

# THE GRADUATE POST

The Graduate School Newsletter at Michigan State University

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Congratulations to Our 2014-2015  
Graduate Fellowship Recipients  
.....  
Dean Karen Klomparens  
to Retire June 30  
.....  
Program Highlights From  
This Academic Year  
.....  
Making Changes for Modern Times  
.....

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## FROM THE DEAN



After 20 years in the Graduate School, I am retiring as Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for Graduate Education. On July 1, 2015 I will be appointed as Senior Advisor to the Provost at 25% time for the next 2 years.

It has been a privilege to serve as Dean of the Graduate School for more than 17 years. Graduate School staff have worked as partners with many faculty, staff, graduate students, and postdocs to help improve quality, increase diversity, and provide many career and professional development opportunities. These partnerships with colleges, as well as many other offices on campus, such as the Writing Center, CSTAT, Admissions, Registrar, Financial Aid, Counseling Center, Olin, Human Resources, IT Services, Office of Planning and Budgets, Career Services, as well as others, have been very rewarding. Together we've made many improvements that you can read about in this issue of the Graduate Post, and there is more work yet to do.

A special thank you to all the graduate associate deans, graduate program directors, graduate secretaries/coordinators, and COGS officers over the years. Your dedication to graduate education and graduate students has been terrific. I can't imagine working with a finer group of people. I know that the interim dean and, after a search, the dean, will be in a good position to continue the leadership role of the Graduate School even as I depart.

Graduate education is a key component of education and research at AAU/ Land Grant universities like MSU. With our more than 12,000 graduate and graduate-professional students, MSU faculty members prepare the workforce for the present and future, not only for Michigan and the U.S., but globally. Currently, the Graduate School staff oversee 5 externally-funded grants that total nearly \$1.75M. These support a variety of career and professional development and diversity programs for graduate and graduate-professional students, as well as postdocs. I know you will be able to depend on the Graduate School to continue these programs in the future.

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2014-2015 GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

The 2014-2015 academic year saw many successes for our graduate students and graduate professional students in terms of fellowships. We saw our largest class of National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows ever awarded at MSU, with 19 fellows and 19 honorable mentions. We named Derrick Stobaugh, a doctoral student studying organizational psychology, as the first Blake and Mary Krueger University Distinguished Fellowship, our first fully endowed donor-funded fellowship. Raeuf Roushangar, a doctoral student studying biochemistry, received one of The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, a prestigious fellowship honor contributions of immigrants to the United States. We had the privilege of hosting TIAA-CREF for a reception announcing David M. Walton as the 2015 recipient of the TIAA-CREF Ruth

Simms Hamilton Research Fellowship. We also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the University Distinguished Fellowship and University Enrichment Fellowship programs by welcoming members of the inaugural class of fellows to campus in the fall. We congratulate all students who received these and other fellowships this year. Your success is our success!

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

- PhD Student Receives TIAA-CREF Fellowship: <http://bit.ly/hamilton15>
- MSU Sees Largest Class of NSF Graduate Research Fellows Awarded: <http://bit.ly/msunsf15>
- MSU Student Shunned in Egypt Wins Coveted PhD Soros Fellowship: <http://bit.ly/soros15>

## DEAN KAREN KLOMPARENS TO RETIRE JUNE 30

*By Katherine Kelly, Communications Manager*

<http://grad.msu.edu>

Anyone tasked with summarizing Dean Karen Klomprens' time at Michigan State University would be overwhelmed. She has been on this campus since the early 1970s, and has worn many hats and touched many lives in the process.

Klomprens obtained her BS in 1972, her MS in 1973, and her PhD in botany in 1977. She received the W.G. Fields Award for Teaching Excellence in 1976 and the MSU Excellence in Teaching Citation in 1977 while serving as a teaching assistant. She began work as an academic specialist in the Center for Electron Optics immediately after completing her doctorate. In 1980 she was named an assistant professor and director of the Center. She became an associate professor in 1985 and a professor in 1994, all the while maintaining her role as director of what would become known as the Center for Advanced Microscopy, and serving in the Departments of Botany and Plant Pathology and Entomology, and the Pesticide Research Center.

In 1994, Klomprens was awarded a Clare Hall Sabbatical Fellowship and a Fulbright Fellowship to study at Cambridge University. Upon return to our campus, she took on the role as Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Welfare in the newly configured Graduate School. She would serve in that role until 1997, when she would be named Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for Graduate Education.

The role she stepped in to was charged with being the "principal advocate for graduate education" at MSU, and included various responsibilities, such as reviewing and monitoring graduate programs, improving the training of teaching assistants, establishing a university level competitive fellowship program, assisting with the recruitment and retention of a diverse pool of graduate students, coordinating and improving the graduate application process, and assisting units in improving their graduate handbooks.

To Klomprens, the best way to accomplish all of that is to enable good people to do good work. "I view the role of the Graduate School and the Dean/[Associate] Provost less as a 'manager' and more as a facilitator, cheerleader, and service-provider to augment the activities of the faculty," she said.

Her strategy has been effective. Under the last 18 years of her leadership the Graduate School has seen a lot of transition in an effort to keep up with changing times. (See page 3.)

Throughout her tenure Dean Klomprens has worked to represent the Graduate School and Michigan State University to the broader public. She has served in several regional and national leadership roles, including: two years each as Chair of the Big Ten (CIC) graduate deans group, a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Graduate Schools (AAU), a member of the GRE Board, and on the Professional Science Master's Board of Directors; three years on the Executive Committee for the Council of Graduate Schools; and five years on the Board of Directors for the Council of Graduate Schools.

Klomprens has also demonstrated the importance of collaboration on campus. In her role she has served as a liaison to the University Graduate Council. She has coordinated collaborative efforts with departments, including the Plant Science Initiative and the Certificate in Business and Communications Skills. She also coordinated the collection of data and auxiliary materials, and oversaw the writing of the report, for the MSU institutional accreditation process in 2004-2006.

Dean Klomprens once said that her goal was that "the Graduate School will be the resource unit that departments, colleges, faculty, staff and graduate students look to for leadership in providing information and data, timely programs, insights on current and future issues in graduate education, and educational programs beyond disciplinary topics of relevance to students. This is a goal that one never reaches, but always reaches towards."

In my opinion, that perfectly summarizes her approach to her work at MSU. As Spartans, we can do great things, but there will always be more to do. On behalf of the staff of the Graduate School, thank you Dean Klomprens for your leadership over the last 18 years, and for leaving us with a goal to reach towards. We wish you luck in your future pursuits!

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

This has been an active year for the Graduate School. Here are a few highlights from our many programs and initiatives.

### TEACHING

In the fall the Graduate School launched Inside Teaching MSU to provide a network for teaching assistants and graduate students interested in teaching. Through in-person and social media-based networking, students can share their ideas and experiences and start to build their professional network.

This spring the Graduate School will once again run the Certification in College Teaching Institute. The summer will see the first occurrence of the revamped and reorganized teaching assistant orientation programs.

### CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This winter we completed a doctoral student career needs survey, updating and expanding on one conducted ten years ago. This survey data will help us to modify existing programming and create new programming to meet the training needs of our students.

Associate Deans Rique Campa and Judith Stoddart were invited to present a workshop at the Council of Graduate Schools

53rd Annual Meeting in December. Their presentation, "Career and Professional Development: Connecting Student, Faculty and Institutional Needs and Outcomes," featured the work they've done with [careersuccess.msu.edu](http://careersuccess.msu.edu).

### LIFE & WELLNESS

The Graduate Student Life & Wellness team continued their programming this year, including a Leadership Academy and a Graduate and Graduate Professional Student Appreciation Week.

### GRANTS

Programs during the 2014-15 academic year were supported in part through many grants brought in by the Graduate School. These included: NSF Center for Academic and Future Faculty Experience (CAFFE); NSF Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP); NSF CIC AGEP Postdocs; NSF Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Expanded Network; CIRTL Widening Implementation and Demonstration of Evidence-based Reform (WIDER); and NIH Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST). For more information about these grants, please visit: [grad.msu.edu/tgsgrants](http://grad.msu.edu/tgsgrants).

## MAKING CHANGES FOR MODERN TIMES

*The Graduate School took its current configuration in 1994 after recommendations made by the Council on the Review of Research and Graduate Education (CORRAGE). Here are some highlights, showing how much graduate education and operations within the Graduate School have changed in the last twenty years.*

- A conflict resolution program was started in 1997, and has been taught on campus & in special sessions at universities around the country. It was the subject of a Council of Graduate Schools best practices publication in 2008.
- The Certification in College Teaching program was created in 1997.
- The hooding ceremony for doctoral students was incorporated into the advanced degree commencement ceremony in 1998.
- The Responsible Conduct of Research series was started in 1999 with 8 participants, and has grown to 350 students for the 2014-15 academic year.
- Graduate applications moved online in the late 1990s, and the graduate application process was streamlined in 2000.
- The MSU Postdoctoral Office and the Office for Graduate Student Life & Wellness opened in 2009.
- The thesis and dissertation process was transitioned from print to electronic submissions in 2010. The Graduate School processes more than 750 thesis and dissertation documents, on average, each academic year.
- A seven-year initiative led to the development of the most comprehensive professional development program for graduate students and postdocs in the United States. (See [careersuccess.msu.edu](http://careersuccess.msu.edu))
- GradPlan & GradInfo web apps were developed in 2013. One helps PhD students track their progress and the other centralizes data in an effort to assist faculty with training grant proposals and data-based decisions for program improvement.
- The Survey of Responsible Research Practices was implemented by MSU in cooperation with the Council of Graduate Schools in 2009 and 2014. MSU is the only school to have repeated the original survey and we actively use the data.
- The PhD Completion Project in 2010 was a part of a national Council of Graduate Schools effort to evaluate admissions criteria, determine if those criteria lead to eventual student success, measure completion rates and find a way to address attrition rates.
- The 21st Century Dissertation initiative with the University Committee on Graduate Studies led to innovations including the ability to add a public abstract (making research more accessible) and add previously published articles as chapters (making writing more efficient).
- The Graduate School offices were consolidated from various locations into the renovated Chittenden Hall in 2014, allowing for easier access to the many services and programs offered by the Graduate School.

# THE GRADUATE POST

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## CHITTENDEN HALL RENOVATION RECEIVES HIGH HONORS

Chittenden Hall was chosen as the recipient of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network 2015 Building Award as a recognition of an outstanding building preservation project completed within the past three years. A special tribute in recognition of the honor was signed by State Senator Curtis Hertel, Jr., State Representative Samir Singh, and Governor Rick Snyder.



PHOTO CREDIT: MSU COMMUNICATIONS AND BRAND STRATEGY

## 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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