

THE GRADUATE POST

The Graduate School Newsletter at Michigan State University

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FROM THE DEAN



This edition of the Graduate Post is focused on graduate students and the importance of fellowship support to their success. In fact, graduate fellowships contribute not only to individual student success, but also to the success of our collective research enterprise, our faculty, and MSU in general. I can also make the case that fellowship support over a long period of time can also have a positive impact on you, our alumni and their families, as well as society in general. The advanced education that our students receive in their graduate programs is then put into practice across every sector of society. Similarly, the research that is conducted by all doctoral students and many Master's degree students, along with their faculty advisors, results in important improvements in K-12 education, nutrition and health, agriculture, nursing, social work, engineering and business processes, environmental science, our understanding of ourselves, and all of the other research areas at MSU.

The Graduate School recently received our first fully-endowed University Distinguished Fellowship. Blake and Mary Krueger from Grand Rapids endowed this fellowship earlier in the Spring semester. An incoming PhD student in Industrial/Organizational Psychology—one of MSU's longest-running number 1 graduate programs as reported in U.S. News and World Report—will be the first Krueger University Distinguished Fellow. This significant contribution to graduate education will make a difference over the years by providing financial support to a cadre of excellent doctoral students. Those graduate students will go on as leaders in their fields helping to solve the nation and the world's most pressing problems. A big thank you to Blake and Mary Krueger for their leadership!

In addition to endowed and University fellowships, there are also externally-funded fellowships open to students. You can read about the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships in this edition of the Post. Many MSU undergraduates, as well as MSU graduate students, were very successful this year with their NSF applications for graduate fellowships. We congratulate our NSF award winners and their faculty mentors!

Please also read about charitable remainder trusts—just one of the many ways that you can support graduate students through endowed fellowships. Supporting fellowships not only supports our brightest graduate students, but also supports our collective futures.

Karen L. Klomparens

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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

KRUEGER GIFT CREATES MSU'S FIRST DONOR-FUNDED DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP

The generosity of two Michigan State University alumni will bring an elite graduate student to study at MSU. Blake and Mary Krueger, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, created MSU's first donor-funded University Distinguished Fellowship with a private donation of \$1 million donation this April. The University Distinguished Fellowship is a leadership program designed to attract and support the next generation of researchers and problem solvers.

The Blake and Mary Krueger University Distinguished Fellowship will be awarded annually to one of MSU's most talented new doctoral students, beginning in the fall of 2014. The fellowship will provide for tuition, health insurance and a stipend for the graduate student for the five years of his/her doctoral program. University Distinguished Fellowships are valuable tools in recruiting the best and brightest graduate students to study at Michigan State.

"Graduate students are the cornerstone of a strong research program and are critical building blocks for excellence in every academic area," says Karen L. Klomparens, Associate Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School. The Krueger Distinguished Fellowship will allow MSU to recruit the best domestic doctoral students to study with our talented faculty at MSU. Much like recruiting top athletes, our faculty need to compete nationally to recruit top doctoral students to study here. And recruiting the best graduate students can also help attract the top faculty to come to MSU.

"It is our hope that this fellowship endowment will allow MSU to attract graduate students that they would not have otherwise been able to bring to study at Michigan State," says Blake Krueger. "It is important for us that our alma mater continues to

MSU BOASTS ITS LARGEST CLASS OF NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS

By Stephanie Cepak, Honors College & National and International Fellowships and Scholarships Office

<http://nifs.msu.edu>

Eighteen new National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows from Michigan State University have been selected for 2014 - the largest class of fellows at MSU since the program began in 1952.

There are 31 NSF fellows active on the East Lansing campus, which is also a record-setting number for the university.

"I'm very proud of our graduate students and their faculty mentors," said Karen Klomparens, dean of the MSU Graduate School and associate provost for graduate education. "This is triple the number of NSF Graduate Research Fellows since I became Dean of the Graduate School in 1998."

The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program is the country's oldest graduate fellowship program



be able to compete at the highest levels in graduate education."

Blake and Mary met as undergraduate students at MSU. Mary obtained a BS from the College of Natural Science in 1977, and a second BS from the College of Engineering in 1979. She went on to obtain an MS in engineering management from Western Michigan University, and then worked as an engineer for the State of Michigan's Air Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality before retiring to stay home with the couple's four children. Blake graduated from as a member of MSU's Honors College in 1975 with a BA in business administration. He went on to obtain a JD at Wayne State University in 1978. He received magna cum laude honors in both degree programs. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board, CEO and President of Wolverine World Wide, Inc., a New York Stock Exchange listed international marketer of footwear, apparel and accessories.

Blake and Mary are both very active in the Grand Rapids community, participating in many volunteer efforts. They are viewed as Spartan leaders in West Michigan for their devotion to their alma mater. They believe strongly in the mission of higher education, working to involve others in supporting the work of Michigan State University, and are proud to establish the first donor-funded University Distinguished Fellowship at MSU.

that directly supports graduate students in various STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields.

NSF Graduate Research Fellows benefit from a three-year annual stipend of \$32,000 along with a \$12,000 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees (paid to the institution), opportunities for international research and professional development, and the freedom to conduct their research at any accredited U.S. institution of graduate education they choose.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Here are some related stories from the Graduate School.

- See the full list of MSU's 2014-2015 NSF GRFP Fellows at MSUToday: <http://bit.ly/msunsf2014>
- See how well MSU has competed in the NSF GRFP over the years at: <http://bit.ly/posts14supp>

BRINGING THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

If you were to walk in to the Academic Affairs suite of the Graduate School on any given day in February through April, you would find a staff in the midst of a flurry of activity. Early spring marks the time of year when the Graduate School is processing nominations for the University Fellowships Programs.

The University Fellowships Programs are designed to enhance recruitment of graduate students to Michigan State University. The programs provide financial support for outstanding students who plan to enroll in a doctoral or master of fine arts program. There are two award categories: University Distinguished Fellowships and University Enrichment Fellowships.

These awards are first and foremost leadership awards, recognizing the special role graduate education plays in training the next generation of leaders in academia, government and the private sector.

The process for awarding these University Fellowships takes four months to complete and involves many individuals within the Graduate School and throughout MSU's campus. Here's a look at the steps behind-the-scenes:

- Students apply in December to doctoral programs or master of fine arts programs for admission in the fall of the following year.
- Departments and colleges review their degree applicants in late January. They choose individuals to nominate for University Fellowships.
- The University Fellows Advisory Committee, composed of sixteen faculty members representing graduate programs across campus, reviews the applications and recommends to the Dean of the Graduate School those individuals they feel are most deserving of a University Fellowship.
- Students have until April 15 to accept the offer of a University Fellowship.

ANATOMY OF A UNIVERSITY FELLOW



The selection criteria for the University Fellowship Program includes:

- Demonstrated academic excellence
- Research goals well matched to department or program doctoral emphasis areas
- Evidence of leadership potential or the capacity to make a distinctive professional or scholarly contribution
- Contribution to a diverse educational community
- A record of overcoming obstacles (in the case of University Enrichment Fellowships)

THE MANY FACES OF STUDENT SUPPORT

On Sunday, April 14, Katheryn Amann was honored with the Outstanding Master's Student award from the Knight Center for Environmental Journalism at the MSU School of Journalism Awards Convocation. Nick Blaskowski, another journalism masters student, has had work appear on the Focal Point television show and on the Great Lakes Echo news site. Brooke Sauchak, a former diver on the MSU women's swimming and diving team, returned to MSU to pursue an advanced degree in human resource and labor relations. Ronald Jackson will travel to South Africa this summer in order to work on dissertation research focusing on the history of Apartheid.

What do these graduate students have in common? All of these students, and many more, have benefited from the support of fellowships funded through gifts made by alumni and friends in support of graduate education at Michigan State University.

There are many ways to support graduate education at Michigan State University. Some methods involve a cash gift or a stock contribution. Donors may choose to give to existing funds or may opt to create their own endowment if they meet certain donation level requirements. There are also options for including the Graduate School in estate plans. Another option is the Charitable Remainder Trust, which benefits MSU, you as the donor, and your family.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

A charitable remainder trust is an estate-planning tool that provides a lifetime income and immediate tax benefit for you and your family, while also allowing you to support charitable causes important to you, such as graduate education. Cash, stocks, bonds and/or property are the assets most commonly used to fund a charitable remainder trust. You choose the beneficiaries of your trust (yourself, your spouse or other important individuals in your life). These beneficiaries receive an annual income payment based on the value of the assets placed in the trust, for the duration of the beneficiaries' life or for a set time period (not more than twenty years). Once that time period ends the remaining assets in the trust are paid to the chosen charitable beneficiary.

There are also tax benefits available to the donor in the year the trust is funded. To learn more about the charitable remainder trust and other planned giving options, please see the resources section of the University Scholarships & Fellowships Advancement website: <http://supportforstudents.msu.edu/resources>. If you have any questions or would like to discuss ways you can include MSU's Graduate School in your estate planning, please contact Jennifer Bertram, Senior Director of Development, at bertram9@msu.edu or at 517-432-7330.

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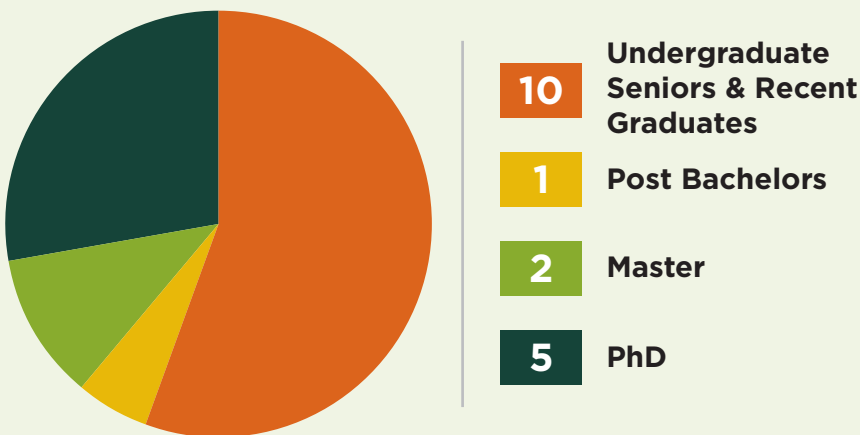
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NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS BY STUDENT LEVEL

MSU had 18 new National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships Program recipients chosen in the 2014 class. Here is a breakdown of the awards by student level. Read more about the NSF-GRFP on page 2 of this issue.

2014 MSU NSF-GRFP AWARDS BY STUDENT LEVEL



SOURCE: NSF GRFP FASTLANE DATABASE: [HTTP://BIT.LY/MSUNSEGRFP](http://bit.ly/msunsegrfp)

MISSION

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.

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