



## ISP – Building on a Half-Century of Global Engagement

Michigan State University has had international connections for most of its 150-year history, most intensely since the end of World War II. Hundreds of our faculty have been involved in major international development projects since the 1950s in countries around the world. Thousands of international students and scholars have come to MSU to study, and thousands of MSU students have studied abroad.

MSU's president, Lou Anna K. Simon, has identified MSU's strength in international engagement as a key element of her new Boldness by Design initiative. She has proposed that MSU build on this strength, expanding its international reach to be the model "world-grant" university by 2012. As we go to press, the North Central Association re-accreditation team has arrived on campus to give special attention to our internationalization efforts and assist us in shaping a program of strategic and transformational change.

This issue of *MSU International* documents a cross-section of MSU's past and present international programming. As International Studies and Programs celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the university has received major awards for its international programming success, including the 2006 Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization awarded by NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the Best Practice Award for Global and International Teacher Education from the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education.

To advance our international agenda, President Simon has traveled to Japan and Washington, D.C. and Provost Kim Wilcox has traveled to Thailand and Hong Kong. MSU faculty secured significant external funding for collaborative projects in tropical disease research and entrepreneurship training for women in Ghana, fruit and vegetable food industry development in Nicaragua, assessment and enhancement of teacher education around the world, and a tsunami early warning system for the Indian Ocean. MSU students and alumni achieved

a new milestone in Peace Corps participation. MSU will open a Beijing office to serve as a gateway for our expanding programming and partnerships in China. The leading public university in study abroad programming, MSU offered an innovative business program in Brazil last year and will renew a faculty-led program in Israel and inaugurate a program in Madagascar this summer. The Michigan State University Federal Credit Union added to its extraordinary support of our study abroad programming.

On campus, faculty and student conferences helped us better understand many international issues, including the Asian diaspora, Canadian-U.S. relations, and ethnic violence in Darfur, Sudan. MSU alumni who have held top-level diplomatic positions returned to campus to discuss U.S. interests and post-cold war Europe and diplomacy in a single-superpower world. International student groups at MSU led a campus-wide response to the devastating South Asian earthquake. Our halls and pages display the winning photographs from MSU Global Focus 2005, our annual international photography competition. The beautiful voices of students and faculty from MSU and Shenyang University echoed through our campus and theirs. We launched a pioneering Global and Area Studies major and a cross-regional Muslim Studies Program, bolstered by accomplished new faculty and enhanced language offerings. MSU is the only large U.S. research university among several campuses collaborating with the American Council on Education to assess international learning in the United States. New positions in student affairs and community outreach are helping our students learn about other cultures and develop skills specific to cross-cultural exchange. And these are only a representative selection of the broad array of international activities and involvements of our university.

In short, we continue to chart a course for the globally engaged university.

—Jeffrey M. Riedinger