

From the Acting Dean

Enhancing and Expanding Our International Programming



As we go to press with this issue of *MSU International*, MSU is celebrating its sesquicentennial and a time of transitions. In January 2005, Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon became MSU's twentieth president. Dean John K. Hudzik is on leave from ISP as acting provost until a permanent provost can be selected.

As president, and previously as MSU provost, Dr. Simon has provided vision, leadership, and support for enhancing and expanding MSU's international programming,

on campus and around the globe. MSU is engaged in multiple initiatives to realize this vision, including a nearly completed review of area studies at MSU; a self-study of the internationalization of the university as part of MSU's decennial re-accreditation; impact assessment projects on international learning, study abroad, and integration of study abroad into majors; a review of MSU's integrated studies curriculum; and consideration of a new residential college with a substantial international focus.

This issue of *MSU International* documents some of the breadth and depth of MSU's diverse international programming. You will find coverage of MSU's growing engagement in China, highlighting the participation of Dr. Simon and other prominent MSU representatives in the Global Food Safety Forum and related activities. We celebrate award-winning international programming at MSU, including the prestigious Goldman Sachs Prize for Excellence in International Education and the 2004 Curriculum Innovation Award Honorable Mention from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. We spotlight the excellence of our Asian Studies Center, the only U.S. Department of Education designated all-Asian National Undergraduate Resource Center. We commend the uniquely qualified MSU student guides at Japan's World Expo. We note some of MSU's response to the tragic Asian tsunami. We present an update on MSU's leadership in making less commonly taught languages more widely avail-

able, and we mention MSU's first World Languages Day for high school students, their parents, and their teachers. We feature several alumni who are making major impacts elsewhere in the world. We also present the winning photographs from MSU Global Focus 2004, the sixth year of our international photography competition.

MSU is active in every world region. Despite continuing funding challenges for public higher education, Michigan State University is enhancing its commitment to internationalization of the campus and international engagement. During the past year, MSU faculty have secured significant external funding for collaborative projects in fruit and vegetable food industry development in Africa and Latin America, for K-12 educational development in Egypt, for biodiversity in the Philippines, and for training in bioethics in Malawi. We are utilizing the Internet to enhance MSU's international activities, including a food security and food policy information portal for Africa (FSIP), the world's leading international business portal (globalEDGE), innovative K-12 curricular content on Africa (Exploring Africa), Asia (Windows on Asia), and Latin America (LASER), and a redesigned ISP website. The Office of Study Abroad is providing leadership within the Committee for Institutional Cooperation in linking administrators across each university to better integrate and support study abroad. MSU similarly has led efforts to constitute and support the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program Commission, established by the U.S. Congress and chaired by former MSU President Peter McPherson. The Office for International Students and Scholars is working with other campus units in a campus-wide effort to better integrate international students and scholars into our curricular and cocurricular programming. And our area studies centers and Office of International Development have new initiatives under way to strengthen and diversify external funding streams for MSU's international activities.

At a time of transitions, we continue to create and pursue opportunities for enhancing and expanding our international programming.

—Jeffrey M. Riedinger