  3. School of Packaging

LEARN MORE about making a gift to support the school of packaging project by contacting Senior Director of Development Tami Baumann at bauman13@msu.edu or calling (517) 355-0284; or visit go.msu.edu/packaging
Philanthropy is fueling a transformation of Munn Ice Arena, and along with it, MSU hockey. At their June meeting, Michigan State’s Board of Trustees approved an $18.8 million budget for an addition to the south entrance of Munn. The move followed a fundraising effort that secured more than $10 million in support for the project, including a combined $2.7 million from 25 alumni.

It was recently announced that Men’s Basketball Head Coach Tom Izzo and Lupe Izzo and family have made a $1.1 million gift for the project, with a portion to support the coach Tom Izzo and Lupe Izzo and family have made a positive impact on the entire Spartan community, just like many of our donors, cares deeply about the success of Michigan State.

“The Spartan family is fortunate to have Danton Cole leading the hockey program and we (Lupe and I) are grateful to be able to support our hockey program that is about to take off.”

Tom Izzo, Head Coach
Michigan State University Basketball

“We felt it necessary to re-commit to our university and the greater community that has blessed us in so many ways,” says Lupe. “Our passion has been and remains the betterment of MSU students. Supporting various initiatives that impact a broad audience was important to us.

“Additionally, it was important for us to impact and say thanks to our Student-Athlete Support Services department and staff who shape the academic lives of our players and to the Spartan Marching Band who enhance the game day experience for all.”

A native of Iron Mountain, Michigan, Tom Izzo recently completed his 36th season with the men’s basketball program, including 24 seasons as head coach. Inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016, he began his Michigan State career in September 1983 as a part-time assistant coach under Jud Heathcote, and is the winningest coach in program history.

“Tom and Lupe are both extraordinary individuals who epitomize what it means to be team players,” MSU Executive Associate AD for Development Chuck Sypesteyn says. “It is unique to find a head coach who contributes to a program other than his or her own and that’s what makes Tom so special. The entire Izzo family, just like many of our donors, cares deeply about the success of Michigan State.”

Learn More about supporting MSU Athletics through the Spartan Fund, including the Munn Ice Arena Expansion, at SpartanFund.net
Brain Gain.

Historic giving fuels faculty resurgence

As the pioneer land grant institution, Michigan State was responsible for shaping a new idea—for a type of university that had never existed before. It had to be invented as we went along. So we had to ask: What broad challenges exist in the world? How can education help empower people to address them? And how can we prepare the next generation to do the same?

It is a truth universally acknowledged—that a university tasked with tackling those challenges needs excellent teachers and researchers to do so. And the best way to attract them is with privately funded endowed chair and professor positions.

MSU’s quest to secure 100 new endowed faculty positions—and the ways in which our teaching and research landscape would evolve once we did—was a top priority during the recently concluded Empower Extraordinary campaign.

By the campaign’s end on December 31, 2018, 112 new endowed faculty positions were funded, the impact of which is shaping a bold new future for what a land grant university can do.

WHY

In recent years, MSU has earned a spot among a group of 53 “international powerhouse universities,” identified by Times Higher Education as institutions with exceptional research output, that have the best chance of catching up with or overtaking the world’s best universities.

MSU’s scale and scope—which goes far beyond the friendly confines of East Lansing—and determination to pull together leaders from multiple areas of expertise are surely contributing factors.

Of course, an enormous increase in private funding for research—35%, or an additional $340 million, thanks to gifts made during Empower Extraordinary—factors in, too.

Without standout researchers who are leading the charge in their fields, MSU wouldn’t have a research output—or alone one capable of catching up to some of the best in the world. Those teachers and researchers are able to do the great work they’re doing because donors choose to invest in MSU by creating endowments that give them limitless possibilities.

And, at the center of it all, is the teaching aspect. Not every student will go on to imitate the distinguished research careers of the faculty who teach their classes, but every student deserves to learn from them. As an institution that has been recognized by Kiplingers, Money and others as among the top 50 institutions for a high-quality education at an affordable price, MSU understands the importance of putting the very best teachers in front of the more than 45,000 people—from all walks of life and all corners of the state, country and world—who seek an education here each year.
By the campaign’s end on December 31, 2018, 112 new endowed faculty positions were funded, the impact of which is felt in colleges and units across the campus. Donors like you created the first named professorship in the College of Nursing, and then created two more in the college. You also established the first endowed positions in MSU Libraries and the MSU Museum, and the university’s first endowed coaching position: the Secchia Family Defensive Coordinator for the football program.

Additionally, donors created the largest number of new positions in the College of Engineering (23), the Eli Broad College of Business (16) and the College of Natural Science (16).

Thanks to donors, 10 endowed positions were established in the College of Arts and Letters, while the college of Veterinary Medicine and Human Medicine each added eight. Donors added six endowed faculty positions to the college of Communication Arts and Sciences, and five to the colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources and of Social Science. Additional areas where donors supported endowed positions include Education (3), Law (2), Music (2), and Lyman Briggs College (1).

Jim and Kathy Cornelius established a $5 million lead trust to support areas deemed by the president to be of the greatest need. As a result, MSU opted to create three endowed positions to be used at colleges and schools as needed. Donor-funded endowed positions provide money for their pursuits in perpetuity, but Michigan State has also created university-level distinctions that come with honorific titles and a yearly stipend.

Donor-funded endowed positions

Endowed Chair Positions
Endowed chairs are faculty members with significant expertise and accomplishment in their fields, who in their careers have built a network of collaborators and a robust research portfolio. Private funding gives them the resources they need to further their work, publish their findings, collaborate with researchers from other institutions on a global scale and create university-level distinctions that come with honorific titles and a yearly stipend.

Endowed Professor Positions
Endowed professors are leaders in both the classroom and in their respective fields and have a growing body of research. Resources help them fund and further their research, build a network of collaborators, and deliver top-notch classroom and laboratory experiences around the topics in which they specialize. Endowed Professor positions are created through donor support and are funded in perpetuity.

University-level honors

MSU Foundation Professorships
Established in 2014 by the MSU Foundation, the title of MSU Foundation Professor is awarded to provide a five-year stipend to the holder, whose commitment to the true mission of a land-grant university brought MSU into worldwide prominence. John A. Hannah distinguished professors, much like Hannah himself, are educators who, through their research, scholarship, creative activity and teaching, are helping to strengthen their disciplines and their institutions on a global scale.

The title of University Distinguished Professor is awarded by the MSU Board of Trustees at the recommendation of the provost and president, to select faculty members who are nationally and, generally, internationally recognized for the importance of their achievements. Awarded to show superior teaching skills that encompass the breadth and depth of their discipline, scholarly, creative and artistic achievements, and a distinguished record of public service. Their work helps MSU remain a competitive force among other universities and research institutions on a global scale.

Endowed chair positions are created through donor support and are funded in perpetuity.

WHAT

Providing outstanding faculty members with funding to continue their great work is one of the best ways to amplify their achievements. Donor-funded endowed positions provide money for their pursuits in perpetuity, but Michigan State has also created university-level distinctions that come with honorific titles and a yearly stipend.

WHEN: MSU’S JOURNEY TO 112

Empower Extraordinary’s seven-year quest (2011-2018) to boost our numbers of endowed positions, honor the very best faculty at the university level and create an environment where students can learn from the best.

2011 Running total = 6 positions

2012 Running total = 10 positions

2013 Running total = 21 positions

2014 Running total = 32 positions

MSU has officially secured funding for 25 endowed faculty positions, one-quarter of the announced goal of 100.

A $9 million gift from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation creates the C.S. Mott Endowed Professorship in Public Health—six times over—in the College of Human Medicine, and provides support for the public health program at large.

The public phase of Empower Extraordinary launches.

WHERE

Developments
These endowed chairs and professors wouldn’t be here without people like you: people whose lives were impacted—directly or indirectly—by something positive that happened at Michigan State. For the Tung family, that something just happened be the life’s work of their patriarch, Dr. Wu-Ki Tung. Dr. Tung retired in 2007 and passed shortly after in 2009. After his passing, his family—wife Beatrice, sons Lei and Bruce, daughter-in-law Cecilia and grandchildren Max and Allie—could think of no better way to honor his legacy than by creating an endowed professorship in his name.

During Tung’s 25-year tenure from 1992 to 2007, he always maintained that Michigan State felt like his true spiritual and academic home. He loved his work in particle physics, which was based on a now globally known theory he’d created himself called CTEQ—Coordinated Theoretical Experimental Project on Quantum Chromodynamics. And for as much as he loved his work, he also loved the environment in which he was able to do his work. 

“One thing my father believed strongly in, and advocated for ardently throughout his career, was collaboration. He also practiced it in life,” Wu-Ki’s son Lei recalls. 

“He wanted theoreticians and experimentalists in the physics community to work closely together, side by side, rather than just throwing theories and experimental results over the wall to each other in the form of formal publications.”

Therefore, in the charter for the endowed professorship in his name, it was important for us to write down our desire that—in addition to continued research in particle physics—prominent consideration be given to promotion of ‘collaboration and collegiality’ in granting the award.”

Chien Peng (C.P.) Yuan was named the inaugural Wu-Ki Tung Professor in 2017. Yuan is a prominent member of CTEQ and worked closely with Wu-Ki Tung for many years. He’s another faculty member to watch (see page 17).

LEARN MORE about supporting faculty by contacting Executive Director for Constituency Programs at University Development Suzette Hittner at hittner@msu.edu; (517) 884-7430.

Our seven-year quest (2011-2018) to boost our numbers of endowed positions, honor the very best faculty at the university level and create an environment where students can learn from the best.

Empower Extraordinary’s seven-year quest (2011-2018) to boost our numbers of endowed positions, honor the very best faculty at the university level and create an environment where students can learn from the best.

A $12.6 million estate gift from 1950 Veterinary Medicine alumnus Albert Dehn creates six endowed chair positions in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

With the help of a $4.7 million gift from Thomas Yunk, which created four positions in computational mathematics science and engineering, the College of Natural Science becomes the first college to fund 10 endowed positions in the campaign.

A gift from McLaren Greater Lansing establishes the very first endowed chair position in the College of Nursing in the area of behavioral mental health nursing education.
WHEN: MSU’s JOURNEY TO 112

Empower Extraordinary’s seven-year quest (2011-2018) to boost our numbers of endowed positions, honor the very best faculty at the university level and create an environment where students can learn from the best.

2017 Running total = 83 positions

2018 Final count at year-end = 112 positions

MSU hits its $15 billion goal with 15 months remaining in the Empower Extraordinary campaign. With the dollar goal met, focus zeroes in on meeting other big goals, including the remaining faculty positions needed to hit 100.

The College of Engineering secures its 21st endowed position—a professorship in mechanical engineering—the most of any college during the campaign.

MSU brings top donors to campus for a campaign celebration and announcement that 104 endowed faculty positions have been created, with no sign of slowing down as the campaign winds to a close.

Empower Extraordinary comes to an official close, with $1.83 billion raised and a total of 112 new endowed faculty positions created.

With final numbers in, MSU tallies 29 new endowed positions for the calendar year 2018—the most ever in one year in MSU’s history.
We are on a path to see how mutations and environmental insults cause genome-wide approaches, single-cell approaches, stem cell approaches, mouse genetic approaches, and molecular biology and her team are using this associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology reconstruction methods—technology that allows her team to examine and understand the underlying mechanisms that control virus infection and decipher the processes of virus assembly.

Virus Disassembler
Kristin Parent
J.K. Billman Jr. M.D. Endowed Research Professor

In the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the lab is laying the groundwork for MSU to become a leader in cryo-electron microscopy and three-dimensional image reconstruction methods—technology that allows her team to examine and understand the underlying mechanisms that control virus infection and decipher the processes of virus assembly.

Planetary Dynamo
Allen McNamara
Endowed Professor of Geological Sciences

McNamara is an international expert in numerical modeling of deep Earth processes, whose research focuses on understanding the structure, dynamics and evolution of Earth's interior. Fluid dynamical models used by McNamara's team are also being utilized to investigate the dynamics of other planetary bodies, including one of Jupiter's moons, Europa.

Organizational Systems Guru
Brian Pentland
The Main Street Capital Partners Intellectual Capital Endowed Professor

Pentland is director of the Center for Business and Social Analytics, where he and his colleagues are currently focused on organizational routines related to mobility and connected and autonomous vehicles. He is a William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award winner and a recipient of the Withrow Teacher Scholar Award.

Evolutionary Computation Pioneer
Wolfgang Banzhaf
John R. Kolta Endowed Chair in Genetic Programming

Banzhaf literally wrote the book(s) on how to approach genetic programming and, together with his colleagues in the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action, he is helping make Michigan State one of the best places for evolutionary computation research in the United States.

Disease Prognosticator
Amy Ralston
James K. Billman Jr., M.D. Endowed Professor

Stem cells hold the key to treating and studying all kinds of human diseases and conditions. This associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and her team are using stem cell approaches, mouse genetic approaches, genome-wide approaches, single-cell approaches and proteomic approaches to learn how molecules instruct cell behavior so that, as a result, they can see how mutations and environmental insults cause human diseases, and how to create and use stem cells to address them.

Access Champion
Jennifer Johnson
C.S. Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health

“Many personal research efforts in Flint will help to improve access to and funding for high-quality mental health and substance use treatment services for vulnerable citizens in our state, and nationally. I especially work with those who face stigma and who are often judged by society to be underestimating to receive the mental health and substance use services and necessities that they need to function and to recover.”

Air Pollution Foe
Jack Harkema
Albert C. Dahn and Lois E. Dahn Endowed Chair in Veterinary Medicine

Harkema is one of just three veterinarians in the nation to be named an American Thoracic Society Fellow and was bestowed a Career Achievement Award by the Society of Toxicology in 2018. Much of his recent work has focused on the development of animal models for human respiratory, cardiovascular, metabolic and autoimmune diseases that are used to study how chronic disease may influence an individual's susceptibility to adverse health effects of outdoor air pollutants.

Seismic Sentinel
Songqiao Wei
Endowed Professor of Geological Sciences

Wei is a seismologist with broad interests in Earth's mantle structures, particularly those associated with subduction zones. His recent work focuses on imaging seismic structures of the Tonga Trench subduction system, intermediate-depth seismicity in Tonga and the mantle transition zone. “Being an endowed professor as an early career scientist is a great honor.” Wei says. “I believe that MSU will soon become a hub of solid earth geophysics in the Midwest, and I feel fortunate to be involved in this exciting development.”

Sustainable Technology Generator
John Dorgan
David L. and Doris M. Lamp Endowed Chair in Chemical Engineering

A nationally recognized leader and expert in polymeric materials and the development of composite materials for manufacturing, Dorgan's lab is working to streamline the time it takes to build wind turbine blades and develop new resin systems that make wind turbines easier to recycle.

Environmental Philosopher
Kyle Powys Whyte
Timnick Chair in the Humanities

“THe work that I do stems from who I am, both as an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation but also as a resident of the state of Michigan. My work is to create dialogue so that communities and tribal nations can connect to scientists from Michigan State to work together in order to be prepared to address environmental issues, especially with respect to climate change.”

Health Architect
Christopher Contag
James and Kathleen Cornelius Chair

“If we’re treating disease, then we’re behind the eight ball. We’re stuck behind the disease already being there. But what if we could detect it early? What if we could detect a cancer when it was at a 100-cell stage? That’s not disease; that’s health. If we can maintain health, then we can better treat diseases and prevent them.”

42 distinguished faculty members walk into a room…

The inaugural MSU investiture ceremony emerged from one simple concept: the need to recognize accomplishments of newly appointed endowed and honored faculty members at a university level.

A donor would speak about the experience of making a gift to create an endowed professorship. An endowed professor would speak about how the promise of support lured her to Michigan State to pursue her life’s work. And 42 faculty members would cross the stage in academic regalia to receive medals before an audience of fellow faculty, deans, university administrators and staff, and donors.

As an annual event, the investiture would help Michigan State keep a steady dialogue going about the importance of private support for faculty positions, especially during the Empower Extraordinary campaign.

All of those things did actually happen on September 28, 2016. But behind the scenes, the investiture took on an unexpected purpose: it became an opportunity for faculty members from across campus to meet one another face-to-face, forge friendships and learn more about what’s happening in classrooms and labs outside of their current work.

With Empower Extraordinary behind us, the Investiture will continue to serve as a yearly reminder of our ongoing need to secure funding for research and education in critical areas—and a yearly celebration of what can happen when we do.

The 2019 MSU Investiture will take place on September 26 at the Wharton Centre for Performing Arts. Watch your mail and email for more information.
The gift, which the couple made before Satish Udpa’s appointment as acting president, will create the Satish and Lalita Udpa Endowed Graduate Fellowship and Satish and Lalita Udpa Endowed Scholarship.

Several years ago the Udpas created endowments to honor their parents—Vasanthi S. Ramamohan Udpa, and Janaki S. Ramamohan Udpa. “They were our first teachers and mentors and the first to introduce the notion that knowledge is valuable for its own sake,” Satish Udpa says. “Throughout the years, their belief in lifelong education never flagged.”

Lalita Udpa notes that “their selfless commitment to education and their insistence on doing one’s duty greatly influenced the character of their children and grandchildren.”

Engineering Dean Leo Kempel said the college is “extremely grateful for the contributions by both Satish and Lalita to the college—their leadership and service, conscientious education of our students and their financial support. Dedicated faculty such as Lalita and Satish are part of the core fabric of the college, part of what makes Spartan engineers exceptional,” Kempel adds.

Both Udpas work in the area of Nondestructive Evaluation (NDE).

Satish Udpa most recently served as executive vice president for administration. He is a University Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and the former dean of the College of Engineering and chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

He has published extensively, is a fellow of four academic societies, holds several patents and serves as editor of several journals.

Lalita Udpa is a University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. She was one of nine women in the country featured in a 2018 story on “Women in NDT” in Materials Evaluation, the scientific journal of the American Society for Nondestructive Testing. Her MSU awards include the William J. Real Outstanding Faculty Award and the Ralph H. Smucker Award for Advancing International Studies and Programs.

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.

ENDOWED ENGINEERING FELLOWSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS CREATED

$1,001 million gift from Satish and Lalita Udpa

A gift valued at $1,001,000 from Acting President Satish Udpa and his wife, Lalita Udpa, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, will benefit College of Engineering students.

The gift, which the couple made before Satish Udpa’s appointment as acting president, will create the Satish and Lalita Udpa Endowed Graduate Fellowship and Satish and Lalita Udpa Endowed Scholarship.

Several years ago the Udpas created endowments to honor their parents—Vasanthi S. Ramamohan Udpa, and Janaki S. Ramamohan Udpa. “They were our first teachers and mentors and the first to introduce the notion that knowledge is valuable for its own sake,” Satish Udpa says. “Throughout the years, their belief in lifelong education never flagged.”

Lalita Udpa notes that “their selfless commitment to education and their insistence on doing one’s duty greatly influenced the character of their children and grandchildren.”

Engineering Dean Leo Kempel said the college is “extremely grateful for the contributions by both Satish and Lalita to the college—their leadership and service, conscientious education of our students and their financial support. Dedicated faculty such as Lalita and Satish are part of the core fabric of the college, part of what makes Spartan engineers exceptional,” Kempel adds.

Both Udpas work in the area of Nondestructive Evaluation (NDE).

Satish Udpa most recently served as executive vice president for administration. He is a University Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and the former dean of the College of Engineering and chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
The size and scale of the College of Music’s Billman Pavilion—now a full eight months into construction—is undeniable. With more than 8,000 tons of poured concrete already towering over West Circle Drive, it is clear some outstanding spaces and vistas are being created for making music. Mark April 17, 2020, on your calendar for a grand opening event.