IRA Assets Help Loyal Alumni Support to the Graduate School and MSU

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides owners of IRAs—individual retirement accounts—an incentive to give a charitable donation using their retirement assets. Prior to the Act, donors who made charitable gifts with IRA assets had to report the amount to the Federal Government as taxable income, and then report the donation as a charitable deduction. The Act contains a Charitable IRA Rollover provision which affords the donor not only a tax benefit, but more importantly allows potential donors who meet certain criteria a simple one step option to support their favorite non-profit organization or educational institution.

In effect for 2006 and 2007 only, the Charitable IRA Rollover allows donors age 70 ½ or older to direct a distribution from a Traditional or Roth IRA directly to a qualified charity. There is a limit of $100,000 per year. The charity immediately benefits from the gift, and the donor is able to make a simple transfer with an instant impact.

Les and Dorothy Mandersheid, who live in East Lansing, have a strong bond and a long history of service to Michigan State University. They recently took advantage of the new IRA Charitable Rollover. The incentive allowed them to fund three new endowments on campus: the Manderscheid Discretionary Graduate School Endowment, the Manderscheid Endowed Fund to support Agricultural Economics, and the Manderscheid Mathematics Library Endowment. All three funds represent areas that are important to the couple.

Dr. Manderscheid’s affiliation with MSU began more than 40 years ago. During his tenure, he has made many contributions to the field of agricultural economics as a teacher, advisor, mentor, and researcher. He has also played a vital role in the development of the MSU Graduate School and University Fellowship programs. Dorothy joined MSU Library system in 1989 as a science librarian and was the branch librarian for the Mathematics Library from 1989 to 1999.

“Dorothy and I have been affiliated with Michigan State since 1956,” Dr. Manderscheid explained. “I spent over 40 years in Agricultural Economics, and after working with hundreds of graduate students there, I accepted a part-time appointment in the Graduate School to implement a new university-wide fellowship program. That gave me a chance to enhance graduate programs across campus.”

“We decided to use the IRA rollover option because it gave us a chance to support three programs of importance to us,” Dr. Manderscheid said. “In addition, there were some tax advantages, and we could reduce tax-related paperwork in the future.”

The Manderscheid’s decision to support the Graduate School and MSU through the IRA Charitable Rollover option will make an immediate impact. Endowed funds grow over time, and the benefit will be felt for years to come.

If you would like more information on the IRA Rollover option, endowed funds, or learn of other ways to support the Graduate School at MSU, please contact the Office of University Scholarships and Fellowships Director of Development, Barbara Ball-McClure at (517) 432-7330.
teaching packet examining conflicts over natural resources through student role play.

That diversity can help the fellows be better teachers, Stoddart says. “You can learn a lot from talking with people who are teaching different kinds of courses with different content.” The CASTL fellows are also learning about curriculum design. “They’re actually designing an innovative curriculum for the RCAH,” Stoddart says.

Fall semester, the program’s first, the fellows and the faculty on the advisory committee are meeting every other week to discuss teaching and learning. They read and discuss scholarly articles on pedagogical theory, ethical issues in classroom practice, and the ways adults learn, drawing from psychology and neuroscience. “We discuss how this research applies to the plans for the residential college and look for new ways of teaching,” Stoddart says. “The fellows are talking about how they’ll measure outcomes of something that may seem vague to them, like civic engagement, and how to assess language learning in less traditional ways.” They also explore models of best practices and ways to assess whether students are learning what teachers think they’re teaching.

“We’re going through the book How People Learn,” adds Mark Sullivan, Associate Professor in the College of Music. A 2000 publication of the National Academies Press, it is a report by the National Research Council Committee on Developments in the Science of Learning. A recent discussion covered the chapter on how students use what they already know to learn new information. “We talked about approaches to improve this process and what might interfere with it,” Sullivan recalls. “And we talked about how to build this knowledge into their teaching practice.”

“It’s exciting to talk to committed graduate students who are excited about research on teaching,” Sullivan adds. “Explorations on teaching are often utilitarian and focus on immediate goals.”

“This is an exciting new program,” Tremonte adds. “The fellows have input and ownership at multiple levels, and they’re making a real contribution to the RCAH.”

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**Development Travel**

**Katherine Kelly, Student Development Assistant**

**The Graduate School**

Two women. One car. 2,000 miles. No, this isn’t the plot of the next new blockbuster (although we’d like to think that audiences would find MSU Graduate School employees interesting).

In July, Karen Klomparens, Dean of the Graduate School, and Barbara Ball-McClure, Director of Development for University Scholarships & Fellowships, decided to redefine the great American road trip. They commenced a 2,000 mile, ten day journey across three states. Beginning in Boulder, CO and ending in Kalispell, MT, Ball-McClure and Klomparens traveled across the West to meet with over one hundred fifty retired faculty and friends of MSU.

Each day meant two new cities. Ball-McClure and Klomparens hosted lunches, dinners, and dessert receptions in well-known locations such as The Brown Palace in Denver, and in unique local institutions, such as The Mint Bar in Belgrade, Montana. As a special treat, they were able to meet graduates living in the Aspen/Snowmass area at a special home-cooked meal hosted by former MSU President John DiBiaggio and his wife, Nancy.

Each city brought its own special character and atmosphere to the events. Ball-McClure and Klomparens happened on Frontier Days in Cheyenne, Wyoming, which leant a sense of excitement and anticipation to the whole city, plus an inch of rain in one hour that flooded the streets. Their trip through Montana coincided with the development of several forest fires, resulting in interesting detours allowing them to see more of this beautiful state.

While each event was unique in its own special way, all were united by the Spartan spirit which prevailed. The talk was casual and the company was entertaining. Alumni of all ages and walks of life talked of traveling the world, settling down to raise families, building their own businesses, and enjoying retirement, as well as sharing stories of their own MSU experiences. Ball-McClure and Klomparens were able to share news from campus and discuss MSU’s plans for the future.

The events also served as opportunities for alumni to meet fellow Spartans located in their area. Several individuals spoke of interest in forming alumni associations. Many new friendships were born and connections were made.

Ball-McClure and Klomparens travel the country often, usually in conjunction with presentations and meetings Klomparens attends as Dean. Their journeys take them coast to coast, and even outside the country. They enjoy these opportunities to meet with fellow Spartans and share their passion for Michigan State University and higher education. Who knows where they’ll end up next- in your town, perhaps?