

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

# OUR IMPACT

FALL 2017

## REPRODUCING SUCCESS



CAMPAIGN UPDATE · YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

# REPRODUCING SUCCESS

\$3 million gift  
supports graduate  
fellowships



Research scientists Jim and Janet Ireland are making a gift through their retirement plans to support future graduate students in their field: reproductive biology.

**D**avid Burns loved cows. As a young scientist and graduate student in reproductive biology, his love of cows led to exploring the use of ultrasound to monitor ovarian follicular growth and improve fertility in cattle.

His professor, Jim Ireland, wasn't entirely sure how ultrasound on cows could develop into a thesis-worthy project. But Jim's wife, Janet Ireland, an animal science research assistant, was encouraging.

They took a gamble. David learned that the number of ovarian follicles was remarkably variable among animals but highly repeatable within an individual. It turned out to be a novel finding leading to more than 20 scientific publications, four federal grants, and a potentially new method to genetically improve fertility in cattle, which also could lead to ways for reproductive success in women.

over time, will grow and never be depleted as only a portion of earnings are spent each year.

"Stable support for graduate students is fundamental for the next generation of scientists," says Jim. "Building a research team that includes exceptional students is critical. Our hope is to fund multiple fellowships, every four years, forever."

Jim and Janet have made their careers on improving lives through research at MSU. They married in 1986 after meeting at an endocrinology conference. Jim already had been at MSU since 1977 and Janet joined him in 1988.

Sharing a passion for research from the beginning made each of them more appreciative of the long hours each dedicated to grant writing, publications, developing procedures, and analyzing results.

It's one among many experiences that led Jim and Janet to make a \$3 million future gift to support doctoral students. Their gift is through their retirement plans, which will distribute funds to MSU after both their lifetimes. These funds will be invested in an endowment which,

They love facing every day with a mystery to solve. That mystery might be how to make a tedious assessment process work for her, or writing a compelling paragraph in a research grant for him. There are rewarding moments when one of them says just the right thing to inspire confidence or a new idea in a colleague, student, or technician. And, chief among a long list of accomplishments is watching newcomers succeed.

They both believe MSU research will remain relevant and important.

"We deeply respect and are intellectually attracted to the many MSU scientists who dedicate themselves to learning what makes life tick and using this information to resolve complex problems to improve animal and human health," says Jim.

Janet adds: "We also strongly support undergraduate and graduate students who desperately want to train with these scientists to develop their own careers."

The Irelands will direct ten percent of their gift to undergraduate support to fund summer internships in MSU's Horticulture Gardens and a scholarship for Girl Scouts, both passions of Janet's.

**Learn more** by contacting the Office of Gift Planning at (517) 884-1000 or [giftplan@msu.edu](mailto:giftplan@msu.edu) to explore options as you are developing your estate plans and wish to remember MSU.

## What happens to retirement assets after you're gone?

Did you know that the value of your retirement account may be subject to federal and state estate taxes at your death? And, when remaining assets in your retirement plan are distributed to your heirs, that they will owe federal and applicable state income taxes?

To prevent this, consider leaving your loved ones less heavily taxed assets than remaining funds in your retirement accounts. And, if charitable giving is one of your goals, consider the advantages of leaving your remaining retirement plan assets

to Michigan State to support the areas that are meaningful to you.

As a nonprofit organization, MSU is tax-exempt and will receive the full amount of what you designate from your retirement plan. You can take advantage of this tax-free giving opportunity by simply naming MSU as a beneficiary of your retirement plan.

All this requires is updating your beneficiary designation form through your plan administrator.

You can designate Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, as a primary beneficiary for a percentage of the remaining assets in your retirement plan. You also can make MSU a contingent beneficiary to receive the balance of your plan only if your primary beneficiaries don't survive you.

**Learn more** by contacting the Office of Gift Planning at (517) 884-1000 or [giftplan@msu.edu](mailto:giftplan@msu.edu), or visit [giftplanning.msu.edu](http://giftplanning.msu.edu)



# RAISING SIGHTS



In September, MSU surged past a significant *Empower Extraordinary* campaign milestone: reaching the fundraising goal of \$1.5 billion more than a year before the campaign is set to conclude.

The campaign—the most ambitious in MSU’s history—continues through December, 2018 with a focus on several key initiatives, including:

- *Endowed faculty positions,*
- *A modernized teaching and learning building for the Eli Broad College of Business,*
- *A biomedical research center in Grand Rapids, and*
- *An expansion and revitalization of College of Music facilities (see page 3).*

“The promise of this campaign is within our reach,” says Bob Groves, vice president for University Advancement. “And it is gratifying that so many are making sure they are part of moving MSU forward.”

To date, MSU faculty, staff, and retirees have given \$100 million—nearly 6.5% of the campaign total.



## 3 THREE WAYS TO GIVE

**ONLINE**  
givingto.msu.edu  
Giving online is more convenient than ever; with a recurring gift opportunity, you can charge to your credit card.

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Visit [giftplanning.msu.edu](http://giftplanning.msu.edu) or call (517) 884-1000 to learn more.

**TALK TO US**  
Call (800) 232-4MSU (4678).

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[givingto.msu.edu](http://givingto.msu.edu)

More than 2,000 faculty, staff, and retiree donors were invited to the annual Thanks for Giving luncheon in November. The event is underwritten by the MSU Federal Credit Union to thank those who have given \$1,000 in the previous year or are members of a lifetime giving society.





*Selma Hollander (center) receives an ardent thank you from vocal arts students for her \$1 million commitment to name a recital hall.*

## A NEW VERSE *in a* lifetime of philanthropy

“I’m an artist, and I love all types of art.” — *Selma Hollander*

Selma Hollander’s long history of giving back to Michigan State is like a campus treasure map of the musical, theatrical, academic, and artistic experiences that have brought joy to her life and the life she shared with her husband, the late MSU professor Stanley Hollander.

The Hollanders’ philanthropy ripples through MSU’s cultural scene, from a gallery in the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum to endowments that support scholarships, lectures, and enrichment through the arts.

Selma’s latest commitment—\$1 million to support the Music Pavilion and renovation—is both a tribute to her husband’s passion for the musical arts and a fulfillment of a long-held dream.

“Stanley’s first musical experience was going to the opera at the age of eight and he loved it from then on,” she says. “Our first date was to see *Coppélia* at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City, and

we always loved going to performances together.” Over years of enjoying many MSU musical experiences, the Hollanders became great friends with Jim Forger, the dean of the College of Music.

“Stanley often told me, ‘If I had a million dollars, I’d give it to Jim,’” Selma says. “So it means a great deal to me to fulfill Stanley’s dream of making a \$1 million commitment to the College of Music.”

Selma and Stanley came to MSU in 1958, when Stanley was offered a faculty position in the Department of Marketing. Both were East Coast natives, dazzled by their new hometown, and eager to get involved in the arts. Selma earned herself a bachelor’s and master’s degree in art in 1962 and 1965, respectively, and joined the faculty in home economics, where she taught weaving, crafts, and fabric design.

At 100 years old, she has long since retired from teaching, but she hasn’t stopped making art, and

she certainly hasn’t stopped enjoying all that MSU has to offer.

Her own artwork is currently on display at the Wharton Center (*Selma Hollander: Retrospective, works from 1960-2017* runs through November 26). She regularly takes in exhibits at the Broad Art Museum, Department of Theatre productions at Fairchild Theatre, as well as performances and lectures at Wharton Center. And chances are, if there’s a recital or concert happening at the College of Music, she’s there with friends.

“I am an artist, and I love all types of art. But I’ve realized that music is the only art that is capable of bringing me to tears,” she says. “I was at a piano performance on campus recently, and I looked around, and realized I was the only one crying. It was so beautiful.”

The College of Music, which currently benefits from eight Hollander endowments that support



## Major investment propels Music facilities

Thanks to nearly \$9 million in gift commitments, plans are underway for a \$35 million project that includes a new Music Pavilion and major renovation of the College of Music's 1940s-era building.

The expansion and renovation will provide state-of-the-art and much-needed practice, performance, and rehearsal spaces for the more than 2,000 students active in College of Music classes and ensembles.

**Learn more:** [go.msu.edu/music-pavilion](http://go.msu.edu/music-pavilion)



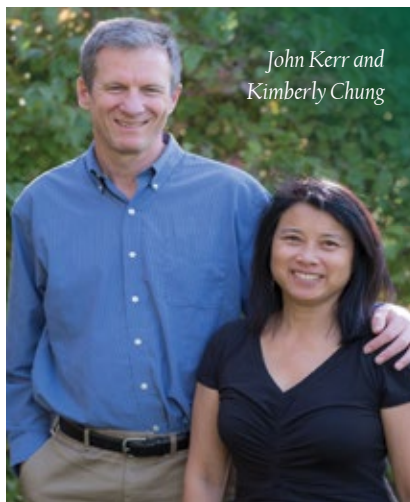
music students, will name the Stanley and Selma Hollander Opera/Choral/Student Recital Hall in honor of this most recent gift—which came at exactly the right time.

“Selma and Stanley continue to change lives through their passion for attending and supporting the arts,” says Forger. “We are overwhelmed with Selma’s generosity in providing a gift of \$1 million, which will name a newly conceived space that will be the home of the vocal arts (opera and choral rehearsal), student recitals, and space for classroom teaching. The gift that began with Stanley’s love of vocal music will facilitate a hall with wonderful acoustics supporting the work of young talented students for generations to come.”

**To explore options** for making a gift to the project, contact Senior Director of Development Rebecca Surian at [surian@msu.edu](mailto:surian@msu.edu) or call (517) 353-9872.

## Gift honors family commitment to higher education

By Cameron **RUDOLPH**, guest writer



As a premier land-grant institution, Michigan State is rooted in the principles of teaching, research, and outreach. This work extends across the globe, confronting challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, environmental sustainability, and beyond.

Although Malcolm and Ann Kerr were never affiliated with MSU, they shared the same passion for education, international development, and cross-cultural understanding. Ann still does, while Malcolm’s devotion carries on through his family.

Malcolm Kerr was an expert in Middle Eastern studies and former president of the American University of Beirut (AUB) in Lebanon. Anti-American sentiment flared in the country after U.S.

military intervention, and he was assassinated near his office on the AUB campus in 1984.

Ann Kerr has carried on their legacy through a number of initiatives that keep their ideals moving forward. She lives in California, serves as coordinator of the Visiting Fulbright Scholar Enrichment Program at the University of California at Los Angeles, and teaches a class on cross-cultural understanding to undergraduates.

One of the couple’s four children, John Kerr, is a professor and associate chair in the MSU Department of Community Sustainability (CSUS). He has committed his career to teaching and research that enhances the agriculture and natural resources sectors in developing countries.

**“We accomplish two goals: We honor the work my parents have done, and continue the cycle forward by offering opportunities for current students to teach.”**

With his wife—Kimberly Chung, an associate professor in CSUS—Kerr is honoring his parents through a \$375,000 gift to create the Malcolm and Ann Kerr Award for Excellence in Scholarship.

Each year, the award will provide a Ph.D. student in CSUS with a one-semester teaching assistantship that supports tuition, fees, health insurance, and a stipend.

“I’ve always been interested in making a gift like this,” John says. “We accomplish two goals: We honor the work my parents have done, and continue the cycle forward by offering opportunities for current students to teach. Hopefully that can act as a springboard for their careers.”

Students can apply for the Kerr Award during the fall to be considered for the following academic year. The first award will be presented this year for use in 2018-19. A committee of CSUS faculty, not including Kerr or Chung, will select from a pool of applicants who have demonstrated scholarly excellence and a desire to pursue a career in academia.

The awardee will either teach a course or act as a teaching assistant, depending on his or her experience and the needs of the department. Doctoral students in CSUS and several other departments often are funded through external research grants, but such funds rarely support teaching.

“Some of our Ph.D. students are interested in becoming faculty members at institutions of higher education upon graduation, so they need teaching experience,” Chung says. “That makes them a well-rounded candidate. Because of funding challenges, we haven’t really had that in the past. This gift is closing some of those gaps.”

Kerr says that he never expected to make a gift of this magnitude while still on the faculty at MSU, and that he and Chung were grateful to be in the position to do so.

**To learn more** about how you might support students contact Senior Development Officer for Scholarships and Fellowships Jennifer Bertram at [bertram@msu.edu](mailto:bertram@msu.edu) or call (517) 432-7330.

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
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11 • 28 • 2017

**ONE DAY**  
**ONE GOAL**  
**\$250K**

**November 28 is a global day of philanthropy.**

At MSU, we are calling it Give Green Day and are working to raise support for students.

**#GiveGreenDay | [givingday.msu.edu](http://givingday.msu.edu)**