

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

OUR IMPACT

WINTER 2016



Retirees *at* Work

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION • FROM HOMELESS TO HONORED

Retirees *at* Work

New scholarship fund will support the children & grandchildren of MSU faculty, staff & retirees

They may have retired from their positions at MSU, but members of the MSU Retirees Association (MSURA) certainly have not retired their determination to make a difference on campus. So they created the MSURA Student Scholarship, to support children and grandchildren of MSU retirees and employees.

“We wanted to have a role in *Empower Extraordinary*,” says Chuck Webb, director of development for the Retirees Association, “and creating a student scholarship was the right thing to do.”

It didn’t take the passionate group long to reach their initial goal of \$50,000. Less than a year after the idea to create the endowment first surfaced, a university committee is already reviewing applicants to award the first scholarship for spring semester 2016.

Their immediate success has Webb excited for what’s to come. “Hitting our initial goal has created a terrific base for more growth. It was the vision and support of the Retirees Association board of directors (pictured on the cover) that launched this, and it is that same vision and support that will keep the good momentum going.”

For more information on supporting the MSURA Student Scholarship fund, contact Senior Director of Development Jennifer Bertram at bertram9@msu.edu or call (517) 432-7330.

To make a gift to the MSURA Student Scholarship fund, visit givingto.msu.edu/2082

HOMEGROWN SPARTANS

Some of the “Future Spartans”—all children of MSU employees—who could benefit from the new scholarship fund.





1B Milestone

MSU has reached an important milestone in the *Empower Extraordinary* campaign to support students, faculty, research and facilities. To date, we've raised more than \$1 billion. To meet our goal of \$1.5 billion, we need your help.

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FROM HOMELESS TO HONORED

Raeuf Roushangar escaped social injustice and homelessness on his journey to becoming an MSU student, the founder of an international charity, and the recipient of one of the nation's most prestigious graduate fellowships.

Raeuf, a doctoral student in the lab of physicist and geneticist George Mias, was recently awarded the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, an honor placing him in an elite community of past fellows including U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy.

It's a long way from where he started.

Raised by his mother in Egypt, Raeuf excelled as a student yet was suspended from Cairo University because of his Bahá'í faith and non-Egyptian nationality. He believed getting to the U.S. was his chance for a college education, but he spent his first six months homeless in Grand Rapids. He found his way to the city's community college where he became a math and chemistry tutor, eventually transferring to MSU.

"I didn't have the support system most students have," he says.



An early and critical source of support came from the Pamela J. Fraker Undergraduate Endowed Scholarship. Even more than the needed financial help, Raeuf says the recognition gave him the strength he needed to keep going.

"It makes you feel like you exist. Once you get recognized it is like feedback and you want to do more," he says, adding that there also was a life lesson in receiving the award. "It gives you the sense that when you reach a better place, you want to help your fellow man."

He wasted no time. In his first year at MSU, Raeuf founded Generate Help 2 Heal

Above: Pamela Fraker, MSU University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of biochemistry and molecular biology

Right: Raeuf Roushangar, Soros Fellow and MSU graduate student

Generations, a student group that has sent more than \$750,000 in needed medical supplies to communities worldwide.

Pamela (Pam) Fraker, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of biochemistry and molecular biology, established her scholarship in 2010.

"In my 40 years at MSU I have never met a student who has accomplished as much with so little as Raeuf," Pam says. "It was an honor to provide a student like him some financial help."

Raeuf's research focuses on "omics" technologies and their applications in personalized precision medicine. He works to create new computational methods that can help track the response to diseases, which may aid in early detection and diagnosis. In short, he hopes to play a role in revolutionizing medicine.

To learn more about supporting University Scholarships and Fellowships, contact Senior Director of Development Jennifer Bertram at bertram9@msu.edu or call (517) 432-7330.

View more of Raeuf's story at go.msu.edu/roushangar





Bill and Linda Trevarthen met as a pair of humanities students in a Shakespeare class and now pay tribute to the place that brought them together.

NEVER WAS A STORY MORE OF GOODWILL THAN THIS OF THE TREVARTHENS, LINDA & BILL

Like many great contemporary novels, movie plotlines, or smash-hit stage productions, Bill ('72, Justin Morrill College and Honors College) and Linda ('73, Education) Trevarthen's story has Shakespearean roots.

No, really. They met in a Shakespeare class. And on their first date to see the Zeffirelli-directed version of *Romeo and Juliet*, the tragic end for a pair of star-crossed lovers in Verona became the happy beginning for a pair of humanities students at MSU.

Now, Bill and Linda are paying tribute to the place that brought them together, and the shared passion for history, culture and art that bonded them, with three future endowments—to the MSU Museum, the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, and the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities—which will be funded through their estate plans.

"It's hard to think about where your money is going to go after you die, because it's hard to think about dying. Nobody wants to think about that!" Bill says. "But giving takes the sting out of it. Because you know, once you're gone, what you've left behind will do great things."

"We began giving back to MSU very soon after obtaining our BAs," says Linda. "It wasn't a huge amount, but enough to give us Presidents Club status and get us connected with other donors when we were just in our early twenties. Payroll deduction was easy; being in the Presidents Club was fun; and we felt, well, proud of being 'continuing donors.' But who knew that the real fun and excitement would begin the moment we decided to make specific estate gifts and suddenly see, firsthand, some of the things our bequest could accomplish!"

In Fair East Lansing, Where we Lay Our Scene

Early on in their life together, they realized they were having too much fun in the Lansing-area cultural scene to stray very far.

Linda landed a job on campus at the MSU Testing Office, where she soon worked her way up to the position of testing services manager, earning a master's degree in literacy development from MSU along the way. Under her leadership, MSU became the first four-year institution to earn full certification from the National College Testing Association.

Bill worked in publishing for many years before becoming the executive director of Michigan Government Television (MGTV), a statewide television network funded by Michigan's cable television industry that covered the Michigan House of Representatives, Executive Branch, and Michigan Supreme Court.

Besides their geographic proximity to MSU, they stayed close to the community in other ways. Bill served on the board of directors of the College of Arts and Letters Alumni Association and volunteers with the MSU Museum. For many years and in many capacities, including that of president, Linda served on the board of directors of the Friends of Kresge Art Museum. Both Linda and Bill are also past presidents of the former Opera Company of Mid-Michigan, which had strong ties to MSU.

Oh, MSU, the More They Give to Thee, the More They Have

At the Broad Art Museum and the MSU Museum, the Trevarthens' gifts will provide discretionary funding. "When you work with an organization like that," Bill says, referencing the time he and Linda have spent volunteering with the MSU Museum

and the former Kresge Art Museum, "you realize that there can never be too much discretionary funding, and you also gain a lot of trust that the organization will put it to good use when they have it."

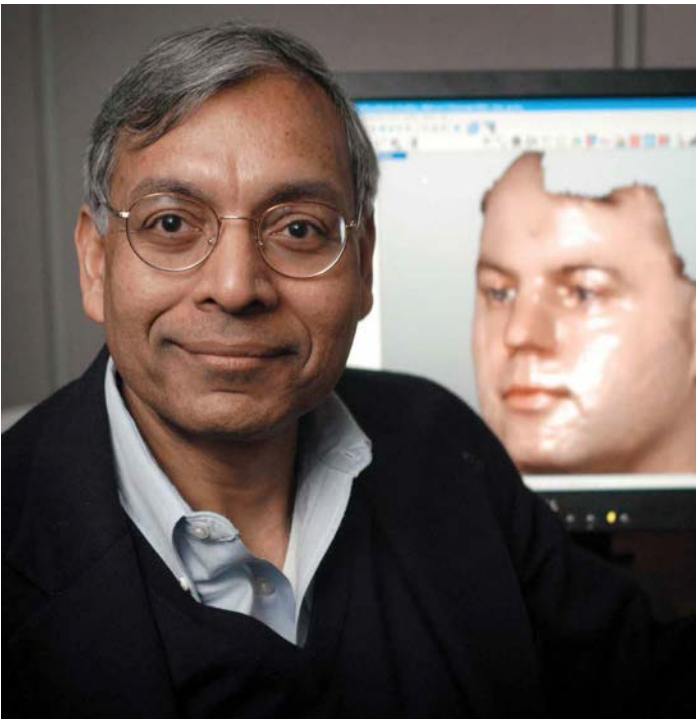
They also created the William Charles and Linda Stock Trevarthen Endowed Scholarship for the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities to support students who share their dedication to the humanities.

"People often say that the literary canon, the great artists, philosophers, and writers are no longer relevant and that there's no real use in studying them. But everything—everything—we encounter in art and culture today has roots that go back to that body of art, literature and philosophy. Our familiarity with these works is essential to our ability to look at the world in its current state and understand how we got here," Bill says.

And in a way, their decision to give back to MSU is Shakespearean in its own right. In the same way the Bard's body of work will forever influence literature, film and theater, the Trevarthens' legacy will forever support history, art and culture at their alma mater.

For more information about supporting the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, contact Director of Development Annie James at jamesan@msu.edu or call (517) 884-5997.

GIVING RECOGNITION



Anonymous gift grows thanks to its namesake, Dr. Anil Jain

With a recent \$400,000 cash gift, an anonymous alumnus of MSU's Pattern Recognition and Image Processing (PRIP) Lab created the Anil K. Jain Endowed Graduate Fellowship.

The international businessman and professor, who was a visiting scholar to the PRIP Lab in the early 1980s, says that his time working in the lab under the mentorship of Dr. Anil Jain, University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, is the reason he's so successful today.

Honored by this gesture, Jain is supplementing the endowment with \$100,000 of his own. With \$500,000, there is enough to fund one PhD student, but Jain hopes the endowment can grow to support many more, so he's made it his mission to encourage other PRIP Lab alumni to contribute, too.

Alumni of Jain's program are all over the world, working in academia, software and technology, security and corporate research labs; and nobody knows the value of financial support when pursuing a PhD as well as they do.

"Fellowships like this help attract high-ability students. They allow students to focus on their research and their studies without worrying where the money will come from," Jain says.

The field of biometric and pattern recognition has advanced by leaps and bounds since Jain first came to MSU 41 years ago, and many of those advancements have taken place right here on campus, in the PRIP Lab, where Jain and his team of researchers and students are working to make this type of technology smarter, faster and more robust.

For more information on how you can support the College of Engineering and the Jain Fellowship, contact Senior Director of Development Stephen Bates at batesst@msu.edu or call (517) 355-8339.

Helping Hands

A fund in the MSU College of Law enabled faculty, staff and retirees to give back to one of their own.

Called the Helping Hands Fund, it was created by faculty and staff to one day support a college employee who faced a catastrophic situation or medical emergency. Recently, that day came when a colleague, Ann Scholten, was diagnosed with lung cancer. The Helping Hands committee mobilized to grant Ann the balance of the fund to help with expenses.



Ann Scholten and her family

"I, along with my colleagues, felt a strong need to give back to help a member of our extended family," says Barbara O'Brien, faculty in the college and member of the committee. "It felt amazing to provide it. We all know someone who has had cancer and it is frightful. Giving back feels great, serves a purpose and encourages others to do the same."

To learn more about supporting the Helping Hands Fund, contact Director of Development Tina Casoli at casoli@msu.edu or call (517) 432-6842. There is also a crowd funding page for Ann at www.gofundme.com/wqcxkhnc.

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“I WAS PROUD TO BE AFFILIATED
WITH MSU, AND I AM PROUD
TO BE A RETIREE. I LIKE GIVING
HERE BECAUSE I CAN SEE
WHERE IT’S GOING. AND I
BELIEVE IN MICHIGAN STATE.”

KATHY LESSARD

MSU Retiree



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