



## Shifting to “World-Grant” Mode

A century and a half ago, the founders of Michigan State University helped define “land-grant” university. Today, MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon, Provost Kim A. Wilcox, and the faculty, staff, and students of MSU are helping to define what it means to be a “world-grant” university in the 21st Century. Through a series of “Global Encounters” and related dialogues, we are charting a course to enhance and expand MSU’s already extensive international programming, on campus and around the globe.

After two years as acting dean of ISP, I am extremely pleased to have been selected for the permanent dean position, where I can continue working with the above constituencies, as well as alumni and other partners, in this exciting enterprise of internationalization. MSU’s history of international engagement is extraordinary. It provides an unparalleled foundation for our efforts to expand our international collaborations to address some of the world’s most pressing challenges, to benefit the citizens of Michigan, the United States, and the world.

To advance our international agenda this past year, President Simon traveled to Hong Kong and Provost Wilcox traveled to Beijing, Hangzhou, and London. MSU opened a Beijing office. MSU area studies and international thematic centers secured substantial program and student fellowship funding from the U.S. Department of Education to serve as national resource, language resource, and international business centers. MSU faculty received significant external funding for collaborative projects to develop and distribute innovative technologies to provide safe water, detect water-borne disease-causing pathogens, determine the environmental source of a degenerative kidney disease, assess the social impacts of large dams and of water rights reform, improve management and protection of threatened fisheries and of watersheds, and reduce pharmaceutical pollution of water resources. We launched a National Arabic Language Flagship Program and the MSU Confucius Institute, with innovative language and culture offerings for K-16 students.

This issue of MSU International documents a sample of MSU’s diverse international programming. We spotlight the excellence of our African Studies Center and five decades of engagement in Africa, highlighting planning for expanded research and scholarship, study abroad, and curricular offerings

with partner universities in Africa, engagement with our many distinguished African alumni, and outreach to multiple audiences in the U.S. We recognize some of MSU’s unique scholarship on African languages. We commend the contributions to international programming of MSU faculty, staff, and students, and members of our community. We honor a distinguished internationally-engaged MSU graduate with an honorary degree. We thank an emeritus faculty member for his generous support and accept an award for our engagement of emeriti faculty in our international activities. We introduce a new film series for International Education Week, a student-organized conference on student activism and the global AIDS pandemic, and student presentations for World AIDS Day. We present the winning photographs from MSU Global Focus 2006, our eighth annual competition.

Our academic colleges are working with the Office of Study Abroad to expand internship opportunities in countries such as Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Mexico, the Philippines, Spain, and Thailand. The Michigan State University Federal Credit Union added to its exceptional support of our study abroad programming. In cooperation with the Peace Corps, MSU established Master’s International program opportunities in Agricultural Economics, Crop and Soil Sciences, and Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies. MSU students won an award for community development work in Ireland and participated in an international summit in Japan.

Targeted recruiting efforts by our Office of Admissions and Scholarships have yielded notable increases in international undergraduate student enrollments. The Offices for International Students and Scholars, the Dean of Undergraduate Education, and the Vice President for Student Affairs are collaborating in a campus-wide effort to better integrate international students and scholars into our curricular, co- and extra-curricular programming. OISS and the Office of Libraries, Computing and Technology and Housing and Food Services sponsored big-screen broadcasts of World Cup soccer games, bringing together students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Through these and many other initiatives, we are helping define “world-grant” university.

— Jeffrey M. Riedinger