



## Hannan 'consistency' marks mathematical statistics legacy

James Hannan studied research papers the way a powerful microscope uncovers the depth of what can escape our eyes.

"Often I start on a paper and look up a reference. I find the reference interesting and follow up on a reference to the reference. Thus, I may stray far away from where I started," he said in a 2008 interview in *Statistical Science* (2010), a publication of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

Known for a collaborative spirit, enviable contributions and a wholehearted dedication to his profession, the impact of James Hannan's high standards in research was multiplied by the students and colleagues who regularly sought his counsel.

His wife, Bettie Creighton Hannan, chose to honor her husband's legacy with a gift establishing an endowment to support visiting scholars in theoretical statistics and probability. Jim passed away on January 26, 2010 at the age of 87. He retired from the College of Natural Science in 2002, following nearly 50 years of service.

Jim served in World War II as a meteorologist forecasting weather at army airbases in India and China. In transit to these locations, Jim played poker games with little interruption. Curiously, his later research discoveries included strategies for repeated play of a game and that those strategies apply to selecting a best forecaster. He first published his fundamental research in game

theory in 1957, but its consequence was not fully appreciated until the 1990s when online learning communities in computer science rediscovered his work and coined the term Hannan consistency.

His friend, colleague and former student Dennis Gilliland recalls another Hannan consistency, that of his generosity in helping others. "Rarely a day found Jim away from his office where he interacted with many colleagues," he said, noting that Jim directed or co-directed the doctoral research of twenty students, many of whom now enjoy academic careers.

Jim joined the mathematics faculty in 1953 and played a central role in the development of the Department of Statistics (now the Department of Statistics and Probability). The James Hannan Endowment for Visiting Scholars in Theoretical Statistics and Probability is a fitting tribute to Jim's influence as the visiting scholars will collaborate with other faculty, enhance the research atmosphere and contribute to graduate education in the department.

Bettie met Jim at the University of North Carolina where she graduated with a master's degree in art history and he completed his doctorate. With an extensive background in classical languages, she studied French and Russian at MSU and translated



Bettie and Jim on their wedding day, 1951.



Bettie and Jim at a 1998 celebration. The cake reads "Jim, Thank you for all you have done. -Your Friends."

scholarly articles in statistics, probability and mathematics in support of her husband's research.

For more information on giving to the College of Natural Sciences contact Assistant Director of Development Kate Powers at (517) 353-5962; or via e-mail at [powers@msu.edu](mailto:powers@msu.edu).

## Brown walks the walk with estate plan for WKAR

by Jeanie Croope

David Brown ('76, '83, Communication Arts and Sciences) remembers an evening in the 1980s when he stood before live television cameras in WKAR's studio and, with great aplomb, auctioned off a vasectomy donated by a local urologist to the public television station's fundraising auction.

It was, he recalls, an "awkward but humorous moment," and one of the joys of doing live television when anything can happen.

For more than 20 years, Brown, assistant director for Alumni Engagement for the MSU Alumni Association, has brought his rich, melodious voice to WKAR as a volunteer. He is often heard during radio and television membership campaigns, asking viewers and listeners to make a financial commitment to the television or radio station.

Dave not only "talks the talk," but walks the walk as well. He recently made WKAR a beneficiary of part of his personal estate plan. The endowment will be used to support WKAR at the discretion of the director of Broadcasting Services with preference given to community outreach,

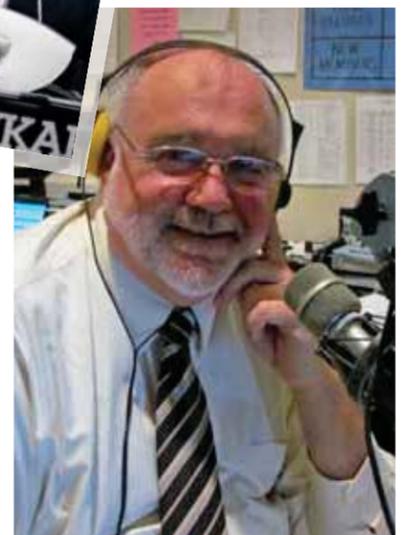
technology improvements and challenge grants during pledge drives. The estimated future gift will be over \$200,000 once the gift is realized, and is expected to grow over time.

"It is my hope this will offer the station flexibility for its community outreach efforts," he said.

The transition to a digital media environment has allowed WKAR to significantly expand its commitment to outreach and community engagement. Susi Elkins, WKAR's Content and Community Engagement manager said, "It's imperative that our content reflect the needs and interests of our community. Gifts like Dave Brown's help us dedicate significant resources to directly interacting with the communities we serve."



David Brown has been an on-air voice of encouragement for WKAR membership campaigns for more than 20 years.



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## Spartan Scholarship Challenge: Time is running short



Provost Kim Wilcox and his wife, Diane Del Buono, are among the many faculty, staff and retirees who have created Spartan Scholarships. For an Honor Roll of donors or for more information, go to [www.givingto.msu.edu/ssc](http://www.givingto.msu.edu/ssc).

Time is nearly running out to take advantage of the unique matching opportunity to create named scholarships through the Spartan Scholarship Challenge. Only until December 31, 2010, for every \$2 a donor gives to create a new endowed Spartan Scholarship, \$1 will be matched from a portion of a \$10 million anonymous gift MSU received in 2009.

The generosity of the anonymous donor together with the unique opportunity to stretch a gift inspired Provost Kim Wilcox and his wife, Diane Del Buono, to create a Spartan Scholarship.

"This is a great opportunity for the university to think about its future," he said. "To maintain our quality and improve MSU, we must recruit the very best students and scholarships do make a difference. I remain grateful to the anonymous donor for enhancing our ability to provide financial assistance to deserving students."

One of the unique aspects of the Spartan Scholarships is that the recipients are freshmen or sophomores who can count on the assistance following them throughout their MSU education. Donors may designate a preference for a college or program, but Kim

and Diane chose to have their scholarship very broadly available.

"Most students come here with an idea of what they want to study, but there are so many excellent opportunities, many end up changing their minds," Kim explained. "It was very important to Diane and me to offer support for students, no matter what path Michigan State leads them to."

Since its inception one year ago, the challenge has raised more than \$2 million to create nearly 100 new endowed scholarships. During the challenge period, gifts of up to \$1 million can be matched; conversely—as every gift is important—a university-wide Spartan Scholarship has been created to match gifts of less than \$20,000.

Learn more at [www.givingto.msu.edu/ssc](http://www.givingto.msu.edu/ssc) or contact Director of Development for University Scholarships and Fellowships Jennifer Bertram at (517) 432-7332 or speak with a development officer in your college or unit.

**Pledge by December 31, 2010 to qualify for the match.**

## Taking their seats for Hospitality Business

Eight current and three former School of Hospitality Business faculty have "taken their seats" with a contribution of \$2,500-5,000 each to name a chair that will be a part of the demonstration theater in the Culinary Business Learning Lab revitalization project. The current faculty are shown here (front, l to r): Director Ron Cichy, H. Michael Rice, Bonnie Knutson and Raymond Schmidgall; (back, l to r): James F. Rainey, Jack D. Ninemeier, Michael Kasavana and Jeffrey Beck. The former faculty are: Angelos Vlahakis, Carolyn Rigerink and Marc Gordon.

The demonstration theater will carry the name of the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation in recognition of the foundation's gift of \$2 million. The theater will be one of the new state-of-the-art facilities in the \$4.1 million overall project which will revitalize the 11,258 square feet of the current Lab on the garden level of the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center. The new facility, expected to be completed in late summer 2011, will house food production management courses, demonstrations, special events and executive development programs for industry professionals.



Eight faculty members were among those that named a chair in the soon-to-be-built demonstration theater, part of the Culinary Business Learning Lab revitalization project.

For more information about the Culinary Business Learning Lab or to make a gift, go to [www.bus.msu.edu](http://www.bus.msu.edu) or contact Associate Director of Development Shelley MacMillan at (517) 884-1586.

## Cotter gift targets Demmer Center

David and Rochele Cotter have been a part of the MSU family for many years but they hadn't really decided on an appropriate giving opportunity. That changed with the construction of MSU's Demmer Shooting Sports Education and Training Center.

"The John and Marnie Demmer shooting sports facility is one of the best in the country," according to David Cotter, "and we have to ensure that it stays that way."

David is a competitive rifle shooter, professor of law at Cooley Law School and a University of Michigan graduate. His wife, Rochele, is retired from MSU's Client Advocacy Office under Libraries, Computing and Technology and is now working on Enterprise Business Systems Projects.

David and Rochele established the John and Marnie Demmer Shooting Sports Education and Training Center Endowed Support Fund to provide for education, maintenance, equipment and other needs for the facility. David knows that competitive shooting requires concentration, physical fitness and skill. He believes the state-of-the-art technology and top-notch physical facilities that mark the Demmer Center are rare—very rare—and he's committed to ensuring that the Demmer Center is self-supporting in perpetuity.

The center was built entirely with private funds and is named for John and the late Marnie Demmer, who provided principal support for the facility. At 24,000 square feet, the Demmer Center is one of the largest indoor shooting ranges in the Midwest.

There's plenty of space for the public to enjoy shooting sports and to learn about them. The multi-purpose facility supports collegiate shooting programs and team sports; the National Archery in



David and Rochele Cotter want to ensure the John and Marnie Demmer Shooting Sports facility is self-supporting. Pictured are Michael Galella, director; Rochele and David; Brenda Clark of MSU Land Management and Keith Hein, program coordinator.

Schools Program, home schoolers, scouts and 4-H youth programs as well as a variety of other youth and adult programs ranging from basic shooting classes to competitions. It also expands capacity for MSU academic programs requiring firearm safety and education certifications such as in the departments of Fisheries and Wildlife, and Criminal Justice.

The center boasts indoor shooting ranges to accommodate small-bore firearms, air rifle and pistols, and archery. Outside is the Becky and Bob Humphries Community Archery Park offering beginner, Field/3D and competitive ranges.

For more information, visit [demmercenter.msu.edu](http://demmercenter.msu.edu). For information on making a gift to the Demmer Center, contact Special Gifts Director Karen Wenk at (517) 884-1084 or by e-mail at [wenk@msu.edu](mailto:wenk@msu.edu).

## All U Campaign builds momentum

Where did more student scholarships, expanded opportunities and well over a half million dollars to assist MSU endeavors come from? These are outcomes from the financial support MSU received from its own in the 2010 All University Campaign.

Faculty, staff and retiree giving during the campaign has been on an upward trajectory for years. Since 2003, giving has grown from approximately \$216,000 to nearly \$589,000, an increase of 74 percent.

**"Gifts from the people who know MSU so well lead the way for others to invest."**

In addition, more than 200 of MSU's leaders in the faculty, staff and administrative ranks chose to give back their salary increases to support student scholarships this past year, giving \$214,000.

"MSU benefits from the support of faculty, staff and retirees not only from their direct altruism but also from the confidence their gifts instill in others," said Bob Groves, vice president for University Advancement. "Gifts from the people who know MSU so well lead the way for others to invest and we are grateful for the inspiring leadership of MSU's faculty, staff and retirees."

For more information about giving in the All University Campaign, visit [www.givingto.msu.edu/ufgiving](http://www.givingto.msu.edu/ufgiving).



## DEVELOPMENTS

is published by:

University Advancement  
Michigan State University  
300 Spartan Way  
East Lansing, MI, 48824-1005  
(517) 884-1000

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To remember MSU as a charitable beneficiary in your will, personal trust or retirement plan, it is important to do so accurately. The correct reference is: Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan and the federal tax identification number 38-6005984. To explore how you might remember MSU, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at (800) 432-4678 or (517) 884-1000. If your estate/retirement plan includes MSU as a beneficiary, we encourage you to contact us to accurately record your intent and include you in the appropriate donor recognition group.

Photos in this issue: Harley Seeley, Harley Seeley Photography; Derrick Turner, University Relations; Jeanie Croope, WKAR; and Lois Furry and Chris Schaffer, University Advancement.

## 60 for SIXTY Challenge supported by nursing faculty, staff and retirees

Inspired to give to the advancement of nursing education and research at MSU, over 20 College of Nursing faculty, staff and retirees committed \$80,000 in the college's 60 for SIXTY Challenge.

Their gifts will create eight of 24 research pods in the state-of-the-art Bott Building for Nursing Education and Research now under construction.

The funding challenge honored the college's 60th anniversary and offered a match on all \$10,000 contributions from individuals and groups on a 1:1 basis to reach the \$20,000 cost for each pod. The pods will serve as workstations for teams of research staff and students assigned to funded nursing research projects.

"Investors from the College of Nursing continue to accomplish awe-inspiring goals that will enhance nursing's impact on the future of health care," said College of Nursing Dean Mary Mundt. "We are especially grateful for the leadership of faculty, staff and retirees of the college who contribute to our college not only through their hard work, talent and professionalism, but also through commendable financial support."

The year-long 60 for SIXTY campaign generated \$480,000 from nearly 250 loyal benefactors including individual donors, alumni classes and doctoral students.

The college broke ground on the \$17.6 million Bott Building on September 24, 2010. The project was made possible by a lead gift from the Timothy and Bernadette Marquez Foundation which committed \$7 million to the project. The building will be named in honor of Bernadette's parents, John and Anna Bott. The college's expansion effort was also boosted by a \$7.45 million stimulus funding grant from the National Institutes of Health to support nursing research. Overall, 850 donors were inspired to give to the nursing expansion project.

The three-story, 50,000-square-foot building will be a nucleus for where the nursing community – students, faculty, staff, alumni, partners and stakeholders – can come together and influence health care.

For information on making a gift to the College of Nursing, contact Assistant Director of Alumni and Development Pam Schoen at (888) 771-3637.



An artist rendering of the modular learning pods.

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon and College of Nursing Dean Mary Mundt lead the way in breaking ground on the college's new Bott Building for Nursing Education and Research.



## Brown Gift

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Dave's affiliation with WKAR is a long one, going back to his days as a student in Justin Morrill College in the early 1970s. He worked as a production student at the station long before he took on a role as a volunteer.

Most individuals considering their estate plan know many organizations would welcome their gift. Dave had several reasons that led him toward WKAR. "Radio and television has been an important part of my life for many years as a volunteer, consumer of programming and as a community presence. I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with the great staff of television and radio," he said.

But there was another reason that tipped Dave toward supporting WKAR over other university programs. "Someone considering giving money to MSU has many fine choices and many fine opportunities," he concedes. "A great number of these choices are already well funded. I would encourage anyone giving money to choose something with a need and that reinforces the university's outreach commitment."

For more information on endowment or planned gift options for WKAR, contact Development Director Cindy Herfindahl at (517) 432-3120, or [cindy@wkar.org](mailto:cindy@wkar.org).

Venice Smith knows first hand that all gifts to MSU make a difference.



## YOUR PHILANTHROPY AT WORK: Venice Smith

Before she became a member of the All University Campaign Cabinet two years ago, D. Venice Smith ('77, Social Science) was pretty sure that most donors had pots of gold hidden somewhere.

Today she knows that all gifts, no matter the size, are significant. And she says the best part of being on the cabinet is sharing that message with fellow employees.

"If every MSU employee contributed to our university each year, just think of how much good it would do," she said.

Venice is a member of MSU's Presidents Club donor society and has supported many MSU initiatives with her gifts including the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund, Wharton Center's Seats 4 Kids Fund and the Residence Halls Activities Fund.

Venice joined the MSU staff in 1992 as the multicultural development coordinator in the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives. She leads the educational and development efforts of the office, including designing and implementing workshops that address a wide variety of diversity and inclusion related topics as well as consulting and coaching on diversity

and inclusion matters throughout the MSU community.

Passionate about her work and MSU, Venice believes that being "a goodwill ambassador" for MSU is part of going the extra mile.

"If you are really a Spartan, you are concerned with what you can do to make MSU better," she said.

She strives to take that positive approach wherever she goes. Not long ago, she noticed two students carrying obviously heavy bins across campus. She offered to give them a ride to their destination at Hubbard Hall. The gratitude and enthusiasm of the students made her day.

"Whenever I give, I always receive more back than I gave," she said.



Jim Potchen and many other guests enjoyed the festivities.

## Thanks for Giving Luncheon

Hundreds of faculty, staff and retirees gathered at the Kellogg Center's Big Ten Rooms for the annual Thanks for Giving Luncheon in October. The event honored members of the MSU community who made gifts to Michigan State in the past year of \$1,000 or more, or who are recognized in one of MSU's donor societies.

Guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and the company of fellow Spartans. President Lou

Anna K. Simon, Provost Kim Wilcox and Vice President for University Advancement Bob Groves addressed the crowd with remarks of appreciation thanking guests for the demonstration of their ongoing commitment to MSU through commendable financial support.

The Thanks for Giving Luncheon and all other All University Campaign events are made possible, in part, through the sponsorship of the MSU Federal Credit Union.



Members of the All University Campaign Cabinet were spirited participants, from left: Dick Chase and his wife Hazel, Helen Waldo and her husband George, Eileen Wilson and Venice Smith.



President Lou Anna K. Simon caught up with President Emeritus Gordon Guyer.



Friends Jamie Haley and Joy Adcock connected at the event.

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