

# THE CAMPAIGN FOR MSU DEVELOPMENTS

FALL 2004

## PROFESSOR JOHNSON PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR LAW COLLEGE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

**T**he MSU College of Law recently announced that Professor Clark Cumings Johnson has pledged \$100,000 to the college endowment campaign that is part of *The Campaign for MSU*. Professor Johnson's commitment will be a major impetus to further significant fundraising for an endowed professorship in law.

In making this gift, Professor Johnson marks his own thirty-one year involvement with MSU College of Law and its predecessor, the Detroit College of Law. He recently recalled the first gift he made as a new, young faculty member in 1973 — \$200 to the DCL Second Century Club, which at the time was considered a lead gift to the college. "Fundraising was not second nature to our dean in those days, but I got in the habit of supporting the college early on," Professor Johnson said, "because I believed, and continue to believe, in its fine tradition of developing professional expertise and intellectual growth in the crucible of legal education."

Professor Johnson is well known among alumni for telling every student enrolled in his classes that tuition is good for a lifetime, and he has honored his word whenever a former student has asked for his professional or personal counsel. "I have benefited in many meaningful ways from my long affiliation with the College of Law,"



MSU College of Law Professor Clark Cumings Johnson

Professor Johnson tells his students, "and you will benefit in your careers and personal lives from the rigor of its training and reputation for professional excellence. Remember this as alumni and stay involved."

"Clark Johnson's great affinities with generations of law students and colleagues in Detroit, and now in East Lansing, have been a steady

source of pride for the college," said Dean Terence L. Blackburn. "His new gift is a model of personal commitment to legal education at Michigan State University and spurs us to even greater achievements in the future."

Professor Johnson grew up in Traverse City, Michigan, and received his baccalaureate degree from the University of Michigan and both the Juris Doctor and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Wayne State University. He served as assistant attorney general in the state of Michigan, practiced privately for twenty years in the Mount Clemens firm of Schmidt, Nahas, Coburn and Johnson, and until October 2002, served as legal consultant to the attorney general of Michigan.

In May 2002, he received the law's highest honor when the MSU College of Law awarded him the Honorary Doctor of Laws. Professor Johnson is the founder and advisor to the MSU College of Law *Journal of Medicine and Law* and faculty advisor to the MSU Pre-Law Society. He teaches law courses in commercial transactions, contracts, secured transactions, property, mortgages, insurance, equity, suretyship, psychiatry and the law, and medical legal problems.

*If you wish to add your support to the College of Law endowment or any other area of the MSU College of Law, contact Judith Peters at (517) 432-6842.*

## Stapletons Create Endowed Fellowships

**D**edication to profession and to institution is something Jim Stapleton knows well. Now working in his 47th year as a faculty member in Michigan State University's Department of Statistics and Probability, Jim, with his wife Alicia, want to see graduate students in his field supported financially in order to better enable them to succeed. As a result, the Stapletons have established a future gift that will endow a fund valued at approximately \$1.5 million in support of graduate fellowships.

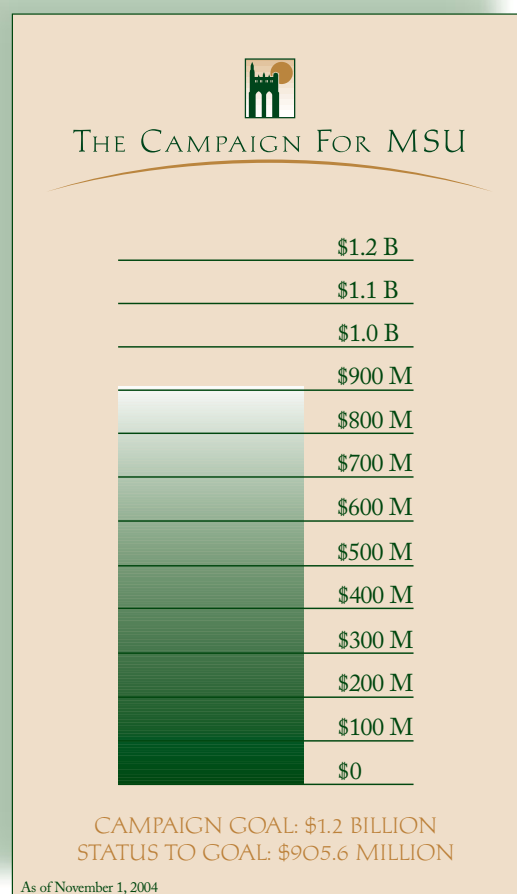
Known as the James and Alicia Stapleton Endowed Fellowship in Statistics and Probability, their contributions will be funded through retirement plan assets. They have chosen to endow the fund, which means that the principal of their gift will remain untouched while the fellowships are awarded through the careful use of the investment interest. This allows the fund to exist in perpetu-



James and Alicia Stapleton, after receiving the memento for their Kedzie Society level pledge.

ity and assist many more students over time than an expendable fund, which is gone forever once the original gift is spent.

"The department has been able to support our graduate students primarily through teaching assistantships, though recently we've been able to



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## Suzanne Levy Leaves Generous Bequest To Her MSU Family

**T**hrough a generous bequest from her estate, Suzanne Levy (M.A., History, '79) has pledged to fund five areas of MSU Libraries and the College of Veterinary Medicine. As a result of an unexpected inheritance from her beloved father, Suzanne, a 20-year library employee at MSU, was able to support initiatives she holds dear.



Suzanne Levy at work at the MSU Library.

The four funds created through careful estate planning to benefit the MSU Libraries include the Suzanne J. Levy Endowment for Michigan State University Libraries' Comic Art Collection in Honor of Randall W. Scott, the Harold and Suzanne Levy Endowment for the Michigan State University Libraries' Jewish Studies Collection, the Suzanne J. Levy Endowment for the MSU Libraries' Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection in Memory of Anne E. Tracey, and the Suzanne J. Levy MSU Libraries' Director's Discretionary Endowment in Honor of

Clifford H. Haka. Her bequest will also establish the Suzanne J. Levy Charitable Endowment for Pet Care in the College of Veterinary Medicine to provide assistance to elderly pet owners experiencing financial hardship.

When asked why she chose to give the bulk of her family inheritance to MSU, Suzanne responded, "my co-workers and the greater MSU community are my family. I want to make a positive difference that will have a lasting impact."

The lasting impact of her generosity is in part due to the fact that each of the funds has been established as an endowment. To endow a fund means to invest the principal of the gift and expend only a portion of the interest earned, the result of which allows MSU to benefit from the fund in perpetuity.

"These gifts are especially meaningful because Suzanne is aware of both the successes and challenges of the Libraries as a result of her 20-year employment history," remarked Libraries Director Clifford H. Haka upon receiving word of the endowments. Added Vice Provost for Libraries, Computing, and Technology David Gift, "Suzanne's gifts to both the Libraries and the College of Veterinary Medicine will strengthen MSU's ability to serve society through collections and initiatives that she cares deeply about."

*If you would like to add your support to any of the various Levy endowments or obtain more information about supporting an area of MSU that you care about, contact Belinda Cook at (517) 432-6123, extension 137.*

## The 1855 Club

New in 2004, the 1855 Club is the first donor club created specifically with MSU's faculty, staff and retirees in mind.

Recognition in the 1855 Club requires an annual gift of \$1,000 per year (only \$84 per month) for five years to any MSU designation or combination of designations of the donor's choosing. Such commitments are very important at MSU, giving programs a continuous and stable source of support.

Donors at the 1855 Club level are recognized as leading supporters of Michigan State. Each will receive a uniquely designed lapel pin, the donor focused newsletter

*Developments*, and invitations to faculty and staff campaign events and recognition programs. College or unit-based recognition may be applicable as well.



*For more information, see the All University Campaign pledge form or visit the All University Campaign web site at [www.givingto.msu.edu/fsgiving](http://www.givingto.msu.edu/fsgiving).*

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## Stapletons *continued from cover*

fund several of our more senior doctoral candidates through research assistantships," Jim explained. "We need to find ways to support our students in their last year or two of doctoral study so they can devote full-time to thesis research. In addition we need to be able to add to the stipends new students receive in order to attract the best students. The competition for good students is fierce."

The Stapleton Fund will allow the Department of Statistics and Probability, within the College of Natural Science, to make decisions that best meet its needs. "The faculty in the department are best able to determine ways in which funds should be disbursed. What is best for the students, department, college, and university now, may be quite different in 10 or 20 years," Jim said.

Jim, who grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan, graduated from Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan) in 1952 and received master's and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue in 1954 and 1957. His career in the Department of Statistics and Probability at MSU has included serving as graduate director or co-director for the last twenty years as well as serving an eight year stint as acting chairman and chairman. Alicia grew up in the Philippines, graduating from the University of the Philippines in 1959. She com-

pleted her master's in psychology at MSU in 1963, later completed her teaching degree, and recently retired after many years teaching in the Lansing School district.

Under current tax law, retirement plan assets directed to anyone other than a spouse are subject to income tax and possibly estate tax as well. By designating MSU as the primary beneficiary of all remaining retirement plan assets, after use by the surviving spouse, the Stapletons are assured that 100% of all remaining retirement plan assets will be received by MSU for the James and Alicia Stapleton Endowed Fellowship in Statistics and Probability.

While their estate planning also remembers their children, Jim, Lara and Sara, as well as Lansing public schools, they have committed their generous future gifts in a highly tax efficient manner advantageous to both their estate and heirs.

Through their estate planning, it is obvious that their personal financial contributions to MSU are heartfelt. As Jim explains, "Working with our graduate students has given me much satisfaction."

*If you would like more information on how to use your retirement assets to meet future needs of a program or department at MSU that you love, contact Sue Woodard at (517) 353-3121, extension 206.*



## THE BENEFITS OF CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

**T**he charitable gift annuity and deferred gift annuity are planned gifts that are remarkably simple to establish. In exchange for a transfer of cash or marketable securities, the MSU Foundation contractually agrees to pay a guaranteed stream of lifetime income to the donor and/or another beneficiary. The annuity rate depends solely on the age of the beneficiary or beneficiaries, and it is often higher than the income generated by conventional investments. MSU Foundation charitable gift annuity contracts are backed by over \$310 million in unrestricted assets owned and managed by the foundation.

Theodore B. Simon, MSU's retired assistant vice president for financial operations and treasurer, and his wife Mary Jane, a former MSC student and loyal Spartan in her own right, have been affiliated with the university for more than sixty years. Ted (Engineering, '42) is nationally recognized for his contributions to efficient energy



Daryl Flanagan and Jessica Theis working in the Monitor Room (above), and Luke Balmer and Jeron Benson at work in the Sheetmetal Shop are representative of the Physical Plant student employees who will benefit from the Simon Scholarship.



utilization, and over the years he and Mary Jane have enjoyed knowing and working with dedicated students employed at the MSU Physical Plant. Because of these students, the Simons decided to fund a scholarship.

The Simons have created the Mary Jane and Theodore B. Simon Endowed Scholarship that will support hard working students majoring in Business or Engineering who also work at the Physical Plant. They made their gift through an irrevocable charitable gift annuity because it will offer them a guaranteed stream of income for their lifetimes while also providing generous support for students in the future. The fact that they have endowed the scholarship is even more beneficial to the university since endowments allow MSU to support students by utilizing a percentage of the interest earned on the gift while allowing the principal of the gift to remain and grow in perpetuity.

Other MSU faculty, staff and retirees have recognized the benefits of charitable gift annuities as well. Dr. Lawrence and Mrs. Marjorie Sommers utilized a charitable gift annuity to establish the Marjorie and Lawrence Sommers Geography Graduate Fellowship for International Research and Travel. Their fund, also an endowment, will provide travel and research support for M.A. and Ph.D. students completing international studies in the Department of Geography.

The Sommers have long supported MSU's international programs. They came to East Lansing in 1949, and Dr. Sommers chaired the Department of Geography for twenty-four years after its creation in 1955. Influenced

greatly by his own international experience as a graduate student, Dr. Sommers wanted to positively influence other students by helping to provide funding for their study abroad. He and Marjorie are excited about supporting graduate study opportunities into the future.

The minimum amount required to establish a charitable gift or deferred gift annuity with the MSU Foundation is \$5,000, and the minimum age of the donor or donors is 55 years and older. The federal government allows donors to claim an income tax deduction for the charitable gift component of the transfer, and a portion of each payment to the beneficiary may be income tax-free.



Lawrence and Marjorie Sommers

In addition, long-term appreciated securities can be excellent assets to utilize. Donors can avoid the lump-sum capital gain on such securities, spread out the capital gains tax on the income received over the life of the beneficiaries, and escape capital gains tax entirely on part of the appreciation. Thankfully for MSU, more and more generous donors like the Simons and the Sommers have realized the advantages of charitable gift annuities.

*For specific illustrations or more information on charitable and deferred gift annuities, contact the Office of Planned Giving at MSU at (517) 353-9268.*

## Wilson Gift Creates Three Endowed Funds

**D**r. Eileen Wilson, a long time MSU academic administrator and faculty member, has generously set up three endowments through a \$500,000 planned gift that will benefit the College of Education, the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Eli Broad College of Business. Designating the funds as endowments ensures that the support she is providing will exist in perpetuity.

Her gift to the College of Education, an endowment in the amount of \$250,000, is in loving memory of her father, James A. Wilson. While her father did not have the opportunity to gain a college education, he supported his daughter's educational goals. He supported her financially, emotionally and spiritually when she took the first steps in her academic and professional career in higher education.

Dr. Wilson also learned from her father the importance of giving. Through his example, he taught that financial support is as important as achieving higher education. Giving completes the cycle and purpose of higher learning: improving society and humankind. She strongly encourages faculty, staff, retirees and friends of the Eli Broad College of Business and MSU to give at any level throughout their lifetime.

In addition to her gift to the College of Education, Dr. Wilson's bequest will also benefit two other areas as well. The College of Veterinary Medicine will receive \$125,000 for an endowment for its veterinary clinic, and the Eli Broad College of Business will receive \$125,000 for an endow-



Eileen Wilson

ment for undergraduate academic services.

"I believe many of us, as Spartans, owe Michigan State University a debt of gratitude for the educational or professional opportunities afforded to us by this great institution," Dr. Wilson said. "To insure MSU's legacy as the premier land grant institution and as a contemporary world class university that advances knowledge and transforms lives, financial investment by each of us is critical."

Dr. Wilson holds a B.A. degree from Thiel College, a master's degree from Dayton University, a master's degree in Labor and Industrial Relations from MSU and a Ph.D. in College and University Administration from MSU. She is currently

the director of undergraduate academic services in the Eli Broad College of Business.

*If you would like more information on creating a bequest and/or endowed fund for the Eli Broad College of Business or any area of MSU that you wish to support, contact Maura Benton at (517) 432-9472.*





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## Your Philanthropy At Work

Over 150 friends of Carol Garrett Fisher, the recently retired Education Coordinator of Kresge Art Museum, have made donations totaling over \$37,000 to establish the Carol Garrett Fisher Education Endowment Fund for the museum. Dr. Fisher was the museum's first educator and, for over 20 years, passionately developed and oversaw programs for K-12 students through adults.

"So many people have benefited from Carol's wonderful docent training classes, from her knowledge and expertise while traveling and the joy she brings to the understanding of art," said Art Museum Director Susan Bandes. "This is a perfect way to express our appreciation for all she has done."

On June 7, over 100 people gathered for the annual Docent luncheon that was also planned as Dr. Fisher's surprise retirement party. The outpouring of support attests to her knowledge, expertise, and warm spirit as well as the personal impact she had on many museum patrons and volunteers.

The endowment will support the Docent program, lectures and public programs, school tour bus subsidies, and other educational initiatives. Dr. Fisher's impact will continue in perpetuity through this endowment. Although retired, she will continue to spearhead the travel program for Kresge Art Museum as well as prepare an exhibition of Islamic art, the area of her Ph.D. work.



Carol Garrett Fisher (right) receives a gift, presented by Art Museum Director Susan Bandes, during a surprise retirement party.

## Friends Hold Annual Mildred B. Erickson Reception

The Friends of the Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship held their annual celebration for volunteers and donors at Cowles House on September 15, 2004. The Friends Committee and eighteen-member Board of Directors, many of whom are active or retired MSU employees, have been involved in raising funds for MBE scholarships for many years.

MBE scholarships are uniquely designed for individuals beyond the usual college age who can demonstrate financial need and who want to begin an undergraduate degree program, resume an interrupted degree program, or attend MSU as a non-degree student.

Many hundreds of MBE scholarships have been awarded over the years, and the program is one of just a few available to provide financial assistance to non-traditional students at MSU.

Dr. Mildred B. Erickson, following the death of her husband, MSU Provost Clifford E. Erickson, enrolled as a doctoral student in administration and higher education. She became director of adult student advising and assistant dean for lifelong education programs, working as a tireless advocate for the adult student.

For more information, contact Annie James at (517) 353-3121, extension 272.



Jamie Haley visiting with Joanne McPherson during the Friends of Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship annual celebration for volunteers.



Erickson Fellowship donors enjoyed conversation (left) and great food at Cowles House.



Joe and Kathy Lessard enjoyed the Erickson event where Kathy, a Mildred B. Erickson Scholarship recipient and MSU staff member, was a featured speaker.

