



# Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation Annual Newsletter

## Supporting Tomorrow's Dairy Leaders!

### Issue 6

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2007

Michigan Dairy Memorial  
and Scholarship Foundation  
Annual Newsletter

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Issue No. 6

### Hello to MDMSF Recipients, Members and Friends:

As a group, I'm sure we are all looking forward to another successful year in 2007. Several significant events will occur next year, not the least of which will be the celebration of our 50th anniversary. What a great honor it is to be associated with this fine organization and its work of providing scholarships to deserving students with dairy industry interests! This organization has had a tremendous impact on the dairy industry over the years.

Speaking as just one of the beneficiaries of these scholarships, I can say without a doubt that my life was changed significantly for the better because of the generosity of the foundation's supporters. My wife, Rosie, and I, both of dairy farm backgrounds, had made an effort to achieve our primary ambition by dairy farming with my dad and older brother. However, this didn't prove to be financially achievable. By 1964, after a good deal of time and effort, we were at an impasse. If not for the MDMSF, we would never have been able to afford the college education we received at MSU, which opened the door to a lifetime career in dairy processing. It also provided our son Curt the honor of being the only kid on our block to have attended MSU for kindergarten. Later he received his bachelor's and master's degrees there, also.

What an honor it is to have been chosen to serve as president of this prestigious organization. As a group, let us continue to change lives and serve our industry over the next 50 years and more by assisting deserving dairy students in achievement of their educational goals.

Sincerely,  
Bob McDowell

### 2006-07 Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors

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John Pell, Dairy Farmers of  
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Mark Pollard, at-large  
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John Stout, at-large  
Gerald Surbrook, at-large  
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of Food Science and Human  
Nutrition

MSU is an affirmative-action,  
equal-opportunity institution.



## Mary TenBrink

### Russel Erickson Endowed Scholarship

Mary TenBrink, of Coopersville, is this year's recipient of the Russel Erickson Endowed Scholarship. The \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to Mary on the basis of her interest in a dairy-related career, extracurricular activities and academics.

"I would like to give a big thanks to the selection committee and foundation for the scholarship," says Mary, who is currently a junior studying animal science with an agribusiness specialty at MSU. "It helps by preventing me from taking out student loans."

Mary grew up on a 180-cow dairy and returns home whenever possible to help

her parents, Randy and Marie TenBrink, on the farm.

"After graduation, I want to go back to the farm to be the herdsman and eventually become partners with my dad and brother," Mary says.

Once she joins the family farm full-time, Mary says her education and the internship experience she gained working on a 1,600-cow dairy in California will help her more quickly detect problems in her own herd.

"Now I know what to look for when evaluating the herd and can work to find areas of improvement," Mary explains.

Participation on the MSU dairy judging team gave Mary the opportunity to travel



across the country and to Europe. Highlights of her judging experiences include events at the Royal Highland in Scotland, Luxembourg, and stateside shows in Louisville, Ky., Harrisburg, Pa., and Madison, Wis.

At MSU, Mary is the current president of the MSU Dairy Club and a member of the MSU Agronomy Club. ♦



## Katy McCracken

### Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship Recipient

financial burdens and makes it easier for me to focus on my schoolwork and classes instead of worrying about money."

Katy is the daughter of Curt and Crystal McCracken, of Carson City, and periodically returns to her family's 70-cow dairy to help out. Her strong roots in agriculture helped her choose her course of study at MSU, and she graduated in December 2006 with a bachelor's degree in animal science with an agribusiness specialization.

Katy has already lined up a job as a loan officer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in Adrian. She hopes to be transferred to a FSA office close to her family's farm once she completes her training.

"Growing up on a dairy and cash crop farm, I knew that I wanted to have a career that involved the agriculture industry," Katy says.

At MSU, Katy is involved in the MSU Dairy Club, which she formerly served as president. She was also a member of the collegiate-level MSU dairy judging team during the 2005-06 school year.

"Dairy judging was a new experience for me – I had never done that before," Katy says. "It was a great experience and opened a lot of doors for me. I met a lot of interesting people, learned new things, got to travel, became a better public speaker and made a lot of good memories." ♦

Michigan State University senior Katy McCracken has more time to focus on her final classes after receiving the MDMSF Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship, which pays her tuition and fees for two semesters. Katy qualified for the scholarship because of her interest in a dairy-related career, her academics and extracurricular activities.

"The Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Fund has been a great benefit to me," Katy says. "It has decreased my



## Scholarships awarded to dairy students

### Regular Scholarships

**Jesse Chase**, a senior in the agribusiness management program, grew up on a dairy farm in Hastings, Mich. Jesse is involved in Farmhouse Fraternity, the Dairy Club and the CANR Student Senate. After graduation, he plans to go into partnership with his father in the family dairy business.

**Ted Costigan** of Lansing, Mich., developed a love of agriculture at an early age while spending time on his family's farm. As a crop and soil sciences senior, Ted is currently president of the Agronomy Club, promotions chair for the Dairy Club and a member of Farmhouse Fraternity.

**Amy Garrison** chose to be an agricultural communications major so that she can pursue a career that promotes agriculture through education. A senior from Lenawee County, Amy currently participates in the Dairy Club, Block and Bridle, and Collegiate Farm Bureau as vice president, and is the CANR Ambassadors coordinator.

**Jessica Geurink**, of Allendale, Mich., is a junior in the agribusiness management program. She served as president of her 4-H club and is the Michigan Junior Holstein Association president. After graduation, Jessica would like to work as an editor for a dairy publication or in the marketing and communications department for an artificial insemination company.

**Joann Greenfield**, a senior in animal science, is from Annapolis, Md. She plans to have a career in production animal medicine. In addition to working at the MSU Dairy, Joann sings in the MSU Women's Chamber Ensemble.



Some of the 2005-06 MDMSF scholarship recipients were able to join the MDMSF board of directors during the 2006 annual meeting. They are (left to right) Maria Johnson, Garrett Landel, Matthew Jakubik, Alysa Sanford, Chris Creguer, Amy Garrison and Colleen Jackson.

**Tyler Hake**, an agribusiness management major from Edon, Ohio, was raised on a dairy farm until the age of 5, when his family sold their cows. He worked part-time on a dairy throughout high school. After graduation, he plans on buying a herd of dairy cows and going into business with his father. Currently, Tyler is serving as president of Farmhouse Fraternity and is a member of the Agronomy Club.

**Colleen Jackson** is the fourth generation in her family to be involved in their Caro, Mich. dairy farm. She became Michigan's first Dairy Ambassador. A junior in animal science, she now serves as the Dairy Club secretary and is on the Animal Science Student Advisory Board.

**Matthew Jakubik** is an agriscience senior from Whittemore, Mich. Upon graduation, he plans to obtain a teaching position near his hometown so that he can remain involved in his family's dairy farm. Matt currently lives at the MSU

dairy farm. In addition, he participates in Alpha Gamma Rho, the Agricultural Education Club and the Dairy Club.

**Maria Johnson**, of Pittsford, Mich. is an agribusiness management senior. She plans to pursue a career as an animal pharmaceutical sales representative. She works in the MSU Dairy Plant and as a research assistant for Pioneer Hi-Bred International. Maria participates in CANR Ambassadors, the Agricultural Economics Undergraduate Policy Committee and the Dairy Club.

**Greta Koebel**, a sophomore from a dairy farm in Three Oaks, Mich., was involved in FFA as secretary, reporter and president throughout high school, as well as the Junior Holstein and Jersey associations. Upon entering college, she joined the Dairy Club, the National Agri-Marketing Association and the MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau. Greta plans to graduate with a degree in agribusiness management and own a herd of registered dairy cattle.

**Alyssa Selesky**, from Lakeview, Mich., is an agribusiness management/animal science junior. She hopes to work for an animal feed sales company after graduation. Alyssa participates in the Block and Bridle Club and also volunteers at the Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center.

**Pieter Serne**, an agribusiness management senior from Lowell, Mich., began cultivating his interest in the dairy industry as a young child riding along on his family's milk routes. During his teen years, he worked at a local dairy and realized that he wanted to work with cows in the future. After obtaining his degree, Pieter hopes to run his own dairy operation.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Scholarships awarded to dairy students (continued)

**Kent Thelen**, a junior in dairy production/agribusiness management, plans one day to own and run his parents' farm in Fowler, Mich. As a dairy farm worker, he has been responsible for feeding and milking cows, AI, vaccinations, maintenance and repairs. He is currently a member of Alpha Gamma Rho.

**Jennifer Venlet** is an animal science junior planning to go into large animal veterinary medicine. A resident of Conklin, Mich., Jennifer became involved with showing cattle in 4-H and spent a great deal of time at a neighboring farm. She is a member of the Preveterinary Medical Association and is a team manager for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

**Paul Windemuller**, of Zeeland, Mich., is a sophomore in agribusiness management who has wanted to be a farmer since he was old enough to walk. He worked on dairy farms throughout high school and hopes to own or run a dairy farm after graduating. Paul works at the MSU Dairy and is a member of the Dairy Club.

### Ag Tech Scholarships

**Jake Brindley**, of Rose City, Mich., is a freshman in the Ag Tech dairy production program. In high school, he participated in FFA. He has worked as a farmhand, responsible for chores such as feeding and milking cows. In the future, Jake plans to either own his own dairy or work as a herdsman for one.

**Tim Gamble**, a dairy management sophomore, has worked on his family's dairy in New Carlisle, Ind., his whole life. His responsibilities there included milking, feeding and breeding cows,

caring for youngstock and working in the fields. He has also completed a three-month internship at a 1,000-cow dairy in Wheatland, Calif. After graduating, Tim plans to return to his home farm.

**Ashley Messing**, a sophomore in the dairy management program, hails from a family dairy in Bad Axe, Mich. She recently completed an internship on a large farm in Tulare, Calif. Ashley plans to transfer to the four-year program to obtain a bachelor's degree in animal science. After graduating, she eventually would like to return to her family farm.

**Adam Preston**, of Quincy, Mich., was raised on a family-owned dairy farm. He plans to obtain his dairy management Ag Tech certificate and head back to his home farm. Adam participates on the Ag Tech dairy judging team and in the MSU Dairy Club as the social chairman.

**Greg Thon**, a dairy management freshman from Kingsley, Mich., worked on a dairy farm throughout high school. This experience encouraged him to fall in love with the industry and to want to pursue a career as a dairy farmer. Greg plans to own and manage cows in his own operation one day. Greg participates in the Dairy Club and works at the MSU Dairy.

### Freshman Scholarships

**Elizabeth Adams**, an Ag Tech dairy management freshman, grew up on a family dairy farm in Lake City, Mich. Beth has traveled extensively overseas with organizations such as Youth With A Mission and World Advocates. She plans eventually to become a co-owner of her family's dairy and also start a heifer raising operation.

**Hannah Carruthers**, of Pinconning, Mich., is a freshman studying animal science. Throughout high school, she was extensively involved in FFA, as well as 4-H, the Arenac County Dairy Club and the American Rabbit Breeders Association. Hannah plans to go into veterinary medicine as a production animal veterinarian after graduating.

**Jordan Drumm**, an animal science freshman from Homer, Mich., is planning a career in agriculture. He has worked on dairies and held responsibilities such as feeding calves, cleaning stalls and milking cows. To further this interest, he was involved in FFA and 4-H swine, dairy, and poultry clubs. Since coming to

*(Continued on page 5)*



**Jack and Betty Barnes International Michigan Dairy Memorial Endowed Scholarship (\$1,000)** The Barnes scholarship is provided through an endowment from Jack and Betty Barnes and is given annually to a student interested in a dairy industry career who is participating in an international experience to enhance his or her education. This year's recipient was Amy Garrison, who is pictured above with Jack and Betty Barnes.



## 2007-08 Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications (new, renewal) for the 2007-08 academic year are due February 28, 2007. Freshman and Ag Tech scholarship applications are due September 27, 2007. Applications can be obtained at [www.ans.msu.edu/academics/undergrad/scholarships.html](http://www.ans.msu.edu/academics/undergrad/scholarships.html) and returned to Dr. Miriam Weber Nielsen at the following address:

Dr. Miriam Weber Nielsen  
 Department of Animal Science  
 1250E Anthony Hall  
 Michigan State University  
 East Lansing, MI 48824-1225

Questions regarding the MDMSF scholarship program can be directed to Dr. Weber Nielsen at (517) 432-5443 or by e-mail at [msw@msu.edu](mailto:msw@msu.edu).

### Scholarships awarded to dairy students (continued)

MSU, Jordan has joined the Block and Bridle and Dairy clubs.

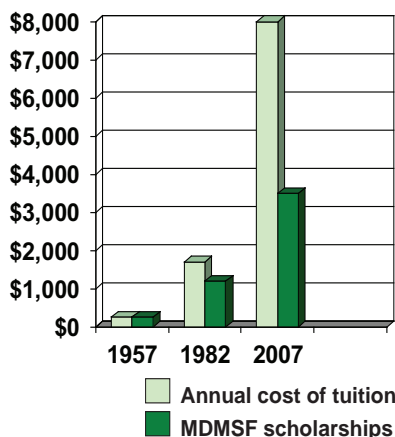
**Joe Pasch**, of Weidman, Mich., is a first-year student in Animal Science. On his home 200-cow dairy, he was in charge of feeding the milking herd daily, as well as performing farm operator duties. Joe plans to head back to the family dairy farm after completing the four-year program. He is currently involved in Alpha Gamma Rho and the Dairy Club.

**Nicole Schaendorf**, an agriculture and natural resources communications freshman, is from Allegan, Mich. She grew up helping on her family's 700-cow dairy. Nicole hopes to work in public relations with a dairy-related company after graduating. She currently participates in FFA, Farm Safety 4 Kids National Youth Network and the Dairy Club.

**Bill Shuler**, of Baroda, Mich., is a freshman in the Ag Tech dairy management program. He has worked as the assistant herdsman for Shuler Farms. Upon graduating, Bill plans to return to his home farm. He is a member of the Dairy Club.

**Lynnae Slavik**, an animal science freshman from Ashley, Mich., was raised on a small dairy farm. Through involvement with daily farm chores, 4-H and livestock judging, she has developed a passion for animals and plans to attend veterinary school. Lynnae is active in Bible study, Block and Bridle Club and the Dairy Club. ♦

### Scholarships and Tuition



## Your MDMSF Gift helps students today and tomorrow!

When you make a donation to the Michigan Dairy Memorial



Scholarship Fund (MDMSF) endowment, you will help students today and for many years to come.

Your gift to an endowed fund is a gift that lives and grows forever. The principal (your donation) is invested in perpetuity; as the fund grows, only a portion of the investment earnings from the MDMSF endowment principal is distributed as scholarships. The rate of this distribution (currently 5.75 percent) is determined annually by the MSU Board of Trustees. The principal (your gift) remains untouched and, in fact, continues to grow as a portion of the annual earnings is reinvested each year.

Thanks to the generosity of many supporters, \$624,901 has been contributed to the MDMSF endowment and \$79,345 in FY 06-07 is available for dairy science programs and student scholarships.

Endowed funds such as the MDMSF provide long-term, dependable sources of funding for programs and scholarships. Through your gifts, generations of students pursuing careers in the dairy science industry will be able to count on scholarship help from the MDMSF.



# 50 Years and Growing

Fifty years ago, a group of dairy industry leaders met with a little bit of money and a lot of determination to begin providing scholarship opportunities for students interested in the dairy industry. Though they had grand visions to fund scholarships, it is doubtful that they expected to form what would become one of the largest sources of academic scholarships at Michigan State University.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation. The leaders who initiated the MDMSF were searching for ways to provide scholarships for students interested in the dairy industry and to honor industry leaders. By meshing the two objectives, they formed the MDMSF, a scholarship fund built upon memorials given to honor individuals who have been instrumental to the dairy industry. Individuals, businesses and associations affiliated with the dairy industry have made generous contributions to the MDMSF.

Over the past 50 years, the MDMSF has awarded over \$700,000 in scholarships. These scholarships have helped more than 350 students pursue their education at MSU. Many other students have also benefited from the support given to 4-H, FFA and MSU dairy judging teams.

In addition to providing scholarships, the MDMSF also provides an avenue for recognition to Michigan dairy leaders. In the past 50 years, 150 dairy leaders have been honored with lasting tributes, which are on display in Anthony Hall.

The following highlights illustrate the humble beginnings that built this successful foundation.



## MDMSF Participates in AutumnFest

The Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation participated in the 2006 AutumnFest with a booth showcasing recent MDMSF honorees and highlighting the foundation's 50th anniversary. AutumnFest, held at the MSU pavilion in November, is a harvest celebration of agriculture and natural resources at MSU hosted by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association. The event brings more than 1,000 friends, family members and fellow Spartans together for a day filled with food, fun and MSU football. Pictured at the MDMSF AutumnFest booth are (l-r) Mike Fordyce, Nancy Blaauw and Bob McDowell.

**May 3, 1955** – MDMSF organizational meeting.

**July 6, 1955** – Second meeting of MSMSF Board of Directors – treasurer's report showed a balance of \$25.

**November 16, 1955** – Third meeting of MDMSF – treasurer's report showed a \$52.52 balance (contributions included \$25 dues from Michigan Milk Producers Association, Michigan Milk Dealers and Michigan Creamery Owners and Managers minus \$22.48 in expenses). "The seed for a foundation was planted, but there was some question in the minds of several Board members about the source of funds to cause this seed to sprout and grow to maturity" (excerpt from historical review by D.L. Murray).

**November 1955** – The first contribution of \$1,000 was made in honor of James

G. Hays and his retirement from Michigan State University.

**February 16, 1956** – The Grand Rapids Milk Dealers contributed \$1,000 in memory of J. Neil Lamoreaux, a legislator and dairyman from Grand Rapids.

**November 27, 1956** – \$2,000 was received in honor of William McDonald and as a memorial to John McDonald.

**April 4, 1957** – A dedication ceremony for the MDMSF was held in the Dairy Industry Conference Room of Anthony Hall.

**Fall 1957** – The first MDMSF scholarships were awarded. Since only the earnings from the principal funds could be used for scholarships, the foundation set up provisions for raising interim funds from industry



organizations to support 10 scholarships of \$250 each per year. This procedure was continued for two years to support scholarships until earnings from principal funds and contributions from memorial cards were sufficient to carry the cost of the scholarships.

**January 1, 1972** – Through the first 16 years of the MDMSF, 30 dairy industry leaders were honored, and 88 students were provided with approximately \$50,000 in scholarships.

**April 30, 1975** – MDMSF principal account balance: \$133,468.

**1981** – The Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship was established. The scholarship is in honor of the late Glenn Lake, who served as president of Michigan Milk Producers Association from 1956 to 1981. The scholarship pays all tuition and fees to one student per academic year.

**December 31, 1995** – MDMSF principal account balance: \$428,136.

**1997-98 academic year** – The following scholarships were awarded: four \$1,000 freshman scholarships, twelve \$2,500 scholarships, and the Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship.

**2001** – The Russel W. Erickson Endowment Scholarship was established in recognition of Dr. Erickson's 30-plus years of dedicated service to the dairy industry and MSU, including 17 years as MDMSF secretary. The original Erickson scholarship was \$3,000; it has grown to \$5,000 per year.

**2006** – MDMSF principal account balance: \$624,901.  
Number of scholarships awarded: Fifteen \$3,500 scholarships, seven freshman scholarships, five Ag Tech scholarships.

**2007** – MDMSF celebrates its 50th anniversary.

### First MDMSF Board of Directors

Name	Organization	Group represented
Peter Joppe . . . . .	Joppe's Dairy . . . . .	Milk dealers
Harold Otzman . . . . .	H.A. McDonald Creamery . . . . .	Milk dealers
Robert Lyons . . . . .	Lansing City Health Dept. . . . .	Sanitarians
Donald Murray . . . . .	MSU Dairy Dept. . . . .	Sanitarians
Howard F. Simmons . . . . .	MMPA . . . . .	Producers
Ivan K. Maystead . . . . .	MMPA . . . . .	Producers
Robert P. Locke . . . . .	Golden Locks Ice Cream . . . . .	Ice cream mfrs.
Joseph McCluskey . . . . .	White House Ice Cream . . . . .	Ice cream mfrs.
Fred Walker . . . . .	Dairyland Co-op Creamery . . . . .	Butter mfrs.
Oscar Rothi . . . . .	Lockshore Farms . . . . .	Butter mfrs.
John Fielschmann . . . . .	Schmidt Cheese Co. . . . .	Cheese mfrs.
C. Lon Reynolds . . . . .	Kraft Foods Co. . . . .	Cheese mfrs.
Worth Weed . . . . .	Foot & Jenks . . . . .	Dairy suppliers
Donald Holmes . . . . .	Dudley Paper Co. . . . .	Dairy suppliers
Elton Smith . . . . .	Purebred Dairy Cattle Assn. . . . .	Dairy cattle breeders
Martin Buth . . . . .	Purebred Dairy Cattle Assn. . . . .	Dairy cattle breeders
Frank Heim . . . . .	Michigan Artificial Breeders Co-op . . . . .	Dairy herd owners
Dale Anderson . . . . .	Michigan Artificial Breeders Co-op . . . . .	Dairy herd owners

### Give \$50 in recognition of the 50th

As we look back at the progress of the foundation, it is also necessary to look to the future and the role that the MDMSF can play in helping to expand educational opportunities to deserving students. As tuition costs continue to rise, it becomes even more important for the MDMSF to enhance its ability to fund scholarships as a way to provide a continuous flow of new dairy industry leaders.

In recognition of the MDMSF's 50 years and to help grow the foundation's opportunities to provide future scholarships, a campaign to encourage \$50 contributions to the MDMSF will be launched later this spring. In addition, a 50th anniversary celebration event is being planned for July 19, 2007, in conjunction with the Michigan 4-H Dairy Days Banquet. Details of the event and the campaign will be mailed later this spring. ♦

### First five MDMSF Presidents

Name	Years
Pete Joppe . . . . .	1955
Harold Otzman . . . . .	1956-1961
Dale Weber . . . . .	1962-1965
Jack Barnes . . . . .	1966-1967
Al Freisem . . . . .	1968-1969





## Dairy Memorial Scholarship Thank You's from 2006-07

I would like to take the time to thank all of you who make it possible for students like me to receive this wonderful scholarship. I plan to finish my Dairy Tech program here at MSU and move on into the best industry there is. Thank you again to all the people who made this possible for me!

*Jake Brindley*

Thank you very much for choosing me as a recipient of your prestigious scholarship. I am glad there are committees and foundations like yours who help students to follow their dreams and accomplish their goals. Thank you, again!

*Jordan Drumm*

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship that I received. Your support is greatly appreciated and will help a great deal with tuition.

*Tim Gamble*

I feel very honored and privileged to be chosen as a recipient of the Dairy Memorial Scholarship for 2006 and 2007. I am very grateful and cannot say thank you enough. Your scholarship is truly a gift. Thank you again!

*Amy Garrison*

I would like to take the time to sincerely thank you for the support you have displayed toward the students here at Michigan State University. When deciding to attend Michigan State, I knew that it would be a relatively large financial burden to me. However, your contribution has greatly depreciated that burden and I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to use this scholarship towards my tuition and further education here at MSU.

*Tyler Hake*

Thank you for selecting me to receive a scholarship for the 2006-2007 school year. The financial assistance is greatly appreciated. As you know, I am currently serving as Michigan's first Dairy Ambassador, Senior Division. I have been keeping busy and enjoy meeting the leaders of our industry. These experiences are preparing me for a career in dairy. Thanks to you, getting through school is not as difficult.

*Colleen Jackson*

First, I would like to thank you for bestowing the honor of receiving such a prestigious scholarship again this year. Not only have you made college feasible financially but helped me in deciding my direction in life. Your generosity is plentiful and thank you for the past four years of it.

*Matthew Jakubik*

It was an honor to be a recipient of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship. It is organizations such as yours that allow many talented individuals to pursue their dreams. Your scholarship has helped me a great deal to guide me down a path that I will enjoy in the future.

Once again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to receive this scholarship and meeting you.

*Maria Johnson*

Thank you for awarding me a scholarship. I am very excited to have been chosen for this elite honor. This scholarship will be a great asset to me in pursuing my educational goals. It is the continued support of organizations such as yours that make the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources such a great place to learn.

*Greta Koebel*

Thank you very much for the Glenn and Anne Lake Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship. It is greatly appreciated. Your contribution will be a great asset to my education. I have enjoyed being part of the dairy industry and look forward to continuing my education and involvement in the industry. Thank you!

*Katy McCracken*

I would like to sincerely thank you for the scholarship I was given this fall. The generosity of your foundation is greatly appreciated. This money will go to a good use because I am planning to transfer to the Animal Science bachelor's program in the future. Thank you.

*Ashley Messing*

I would like to thank you for supporting Michigan State students like myself who are always in need of ways to fund their

education. I plan to use my education to give back to agriculture and be a major player in its future. Once again, I would like to thank you for your contribution to my education.

*Pieter Serne*

Thank you for selecting me as a Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship winner. I am very pleased to accept this scholarship while I continue to pursue my degree in agribusiness management here at Michigan State University. I am excited to continue my education for better knowledge of the dairy industry.

*Kent Thelen*

I have no way to thank you enough. This scholarship means a lot to me. It is people and organizations like you that give us young people with passion for the dairy industry but no farm to inherit a chance of achieving our lifetime goals and dreams. I know that it may be a long, hard road to owning my own dairy, but someday I will and also do my part to make sure that the dairy industry will be viable for years to come. Again thank you very much!

*Greg Thon*

Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship. It is because of foundations like you that I am able to better afford college and continue my education. I greatly appreciate the award and look forward to continuing toward my career goal of becoming a vet and being very active in the dairy industry. Thanks again!

*Jennifer Venlet*

I would like to thank everyone at the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation for your contribution to my education. It is a great honor for me to receive this scholarship. Through this scholarship foundation you are providing the next generation with an important start to careers in the dairy industry. I am up to the challenge of becoming a leader in the dairy industry in Michigan and I hope to make a positive impact on it.

*Paul Windemuller*





## 2006 MDMSF Honorees

The following individuals were honored as MDMSF Honorees in 2006. A \$1,000 contribution has been made in their name in recognition of their distinguished service to Michigan's dairy industry. A list of all Foundation Honorees over the history of the MDMSF can be found on a plaque in Anthony Hall.

### Sheila M. Burkhardt

Sheila (Nugent) Burkhardt grew up on a dairy farm in Lowell, Mich. Her family still operates the 200-cow farm today. While in high school, Sheila was active in 4-H and FFA.



After graduating from high school, she went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in agricultural and natural resources communications at MSU. Sheila was a recipient of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship during college.

Sheila was employed by Michigan Milk Producers Association in 1988 as the director of member relations and public affairs, a position she has held since then.

She became involved with the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation in 1996, serving as president from 2000 to 2002. She also served on the board of directors for the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association, serving as president in 1997-98.

Sheila currently serves on the State 4-H Animal Science Priority Program Team. In 2005, Sheila was elected to the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees and was

inducted into the Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society in 2006.

Sheila and her husband, Conan, have two children, Tyler and Kristen.

### John Dilland

For over three decades, the Michigan dairy industry has benefited from the steadfast, dedicated and efficient work of John Dilland.



John's roots are firmly planted in agriculture. He grew up on a livestock and cash crop farm near Tioga, in the northwestern part of North Dakota. John's interest in agriculture led him to pursue a degree in animal science with a minor in agronomy at North Dakota State University. After serving two years in the Army, he returned to college and received a master's of business administration degree from the Ohio State University.

Upon graduation, John was a loan officer for the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives. He began his employment with MMPA in 1975 as controller.

John was promoted to MMPA's director of finance in June of 1980 and served in that position until he was named general manager in 2003.

As the "numbers" man behind the cooperative, John has worked to make MMPA one of the most financially strong cooperatives in the nation.

His leadership abilities have also been tapped by national organizations. He serves in leadership capacities for the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and the National Milk Producers Federation. John serves on the board of directors for the Michigan FFA

Foundation and the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation.

John and his wife, Barbara, have three sons: Erik, Steven and David.

### Michael J. George

Michael J. (Mike) George was born and raised in the Detroit area. For three years after graduating from high school, he worked in his father's grocery



business. It was here that he learned a work ethic second to none. He was summoned to the U.S. Army for service during the Korean conflict in 1953.

Mike had learned that there was a difference between the cost of product at the dock and the cost at the store. Using his father's store volume as his base, he slowly added customers from a single truck operation, adding vehicles as the need arose. Mike's philosophy was service, and it was his belief that even small customers could be serviced profitably.

Under Mike's leadership, a business enterprise, Melody Farms, LLC, distributors of dairy products, was started in the early 1960s. Started in the Detroit market, it eventually included all of southern Michigan and parts of northern Ohio when the company acquired ownership of a processing plant and eventually an ice cream operation. That business was sold to Dean Foods in the summer of 2003.

Mr. George is still deeply involved in many other business opportunities in

*(Continued on page 10)*



2006 MDMSF Honorees (continued)

addition to the dairy operations. He is a true entrepreneur.

Mike and his wife, Najat, have six sons and 10 grandchildren. Casual observers would assume when Michael is in the presence of family that there is nothing more important. They would be correct.

Seymour Greenstein

Seymour Greenstein was born and raised in the Detroit area, the youngest of three children.



Following the death of his father, in June 1965, he started in the family milk business, Golden Valley Dairy located in Detroit. The plant was eventually closed and Golden Valley Dairy became a milk distributor of United Dairies in 1968. At a trade show, Mr. Greenstein ran into a product called Haagen-Dazs, a premium label ice cream which he began bringing into the southeast Michigan market in 1974. He began an association with Sealtest with fluid milk products in 1976 and added Breyers ice cream in 1978.

Golden Valley began an association with Edy's and was to become a major ice cream and frozen novelty supplier in the Michigan market in 1989. It serviced all types of outlets with major brand premium frozen dairy products, including Edy's, Haagen-Dazs, Ben and Jerry's, Land O'Lakes, Healthy Choice, Dove and Skinny Cow novelties.

Golden Valley Dairy prospered under the leadership of Seymour Greenstein, whose belief that quality was far more important than price which enabled the company to become one of the leading distributors of frozen desserts in the

Midwest. His control of branded, highly sought-after labels gained his company entry into all types of outlets.

Seymour married Penny Gotlieb in March 1965. They enjoy frequent visits with their three children and 11 grandchildren.

Bob McDowell

Bob McDowell was a farmer from the time of his earliest memories. Bob attended Michigan State University, where he majored in dairy science with a minor in food science, graduating with honors in 1968. Bob was fortunate to receive a scholarship from the Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation, without which higher education would have been impossible.



Following graduation, Bob worked for a short while as a county dairy agent in Ingham County. Bob went on to work for Grocers Cooperative Dairy (Country Fresh, Inc.), from 1968 through 1982, holding several ascending positions culminating in vice president of operations in 1978.

After leaving Country Fresh, Bob formed his own company dealing with computer-controlled refrigeration and process control for dairy, meat and other food plants to help them improve control and save electrical costs. The company did many successful projects and operated for 10 years before closing.

Bob joined Bareman Dairy in 1987 to assist House of Flavors Ice Cream in its turnaround effort. He spent 18 long, hard months there and was successful in seeing it reestablished by the fall of 1989.

Bob took on the production and quality responsibilities at the Bareman's Holland operation and spent the remaining 16 years of his working career there.

Now in retirement, Bob and his wife, Rosie, plan to relax, pursue hobbies, travel and spend even more time with their eight adorable grandchildren. They have three children: Curt, Colleen and Clint.

Frank Merriman

Frank Merriman was born in the same home that he now resides in with his wife, Myrtle. They have been married for 65 years and have one son, Phil.



Frank was elected president of the state FFA in 1940.

In 1939, he went to Michigan State College and took a short course in dairy production. His plan was to continue, but the second World War made this impossible. A younger brother who enlisted in the Marine Corps was killed in the Battle of the Bulge in 1945. His brother's enlistment left only Frank to help his aging parents on the farm.

In 1945-50, Frank was a trustee at Michigan State College. Shortly after that, its name was changed to Michigan State University. During the 15 years that Frank served as a trustee, Dr. John Hannah was president, and tremendous growth in the school occurred.

He continued farming and developed a registered dairy herd and was elected to the board of Michigan Animal Breeders. He worked with Dr. Clint Meadows, and the dairy department became part of the

(Continued on page 11)



## 2006 MDMSF Honorees (continued)

Animal Science Department of today. Frank served as the first president of Select Sires.

Frank also served on the board of Detroit Edison and the Deckerville Hospital Board of Directors.

Frank, a tireless pioneer for community involvement, always chose to come home to a good herd of dairy cattle from the time of raising his first purebred heifer calf in 4-H up until the later years, when he had his own small herd. He developed 18 or 19 cows that were classified as excellent.

### George Robb

George Robb's interest in dairy farming started in his teen years on his father's farm in Fowlerville, Mich. He participated in FFA and was very active in 4-H activities, especially the county and state fairs and judging teams. In 1940, he was a member



of the Michigan 4-H judging team that won in Harrisburg. Later George judged many local and 4-H dairy shows.

George bred and developed a herd of registered Holstein cattle under the Rustic prefix including 10 cows that were classified as excellent.

Though he was usually found working hard at home in all facets of the dairy farm operation, he loved to attend the National Holstein conventions throughout the United States and to drop in and visit farmers.

Very civic-minded, George held leadership positions in various organizations including: the Michigan Holstein Association, Livingston County Farm Bureau, Livingston County 4-H Council, Northwest Livingston County Soil Conservation District, Michigan Democratic Agricultural Committee, Michigan Board of Veterinary Medicine, the Michigan FFA Foundation and the Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corp.

George and his wife, Jean, had eight children. He passed away in May 2005. ♦

## Animal Science Department celebrates 100 years

In 1906, milk was 12 cents a can, 3 pounds of sirloin steak sold for a quarter and eggs were 15 cents a dozen. 1906 also marked the organization of animal agriculture into the State Agricultural College's newest department. In 2006, the department celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Originally separated into Poultry, Dairy and Animal Husbandry departments, today's Department of Animal Science was the result of a 1980 merger of all animal groups, including sheep and

horses. Animal production classes had been offered since the founding of the Agricultural College for the State of Michigan in 1855, but as the institution grew, so did the demand for a centralized department to lead nationally recognized teaching and research programs for the animal industry.

Congratulations to the MSU Animal Science Department! ♦



## What are you doing now?

Former MDMSF scholarship recipients – help us put together a list of the various occupations of former MDMSF scholarship recipients. Send us your name, address, the year you graduated, major(s), degree(s) and your current occupation. Information can be faxed to Dr. Miriam Weber Nielsen at (517) 353-1699 or e-mailed to [msw@msu.edu](mailto:msw@msu.edu).

### For 2006:

**Nancy Blaauw** (B.S., 1982, animal science, Michigan State University) — Currently, business development/branch manager for Union Bank in Pewamo and Westphalia, Mich.

**Peggy (Miller) Zettle** (B.S., 1995, animal science, Michigan State University) — Working as herds person for Rosebrugh Dairy, which milks 250 cows in West Branch, Mich. ♦

## Mark Your Calendar!



50th anniversary of MDMSF—2007 MSU Dairy Club annual recognition banquet – **February 9, 2007**

Deadline for scholarship applications (new and renewal applications for four-year students) – **February 28, 2007**

Annual meeting of MDMSF Board of Directors – **April 11, 2007**

MDMSF 50th Anniversary Celebration – **July 19, 2007**.

Deadline for freshman and Ag Tech scholarship applications – **September 27, 2007**



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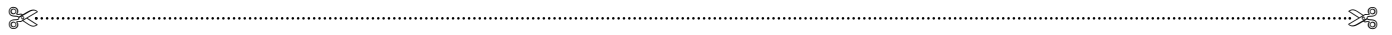
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