

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon (1), Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm (2), University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman (3), and Wayne State University President Irvin D. Reid (4) pose with students during their visit to the Japan Center for Michigan Universities campus in Hikone, Shiga Prefecture, Japan.



MSU President Travels to Japan

President Lou Anna K. Simon made two trips to Japan during summer 2005, visiting campuses of partner institutions, reinforcing MSU's connections with Japanese alumni, touching bases with MSU students serving as guides for the U.S. Pavilion at World EXPO 2005, hosting fellow Michigan university presidents and Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm at the MSU-administered Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU), and introducing MSU and key MSU faculty members at a conference on the life sciences. The trips were coordinated by staff in the International Studies and Programs (ISP) dean's office.

The first trip, June 24-28, was to Tokyo, where Simon was accompanied by Asian Studies Center Director Michael Lewis, Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Director Joan Rose, Associate Professor of History Sayuri Shimizu, and ISP Director of Development and External Relations Kim Gladstone. They visited the Tokyo University of Agriculture and the Medical Trainer College of Tokyo, institutions to which MSU is linked through exchange programs. The delegation also spent an enjoyable evening with the MSU Alumni Club of Japan (Tokyo).

Simon's second trip was timed to overlap with Granholm's late-July delegation of Michigan government, business, and education leaders to the World EXPO 2005 in Aichi, Japan. Simon was accompanied by Acting Provost John Hudzik, ISP Associate Dean Dawn Pysarchik, and Gladstone. On July 25, they visited the U.S. Pavilion at the EXPO, where Granholm met with a number of the guides trained through a special program developed at the JCMU. The cadre of student guides included

MSU students, as well as students from numerous other universities, who were recruited and selected through the JCMU program office at MSU in cooperation with the U.S. Pavilion. (See article and photos in spring 2005 issue of this publication.)

On July 27, at the beautiful JCMU campus in Hikone, Simon hosted the governor and other Michigan guests, including University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman, Wayne State University President Irvin D. Reid, and Michael Boulus, executive director of the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan. The Hikone campus, in Michigan's sister prefecture (state) of Shiga, is located on the shores of Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan. The delegation met with students from all 15 Michigan public universities affiliated with JCMU. Students representing the JCMU consortium universities made presentations in Japanese and English to the governor and university presidents. Granholm joined a group of the students who took to the stage to close the program with a rousing rendition of the Lake Biwa song.

The following day, the delegation moved on to Osaka where the governor hosted a conference on the life sciences. The seminar was attended by researchers and representatives of about 70 Osaka-based companies that specialize in pharmacology, oncology, and various medical treatments. Granholm opened the seminar, welcoming the representatives and giving an overview of Michigan and what it can offer start-up businesses in the life sciences. Simon moderated the panel of speakers and gave an overview of MSU's various scientific discoveries. Key presentations on the important role MSU has in the life sciences and job creation in the state of



President Simon and members of the MSU delegation, including Asian Studies Center Director Michael Lewis and faculty colleagues, are shown with members of the MSU Alumni Club of Japan (Tokyo) during their June 2005 trip to that city.



The MSU Alumni Club of Japan (Kansai) hosted President Simon, Acting Provost John K. Hudzik, ISP Associate Dean Dawn Pysarchik, and other MSU faculty and staff members on July 27, 2005, at the Rihga Royal Hotel in Osaka.

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Michigan were given by several MSU faculty members: J. Justin McCormick (Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics), Rawle Hollingsworth (Departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), and Jetze J. Tepe (Department of Chemistry). The day concluded with the entire MSU delegation attending an entertaining evening hosted by the MSU Alumni Club of Japan (Kansai), which presented Simon with a gift in support of the Sparty statue renovation project.

—Kim Gladstone