FAST start toward Faculty Careers

In its first year, the FAST Program—for Future Academic Scholars in Teaching—facilitates ten doctoral students in their quest to become scholars of teaching and learning as well as disciplinary research scholars.

“There’s a national need for programs like this,” says Rique Campa, who coordinates the program. “Not all Ph.D. graduates will focus primarily on research in their careers. Some will teach at liberal arts colleges; some will go into business. We need to diversify their experiences as part of their professional development. Skills learned while teaching will transfer to many kinds of positions.”

In the last decade or so, awareness of teaching has heightened in higher education, says Kevin Johnston, who directs MSU’s Teaching Assistant (TA) Program. He cites increasing requests for a statement of teaching philosophy in job announcements. “There’s a culture change under way.”

Programs like FAST, as well as increases in career planning workshops and other support for TAs are part of the Graduate School’s “holistic effort to provide professional development for graduate students and create a coherent umbrella for all the training opportunities,” Johnston says (see the January 2006 issue of The Graduate Post http://grad.msu.edu/all/gps06.pdf).

“This program is a step toward improving science and engineering education nationally,” adds Mark Urban-Lurain, a member of the FAST steering committee. “We’re affecting future faculty, and we’re also raising the visibility of research on teaching around campus.”

The idea for the FAST fellowships grew out of the MSU Graduate School and the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL), funded in 2003 by a grant from the National Science Foundation to the University of Wisconsin, Michigan State University, and Pennsylvania State University. CIRTL is creating a model interdisciplinary professional development program in teaching and learning for graduate students, postdocs, and faculty in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
CIRTL is built on three fundamental concepts, called pillars (http://www.cirtl.net). These pillars also undergird the FAST program.

- **Teaching-as-research** — STEM instructors use research methods to develop and implement teaching practices that advance the learning experiences and outcomes of both students and teachers.
- **Learning communities** — groups are linked for shared learning, discovery, and generation of knowledge.
- **Learning-through-diversity** — the rich array of experiences, backgrounds, and skills among STEM students and instructors enhances the learning of all.

Monthly meetings of the FAST fellows and steering committee members create a learning community dedicated to the scholarship of teaching and learning. Meeting topics include information on where to find research articles on teaching and where to find organizations—such as special interest groups in professional associations—of people who talk about teaching. The steering committee also invites guest speakers, usually other MSU faculty, to share their teaching experiences and their research on teaching and learning.

Each fellow is planning a research project that will, according to Campa, essentially turn their classrooms into labs where they will assess the effectiveness of a method they develop to help their students learn. For many of the fellows, the first step was to learn how to conduct this different kind of research. Scholarship on teaching and learning, the fellows found, has new educational terminology and a very different study design from their dissertation research. The faculty noted the fellows’ ambitious early ideas. “They tended to start with very big questions,” Urban-Lurain recalls.

“Their initial ideas for projects tended to be the sort that would take ten years and a research team with a big grant to accomplish,” Speer agrees. “We worked with them to narrow their focus and articulate a question or issue, to think about data they might collect and how it might refine the question, and how that revised question might refine the type of data they need,” she adds. An ANGEL site enables them to review each others’ proposals and continue discussions begun in their meetings.

FAST steering committee members assist students in preparing applications for human subjects approval. “The IRB process is an important step for STEM students to understand,” says Campa. “We want to make sure they are well prepared for teaching as research activities.” The overall FAST program also has IRB approval as the Graduate School conducts research on the effectiveness of this fellowship program on student readiness for academic careers.

Research on teaching likely involves data drawn from interviews and students’ written responses, Speer notes. “The fellows need to learn how to categorize that data before they can count and analyze.” One of their monthly meetings will be a workshop to help them process their data.

The steering committee has helped the fellows find faculty mentors who will work with them on refining their project proposals and guide them through execution of the project and its assessment. Next year the steering committee will collaborate with Duncan Sibley, director of the Center for Research on College Science Teaching and Learning (www.msu.edu/~rcrstl), to help identify potential projects and mentors for the fellows.

At the end of the year-long fellowship, fellows are expected to present their project results at a conference or in an academic journal or both. FAST fellows receive $1,000 stipends for travel to present their results or for other costs associated with their projects, plus additional fellowship funds. CIRTL and the Graduate School split the cost of the program. Fellows will also make presentations in a final session for each other and faculty involved in the program.

As the students are learning to assess their teaching, the FAST steering committee plans to assess the program. “We’ll survey and interview the students to determine what they learned, how they change, whether the program affected their behavior in looking for jobs,” Campa says. “We want to know if they found it valuable. We think the experience will make them more competitive for faculty positions.

“The fellows are an insightful group,” he adds. “They brought great experience to the program. It’s been fun to watch them develop.”

“We’re excited about this program,” Urban-Lurain says, echoing other steering committee members. “The students are enthusiastic, too.”
Update on Development Activities for the Graduate School

BARBARA BALL-MCCLURE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

This has been a busy and exciting year for development activities for the Graduate School and throughout the University!

First, on behalf of the Graduate School, I would like to introduce Maura Benton, the Assistant Director of Development for University Scholarships and Fellowships. Maura had been working with the Broad College of Business at Michigan State University for six years. Her experience with annual giving, special gifts, and the class gift campaigns in the Broad College of Business will give her a strong base from which to build in this new role.

Second, in early October Michigan State University celebrated the conclusion of the “Campaign for MSU.” The campaign began with an announced goal of raising $1.2 billion. On Friday, October 5, 2007, President Lou Anna K. Simon announced that MSU had finished the campaign with a grand total of $1.439 billion! Following are the original goals and specific accomplishments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campaign Objectives:</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Final Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expendable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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*(Cole/Eustace Hall Honors College Renovations)*

Even though the Campaign for MSU has officially ended, University Scholarships and Fellowships will continue to increase our efforts to raise money for general student support at the undergraduate and graduate levels at Michigan State University. In order to continue to fulfill our American Association of Universities (AAU) land grant mission of inclusion based on economically, socially and geographically diverse populations, we must have more student support money available for years to come.

MSU has a University Distinguished and Enrichment Fellowships program that is used to recruit the best and brightest graduate students to our university. This support comes from general fund dollars and can only be used for domestic student support. Our goal is to increase the dollars available for this program through private donations. Also, we would like to raise the funds necessary to endow a similar fund that can be used to recruit outstanding international graduate students to MSU on a university-wide competitive basis. If you received support as a graduate student through an assistantship or fellowship, please take the time to consider what you can do to help students of the future by making a gift to one of these endowments.

If you are interested in learning more about existing endowments or how to start your own endowment to support MSU students, please contact me at 517-432-7330 or ballmccl@msu.edu.

“The response to this campaign was extraordinary. Michigan State alumni, friends, faculty, staff and retirees clearly showed their commitment to the mission and values of this great institution,” said MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon. “Their enormous generosity will help secure the future for the next generation of Spartans and position MSU to meet the global challenges of the 21st century.”
IRA Assets Help Loyal Alumni Support to the Graduate School and MSU

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides owners of IRAs—individual retirement accounts—an incentive to give a charitable donation using their retirement assets. Prior to the Act, donors who made charitable gifts with IRA assets had to report the amount to the Federal Government as taxable income, and then report the donation as a charitable deduction. The Act contains a Charitable IRA Rollover provision which affords the donor not only a tax benefit, but more importantly allows potential donors who meet certain criteria a simple one step option to support their favorite non-profit organization or educational institution.

In effect for 2006 and 2007 only, the Charitable IRA Rollover allows donors age 70 ½ or older to direct a distribution from a Traditional or Roth IRA directly to a qualified charity. There is a limit of $100,000 per year. The charity immediately benefits from the gift, and the donor is able to make a simple transfer with an instant impact.

Les and Dorothy Manderscheid, who live in East Lansing, have a strong bond and a long history of service to Michigan State University. They recently took advantage of the new IRA Charitable Rollover. The incentive allowed them to fund three new endowments on campus: the Manderscheid Discretionary Graduate School Endowment, the Manderscheid Endowed Fund to support Agricultural Economics, and the Manderscheid Mathematics Library Endowment. All three funds represent areas that are important to the couple.

Dr. Manderscheid’s affiliation with MSU began more than 40 years ago. During his tenure, he has made many contributions to the field of agricultural economics as a teacher, advisor, mentor, and researcher. He has also played a vital role in the development of the MSU Graduate School and University Fellowship programs. Dorothy joined MSU Library system in 1989 as a science librarian and was the branch librarian for the Mathematics Library from 1989 to 1999.

“Dorothy and I have been affiliated with Michigan State since 1956,” Dr. Manderscheid explained. “I spent over 40 years in Agricultural Economics, and after working with hundreds of graduate students there, I accepted a part-time appointment in the Graduate School to implement a new university-wide fellowship program. That gave me a chance to enhance graduate programs across campus.”

“We decided to use the IRA rollover option because it gave us a chance to support three programs of importance to us,” Dr. Manderscheid said. “In addition, there were some tax advantages, and we could reduce tax-related paperwork in the future.”

The Manderscheid’s decision to support the Graduate School and MSU through the IRA Charitable Rollover option will make an immediate impact. Endowed funds grow over time, and the benefit will be felt for years to come.

If you would like more information on the IRA Rollover option, endowed funds, or learn of other ways to support the Graduate School at MSU, please contact the Office of University Scholarships and Fellowships Director of Development, Barbara Ball-McClure at (517) 432-7330.
MSU CASTL Fellows Engage with Learning

On the surface, a link between a new residential college for undergraduates in arts and humanities and waiting lists for professional development programs for graduate students might not be obvious. But when the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) (www.grad.msu.edu/castl) called for proposals for its Leadership Program, Stephen Esquith, Acting Dean of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH), and Karen Klomparens, Dean of the Graduate School, made the connection.

Among its goals, the CASTL program (www.carnegiefoundation.org/general/index.asp?key=21) aims to involve undergraduates in classroom research projects and introduce graduate students to the scholarship of teaching, learning, and engagement. How students learn from social, civic, and political activities is one of CASTL's themes.

“Engaged learning is a cornerstone of the residential college,” Esquith says.

Esquith and Klomparens assembled an institutional leadership team to submit a proposal to the CASTL Leadership Program. They outlined a plan that included fellowships for doctoral students, funded by MSU’s Graduate School, to become scholars of teaching, learning, and engagement and then to carry what they learned into the residential college environment to teach and mentor the undergraduates.

“Graduate students are eager to be better teachers, and they’re willing to put intellectual energy into thinking about teaching,” says Colleen Tremonte, Associate Professor in James Madison College, who worked with graduate students as a Carnegie Scholar in another Carnegie program. “They love to learn themselves, and they want to find the best way to construct a learning environment for their students.”

Judith Stoddart sees the same thing in the graduate students eager for the professional development programs she organizes as part of her appointment as Assistant Dean in the Graduate School. “We fill workshops and seminars with more than a hundred students and still have waiting lists for the programs,” she says.

After the CASTL proposal was accepted as one of seven from institutions (including international universities) addressing the graduate education theme, the MSU team solicited applications from doctoral students interested in the scholarship of teaching, learning, and engagement. They selected ten fellows from 35 applicants based on academic achievement, commitment to a career involving teaching, and interest in the areas of world language proficiency, the visual and performing arts, and civic engagement—the pillars of the RCAH curriculum. “We were very pleased with the number and the quality of the students who applied,” Esquith says.

The fellows come from a range of disciplines with interests in languages, aesthetics, music, education, political science, and geography. The fellows are developing scholarly projects of their own that can result in a paper or conference presentation. Topics range from a study of how English as a Second Language (ESL) students understand and use English articles (a, an, the) to development of a

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Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH): An overview

Small classes. An interdisciplinary curriculum. Maximum student-faculty contact. Informal learning opportunities in co-curricular activities. Spontaneous events. Impromptu discussions about books and movies. These are some of the characteristics of the new undergraduate Residential College in the Arts and Humanities opening next fall.

“RCAH will focus on different ways of knowing,” says Acting Dean Stephen Esquith. One of them is creative experience. All RCAH students will participate in workshops taught by MSU faculty or visiting artists. Mark Sullivan in the College of Music, for example, anticipates workshops that allow students to explore aesthetic theory as they think about how to talk about art works and present them. Other workshops might become experiments in mixing sound, video, and narrative.

The RCAH curriculum will also have a civic engagement component. “It could be study abroad or elsewhere in the U.S.,” Esquith says. “It might be a community project at a local historical society or with migrant families.” The goal, he adds, is mutual cooperation and learning between the students and the community.

RCAH students will also gain proficiency in a language other than their native one. In addition to traditional language classes, students will engage in co-curricular activities that immerse them in the language and culture so they may acquire the proficiency to communicate fluently with people from other cultural backgrounds.
teaching packet examining conflicts over natural resources through student role play.

That diversity can help the fellows be better teachers, Stoddart says. “You can learn a lot from talking with people who are teaching different kinds of courses with different content.” The CASTL fellows are also learning about curriculum design. “They’re actually designing an innovative curriculum for the RCAH,” Stoddart says.

Fall semester, the program’s first, the fellows and the faculty on the advisory committee are meeting every other week to discuss teaching and learning. They read and discuss scholarly articles on pedagogical theory, ethical issues in classroom practice, and the ways adults learn, drawing from psychology and neuroscience. “We discuss how this research applies to the plans for the residential college and look for new ways of teaching,” Stoddart says. “The fellows are talking about how they’ll measure outcomes of something that may seem vague to them, like civic engagement, and how to assess language learning in less traditional ways.” They also explore models of best practices and ways to assess whether students are learning what teachers think they’re teaching.

“We’re going through the book How People Learn,” adds Mark Sullivan, Associate Professor in the College of Music. A 2000 publication of the National Academies Press, it is a report by the National Research Council Committee on Developments in the Science of Learning. A recent discussion covered the chapter on how students use what they already know to learn new information. “We talked about approaches to improve this process and what might interfere with it,” Sullivan recalls. “And we talked about how to build this knowledge into their teaching practice.”

“It’s exciting to talk to committed graduate students who are excited about research on teaching,” Sullivan adds. “Explorations on teaching are often utilitarian and focus on immediate goals.”

“This is an exciting new program,” Tremonte adds. “The fellows have input and ownership at multiple levels, and they’re making a real contribution to the RCAH.”

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Development Travel

Katherine Kelly, Student Development Assistant
The Graduate School

Two women. One car. 2,000 miles. No, this isn’t the plot of the next new blockbuster (although we’d like to think that audiences would find MSU Graduate School employees interesting).

In July, Karen Klomparens, Dean of the Graduate School, and Barbara Ball-McClure, Director of Development for University Scholarships & Fellowships, decided to redefine the great American road trip. They commenced a 2,000 mile, ten day journey across three states. Beginning in Boulder, CO and ending in Kalispell, MT, Ball-McClure and Klomparens traveled across the West to meet with over one hundred fifty retired faculty and friends of MSU.

Each day meant two new cities. Ball-McClure and Klomparens hosted lunches, dinners, and dessert receptions in well-known locations such as The Brown Palace in Denver, and in unique local institutions, such as The Mint Bar in Belgrade, Montana. As a special treat, they were able to meet graduates living in the Aspen/Snowmass area at a special home-cooked meal hosted by former MSU President John DiBiaggio and his wife, Nancy.

Each city brought its own special character and atmosphere to the events. Ball-McClure and Klomparens happened on Frontier Days in Cheyenne, Wyoming, which lent a sense of excitement and anticipation to the whole city, plus an inch of rain in one hour that flooded the streets. Their trip through Montana coincided with the development of several forest fires, resulting in interesting detours allowing them to see more of this beautiful state.

While each event was unique in its own special way, all were united by the Spartan spirit which prevailed. The talk was casual and the company was entertaining. Alumni of all ages and walks of life talked of traveling the world, settling down to raise families, building their own businesses, and enjoying retirement, as well as sharing stories of their own MSU experiences. Ball-McClure and Klomparens were able to share news from campus and discuss MSU’s plans for the future.

The events also served as opportunities for alumni to meet fellow Spartans located in their area. Several individuals spoke of interest in forming alumni associations. Many new friendships were born and connections were made.

Ball-McClure and Klomparens travel the country often, usually in conjunction with presentations and meetings Klomparens attends as Dean. Their journeys take them coast to coast, and even outside the country. They enjoy these opportunities to meet with fellow Spartans and share their passion for Michigan State University and higher education. Who knows where they’ll end up next- in your town, perhaps?
The University Scholarships and Graduate Fellowships Federation – a Collaborative Approach

**The Challenge**

Since 1960, state appropriations have declined nationally for public universities. In Michigan, appropriations went from 80% of the total University budget to roughly thirty-35% by 2005. The impact at Michigan State is felt all over campus, as budgets tighten and undergraduate and graduate tuition increase. In order to improve our ability to attract and support undergraduate and graduate students, a “federation” of offices was organized to raise funds for scholarships and fellowships. This will not only help alleviate the overall cost to students, but will also attract and retain the very best students.

The University Scholarships and Graduate Fellowships Federation is taking a collaborative university-wide approach to fundraising. The alliance is comprised of the Graduate School (Karen Klomparens, Dean and Associate Provost), Undergraduate Education (Doug Estry, Dean and Associate Provost), the Honors College (Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, Dean), the Provost’s Office (June Youatt, Senior Associate Provost), Academic Services (Linda Stanford, Associate Provost), the Office of Financial Aid (Rick Shipman, Director) and the Office of Admissions (James Cotter, Director). Its mission is to increase endowed scholarship and fellowship funds to benefit and support both undergraduate and graduate students. According to Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, Dean of the Honors College, “a solid scholarship base is key to attracting and rewarding exceptional undergraduates.”

All members serve on an advisory committee with Barbara Ball-McClure, (Director of Development for University Scholarships and Fellowships) and Maura Benton (Assistant Director of Development for University Scholarships and Fellowships) to share ideas and provide guidance. The entire group of administrators is very committed to raising general scholarship and fellowship funds to benefit MSU students.

**A Focus on Graduate Student Fellowships**

MSU’s focus on scholarly inquiry depends on the enrollment of talented graduate students. The emergence of a global research agenda and MSU’s desire to be counted among the most prestigious universities in the world demand that the faculty recruit the best students. Our ability to compete with other top-ranked research universities, especially the private universities, is a challenge because we lack endowed fellowship funds. Institutions with deep endowments can offer better fellowship awards, and students often choose the program with the best overall package. If we wish to attract the best students, we must provide a steady stream of financial support to students now and in the future, regardless of need.

The Dean of the Graduate School focuses on development activities and fundraising for graduate fellowships. “My efforts are on behalf of faculty in all the graduate programs on campus,” explained Dr. Karen Klomparens. “As the public-private university funding gap increases, it is important for MSU to keep pace by increasing our fellowship endowments.”

If you would like more information on endowed fellowship funds, or to learn of other ways to support the Graduate School at MSU, please contact the Office of University Scholarships and Fellowships Director of Development, Barbara Ball-McClure, at (517) 432-7330.

**If you are interested in making a gift online to Michigan State University, please visit the secure website at:**

http://www.givingto.msu.edu/give.html
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Mission of the Graduate School
To serve as an advocate for graduate education to the University and beyond
and to enhance the quality of graduate education at MSU in all its diverse dimensions.

Fall 2007 Alumni Issue

CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

http://grad.msu.edu/gradpost.htm

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Graduate Student Recognition

Travel Grants Recognition and Research Enhancement
Awards are now listed exclusively on the web at
http://grad.msu.edu/gradpost.htm.

Dean Karen Klomparens travels to Viet Nam for a ribbon cutting ceremony
officially opening the CTU-MSU Center for Innovations in Education.

Left to right: Dr. Christopher Wheeler, Professor in MSU’s College of
Education; Ms. Tonia Weik, Deputy Press and Cultural Attache, U.S.
Consulate, Ho Chi Minh City; Dr. Karen Klomparens, Dean of the
Graduate School and Associate Provost, MSU; Dr. Phung Thi Nguyet-
Hong, CTU-MSU School-Community Project Coordinator and MSU
Alumna; Dr. Nguyen Anh Tuan, Rector, Cantho University.

MSU Alumni at the Colorado home of former MSU President John DiBiaggio
and his wife