

FOR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2023

# DEVELOPMENTS



## MADE IN DETROIT

*Scholarship programs provide  
more than just financial support*

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# DEVELOPMENTS

## 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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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

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**Cash, Stock, Real Estate and Other Gifts**  
To explore how you might provide financial support to MSU, contact the University Advancement office in your college or unit or call (517) 884-1000.

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

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

Learn more at [givingto.msu.edu](http://givingto.msu.edu)

## A STATEMENT FACILITY TO HONOR EXCELLENCE

The Gilbert Pavilion—made possible through the generosity of Dan and Jennifer Gilbert and other leadership donors—provides a grand entrance to the Jack Breslin Student Events Center. The addition features the Tom Izzo Hall of History, championship displays, the Draymond Green Strength and Conditioning Center, alumni locker rooms, and the John and Becky Duffey Recruiting Lounge.



## FEEDING THE FUTURE

*Making plants more productive, thanks to philanthropy*

Putting food on humanity's table is top priority for Federica Brandizzi's research team at the MSU-DOE Plant Research Lab. The generosity of donors is helping them do it.

Brandizzi, an MSU Research Foundation Professor, is tackling serious questions about the earth's ability to feed a projected 9 billion people by 2050. In an effort to increase crop sizes, Brandizzi's team has developed technology that softens the cell walls of plants, allowing them to grow bigger and produce more food within the same amount of land.

This type of research could help shape humanity's future, and it wouldn't be happening without donors. It's funded by grants from philanthropic organizations and by the MSU Research Foundation.

Such high-risk, high-reward projects don't tend to receive massive government grants, explains Brandizzi. The government leans toward supporting "safer" projects with preexisting research already behind them. Federal grants fuel the fundamentals of plant research at MSU's lab, but it's up to others to fund the next generation of super-plants.

Federica compares this investment in innovative research to the investment donors make in students. You don't know for sure that a student will follow through on their education and use

their talents in amazing ways. You invest in their potential and hope that your vote of confidence spurs them on to those happy outcomes. The risk is well worth the promise of the results.

Brandizzi knows this because someone once invested in her. At the start of her career, she was a struggling post-doctoral researcher who left the lab at 5 p.m. only to pull six-hour shifts at McDonald's to make ends meet. A philanthropic grant allowed her to quit McDonald's and support herself while launching her career. Without that grant, Brandizzi believes she would not be in this research role today, growing the next generation of crops to feed the future.

"I owe a lot to philanthropy. We can see how it is possible to make a big difference in somebody's life," she says.

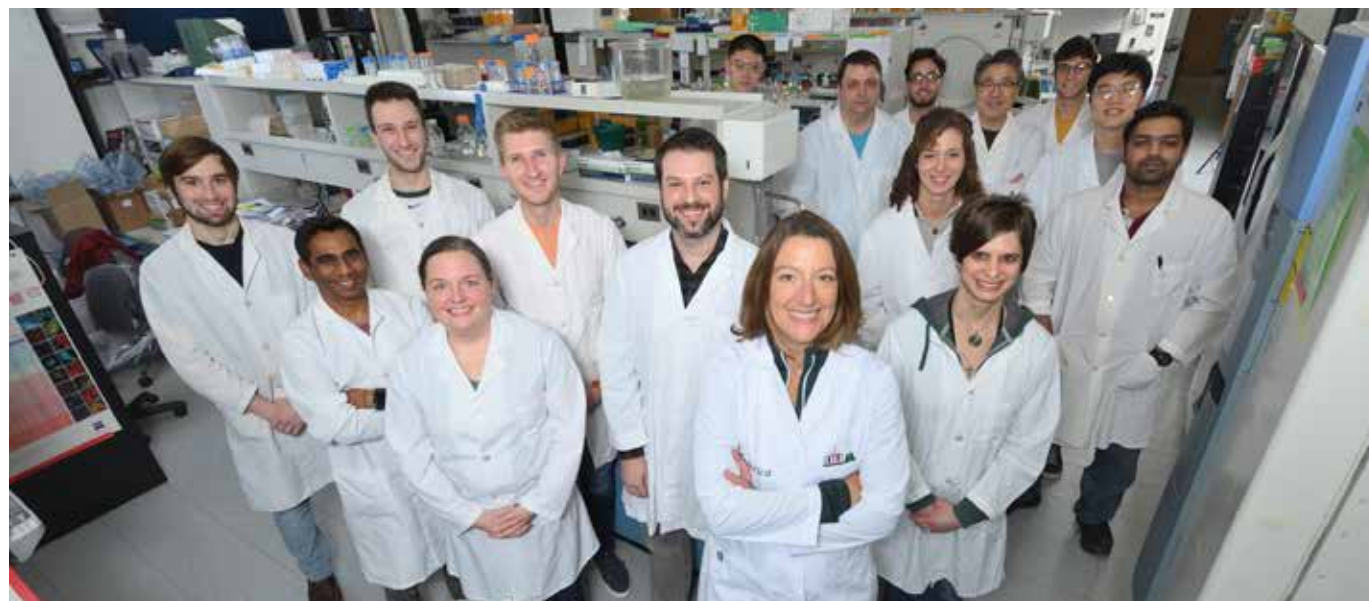
Now, MSU's Innovation Center has helped Brandizzi get her plant technology in front of those who could license it for industry use. This would move it beyond research into actual application, so it can do what it's designed to do: make the world a better place.

Brandizzi is grateful for the donors who believe in her work and her students' futures.

Recently, the Brandizzi lab sent seeds to space aboard NASA's Artemis I mission to explore how humanity can sustain itself beyond Earth.

**LEARN MORE** about support for the College of Natural Science by contacting Senior Director of Development Corey Longley Palmer at [longleyc@msu.edu](mailto:longleyc@msu.edu) or by calling (517) 353-9855.

**READ MORE** [go.msu.edu/feeding-future](http://go.msu.edu/feeding-future)



Federica Brandizzi, center, with members of her research team.

## BRIDGING FINANCIAL GAPS

*New safety net with LaMonte Student Emergency Fund*

Gary LaMonte felt fortunate as a first-generation college student in the late 1970s. He received scholarships and grants. He had the support of his parents. He was also able to make up the difference for tuition and books by working a part-time job. Ultimately, he was able to graduate debt-free in 1981 with a degree in advertising and later with his MBA in 1983.

Today, the retired human resources professional wants to help bridge the financial gap for students who may not have the safety net he did. In 2020, Gary established the LaMonte Student Emergency Fund in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences to provide flexible assistance in a timely manner to address unexpected financial hardships that could derail a student's education. A number of students were only able to complete their degree because of an award from the fund Gary created.

"I know there are people who work hard and still struggle," he says. "By creating and giving to this student emergency fund, my goal is to make an impact today when someone most needs it."

Kari Schueller Lopez, director of Academic and Student Affairs in the college, says Gary's gift made it possible for the



Erin and Gary LaMonte with "Sparty," a black Labrador retriever being trained by Canine Companions, another charitable organization that the couple supports.

college to help several seniors pay for their last semester at MSU. The fund also has provided help for students experiencing food and housing insecurity and other financial stressors.

"Gary's gift has truly made an impact," says Lopez. "After receiving the award, students often have the time to focus on their education and their career aspirations without the stress of wondering how they will pay for school."

**LEARN MORE** about supporting the College of Communication Arts and Sciences by contacting Associate Director of Development Melissa Wagasy at [wagasy@msu.edu](mailto:wagasy@msu.edu) or by calling (517) 432-4770.

**READ MORE AT:** [go.msu.edu/LaMonte-Fund](http://go.msu.edu/LaMonte-Fund)



Simone Clasen



Alison Gaudreau

## NEW FACES IN UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT LEADERSHIP

*Clasen, Gaudreau to help build and maintain fundraising momentum*

University Advancement added two advancement professionals, Simone Clasen and Alison Gaudreau, to key leadership roles that will help position MSU for the next chapter in its fundraising success.

As associate vice president for Development, Simone will provide leadership for the corporate relations, foundation relations and individual giving units. As the assistant vice president for Engagement, Alison will oversee the marketing and communications, web services, endowments, donor relations, stewardship and advancement events teams.

Simone has served in multiple leadership roles at Colorado State University over the past 20+ years, rising from an assistant director to most recently serving as the associate vice president for Philanthropic Operations. Simone brings insight and extensive experience from a college and central perspective having worked in both capacities.

For the past seven years, Alison has served as an AVP at Oakland University. While in that role, she was an architect of the university's largest comprehensive campaign. She has a proven track record of utilizing data to enhance overall donor engagement.

"Alison brings an action-oriented mindset, a deeply rooted love for MSU—she's an alum!—and a passion for connecting donors to our mission," says UA Vice President Kim Tobin. "Simone's experience collaborating on principal gifts, building relationships with academic and university leadership, and coaching teams to fundraising success will be an asset in this role."



# THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF PERSISTENCE

*How a community and philanthropy came together to support students in recovery*



Allies for the Collegiate Recovery Community gather at the program's fall tailgate.



Alumnus Bill Piercey and his daughter Amanda.

**B**eing in recovery from alcohol or other drug addiction can be daunting. Starting an organization to help others in recovery requires additional resolve.

Ten years ago, three MSU students stepped up to start a registered student organization—now called the Spartans' Organization for All Recovery (SOAR)—as a way to support themselves and fellow students seeking recovery.

Over the past five years, thanks to community and philanthropic support, MSU has worked to expand its supports to include a Collegiate Recovery Community—a thriving program that can provide the full depth of support students in recovery need to be successful.

Now, a recent \$100,000 cash gift and future \$10 million estate gift, both from alum William (Bill) Piercey, is helping to ensure recovery support for future generations.

Too often, student-initiated recovery programs flounder after a few years—the victims of too much leadership turnover, a lack of community awareness or simply budget constraints. MSU's Collegiate Recovery Community, the CRC, is set to avoid those pitfalls. Critical infrastructure is already in place, including a full-time coordinator, a 24/7 student lounge space and dedicated campus recovery housing. Bill's cash gift created two endowments that are adding to the impact—one supports the staff position and the other is providing funding for new programming. These endowments join previous endowed funds for scholarships and programming of the CRC.

"We are one of the lucky ones in having this level of donor support," says CRC Coordinator Dawn Kepler. "We are especially grateful to Bill Piercey. His support has solidified our program as a part of the university and helped us build community awareness of the importance of supporting students in recovery."

The recovery community is estimated to be about 3% of students. Participants in CRC programming self-identify—with some who have come to MSU specifically for the support offered. The graduation rate of CRC participants is nearly 100% and they hold some of the highest GPAs as well.

Helping students in recovery successfully obtain an MSU degree was exactly what Bill had in mind with his giving.

He recalls his days at MSU as among his happiest. He majored in packaging, joined the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and made lifelong friendships. After graduation, he settled into selling cars in Southfield.

Growing up in Detroit, he didn't envision a future as a Japanese car dealer. But after moving to California in the early 1970s, he saw the growth and potential in Honda. Eventually, he came to own and manage multiple dealerships. "They were fun to sell because of the quality," he recalls. Adding, "And I was always fairly good at what I decided to do."

Throughout the years, he maintained his connections to MSU, particularly enjoying that his favorite Spartan celebrity—Ervin "Magic" Johnson—also became a Californian. "I think a lot of that guy," says Bill. "He makes you proud to be a Spartan too."

His gift to MSU reflects more than his Spartan pride, however. Bill's daughter Amanda struggled with substance use disorder as a young person.

**"WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO BILL PIERCEY. HIS SUPPORT HAS SOLIDIFIED OUR PROGRAM AS A PART OF THE UNIVERSITY AND HELPED US BUILD COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN RECOVERY."**

—DAWN KEPLER, CRC COORDINATOR

That was terrifying. Bill recalls feeling helpless but eventually grateful that she found her way out, in part through the dedication of a skilled counselor. Amanda went on to found and manage a recovery clinic herself, which has grown to include several branches and has helped thousands to recover from addiction. The drive to be "fairly good" at what one decides to do seems to have been handed down from father to daughter.

Bill is tremendously proud of Amanda and was delighted to find a way to support his alma mater that also honored her accomplishments.

"My hope is that this gift will help save lives," he says. "Parents should support this and help it grow."

**LEARN MORE** about supporting the MSU Collegiate Recovery Community by contacting Assistant Director of Development Kyle Schaberg at [schabe23@msu.edu](mailto:schabe23@msu.edu) or by calling (517) 930-3897.



# MORE THAN A TICKET TO RIDE

FOR MANY STUDENTS, “GETTING IN”  
IS ONLY HALF THE EQUATION

Imagine that you’ve been given a free ticket to the world’s biggest, most exciting theme park.

At the gate, a crowd of well-wishers cheers you on, insisting that you’re going to have the absolute best time.

You can go on any ride you want to, visit any attraction that strikes your fancy and take part in cool hands-on activities.

It is sure to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, your well-wishers tell you: fun, enlightening, challenging-but-in-a-rewarding-way, full of self-discovery—and it will mold you into someone who is ready to take on the world!

“Go forth!” the well-wishers say. “And make the absolute most of this incredible opportunity you’ve earned with this coveted ticket!”

At some point, as you’re walking around, exhausted, overwhelmed, possibly even sweaty, you start to think: “Wow. It was nice of them to give me a ticket to come here ... but it would be even nicer if the ticket came with some additional support, something to help me find my footing and some help to make this experience as meaningful as everyone says it’s supposed to be.”

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## This is what the college experience can feel like.

Because you've never been to college before. You're on your own. The map you're given is complicated and you've got questions. You're overwhelmed with tips and tricks but aren't sure who to ask for how to make the most of your time there. There are distractions everywhere. And sometimes you end up waiting in a long line for a ride that didn't contribute as much to your experience as another one might have.

For so many students, the "ticket" (whether it's admission alone, or admission paired with federal financial aid, student loans or scholarships) that helps them get to MSU is only half the equation.

The other half is what to do once they're here. Do they have the tools they need to thrive in and out of the classroom? Do they graduate in a reasonable and financially efficient amount of time? And once they do, do they have the tools they need to thrive in their chosen field? Are they successful?

Much has been said about the broad concept of student success in the last several years. It is a pillar of the MSU 2030 strategic plan, a university-wide goal with six distinct objectives

and a set of illustrative metrics. Those metrics include, among other things, increasing the graduation rate, making sure MSU's environment promotes a sense of belonging and creating more diverse and innovative opportunities for high-impact learning experiences.

On a more granular level, each of MSU's colleges and the departments within them are working to translate those goals and objectives in tangible ways, to promote student success within their respective majors and courses. For example, reimagining certain mathematics courses so that they are more equitable and don't act as a barrier to students who may wish to pursue a degree in a STEM field but may be at a different level of math readiness than their peers.

## And then, there are scholar programs.

There has been a groundswell of support in recent decades for donor-funded scholarships that wrap financial aid and student success initiatives into tidy packages that help students graduate with less debt or pursue learning opportunities that

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## THE DETROIT M.A.D.E. SCHOLARS

Detroit M.A.D.E. offers participants community service and outreach opportunities, mentorships with peers and professionals, dedicated advising, leadership development and preparation for life or continuing education after graduation, and financial support for an education abroad experience.

The program offers high-impact experiences that are tailored to students' interests, including service-learning opportunities in and around the city of Detroit.

Service projects in 2019, 2020 and 2021 brought together over 100 students, staff and alumni of the Detroit M.A.D.E. program to help Detroit-based nonprofit Rescue MI Nature Now with efforts to develop urban gardening spaces that provide fresh food and nature-based educational programs.



Darryl Ervin, '22, turned around and looked over his shoulder at one point during this photo shoot. He took in the monument behind him, the verse from 2 Corinthians carved into the marble, the view of the city up Woodward, smiled really big, and said, "You see all of this? The Spirit of Detroit, the city ... this is me. It feels like me."



they otherwise could not afford, while also offering one-on-one advising, opportunities for hands-on learning experiences and a sense of community and belonging among cohorts of students who share similar values, backgrounds or goals.

Several of these scholarship programs came to be during the *Empower Extraordinary* campaign, which netted \$483 million in support of scholarships. Others, like the 25-year-old STARR Scholars program, have been making an impact since before many of today's first-year students were even born. And others, still, have been created alongside more recent efforts by public universities to address systemic inequities and ensure that every student, regardless of where they come from, has the opportunity to thrive in an academic environment.

Philanthropy is critical to the existence, the success, the flexibility and the staying power of these scholarship programs and their ability to meet the financial, physical and educational needs of students as those needs arise and evolve.

## So let's take our theme park analogy one step further.

Let's say, in the imagined theme park world we've created, that there's an experience you want to have on the other side of the park, but the only way you know of to get there is to ride on a gondola that travels above the park. You will be gliding along in a little hanging car, nearly 100 feet off the ground, for approximately 30 minutes. For some park-goers, this is probably great fun. But for you ... well ... you are extremely afraid of heights.

By yourself, with a map that is hard to understand and no other immediate options in sight, it would be easy enough to say, "I'm afraid of heights! Forget it!" and miss out on the thing you wanted to do on the other side of the park.

But what if a park guide was standing nearby who noticed your distress and offered you some alternative solutions?

Like a friend with a similar fear of heights, who could tackle the challenge with you as you support each other through your fears.

Or some specific coping mechanisms to use once you're in the air.

Or a helpful hint about which gondola car would be most comfortable for you—maybe the green ones offer a smoother ride than the white ones.

Or even an alternative route that helps you avoid the gondola entirely and take a scenic footpath or a horse-drawn carriage or an electric scooter instead.

With all of these options in front of you, you step up to the challenge. You find the option that works for you. You make it across the park.

## Systems make a difference.

Think about all the reasons a person might not be able to make it across the proverbial park—then think about what

systems can be put in place to make the journey more equitable for them.

The Detroit M.A.D.E. Scholars Program is one of those systems at MSU.

The result of a 2016 gift from the Gilbert Family Foundation, Detroit M.A.D.E. (Mastering Academics Demonstrating Excellence) is a program for students who come to MSU from Detroit or are graduates of a Detroit public or charter school. Many participants are also first-generation college students.

Darryl Ervin is all those things—a native Detroiter, born and raised; a graduate of Detroit's Western International High School; and the first in his family to attend college. He was—and is—a lot of other things, too: a husband, a father, the co-founder of a Detroit-based nonprofit he started in high school with a friend.

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## THE GUPTA VALUES SCHOLARS

Created through a \$2.5 million endowment in 2016 by alumnus Shashikant (Shashi) Gupta and his wife, Margaret, the Gupta Values Scholarship offers a \$5,000 tuition award to a cohort of 20 students annually, renewable each year, and could have the capacity to support 600 students per year by 2035. Students are diverse in every way, from their backgrounds to their chosen fields of study, and are selected based on their commitment to the values of integrity, excellence and human dignity—values that have guided the lives and careers of the scholarship's benefactors. Recipients also have access to leadership opportunities and support for off-campus educational experiences. Past recipients have expressed deep gratitude for the "village of support" they have, which includes fellow members of their cohort, a team of dedicated advisors, and Shashi and Margaret Gupta themselves.



**\$2.5M** IN 2016

*has grown to nearly*

**\$3.1M** IN 2022

## THE DOW STEM SCHOLARS

Funded in 2014 through a \$5 million gift from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, the Dow STEM Scholars Program has two main criteria: students who apply must be majoring in a STEM field, and they must have tested into a specific math class (MTH 103A, which is a very common prerequisite for many other math and science courses) on their math placement exam.

At the time the program recruited its first cohort of students in 2015, the six-year graduation rate of STEM majors who took MTH 103A was roughly 30%. With the help of the Dow STEM Scholars Program, 48% of its first cohort graduated within five years—proof that providing students dedicated academic and social support services, prerequisite classes that are more tailored to their needs, and financial support to pursue high-impact learning experiences, research opportunities or education abroad, is a highly effective way to increase their chances of success.

The success of the Dow STEM program's custom-designed math courses was the catalyst for a university-wide change to make some of MSU's math curriculum more accessible to the wide, diverse population of students who need it to pursue a STEM degree program.



He already had a lot on his plate when he came to MSU in the fall of 2018. But he found a sense of community and a support network in the Detroit M.A.D.E. program.

For starters, many of the students in the program lived in South Neighborhood, which, to Darryl, immediately felt like home.

“We all understood each other,” he says of the fellow first-year students he met living on the Detroit M.A.D.E. floor. “We know the streets that we grew up on, the high schools, the rivalries—we had a camaraderie. MSU is a huge place, and it can be easy to get lost, but in South Neighborhood it felt like I was right back on 31st Street where I grew up—like, ‘I’m really with my cousins now!’”

He also had access to a specialized advising team within the Detroit M.A.D.E. program, whose guidance helped him navigate the chaotic transition into college life—things like how to choose classes and build a schedule, or how to take notes properly or study efficiently for exams. They answered all of his questions, and never turned him or any members of his cohort away when they dropped by in need of advice.

But being part of Detroit M.A.D.E. would prove to be even more important and necessary than anybody could’ve predicted as Darryl entered his second year of school.

It is important to note that that year—the 2019/2020 school year—was defined for so many students not only by the COVID-19 pandemic, but by the nationwide wave of events that took place in response to the murder of George Floyd in the spring of 2020.

“There are a lot of organizations on campus that I identified with,” Darryl says. “I majored in accounting, so I had the National Association for Black Accountants. I had the Black Students Alliance. I was in fraternities. And they all supported me in different, important ways.

“But Detroit M.A.D.E. supported me for the fullness of who I am, and for all the identities I held as a Black man on campus.

“During that time, after the George Floyd incident, when everything was happening, it was the Detroit M.A.D.E. family that was checking on my mental health and trying to help all of us get the Black community on campus unified.”

Darryl continues, “It’s hard to explain the level of support that I had in the program. They were there from start to

finish—not just in a ‘we’re here for you to help you figure out your class schedule’ way, but personally. On a personal level. That helped me keep pushing, that kept me in line.”

He also owes a lot, he says, to faith. His faith in God. His faith in himself. And the faith others had in him—not the least of which came from the Detroit M.A.D.E. team.

(Not to get too deep into a totally different metaphor, but Darryl compares the Detroit M.A.D.E. program to bumpers—the ones you use to keep the ball out of the gutter in bowling. “They were my bumpers!” he jokes. “Without them, I probably would have been in the gutter!”)

Darryl graduated with a degree in accounting from the Eli Broad College of Business in December of 2022. He was the student speaker at the undergraduate commencement ceremony. And shortly after celebrating his graduation, he started his first post-college job, as a financial analyst at Deloitte’s Detroit office.

He also has plans—big ones—for the future. Perhaps an advanced degree—or two?—in a topic that interests him, like divinity or law. Trying his hand at policymaking, community building, ministry and always—no matter where he is or what he does—mentoring the next generation of Detroit M.A.D.E. scholars and giving back to the program all that the program put into him.

## Leaving with the feeling that you can take on the world.

So how does a day at the theme park qualify as “successful?” Much the same way as a day—or a yearslong degree program—at Michigan State does.

You got in. Maybe your ticket was even free, or maybe someone offered to cover some of it, to make it easier for you.

You navigated all the experiences you wanted to have, and you liked the ones you chose.

You conquered challenges with support from people who cared enough to help you.

And the rush of adrenaline and pride in yourself that you experienced along the way was enough to make you think that maybe the next challenge life throws at you is conquerable, too.

.....  
**LEARN MORE** about support for students by contacting the Advancement Office in your college or unit, or Senior Director of Development for the Office of Philanthropy for Undergraduate Education Jennifer Bertram at [bertram9@msu.edu](mailto:bertram9@msu.edu) or by calling (517) 432-7330.

## THE VANDERPLOEG SCHOLARS

A portion of alumnus Martin Vanderploeg’s \$17 million gift in 2022 launched the Vanderploeg Scholars Program, which is tailored to first-generation students in any major, for whom navigating college may be especially challenging. Vanderploeg Scholars meet regularly with dedicated advisors, who take an individualized approach to each student’s success and help open doors to additional scholarships, summer bridge programs, mentorship opportunities and study abroad.

**21%**

OF MSU’S STUDENTS ARE FIRST-GENERATION



*“I’m so grateful for everything that this program has done for me, and I’m excited to see where it goes.”*

—Alyssa Konesky, Vanderploeg Scholar

As a second-year student, Alyssa struggled to find scholarships that weren’t directed to new students. She

says she “comes from a low-income family, where money and finance for education is really hard to come by.” It was exciting to receive support from the Vanderploeg Scholars program where she has taken advantage of professional development experiences, got involved in research and bonded with other first-generation students.

## THE STARR SCHOLARS

The STARR scholarship program began in 1998 with a gift from anonymous donors who wished to provide full-ride support to students from Wyoming to attend MSU. Three scholarships were awarded that year. The program expanded to include students in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula in 2012. In its 25-year history, the scholarship has covered tuition, fees, books, room and board, and incidental expenses for 230 students.

**25 YEARS**  
**230 STUDENTS**



Evan Griffis, STARR Scholar and 2023 graduate, came to MSU from Michigan’s Upper Peninsula to major in Fisheries and Wildlife, turning his lifelong love of birding into his future career.



# CONNECTING THE CAMPUS AND COMMUNITIES WITH CREATIVITY AND EXPLORATION

## \$5.5M MSU Federal Credit Union Gift to Support the Arts at MSU

**A** \$5.5 million gift commitment from MSU Federal Credit Union will advance three MSU arts programs over five years and bolster the university's arts strategy.

at the STEAMpower Project, the MSUFCU Arts Power Up to Start-Up program, the MSU Museum's new CoLab Studio, and the College of Music's MSUFCU DREAM Fund.

"As MSUFCU celebrates 85 years of partnership with MSU, we're proud of all we have accomplished together on behalf of campus and community," says MSUFCU President and CEO April Clobes. "We're pleased to continue our support through these creative and innovative projects that will enhance the lives of our members."

The gift includes \$2.5 million for the MSUFCU Arts Power Up Endowment which will fund the two pilot programs.

"We are excited about partnering with MSUFCU on these initiatives. Together, these programs advance MSU's and MSUFCU's commitments to driving change, building opportunities in our communities and empowering youth," says Judith Stoddart, associate provost for University Arts and Collections. "They leverage MSU's strengths in arts and sciences, build on our many successful K-12 arts programs and community partnerships and connect with the university's support programs focused on student success. MSUFCU's long-standing support for arts programs shows its understanding of the transformational impact of the arts in our communities."

### Hands-On Learning

Receiving \$2 million from MSUFCU is the CoLab Studio at the MSU Museum, the next iteration of the former Science Gallery at MSU. MSU partnered with Science Gallery International in 2017 to launch the first Science Gallery in the Americas in Detroit, thanks to a \$1 million grant from MSUFCU. The CoLab Studio represents the evolution of programming and learning at the nexus of science and art in the MSU Museum.

"We are immensely grateful for MSUFCU's substantial investment in the mission of the CoLab Studio, a division for innovation and experimentation at MSU Museum," says MSU Museum Director Devon Akmon. "This catalytic gift will enable new methods for designing and implementing novel, transient and experimental programming, informal learning and community engagement."

A million dollars of the gift will support the College of Music's new Detroit Regional Engagement and Access to Music Endowment, or MSUFCU DREAM Fund. The DREAM Fund is designed to provide sustainable resources to support the College of Music's outreach and engagement programs in Detroit.

"Whether it be our highly successful MSUFCU Jazz Artist-in-Residence program, our career-focused MSUFCU Entrepreneurial Musical Artist-in-Residence program, or other initiatives over the years, the College of Music and the MSUFCU have an extensive history of creative, effective and sustainable collaborations," says College of Music Dean James Forger. "The MSUFCU DREAM Fund is a continuation of that strong partnership. It enhances the lives of many children and youth through access to sequential music education at our Community Music School in Detroit, provides a new and exciting concert series at the MSUFCU Detroit Marquette facility, and supports internships for MSU Music students through research, creative work and mentorship opportunities."

The MSU Community Music School-Detroit has had a significant presence in the city since 2009. With the endowment in place, CMS-D plans to empower Detroit youth through the Aspiring Musician Program and a K-12 sequential music education program, which includes a subsidized tuition program. Funds will also go toward instrument loans for CMS-D students in need as well as an MSUFCU Detroit Arts Leadership Engagement Program and an annual MSU On the Road at MSUFCU Detroit Concert Series.

**LEARN MORE** about support for arts programming by contacting Associate Director of Development Larry Wallach at wallach@msu.edu or by calling (517) 884-1087.



Left to right, Judith Stoddart, associate provost for University Arts and Collections and senior associate dean of the Graduate School; Dianne Byrum, MSU trustee; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., former MSU president; April Clobes, president/CEO, MSU Federal Credit Union; Gregory Deppong, chair, MSUFCU Board of Directors; Devon Akmon, director, MSU Museum and CoLab Studio; James Forger, dean, College of Music.

The new arts strategy will connect the campus and communities with creativity and exploration through three pillars: integrating arts into the educational experience, research, and campus infrastructure and placemaking.

"We are grateful for our partnership with, and the long-standing support of, MSUFCU, which will help enhance the breadth and scope of MSU's excellence in the arts," says MSU Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D. "This gift will expand access and opportunities to engage with the arts and help catalyze MSU's new arts strategy, while also supporting our strategic plan goal to elevate the visibility of the arts at MSU—enriching the student experience and deepening learning with opportunities for creative expression and engagement with cultural experiences."

The gift includes support for the MSUFCU Arts Power Up Endowment, which will fund two pilot programs: the MSUFCU Arts Power Up Arts Residencies

### A History of Support

MSUFCU is one of MSU's largest funders, investing more than \$30 million over its history, half of which has gone to support the arts. Since 2008, MSUFCU has supported programming in the arts that has advanced career readiness, provided opportunities for students to work with high-caliber artists, offered lifelong learning programs in the performing arts and supported residency programs for artists and scholars.

The MSUFCU Arts Power Up Arts Residency at the STEAMpower Project is designed to spark new research and modes of cross-disciplinary learning by bringing artists, researchers and graduate student collaborators together to address global challenges. The second program, MSUFCU Power Up to Start-Up, will provide mentored internships for advanced high school students and MSU undergraduates, building career pathways to a variety of fields associated with arts and culture nonprofits.



# UNIVERSITY TO ADVANCE INFRASTRUCTURE, RESEARCH FOCUSED ON PLANT SCIENCE, GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

## MSU Research Foundation Awards \$5M Grant

**T**he MSU Research Foundation is providing a \$5 million grant to advance its world-class program in the plant sciences and critical research in the mitigation of and adaptation to global climate change.

in addition to recent significant investments by the university and the state of Michigan.

### Specifically, funds will be used to:

- Upgrade MSU's Growth Chamber Facility, which continues to be one of the best in the U.S. Growth chambers allow researchers to control environmental conditions when studying plants, and the grant funds will help update the chambers to increase energy efficiency and capacity while allowing for new capabilities for growing plants in complex environments.
- Acquire and integrate cluster and other hardware and software upgrades for the Institute for Cyber-Enabled Research, or ICER, and its High Performance Computing center. These resources are particularly critical for MSU's remote sensing program, research and precision agriculture.
- Modernize and update the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, or KBS, greenhouse and laboratory complex. KBS, located near Gull Lake, is one of North America's premier field stations for climate change mitigation research in agroecosystems.
- Enhance and acquire state-of-the-art instrumentation for stable isotope ratio mass spectrometry and other core technologies used to determine the environmental sources of greenhouse gases, understand and improve carbon fixation and uncover key plant-microbe interactions.

MSU's Office of Research and Innovation is administering the grant.

Plant, environmental and ecological sciences continue to be flagship programs at MSU and, collectively, are critical to understanding global climate change, environmental degradation and food security. Of the 10 MSU disciplines ranked in the top

50 of the Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2022 by Shanghai Ranking, four fall within the scope of the research supported by this grant. MSU's demonstrated strengths in environmental sciences and engineering (No. 7), agricultural sciences (No. 12), ecology (No. 32) and remote sensing (No. 49) measured against peer institutions enhances its position as a global research leader in climate, agricultural and environmental sciences.

Additionally, 8 of the 10 MSU members of the National Academy of Sciences represent plant sciences or related disciplines, indicating the high caliber of these faculty. Forty-six percent of inventions disclosed to MSU's technology transfer office come from the College of Natural Science and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, indicating a strong correlation to plant and agricultural sciences and interrelated environmental sciences.

Over the past five years (FY 2018 to FY 2022), the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' technologies have consistently generated the largest percentage of royalties received by MSU Technologies, the university's technology transfer and commercialization office.

"The facilities and instrumentation enhancements from this grant will accelerate our progress and retain and recruit the talent needed for MSU to reach and surpass our goal of \$1 billion in annual research expenditures," says Doug Gage, vice president of the Office of Research and Innovation at MSU. "Modern, up-to-date infrastructure is essential for us to recruit and retain a team of scientists to create a diverse, inclusive and welcoming research environment."

The MSU Research Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was established in 1973 and since then has provided more than \$380 million in funding to MSU. It also contributed \$10.2 million for university research for the 2021-22 academic year and budgeted \$10.7 million in research funding for the 2022-23 academic year.

The MSU Research Foundation is governed by a separate board of directors with a strong desire to provide, in addition to its annual grant program, a one-time gift to support an emerging project related to a research topic deemed important to the university. This additional grant, therefore, exists outside of the foundation's normal annual giving to MSU and specifically supports MSU's research excellence and influence.

"Our annual grant to Michigan State is a core tenant of our mission at the MSU Research Foundation," says Randolph Cowen, the foundation's board chair. "Through programs and resources we provide, our organization is the margin of excellence that helps set MSU apart from its peers, and this grant will enable MSU to build on its unique strengths."

Whether it's supporting specific programs within the university like graduate research or faculty recruitment, the annual foundation grants have been used to bolster MSU's reputation as a world-class institution.

"The foundation's ongoing investment at MSU reaches all corners of the campus," says David Washburn, executive director of the MSU Research Foundation, "and this flexible resource provides support to focus on new opportunities to create, learn and grow."

The resources are spread across campus and are generally in line with strategic initiatives agreed upon by MSU executives and the MSU Research Foundation Board of Directors and include technology commercialization, entrepreneurship, faculty recruiting, faculty retention, strategic partnership grants and more. The grants are also tightly aligned with MSU's strategic plan.

### About the MSU Research Foundation

The Michigan State University Research Foundation is a nonprofit research foundation formed in April of 1973 focused on technology commercialization and economic development. The foundation manages an endowment built from decades of intellectual property licensing revenue and provides over \$10 million in research funding to MSU annually. Additionally, the MSU Research Foundation operates subsidiary organizations focused on providing entrepreneurial support and programming, pre-seed and early-stage venture funding, and the Foundation holds and develops incubator facilities and select real estate assets important for entrepreneurs and MSU's corporate relationships.

**LEARN MORE** about support for the College of Natural Science by contacting Senior Director of Development Corey Longley Palmer at [longleyc@msu.edu](mailto:longleyc@msu.edu) or by calling (517) 353-1637.



Left to right, Phil Zecher, chief investment officer and MSU Research Foundation board member; Dave Washburn, MSU Research Foundation executive director; Teresa K. Woodruff, interim president; Melissa Woo, executive vice president of administration and MSU Research Foundation board president; Doug Gage, vice president for Research and Innovation; Doug Buhler, associate vice president for Research and Innovation; Eric Hegg, professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

The grant complements the university's and the state of Michigan's investment in the greenhouse complex and the proposed new plant and environmental sciences building. Additionally, the grant enables MSU to continue its long-standing international leadership in advancing research and initiatives in plant science, environmental and water quality, food security, climate change mitigation and economic development throughout Michigan and around the world.

"Michigan State University is dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary research that will play a critical role in addressing the challenges of climate change and sustainability," says Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D. "This grant will support faculty who are focused on developing innovative solutions for these vexing problems and training the next generation of leaders who will make global impacts in these fields."

The grant aligns perfectly with core elements of the research pillar in the MSU 2030 Strategic Plan and provides critical support in



## \$1.5 MILLION GIFT SUPPORTS BUSINESS AND ENGINEERING

*Claudia Prescott's gift supports the colleges where she and her late husband James earned degrees in the class of 1956*

BY CHELSEA STEIN, PAT MROCZEK

**F**or Claudia Prescott, Michigan State University holds a special place in her heart. It's where she discovered her career path, built a foundation for future success and met the love of her life, James.

"Our paths crossed at just the right time ... and it was at Michigan State," she says, explaining how they first met on a blind date after the fall 1955 school year began. "It was love at first sight, and we found we were a perfect match. MSU meant the world to Jim and I."

After 63 years together, James (B.A. Engineering '56) passed away in 2020. In his honor and to give back to their cherished alma mater, Claudia (B.A. General Business Administration '56) has made a \$1.5 million bequest gift to MSU.

"Claudia Prescott's generosity in honor of her late husband is a testament to the impact MSU had on their lives and underscores a trust in us to build on MSU's excellence," says Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D. "We are deeply appreciative of this gift, which will help ensure that MSU will be as meaningful for the next generation as it was for the Prescotts."

Claudia's gift will be given equally to the dean's discretionary funds of MSU's Broad College of Business and College of Engineering, where she and James earned their degrees. Such funds are critical for the success of each college, allowing deans to address evolving needs and move resources to seize opportunities that directly impact faculty and students.

"We are grateful for this generous gift, which will support the Broad College in its efforts to inspire the future of business, enabling us to create moments that matter for our students," says Judith Whipple, interim dean of the Broad College. "Jim and Claudia's story is one of inspiration and unwavering love and commitment, including for their alma mater."

College of Engineering Dean Leo Kempel adds, "We are inspired by their story, grateful for their vision and committed to helping Spartan Engineers achieve their dreams with their help."

After first meeting along the banks of the Red Cedar, the Prescotts cheered on the Spartans at the 1956 Rose Bowl, where James asked Claudia to marry him. They enjoyed being true Spartan fans over the years, and Claudia hopes her gift today will inspire others to give back to the university.

"Hopefully our support now will not only help the present students but encourage them to give back and help other students," she says. "We hope they realize how important it is to support Michigan State and how it helps them in their life."

Upon graduation in 1956, the Prescotts worked at Chrysler Missile in Michigan before moving to California in 1959. James took a job with General Dynamics and worked in aerospace for 20 years, then for the City of San Diego until he retired in 1998. Claudia was a secretary-executive with the Theodore Seuss Geisel family, working with Dr. Seuss and then with Audrey Geisel for 50 years. Currently, she is the president of the Dr. Seuss Foundation.

**LEARN MORE** about making a gift to the Broad College of Business, by calling (517) 353-4340, or to the College of Engineering, by calling (517) 355-8339 or emailing [egrdevel@egr.msu.edu](mailto:egrdevel@egr.msu.edu).



James and Claudia Prescott



## PHILANTHROPISTS *of the* YEAR *Gerald and Karen Kolschowsky*

**T**his year, the award was presented to Gerald and Karen Kolschowsky for their steadfast commitment to transform lives and development work in Africa.

Karen Kolschowsky is a 1963 graduate of the College of Education. Jerry, who earned his degree from Iowa State University in 1962, is the retired chairman and co-CEO of OSI Industries, LLC, a company that, with his help, became one of the world's largest providers of meat and poultry products to global customers.

Throughout their lives, Karen and Jerry have traveled the globe and, in their travels, have seen firsthand the impact of poverty. Their desire to make a difference by reducing poverty, promoting resilient communities and improving people's lives through sustainable agriculture motivated them to partner with MSU.

Together, the Kolschowskys have given significantly to MSU in support of the university's work in Africa. They are co-founding benefactors for the Tanzania Partnership Program (TPP), which is the first initiative of the Partnerships for Sustainable Community Development (PSCD), a program housed in MSU's Office of International Studies and Programs.

The partnership is a long-term collaborative alliance of local and international organizations dedicated to improving local livelihoods. The partnership's goal is to promote a sustainable

livelihood and improve the resilience of individuals and communities with a focus on addressing issues of hunger and poverty. The Kolschowsky family has traveled to Tanzania several times to witness the impact of their philanthropy and MSU's program in action.

The initiative has been life-changing in many ways: student attendance and performance increased due to school lunch programs and improved facilities, drinking water was made safe and more available with rehabilitated water tanks and new boreholes, the construction of a cattle dip dramatically decreased disease, among many other notable impacts.

The Kolschowskys' top priority is to ensure that the work of the program creates a demonstrable impact in the lives of others, but they're also committed to cultivating future generations of change agents. The Tanzania Education Abroad Program allows students from MSU and partner Tanzanian universities to learn hands-on how sustainable development is practiced. Jerry and Karen's living legacy continues to transform lives and inspire students to make great changes in the world.

The Philanthropist Award is given every fall at the MSU Alumni Grand Awards Gala in recognition of those who have demonstrated outstanding philanthropic responsibility toward MSU, and whose generosity inspires others.





John and Becky Duffey

## SEEING THE LONG VIEW

*Philanthropy doesn't start and end with the gift*

In fact, for most donors, gifts are years in the making—inspired and made possible by any number of defining experiences—and their passion and joy lasts for as long as they're able to continue watching the ripple effect.

For MSU alums John and Becky Duffey, that ripple effect has reached nearly every corner of campus in their 40-year history of giving.

Together, the Duffeys have supported the construction and renovation of some of MSU's most iconic athletics facilities, created scholarships for student-athletes in basketball and football, and funded the creation of an endowed professorship in the School of Hospitality Business (see right).

They have dedicated both financial support and time to countless other causes at MSU, including serving as volunteers and members of the Athletic Director's Campaign Leadership Council and the campaign board for the Eli Broad College of Business during the *Empower Extraordinary* campaign. Additionally, Becky was featured as a panelist at MSU's Women and Philanthropy Symposium last June.

If you take the long view of what's to come thanks to the Duffeys' generosity, you'll see the aftereffects of giving will be years in the making—perpetuating a cycle of defining experiences for the next generation.



Karthik Namasivayam mountaineering in Switzerland.

## SURE FOOTING FOR THE NEXT STEP

*Duffey Professor of Hospitality Business leads with focus on the future*

Karthik Namasivayam joined The School of Hospitality Business, Broad College of Business in August 2021 as the John and Becky Duffey Professor of Hospitality Business and Director. Prior to joining MSU he served as professor and chair of the Department of Hospitality Management at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Prior to RIT, he was associate dean for undergraduate programs at Switzerland's École Hôtelière de Lausanne.

"I have been fortunate to live and work in some of the most sought-after travel and hospitality destinations in the world:

Switzerland, the Maldives, India and the U.S. In addition to learning from each country's acclaimed hospitality businesses, I acquired a love of high-altitude hiking in Switzerland," he says.

"The best lesson I learned relevant to building a strong career or business came from my Swiss mentor: the Alps are unforgiving to those who lose focus. Each step we take on the trail has to be sure. Hiking and climbing are always about the next step up.

"Preparing for the future similarly is always about paying attention to the anchor foot and to where the next step is placed. Especially in these changing times, driven by technology, we need firm footing but equally need to figure out where to place our next step."

Karthik's research explores the intersection between service providers and consumers and has been widely published in leading hospitality and marketing journals. Consistent with the evolution of the hospitality industry, he researches the impact of various new technologies on consumer experience and consumer-centric organizational design.

Karthik speaks Tamil, Hindi, German and a bit of French and Italian. He is a keen high-altitude hiker, mountaineer and amateur photographer.

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**LEARN MORE** about supporting the Broad College of Business by contacting Senior Director of Development Sean Mulligan at [mullig39@broad.msu.edu](mailto:mullig39@broad.msu.edu) or by calling (517) 432-7440.



**THANK YOU!**

## ONE DAY. ONE GOAL. ENDLESS GRATITUDE.

On Give Green Day, you contributed more than \$1.287 million to dozens of MSU funds, programs and causes—including the Spartan Strong fund and the Support Our Spartans emergency fund—that will make a difference in the lives of our students.

The MSU community is grateful for this incredible show of support, friendship and love from Spartans around the globe.





**Developments**

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



From left: Russ White, Dr. Aron Sousa, Ridgway White and Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha

# MSU's First Named Department

*The Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health set to elevate response to health disparities*

The Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health—previously the Division of Public Health—is the first fully philanthropically named department at MSU, thanks to the ongoing support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

On a recent episode of the podcast "MSU Today with Russ White," Aron Sousa, College of Human Medicine Dean; Mona Hanna-Attisha, Associate Dean for Public Health and C. S. Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health; and Ridgway White, CEO of the Mott Foundation, discuss the visionary partnerships and important community-based research happening.

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**LISTEN TO LEARN MORE:** [go.msu.edu/mott-public-health](https://go.msu.edu/mott-public-health)