“We had three goals for this initiative,” said Steve Hsu, senior vice president for Research and Innovation. “To build on areas of strength to maintain our leadership position, augment existing initiatives and hire in emerging areas of research.”

Rather than a top-down approach, the process involved a grassroots movement led by faculty. MSU research teams submitted proposals for cluster hires of new researchers in areas that could truly make an impact — areas identified as national and global priorities. The teams also had to explain how they would leverage the current strengths at MSU.

Proposals were submitted by 120 groups across campus with wide-ranging ideas from strengthening autonomous vehicle security to better understanding and preventing antibiotic resistance. Following extensive discussions with college leaders and department faculty, 35 initial proposals for cluster hires were selected. One theme that rose to the top was the need for more researchers in computation. Every field — from education to health to business — needs to better understand how to learn from and leverage the huge amounts of data being generated today.

The new Department of Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering (CMSE) was formed from this idea and is now home to nearly 40 researchers, including assistant professor Elizabeth Munch. Munch categorizes herself as an interdisciplinary science researcher focusing on topological data analysis, which provides methods to quantify the shape and structure of data.

“I have been able to explore research directions I never thought possible without being encouraged to work in an interdisciplinary capacity,” Munch said. “In particular, I have started an active collaboration with another faculty member in horticulture, Daniel Chipitoe, exploring the quantification of plant morphology through X-ray CT images. I have also begun working on the interface of。“

GARDENS GIVE EMPLOYEES CHANCE TO ENJOY OUTDOORS

2015’s Global Impact Initiative sparks university’s research efforts

MELANIE KAUFFMAN //RESEARCH

Launched in 2015, the Global Impact Initiative, or GI2, set out to hire 100 faculty investigators in promising new areas of research. To date, 85 new faculty at all levels have been recruited to MSU, and they are already making great strides.

“I want to thank the thousands of students, staff and faculty who took the time to participate in the Know More @ MSU survey,” MSU Acting President Satish Udpa said. “This survey was very carefully created to give us a baseline of community knowledge about RVSM, and we are committed to sharing the results openly and using the data to shape future programming and policy decisions.”

MSU contracted with RTI International to promote trust and transparency in the survey process and results. RTI is an independent, nonprofit research organization and uses data to help clients make evidence-based decisions.

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RENOWNED SCHOLAR TO LEAD TEACHER EDUCATION DEPT.

**LAUREN KNAPP**

**/ACADEMICS**

Dorinda Carter Andrews, associate dean and recognized MSU scholar, recently was named the chairperson of the Department of Teacher Education. She will take over the leadership role from Margaret Cross, who is retiring after five years as chair.

Carter Andrews is the first African American woman to lead the department in its history.

“I am grateful and humbled to have been selected for this position,” she said. “MSU has long been a leader in teacher education, and I look forward to helping continue the momentum.”

Carter Andrews is a former industrial engineer, high school math teacher and kindergarten teacher, with experience in suburban, urban, charter and independent schools. Broadsly, she examines issues of racial justice in P-20 learning environments, urban teacher education and critical race theory (theory-informed practice centering race) with in-service educators.

“I became interested in the schooling experiences of black students because of my own experiences as a high-performing black student attending predominantly white schools for most of my life,” she said. Her research goals are to help educators and administrators create culturally responsive, equitable and just learning environments for marginalized youth, informed by students’ voices about their schooling. Additionally, Carter Andrews wants youth voices to be more central in decision-making about their education.

Her scholarship examines social justice issues by illuminating voices of youth and adults who have been historically and traditionally marginalized in schools and society. Most recently, her research has focused on black girls’ racialized and gendered experiences in schools and humanizing pedagogy in teacher education.

On the whole, she hopes her research can contribute to helping teacher education programs become more humanizing and commu- nity-centered spaces that efficiently develop asset-, quality- and social just- iﬁcation-promoting teachers.

“I represent a lot of kids in our school systems who have big hopes and big dreams and who are often times squelched by actors in the system,” she said in a recent interview. “As educators, we always have to remain committed to a sense of humanity, longing for the best in young people and ourselves. That’s at the core of how we develop quality, staff and students.”

**> NEWS BRIEFS**

**CANS BUSINESS MANAGER RECEIVES OUTSTANDING STAFF MEMBER AWARD**

Mary Beth Graebert received the 2019 Outstanding Staff Member Award from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Graebert is the business manager and adminis- trative assistant for the School of Planning, Design and Con- struction (SPDC). Her ability to adapt to new situations, think creatively and pragmatically and genuinely listen to others have contributed to SPDC’s success and inspired others.

**MSU FOUNDATION PROFESSOR NAMED A FELLOW OF PREMIER ENGINEERING SOCIETY**

The College of Engineering’s James Klausner has been named a Fellow by the American So- ciety of Thermal and Fluid Engineers (ASTFE), a premier international society for professionals in the thermal and fluids sci- ence and engineering commu- nity. He was honored during the 2019 ASTFE conference in April in Las Vegas. Klausner is an MSU Foundation Professor and chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He was recognized for his funda- mental contributions through experimentation and visualization of boiling and HDH desalination, and thermo-chemical conversion processes.

**MSU EARNS TREE CAMPUS USA AWARD FROM ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION**

2018 marked the second year in a row that MSU has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus USA institution. The award is granted to two- and four-year accredited colleges and universities that meet certain standards set by the Arbor Day Founda- tion. MSU’s Campus Tree Advisory Committee is made up of staff from across campus, includ- ing Frank Televski, professor of plant biology and director of the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden and campus arboretum; Jim Kielbaso, Depart- ment of Forestry; Bert Cregg, Department of Horticulture; Amanda Wakefield, Landscape Architecture Foundation; and PI’s Tressa Wahl, Swart (retired) and Jerry Wahl.

**TWO STAFF MEMBERS HONORED WITH RESEARCH ADMINISTRATOR AWARD**

Danielle Dask, research administrator for the Office of Research Support in the College of Natural Science, and Joyce Foley, research ad- ministrator for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, are the recipients of the Spring 2019 Unit Research Administrator Spotlight Awards. MSU’s research administration offices, Sponsored Programs Administration, the Office of Sponsored Programs and Contract and Grant Administration sponsor the award, which was established in the fall of 2017. The award recognizes the professional contributions and quality of service of MSU’s unit research administrators and encourages excellence and exemplary service through the model of The Spartan Experience.

**> GARDENS from pg. 1**

The is the first and largest program of its kind in the county, so this is a dream job for me.

“The transition from Extention edu- cator to assistant professor was natural for me,” she said. “Teaching about plants could be my passion, and I am grateful to split my time between learning and working with students and overseeing the gardens.”

**> SURVEY from pg. 1**

Organization with exten- sive experience designing and administering campus surveys. The identity of all respondents, as well as individual-level responses to survey questions, is confidential, with only aggregate data being shared with the survey faculty.

“We know that many offices and groups on campus are eager to use the data to help make meaningful changes to programs and policies,” said Carrie Moylan, assistant professor in the School of Social Work and a member of the KVSM Workgroup. “We hope the results of this survey provoke conversation, and more importantly, action, as we work together to create real culture change.”

The final report will be shared with the MSU com- munity and posted to the Know More campus survey website at go.msu.edu/FHN.

**> DRIVE YIELDS RECORD RESULTS**

The “Help Tackle Hunger” food drive by Residential and Hospitality Services and MSU Athletics saw record results this year, with 1,402 pounds of food and $3,681 in monetary donations for the MSU Student Food Bank.

The 2019 drive, held March 11 through April 15, marked the first time in five years that the efforts of community members have resulted in the col- lection of more than 1,000 pounds of food.

“The food drive cul- minated at the Green and White game after a monthlong collection of monetary and food donations at select retail locations,” said William Kost, associate director of Retail Food Services. This year, in partnership with MSU Athletics, Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan also supported the efforts with food collection at the entranc- es of Spartan Stadium during the game. Founded in 1993, the MSU Student Food Bank was the first in the nation to be operated by stu- dents, for students. It serves more than 6,000 students annual- ly, many with families, distributing more than 110,000 pounds of food. The nonprofit is a critical line of defense for students and student families experiencing food insecurity.

**INSIDE MSU**

**EDITOR** / Jason Cody

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** / Maddie Curley

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See more news at msu.edu/insidemsu
What she experienced first—the twin who had been “We have the ability to invaluable member of the choice. If she had tried to But more than anything, she MPH team. She coordinates save them ... online but under these circum-their families’ daily needs. — and that’s something courses. stances, it was unavoidable.

INTERNATIONAL

PROFESSOR TO PUBLIC HEALTH

EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA DROVE

MAY 20, 2019 / PAGE 3 INSIDE

calls details to this day. But more than anything, she remembers the people and what it meant to be accept-
ed in the village. “It tells students on the study abroad program that it’s all relationships” in Ghana — and that’s something we’ve lost here in the U.S., that sense of community,” Currier said. After returning from the Peace Corps in 1984, she went on to earn her master’s degree in public health in 1988 and worked as a global health consultant in Ghana, Mali and Liberia for John Snow Inc., a public health research and con-
sulting firm. She also spent two years in Africa as a Population Fellow with the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council. Currier brings to her cur-
rent position 25 years of cross-cultural experience, which has made her an invaluable member of the MPH team. She coordinates international experiences for students and co-leads a study abroad program in Ghana each summer. She also developed and teaches several of the online courses. She makes the online coursework “real” by shar-
ing stories from her Peace Corps experience in what she calls “Connie’s Corner.” “One of those stories is about a nearby village we went to visit during a drought,” Currier said. “I recall seeing a woman who had twins; it was evident that one of the twins was thriving and the other one wasn’t. When I went back to that village a couple of months later, I found that the twin who had been thriving was alive, but the other one had died. It was clear to me that the mother had made a conscious choice. If she had tried to save them both, they both would have died. The moth-
er had to make a horrible decision, a choice between life and death that no one should ever have to make, but under these circum-
stances, it was unavoidable. “I think about the majority of people across the world who don’t have access to clean water, sanitation, adequate nutrition or a decent standard of living,” she added. “Most of us take for granted our indoor plumbing and our access to water by simply turning on the tap. But on the other side of the globe, there are people who walk miles every day for a bucket of muddy water. “We have the ability to address these problems,” Currier said. “We’ve got to be able to do better.”

DORA WILLIAMS
Dora Williams, custodial services, died May 7.

WILKINSON
Wilkinson joined the staff in 1964 and retired in 2002.

DONALD J. WEINSHANK
Donald J. Weishank, engineering professor, died May 4. Weinshank joined the staff in 1967 and retired in 2002.

ROBERT WILKINSON

MARY JANE TRIPP
Mary Jane Tripp, research and graduate studies office assistant, died Oct. 27. Tripp joined the staff in 1965 and retired in 1987.

ALBERT VANSTEENKISTE
Albert VanSteenkiste, range safety officer, died April 3. Shaulis joined the staff in 1969 and retired in 2015.

CAROL SHAULIS
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CHRISTINE EMILY MCKINNON
Christine Emily McKinnon, technical aide for the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, died May 10. McKinnon joined the staff in 2010.

GEORGE MANSELL
George Mansell, MSU Extension county director, died March 31. Mansell joined the staff in 1969 and retired in 1994.

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