



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

# OUR IMPACT

SUMMER 2013



60 YEARS OF GIVING  
DOESN'T BUG MO NIELSEN

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION \* MASTERS OF FATE \* HISTORY MAKES HISTORY

# YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

## A LEGACY OF GIVING, 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Officially, Mogens “Mo” Nielsen’s generosity to MSU began with a gift of \$5 in 1953. He hasn’t missed a yearly gift to MSU since 1967—a history of continuous giving that is unmatched by any faculty, staff or retiree donor.

These longtime annual gifts often supported the Department of Forestry where he earned his degree in 1950 and launched a long, productive career in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. But, he has also significantly supported the Department of Entomology, where his love of nature and MSU coalesced into a lifelong pursuit of avocational lepidoptera—the enjoyment, study and collection of butterflies, moths and skippers—in close partnership with MSU entomologists.

Over six decades, he has contributed countless hours of time and nearly 75,000 specimens to MSU’s Albert J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection while his cumulative and steadfast cash gifts have helped provide needed discretionary funds to maintain the collection.

“Mo’s influence is everywhere in this collection,” says Gary Parsons, collection manager. “His passion for discovering new information, collecting and sharing his knowledge, has had a profound impact and we are grateful for his devotion.”

Upon his retirement in 1988, Mo was appointed adjunct curator of Lepidoptera at MSU. Eight years

later, Professor Emeritus Fred Stehr invited Mo to accompany him on a month-long journey through Brazil to collect butterfly specimens, a testament to Mo’s prowess in the field.

In 1999, Mo published *Michigan Butterflies and Skippers: A Field Guide and Reference* through MSU Extension. The 252 page guidebook, detailing more than 150 species, was a labor of love worthy of his reputation among lepidopterists.

That Mo has also contributed to the field and MSU’s entomology programs with annual gifts comes as no surprise to former MSU President Gordon Guyer.

“The value to future students and researchers of the specimens alone that Mo Nielsen has provided is beyond measure,” says Guyer. “That his commitment extended to annual cash gifts to support the collection is yet another part of his tremendous legacy.”

Mo says he never did anything for recognition.

“I give specimens, my time and money to simply share my love of nature with the next generation,” he says. “It’s like so many things in life. You plant a seed and can only hope it will grow and sprout.”

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### MAKING A GIFT

To discuss how you might remember MSU, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at (800) 232-4678 or (517) 884-1000.

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

## DO YOU HAVE AN IRA?

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, an incentive allowing U.S. taxpayers to transfer funds from their IRAs directly to Michigan State University without recognizing the distribution as income, has been enacted for 2013.

This means individuals age 70.5 and older may transfer amounts up to \$100,000 from their traditional IRAs or Roth IRAs directly to qualified charitable organizations such as MSU without claiming the distribution as ordinary income or a charitable deduction. As in years past, IRA Charitable Rollover gifts may satisfy the owner’s required minimum distribution.

Learn more by calling the MSU Office of Gift Planning at (517) 884-1000 or visit the website below.

**Click! [givingto.msu.edu/irarollover](http://givingto.msu.edu/irarollover)**





# MASTERS OF FATE

“Michigan State University has a history of excellence in integrating its world-grant mission to apply its teaching, research and outreach toward improving the social and environmental condition of humanity.”

Barbara J. Sawyer-Koch, MSU Trustee Emeritus

Rest assured that the Earth’s fragile environment will be in good hands—thanks to the Koch family.

Donald (Don) F. Koch, MSU professor emeritus of philosophy, and Barbara J. Sawyer-Koch (’90, M.P.A., Social Science), a former MSU trustee, have established several significant current and planned gift endowment funds to encourage today’s students and tomorrow’s leaders to understand the critical need for societal changes and take the necessary steps to prevent further destruction of the Earth’s fragile environment.

The Fate of the Earth endowment they recently established will bring noted world scholars to MSU to speak about sustainability, with programs taped for sharing electronically worldwide.

The endowment will also create cross-disciplinary “expert pods” of faculty members who will be called upon to provide an environmental perspective for diverse courses across campus. It will support an annual Donald Koch Distinguished Lectureship and a

graduate assistantship to facilitate these programs.

In alignment with the Fate of the Earth Endowment, the Kochs also established the Koch Environmental Studies Spartan Scholarship Challenge awards in 2010.

Overall, the Kochs’ cash and planned gifts—totaling more than \$3 million—will establish these and other endowments, including a special endowment fund for the MSU Libraries, a scholarship fund in the College of Osteopathic Medicine for students committed to serving rural areas in Michigan, and a supplemental discretionary fund available to the Office of the Provost.

“Michigan State University has a history of excellence in integrating its world-grant mission to apply its teaching, research and outreach toward improving the social and environmental condition of humanity. It is that university commitment that inspired us to select MSU as the institution most capable of proactively addressing environmental issues impacting the fate of the Earth,” says Barbara. “Moreover, we wish to pay

forward our indebtedness to the university for enhancing our lives in so many varied and impactful ways.”

**WHO:** Students like Liz Brajevich, a fisheries and wildlife freshman and one of 245 students in MSU’s Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment (RISE) program, are preparing to lead global sustainability efforts with new endowment support.

“I want to be a national leader in my field and work to create effective management strategies and policies that respect our planet and our people” says Liz. “I know that being a part of RISE will shape my time at MSU and prepare me for my future.”



# LARGEST GIFT HONORS MUSEUM LEGEND

The Berryman MSU Museum Curator of History Endowment established by Julie Avery, Stephen Stier and Val Berryman with a \$1.9 million gift—the largest in the museum’s history—will create its first endowed curatorship.

A new curator position for the MSU Museum’s historical collections will be created thanks to the vision and generosity of three of the museum’s own.

Val Berryman, shown here with a stereoscope from the last exhibit he led, died in January, after serving nearly 50 years as curator of history for the museum. His estate gift of \$1.2 million has created the fund that eventually will be added to through the estate plans of Julie Avery and Steve Stier, longtime colleagues of Val’s.

“This is a fantastic gift that will ensure the museum’s historical programs are strong and vibrant into the future,” says Gary Morgan, director of the MSU Museum. “There is no better way for Val’s name to be remembered.”

Julie recently retired from the museum, where she held several positions: assistant curator of history; curator of rural life and culture; education director; and acting museum director. Steve has held a research associate position with the history and folk arts units of the museum since 1995, focusing mainly on traditional building trades.

The endowed curator position will foster a study of history and interpretation through museum exhibitions and programs, helping society to shape its future.

“The past must be understood before we can understand the future,” notes Steve. “When curators study and interpret man-made things, the objects tell a story of innovation and change,” Julie adds.


*For information on making a gift to the MSU Museum, contact Director of Development Annie James at [jamesan@msu.edu](mailto:jamesan@msu.edu) or call 517-884-1065.*

**Click: [givingto.msu.edu/MSUmuseum](http://givingto.msu.edu/MSUmuseum)**



The MSU Museum is the science and culture museum at MSU and the state’s first Smithsonian Institution affiliate. The new endowed curatorial position, anticipated to come into being within the next decade, is funded through the realized estate gift of Val Berryman. Val died in January after serving nearly 50 years as curator of history for the museum. The fund will grow through the estate plans of Val’s longtime colleagues: Julie Avery and Steve Stier.

# SPARTAN SENTINELS

As faculty, staff and retirees, you lead the way for others to invest in MSU.  Click! [givingto.msu.edu](http://givingto.msu.edu)



Every year two MSU faculty in Integrative Studies in the Arts & Humanities are selected by their peers for the Fintz Award for Teaching Excellence, thanks to an endowment provided by Ken Waltzer to honor his father, a natural teacher. Waltzer's support for MSU faculty continues with current gifts that are helping to create a faculty professional development fund in Jewish Studies.

"I am happy to give to the university to highlight the hard work of faculty colleagues and to support faculty professional development and growth. I particularly wish to honor excellent teaching and to offer opportunities to faculty that might not otherwise be there."

Kenneth Waltzer, Professor and Director, Jewish Studies Program



Support for MSU goes deep and wide with Glen Brough, one of the 2013 Jack Breslin Distinguished Staff Award winners and a member of the All University Campaign Cabinet. Together with his wife, April Clobes, he has created endowments to support scholarships, dance performance, Spartan Marching Band and the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum as well as providing expendable support for a variety of arts and enrichment programs campus wide.

"MSU is home, and for my wife and me it just seems so right to provide funding for things that are important and significant to us," says Brough. "Michigan State University is family, and when we give back it is like giving to family."

Glen Brough, Assistant Director, Office of Admissions, and Visual Coordinator, Spartan Marching Band



Being a part of MSU for many years, Drs. Yash Pal and Saroj Kapur realized a need to increase awareness of India. The Kapur endowment, established at the Center for Asian Studies in 2001, increases understanding of India—US relations and highlights the legacy of Mohatama Gandhi. The funds support a lecture series on related issues, recently with an emphasis on the power of nonviolence and Gandhi. Additionally, the Asian Indian Endowment was started in MSU's Service Learning Center in 2006 for the education of underserved children, on behalf of area Indians with significant support by the Kapurs. The endowment helps MSU students encourage STEM education among children attending Lansing Boys and Girls Clubs.

"Indians support education and this way, they pay back to the community, in the area of their strength," says Saroj Kapur.

Drs. Saroj and the late Yash Kapur, Professors Emeriti, College of Human Medicine

*Share your story or nominate a fellow Spartan who's making a difference and we'll share it with the Spartan Nation. Please email your story or nominations to [univdev@msu.edu](mailto:univdev@msu.edu).*

# YOUR ANNUAL SUPPORT ADDS UP TO **SOMETHING BIG!**

During the fiscal year 2012,  
faculty, staff and retiree donors numbered

**6,306**

and committed to MSU a total of

**\$18.07m**

**1,801** faculty, staff and retirees like you gave in the 2012 All University Campaign, of which, **148** were new donors. A total of \$374,849 was given.

**154** donors earmarked **\$7,248.20** to the MSU Promise Scholarship Fund during the 2012 All University Campaign.



You are  
the **ONE!**

Each spring, the MSU Annual Fund's All University Campaign contacts faculty, staff and retirees like you to provide critical financial support for MSU. In fact, MSU's employees and retirees are among the most generous in the Big Ten.

Because you help MSU maintain its historic vision, while boldly driving the big solutions for Michigan and the world, you are the one! And your All University Campaign gifts make a difference in a very real and tangible way.

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