



## Then and Now

The United States was an occupying power in Japan and elsewhere in the South Pacific, including the Ryukyus Islands, for a period after the end of World War II. In 1950 Milton Muelder, then chair of Political Science and Public Administration, was asked to develop the original proposal for a collaborative partnership that would result in the creation of a land-grant university on the main island, Okinawa. The following year Michigan State University sent its first contingent of five faculty members to the newly created University of the Ryukyus (UR). More than 40 additional MSU faculty members held positions there between 1951 and 1968, when the formal partnership ended.

One aspect of the strong relationship between MSU and UR was the Michigan Ryukyus Exchange Program (MREP). Iwao Ishino (left), now professor emeritus of anthropology, had recently joined the MSU faculty when he was assigned to be chief of party of the Ryukyus project. In this photograph, taken in the mid 1960s, he is standing with two female students who participated in the exchange and UR President Shimabukuro, along with other MREP staff members and a local woman in traditional attire.

—Photo courtesy of Iwao Ishino



Although most of MSU's early study abroad programs emphasized foreign language study, a few had a disciplinary focus. One of these, dating back to 1970, was *Comparative Criminal Justice, Criminology, and the Law*, offered in England. The program, which still exists today, was developed by Ralph Turner in the School of Criminal Justice. In this photograph Turner (fourth from left) poses with participants of the 1972 program.

—Photo courtesy of MSU Archives and Historical Collections



The 2005 recipients of scholarships for study abroad funded by the MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) endowment were honored at a luncheon on November 21, 2005. They are pictured here with members of the MSUFCU board of directors, MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon, and ISP Acting Dean Jeffrey Riedinger.

The number of study abroad scholarships funded by the endowment reached a new level in 2005 with awards made to 49 students for study during summer 2005 (33 students), winter break 2005-06 (7 students), and spring 2006 (9 students). Since the establishment of the endowment in 2003, more than 70 students have received scholarships for study abroad. The endowment will be fully funded at \$2.5 million in 2007, making possible scholarship support for some 130 students annually.



## MSU Receives Major NSF Grant for International Teacher Education Research

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Michigan State University a three-year \$3.34 million grant for international research on teacher education. This study is organized under the auspices of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), a consortium of research institutions that for 40 years has been noted for cross-national studies of student achievement such as the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

The new grant covers part of the international costs of design, coordination, data analysis, and reporting for the IEA Teacher Education Study in Mathematics (TEDS-M). This study examines the policies, institutions, programs, and practices of mathematics teacher education and their impact on the mathematics knowledge of future teachers of primary and secondary education. MSU and the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) were chosen as the lead institutions for this study. It is IEA's first study of teacher education and its first major survey in higher education.

As with other IEA studies, data are to be col-

lected from national probability samples – in this case from samples of institutions, faculty, and students of teacher education in participating countries. The focus is on preparation of teachers to teach mathematics in elementary and lower secondary school. Between 20 and 30 countries are expected to participate. Maria Teresa Tatto is the principal investigator (PI) for the new NSF grant, Sharon Senk and Jack Schwille are co-PIs, and Inese Berzina-Pitcher is the project coordinator. Two new postdoctoral researchers will be hired to join the project in the coming academic year.

An earlier NSF grant to MSU was critical in preparing for TEDS-M. In that project, *Developing Subject Matter Knowledge in Mathematics Middle School Teachers: A Cross-National Study of Teacher Preparation as a Follow-Up of TIMSS* (also known as Pre-TEDS), methods and instruments were developed in collaboration with six countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and the United States). The PIs for this earlier study were William Schmidt and Tatto.

— Jack Schwille

## MSU a Partner in Tsunami Warning System Development

Michigan State University, through its participation in a consortium of international development firms, universities, consulting firms, and governmental and nongovernmental agencies, will play an important role in the development of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System/Thailand. David Skole of the MSU Department of Forestry, an expert in the applications of geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, and satellite imagery, is MSU's principal consultant on the project.

Skole has been analyzing remotely sensed data for the South East Asian region as principal investigator for the Tropical Rain Forest Information Center, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration data and information center located at MSU. The center uses satellite imagery to monitor ecosystem changes and ecosystem services. The work has involved close collaboration and cooperation with scientists and government agencies in the region, including Indonesia and Thailand, two countries hit hard by the December 2004 tsunami. (For information on Skole's involvement in the aftermath of the tsunami, see the Asian tsunami section of the spring 2005 issue of this publication.)

As MSU's consultant to the tsunami warning system project, Skole will assist in developing both preparedness and risk assess-

ment analyses and establishing some of the technical capabilities for analyzing spatial data and information using GIS and remote sensing. "I will serve as a technical adviser for several of the major functions of the early warning system," he said, "including the observation system design, communications and notification systems, data sharing technologies, hazard and risk mapping, and land use planning for mitigation of risk."

Through the efforts of its Office of International Development, MSU is one of four university partners in the IRG-Tetra Tech WATER IQC II Consortium. The consortium is led by the International Resources Group (IRG), an international professional services firm, and Tetra Tech, Inc., a provider of consulting, engineering, and technical services. The consortium was selected by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to be the lead contractor for the program, a component of USAID's five-year \$2 billion Integrated Water and Coastal Resources Management Indefinite Quantity Contract (WATER IQC II). The IRG-Tetra Tech WATER IQC II Consortium will receive \$6 million over two years to begin the development of the Ocean Tsunami Warning System, the first project to be funded by the IQC.

— Jay Rodman