



Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation

Annual Newsletter

Supporting Tomorrow's Dairy Leaders!

Issue 5

January
2006

Michigan Dairy Memorial
and Scholarship Foundation
Annual Newsletter

January 2006
Published Annually

Michigan Dairy Memorial
and Scholarship Foundation
CANR External Relations
408 Agriculture Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1039

Issue No. 5

Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation

What's new with the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Fund? I would say it in one phrase: "Preparing for the future" with our 50th anniversary campaign for 2007. We are working hard to develop the appropriate event to achieve these goals:

- Thank people for their contributions to the MDMSF.
- Celebrate the success of MSU's second-largest scholarship program.
- Use this as a springboard to grow the positive impacts of this foundation on students for the next 50 years.

Our board of directors is committed to building our scholarship fund to generate scholarships for every student who meets our criteria. We carefully evaluate every application and are proud of our scholarship recipients' record of accomplishments in the dairy industry. Because the cost of tuition continues to grow, we have increased the value of our scholarships. It is important to be competitive within the university to keep the right students in the dairy program.

However, we are not done yet. Even though we were able to offer quality scholarships to 25 students this year, we had to turn away some highly deserving students. With your continued support and contributions, wouldn't it be great to provide scholarships to all qualified students? One student with creative bright ideas, in any role that adds value, could unleash tremendous potential for our industry.

I encourage you to give generously of your time, talents, and gifts so that we can meet the goals of the MDMSF and give every student who desires to participate in this great dairy industry an opportunity. I look forward to a successful celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation! Have a fantastic 2006!

Mike Fordyce
President, MDMSF

2005-06 Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors

President – Mike Fordyce,
Land O'Lakes

Vice President – Bob McDowell,
at-large

Secretary – Miriam Weber
Nielsen, MSU Dept. of Animal
Science

Treasurer – Chris Kindsvatter,
Michigan Dairy Foods
Association

Jack Barnes, at-large

Dan Bates, at-large

Bruce BeVier, at-large

Randy BeVier, at-large

Nancy Blaauw, at-large

Keith Brown, NorthStar
Cooperative

Sheila Burkhardt, at-large

Chuck Courtade, Dairy Farmers
of America

John Dilland, Michigan Milk
Producers Association

Russel Erickson, MSU Dept. of
Animal Science

Velmar Green, Michigan Milk
Producers Association

Larry Haywood, at-large

Bryan Hull, Dairy Farmers of
America

Dick Kleinhardt, Michigan Milk
Producers Association

Gary Nelsen, at-large

Nick McLaren, CANR External
Relations

John Pell, Dairy Farmers
of America

Jim Pollard, at-large

Mark Pollard, at-large

Remus Rigg, at-large

Gene Sickels, at-large

John Stout, at-large

Gerald Surbrook, at-large

Mark Uebersax, MSU Dept. of
Food Science and Human
Nutrition

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



Russel Erickson Endowed Scholarship

Mitch Fabus, of Elsie, is this year's recipient of the Russel Erickson Endowed Scholarship. The \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to Mitch on the basis of his academics, extracurricular activities and interest in a dairy-related career. The scholarship is named for Russel Erickson, retired Michigan State University professor of animal science.

Mitch appreciates the scholarships he has received from the dairy industry during his studies at MSU.

"The scholarships are great and have provided a lot of financial support towards my education," Mitch says. "They are a big stress relief for me

because I am paying for my education. Because of scholarships I am able to graduate with little debt and don't have to worry about paying off student loans; that means a lot to me."

Mitch is a senior majoring in crop and soil sciences with an agribusiness management specialization at MSU. During his time at MSU, he had the opportunity to travel to Australia and New Zealand, where he did a special topics study on their grazing systems and then compared them to grazing systems here in Michigan.

Mitch is the son of Mike and Kim Fabus and Kyle and Vicki VanDeusen. He already farms his own land, trading his labor for the use of his dad's equipment. When he graduates, Mitch plans to join his family's farm and expand both the dairy and the cash crop operations.

"I originally planned to graduate and either cash crop farm with my dad or work for a company that was involved in agriculture and continue to help at home as much as I could," he says. "Since then I have learned that I belong at home on the farm and cash crop farming is tough to do when you do not have many assets. Dairy cows are a guaranteed paycheck each month, which means a lot to me when I am just starting out."

Mitch and his father are in the planning stages of expanding the dairy herd. The facilities are being under-utilized now, so the pair will be able to increase cow numbers without the additional expense of facility improvement and expansion. Mitch would like to thank everyone who contributes to the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation. ♦

Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship

Chris Creguer, of Kinde, is this year's Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship recipient. Chris is the son of Sue Dumaw of Caseville and Bernie Creguer of Kinde.

Chris is a senior majoring in animal science with an agribusiness option at Michigan State University. He is also a member of and lives at the FarmHouse fraternity. Chris says he really appreciates receiving the scholarship and is impressed with the large number of charitable people in the dairy industry.

"I think that helping anyone continue their education is a very noble gesture," Chris remarks. "I personally know a lot of students that have received this scholarship, and it has made a big difference to them. It's easier to concentrate on school work when you

don't have to worry about getting money for tuition and housing."

Chris' interest in the dairy industry began when he started working for Zwemmer Dairy in high school. He was hired in as a milker and worked his way up to assistant herdsman, a position that gave him experience breeding, treating and working with dairy cows.

"I really enjoyed what I was doing and worked with a lot of people who were good about giving me responsibility," Chris says.

This summer, Chris had an internship with Cargill, working with nutritionists. Experiencing the dairy industry from both a producer and a service perspective helped Chris decide that he would definitely like to have his own dairy farm someday.

"I love the way of life," he says. "Every day there's new challenges you have to deal with, and it is always changing. You have to be able to adapt and take on new roles — you are part vet, part agronomist and part accountant. I really like the diversity."

Following graduation, Chris would like to work as a herdsman. He will also continue to run the feeder calf operation he started 4 years ago on his father's farm. ♦





Scholarships awarded to dairy students

The Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation has honored 144 dairy leaders in Michigan since 1957 and provided scholarships to more than 350 students. In the current academic year, scholarships were awarded on the basis of academic merit, extracurricular activities and professional goals to the individuals listed below, as well as the recipients of the Glenn and Anne Lake Scholarship and the Russel Erickson Scholarship.

Freshman Scholarships (\$1,500)

Greta Koebel, a freshman majoring in agribusiness management, is involved on her family's dairy farm in Three Oaks. In addition, she participated extensively in FFA, 4-H, dairy cattle judging, and Junior Holstein and Junior Jersey associations. Greta plans to own a dairy farm or work for a dairy industry company after graduation.

Michael Schrader grew up on a family dairy farm in St. Johns. A freshman in the Ag Tech Dairy Management Program, Michael participated in 4-H for 11 years and Habitat for Humanity, and is a member of the MSU Dairy Club. Michael plans to own or manage a dairy farm after graduation.

Nikki Shaw, a freshman in pre-veterinary medicine from Litchfield, is planning a career as a large-animal veterinarian. Nikki works for a veterinary clinic focusing on large animals. In addition, she participated extensively in 4-H and is a member of the Pre-Veterinary Medical Association at MSU.

Derek Lucas, a freshman in the Ag Tech Dairy Management Program, plans to return to the family dairy farm in Posen after graduation. Derek has been active in 4-H, FFA and the Michigan Holstein Association, and is a member of the MSU Dairy Club.

Lyndsay Stakenas, from Freesoil, is a freshman in pre-veterinary medicine. She grew up on a family dairy farm and participated in 4-H and athletics during high school. Lyndsay is planning a career as a veterinarian focusing on production animals.

Ag Tech Scholarships (\$2,000)

Adam Preston, from Quincy, is a freshman in the Ag Tech Dairy Management Program. Adam grew up and works on a family dairy farm. In addition, Adam has been extensively involved in FFA, 4-H and dairy cattle judging, and is a member of the MSU Dairy Club. Adam plans eventually to return to his family's farm.

Dave Bateman is a sophomore in the Ag Tech Dairy Management Program from Portland. He works as a herdsman on a dairy farm and plans to return to the farm after graduation. Dave is a member of the U.S. Marine Reserves and served in Iraq before coming to MSU.

Ashley Messing, a freshman in the Ag Tech Dairy Management Program, grew up on a dairy farm in Bad Axe. She participated extensively in 4-H, FFA and high school athletics, and served as the Huron County Bean Queen. After graduation, Ashley plans to work in the dairy industry as a herd owner.

Brandon Falker from Romeo is a freshman in the Ag Tech Dairy Management Program. He grew up on a family farm that included dairy cows as well as turkeys, hogs and chickens. He participated in 4-H, Boy Scouts and high school wrestling. After graduation, Brandon plans to return to the family farm.

Nathan Elzinga is a sophomore in the Ag Tech Dairy Management Program from Zeeland. He grew up on a family dairy farm, where he is extensively involved, and plans to return to the farm after graduation. Nate is a member of the Ag Tech dairy cattle judging team.

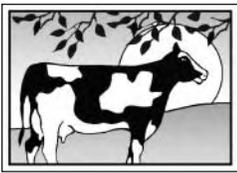
Dairy Memorial Scholarships (\$3,500)

Holly Boyle, from Yale, is a junior in animal science. Holly developed her interest in dairy cattle while working for 2 years on a dairy farm. She plans to become a large-animal veterinarian. Holly participates in 4-H and helps care for her family's beef cattle.

Edward Costigan, from Lansing, is a junior in crop and soil sciences. Ed developed his interest in agriculture while helping on his cousin's dairy farm, and he plans a career in the dairy industry that utilizes knowledge gained from agronomy and animal science courses. Ed is actively involved in the MSU Dairy Club, the Agronomy Club and FarmHouse Fraternity.

Amy Garrison, from Onsted, is a junior in agriscience who is planning a career in agricultural communications. Amy grew

(Continued on page 4)



Scholarships awarded to dairy students (continued)

up on a cow-calf and cash crop farm. She works in the MSU Meat Lab and participates in Dairy Club and Block and Bridle Club, and as a CANR ambassador.

Joann Greenfield is a junior in animal science from Annapolis, Md., planning a career as a veterinarian. Joann developed her interest in dairy cattle while helping on a relative's dairy farm. She works at the MSU dairy farm and during summers as a veterinary assistant. In addition, Joann participates in the MSU Women's Chamber Ensemble, the MSU Collegiate Choir and Dairy Club.

Alysa Isley from Palmyra, is a senior in agriscience education. She participates in MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau, the Agricultural Education Club and Sigma Alpha, and is employed with the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. After graduation, Alysa plans to become a high school agriscience teacher and FFA adviser.

Colleen Jackson, a sophomore in animal science from Caro, grew up on a dairy farm where she is actively involved. She plans to continue working in the dairy industry after graduation. In addition, Colleen participates extensively in the MSU Dairy Club and 4-H and works in the MSU greenhouses.

Matthew Jakubik is a junior in agricultural education from Whittemore. Matthew grew up on a family dairy farm and currently lives and works at the MSU dairy farm. He participates extensively in FFA, the Agricultural Education Club and Alpha Gamma Rho. After graduation, Matthew plans to become a high school agriscience teacher.

Maria Johnson, from Pittsford, is a junior in agribusiness management. She participates in the National Agri-

Marketing Association and Sigma Alpha and is employed at the MSU dairy plant. Maria is planning a career in pharmaceutical sales or dairy nutrition.

Garrett Landel is a senior in animal science from Waldron. Garrett grew up on a family dairy farm and plans to work in the dairy industry after graduation. He works on his family's farm in addition to operating a lawn service and working as a dairy foods processor at the MSU dairy plant. Garrett participated in the Dairy Club and MSU Dairy Challenge.

Katy McCracken grew up on a family dairy farm in Carson City. A junior in animal science, Katy is president of the Dairy Club and participated in the MSU Dairy Challenge. Katy plans to work in dairy reproduction on a dairy farm or for a dairy industry company after graduation.

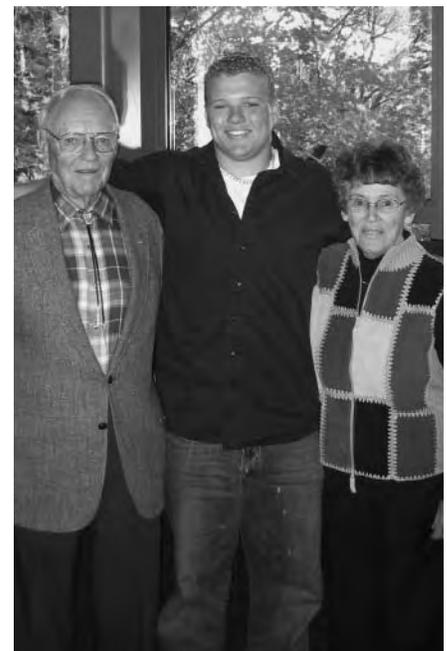
Scott Ruggles is a junior in agribusiness management from White Lake. Scott grew up on a farm and plans to operate his own dairy farm in the future. Scott currently works for his family's farm market and on another dairy farm.

Joseph Tarkowski, from Belding, graduated in animal science in December. Joe worked as assistant farm manager on a dairy farm and also worked at the MSU farms. In addition, Joe participated in FarmHouse Fraternity and Dairy Club, and the MSU, Midwest and national Dairy Challenge contests. He is working for a dairy nutrition company.

Jennifer Venlet, from Conklin, is a sophomore in animal science. She is planning a career in veterinary medicine. Currently Jennifer is involved in the Pre-Veterinary Medical Association and the Horseman's Association.

Jack & 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 Jesse Chase, a junior in agribusiness management from Hastings and a graduate of the Ag Tech Dairy Management Program. Jesse participated in a study abroad program in Australia in summer 2005. Jesse is active in FarmHouse Fraternity and Dairy Club, and he plans to return to his family's farm after graduation. ♦



Jesse Chase (center) with Jack and Betty Barnes.



2006-07 Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications (new, renewal) for the 2006-07 academic year are due February 28, 2006. Freshman and Ag Tech scholarship applications are due September 27, 2006. Applications can be obtained at 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.

Your MDMSF Gift Keeps on Giving



Your contribution to the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Fund (MDMSF) endowment works to help students today and to support future MSU students for many years to come.

Your gift to an endowed fund is a gift that grows. That is, the principal (the money you give) is invested in perpetuity and only a portion of the investment income is spent. This means your gift will live and grow forever. Each year, a portion of the annual investment earnings from the MDMSF endowment principal is distributed as scholarships. The rate of this distribution (currently 5.75 percent) is determined by the MSU Board of Trustees each year. The principal itself (your gift) remains untouched and, in fact, continues to grow as a portion of the annual earnings is reinvested each year. The MDMSF endowment currently has a principal balance of \$579,009.

As traditional funding sources for the university decline, endowed funds such as the MDMSF provide a long-term, dependable source of funding for programs and scholarships. Through your gifts, generations of students pursuing careers in the dairy industry will be able to count on scholarship help from the MDMSF. ♦

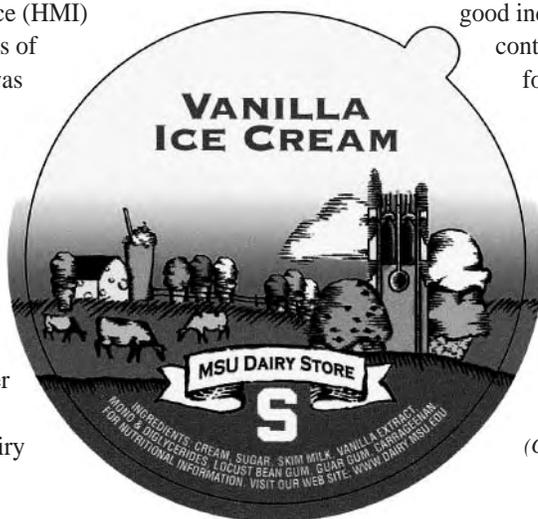
MSU Dairy Foods Complex News

by Dr. John Partridge

The MSU Dairy Foods Complex continues to support teaching, research and Extension functions through improved facilities and programs in both processing and marketing.

During 2004-05, the Human Machine Interface (HMI) for the operations of the dairy plant was upgraded to the latest software edition, and touch screens were added for operator convenience. The new HMI allows for greater flexibility in the processing of dairy

and other foods by providing manual override controls of plant assets. Teaching laboratories, research projects and Extension programs are much easier to run, and the new controls allow for greater control of processes by the participants. Maintaining the process environment as an example of good industry standards continues to be a goal for the complex management team of John Engstrom, plant manager; Rodney Clark, dairy plant technician; and John Partridge, faculty adviser.



(Continued on page 10)

The above lid was designed for use on the new 6-oz. ice cream cups being offered by the MSU Dairy Store.



Dairy Memorial Scholarship Thank You's from 2005-06

Thank you very much for the scholarship for the 2005-06 school years. It is greatly appreciated. This award will help me pursue my goals of becoming a large-animal vet and making an impact on the dairy industry. Thanks again!
Jennifer Venlet

Iwanted to thank you for the scholarship I received this past year. It was such an honor to have been selected. I am graduating with an animal science degree in May and hope to continue on to veterinary school, where I will continue to educate myself so I can better serve the dairy industry. Thanks again!
Katherine Shuster

Thank you for selecting me to be awarded a Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship. It is not without the support of this award that I am able to continue my education here at MSU. I look forward to working together after graduation for the benefit of agriculture and the dairy industry. Sincerely,
Alysa Isley

Thank you very much for awarding me a 2005/2006 Dairy Memorial Scholarship. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to coming back to school in the fall to continue my education, and work hard towards my career in agriculture and the dairy industry. Thank you again.
Amy Garrison

Iwould like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude towards all of you who represent the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship and Scholarship Foundation for choosing me as a 2005/2006 scholarship recipient. Having applied three times now for a Dairy Memorial Scholarship and receiving all of

them, I feel that I have really gained your trust. It is a great honor to know that some of the industry's greatest leaders believe in me and think that I am able to become a future leader as well. As I begin my last year of college, I feel relieved that such a major portion of my tuition has already been taken care of due to your generosity. Words can only begin to describe how much I appreciate all that you have done for me these past three years. You have my word that I will continue to remain a dedicated and focused student throughout my last year at Michigan State, and as I enter the agricultural industry I will do my best to make each and every one of you proud of what you helped to create. Again, I thank you all for your contributions and will always think very highly of your organization.
Mitch Fabus

Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of your scholarship. I feel very honored and excited to accept the challenge to become a leader in the dairy industry. Once again, I appreciate this award. Sincerely,
Colleen L. Jackson

Thank you very much for selecting me to be a recipient of the 2005 Dairy Memorial Scholarship. I am very honored to have your support. It means a lot to me. I look forward to being involved in the dairy industry for many years to come. Thanks again for your time and support.
Nikki L. Shaw

Iwould like to say thank you to the Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation for granting me this financial help with tuition. Not only are you, the board members and donors, giving the future dairy producers of America a greater chance of exceeding our goals, but you are also showing us we are not

alone in the community and there are people looking out for us even when we don't see it sometimes. Thank you again, and I look forward to meeting you all sometime in the future.
Dave Bateman

Thank you for the generous scholarship. I really appreciate it. This will help me to further my education in my pursuit of a degree in veterinary medicine.
Lyndsay Stakenas

Iwould like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking time to meet with me for an interview and then awarding me the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship. I have been taking every opportunity I can to find ways to fund my college tuition. And with this I am very grateful.

I have been very interested in my classes this semester. I believe this is because, unlike high school, I am now involved in something I really like studying. Michigan State has really helped me out so far with my academics and teaching me useful information that I am going to need to know. I am really looking forward to a return home when I am done at Michigan State and expanding our farm and making it a very profitable farm. I now know that it will be possible with the education that I am receiving at Michigan State.

Thank you so much once again for taking the time and awarding me this scholarship!
Brandon Falker

Iwant to take time to thank you for the time and consideration you took in giving me this opportunity. You have helped open doors to my future and you have created more opportunities for me in this dairy industry. I as well as others

(Continued on page 11)



New Department Chair of Food Science and Human Nutrition



Gale Strasburg was named to lead the MSU Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, effective August 16, 2005.

Dr. Strasburg had been acting chair of the department since July 2004. He replaced Mark Uebersax, who served as an administrator in the department beginning in 1986 and was named chairperson in January 1997.

Under Dr. Uebersax's leadership, the department developed a strong focus on improving access to programs,

experiential learning and outplacement. Initiatives during his tenure included a program to deliver graduate degree programs to employees within W.K. Kellogg Institute facilities, the PepsiCo minority scholarship/internship program, the FSHN undergraduate teaching assistant program and the FSHN Student Career Center. Dr. Uebersax continues in his faculty position within FSHN, teaching and conducting research in fruit and vegetable processing and quality.

Dr. Strasburg has been a member of the FSHN faculty since July 1988, with a distinguished record of achievement in teaching and research. His teaching interests include food chemistry, food proteins and lipids, and analytical techniques. His research in muscle biochemistry and lipid oxidation holds out the potential to improve human health, enhance food safety and add value to processed foods.

Under his leadership, the department has successfully transitioned FSHN programs to joint administration between the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (lead) and the College of Natural Science. Previously, the department was jointly administered by the CANR and the College of Human Ecology. Undergraduate programs in dietetics and nutritional sciences were transferred from the CHE into the CANR and CNS, respectively. Graduate programs in human nutrition are now available through either the CNS or CANR, while both undergraduate and graduate programs in food science remain in the CANR.

Dr. Strasburg received a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and a master's degree and doctorate in meat and animal sciences from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He did postdoctoral work at both the Boston Biomedical Research Institute and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. ♦

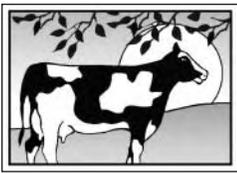
What are you doing now?

Raal Roos (B.S., '74, Food Science, Michigan State University, J.D., '80, University of Oklahoma), currently vice president and general counsel for Sally Beauty Company, Inc., in Denton, Texas.

Lora Sommers (Agriscience Education, '03, teacher certification, '04, Agriculture & Natural Resources Communications, '03, Michigan State University), agriscience instructor and FFA adviser for Homer Community Schools in Homer, Mich. ♦



MDMSF scholarship recipients worked at the MSU Dairy Club booth during the 2005 Autumnfest. Pictured (left to right): Jessica Geurink, Allendale; Katy McCracken, Carson City; and Pieter Serne, Lowell. The display included a flyer on the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation and how it is gearing up to celebrate 50 years of assisting students. The MSU Dairy Club booth placed third among all the student booths at Autumnfest.



MDMSF Honorees



Lawrence R. Angott was born and raised in the Detroit area, the third of seven children born to Samuel and Myrtle

Angott. Samuel was the founder of the original family business, the Detroit Pure Milk Company. Larry, along with his brother Thomas, continue daily oversight of this family milk business and are looking forward to the fourth generation of family in the business.

Larry is the third Angott mentioned as a named honoree, a program of recognition begun with the inception of the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Program in 1957.

Larry graduated from the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and attended the University of Detroit and Michigan State University.

Currently, he is chairman/CEO of C.F. Burger, Twin Pines Dairy, Detroit. He has held numerous senior management assignments since 1945, when he entered the family business. He continues to work seven days a week and vows that he will never retire.

For many years, Larry has been active in numerous professional and charitable organizations, including the International Dairy Foods Association, Michigan Dairy Foods, Detroit Dairy Tech and the Allied Ice Cream Association of Michigan.

From the date of inception, and because he was a member of and understood the inner workings under which the McDonald Corporation Dairy Council operated, he was a mover in the very successful Chuck Bagans Endowed Scholarship established some years ago in the G. Malcolm Trout Memorial Fund.

Larry and his wife, Rosemary, have been married for 51 years. They had three

children, with two daughters surviving, and have been blessed with 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The lifelong involvement of Lawrence R. Angott and his numerous contributions to the dairy industry amply qualify him as a named honoree of both the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation and the G. Malcolm Trout Memorial at Michigan State University.



Kenneth L. Gasper was born in Grand Rapids and attended Belding High School, where he graduated in 1967.

During 1968 and 1969, he was employed as a sub-milk hauler and attended college. In 1969, he finished a two-year Agricultural Technology degree from Michigan State University.

After graduation, he worked for Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative as a sub-technician. He then returned to the home farm, Lew-Max Holsteins, in Belding, to manage the 60-cow registered Holstein herd with his father, Lewis Gasper. In 1972, he married Jane Majinska. They had four children — Nikki, Aaron, Maddie and Jamie.

In 1988, Ken, Jane, and their children ran the operation with Lewis Gasper remaining as financial consultant. In 2001, Aaron Gasper became the fifth-generation partner for Lew-Max Holsteins, LLC, with his father.

Ken and Aaron are currently milking 250 cows and farming 1,000 acres. The rolling herd average is currently 31,252 pounds of milk, 982 pounds of fat and 947 pounds of protein. The herd's classification average is 102.3 BAA. From 1991 to 2004, Ken received the Progressive Genetics Award from the

Holstein Association. His efforts to improve his herd's genetics include the use of embryo transfer. In addition, the herd is involved in the Select Sires Young Sire Program and SMS. Ken received the Dairy Farmer of The Year award in 1992 from the MSU Department of Animal Science and the Michigan dairy industry.

Ken is very active in the community, with past and present positions on the St. Joseph's School board, St. Mary's Holy Name Society, St. Joseph's Home and School board, and the township planning committee.

In addition, he has served the agricultural industry in numerous capacities, including the Ionia County Cooperative Extension Advisory Committee; Ionia County Farm Bureau; the Michigan Farm Bureau State Policy Development Committee; Michigan Milk Producers Association, local and district; DHIA county board; Belding FFA Advisory Council; and the MSU Animal Science Advisory Committee. Ken was also a 4-H dairy club leader, and he has served on the NorthStar Cooperative board of directors since 1983 and served as president for 11 years. Ken has also represented NorthStar on the Select Sires board of directors since 1990 and is chairman of the Select Sires Farm Committee.

Ken has been very active in his community and in Michigan's agriculture industry. His involvement with agricultural organizations is a testament to his commitment to have a positive influence on Michigan's dairy industry.

NorthStar Cooperative honored Ken Gasper as one of Michigan's dairy leaders by making a contribution to the MDMSF in his name. A presentation was made to Ken at the 2005 NorthStar annual meeting.



MDMSF Honorees (continued)



Merton B. "Mert" Sowerby is an internationally known dairy farm manager, dairy cattle judge and classifier. He was born

and raised on a farm in Kent County.

While in high school, one of his 4-H demonstration projects earned him a trip to the Michigan State Fair and the National 4-H Congress. As a high school senior, he was high individual in the state FFA Dairy Cattle Judging Contest and high individual in Jerseys in the national contest in Kansas City.

At Michigan State College, Mert, like so many other farm boys, always had a job or jobs to fund his education. While there, Mert's interest in purebred dairy cattle grew. He traveled around the Midwest state fairs with the Oakland show herd and became acquainted with many outstanding owners and herdsman. In 1942, Mert was on the MSC dairy cattle judging team that competed at the National Dairy Cattle Show in Waterloo, Iowa.

Mert left school in 1942 to become herdsman for the Oaklands, a dominant Jersey farm near Ann Arbor. Mert began judging county and 4-H fairs in 1943, thus beginning a career in judging dairy cattle that took Mert first all over Michigan, then the United States and the world. In 1946, Mert became Guernsey herd manager for Bray's Island Plantation in South Carolina, one of the most outstanding Guernsey herds in the country. In 1949, while showing at the National Guernsey Show in Waterloo, Iowa, he became a charter member of the National Dairy Shrine. In 1953, Mert was selected by owners, managers and herdsman from the United States and Canada to receive the highly coveted Klussendorf Award, an award recognizing ability, endeavor and sportsmanship.

In 1955, Mert moved to Wood Acres near Princeton, N.J., and took over another outstanding Guernsey herd. He showed the grand champion cow at the National Guernsey Show four times, junior champion female six times and the national futurity winner five times. He also showed the only five-time all-American aged cow of any breed.

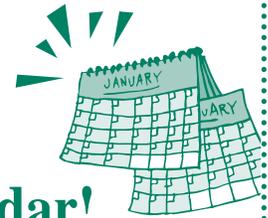
When the Wood Acres herd was dispersed in 1971, Mert continued his long career as a judge. Mert became an official classifier, first for Guernseys, soon for Jerseys, Ayrshires, Milking Shorthorns, and Brown Swiss, and, unofficially, Holsteins in Costa Rica. His classifying and judging took Mert to all parts of the United States and many foreign countries. During his career, Mert officially classified 194,000 dairy cattle. In 1984, the American Guernsey Cattle Club awarded Mert its Distinguished Service Award.

Along the way Mert met Frances Morgan. They were married in 1944 and have two children and two grandchildren.

Mert had left MSC short of his degree. While at Wood Acres, he met the requirements for his degree in 1962 with courses at Rutgers University.

While in retirement, Mert chronicled many of his life experiences in a book, "Always Have Your Cattle Ready." Mert and Frances live in Grand Rapids near where Mert spent his childhood. ♦

Mark Your Calendar!



February 28, 2006 — Deadline for scholarship applications (new and renewal applications for sophomores, juniors and seniors).

March 24, 2006 — MSU Dairy Club banquet.

September 27, 2006 — Deadline for freshman and Ag Tech scholarship applications.

April 20, 2006 — MDMSF annual meeting.

2007 — 50th anniversary of MDMSF.



Some of the 2004-05 MDMSF scholarship recipients were able to join the MDMSF board of directors during the board's 2005 annual meeting. They are (left to right) Cortney Peissig, Matt Jakubik, Emily Sneller, Ashley Benthem and Garrett Landel.



MDMSF Provides Support to MSU Dairy Judging Program

For the past 3 years, the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation has provided financial support to the MSU dairy judging program. The money invested by MDMSF in the judging program helps to support more than 25 students and youth annually. Support from the MDMSF and other organizations greatly reduces the cost of travel and involvement in dairy judging for each student.

Dr. Joe Domecq coaches and coordinates the judging teams for 4-H and Ag Tech and the collegiate team.

“The contribution from MDMSF is very helpful in providing an opportunity for students to experience different aspects of the dairy industry outside of the traditional classroom setting,” he explains.

“At a time when budgets are tighter and tighter, the MDMSF helps to make this experience possible,” Domecq says.

The MSU dairy judging program was represented at three contests this past year — the All-American Dairy Show in Pennsylvania, the World Dairy Expo in

Wisconsin and the North American International Livestock Expo in Kentucky.

“The teams had a great experience and did well at all of the contests this year,” Domecq says. “We had some team members who did very well, placing as high individuals in oral reasons, breed classes and overall individual scores at the contests.”

Participating in the MSU dairy judging program provides valuable experiences to the students involved in the program. “While doing well in a national contest is certainly important, the life skills gained by each individual are much more valuable and will assist them the rest of their lives.”

An added bonus for the MSU dairy judging team this year is that the 4-H dairy judging program was invited to participate in the 2006 Royal Highland Livestock Show in Edinburgh, Scotland. The invitation was received after the 2004 4-H dairy judging team placed second at the World Dairy Expo, the

(Continued on page 11)

MSU Dairy Foods Complex

(Continued from page 5)

Thanks to the efforts of our first-class student employees, the dairy store is not only running more efficiently than ever but also is looking very spiffy. A new color scheme and new furniture have rejuvenated the atmosphere in the Anthony Hall store.

The ice cream selection is outstanding, with new flavors moving in and out of rotation on a regular basis. This past year, we had the opportunity to offer “Final Four Fudge Dribble” in honor of the men's and women's basketball teams making the NCAA Final Four in March and “Sesquicentennial Swirl” for the 150th anniversary of MSU.

We have also added 6-oz. cups of vanilla, chocolate, strawberry sundae, chocolate sundae and Sesquicentennial Swirl ice cream to our retail and wholesale offerings. Cheese sales continue to rise in response to improved quality and enhanced marketing efforts through the online Campus Store, 4-H dairy program and the MSU Dairy Club.

The most exciting news for the near future is the planned addition of a new dairy store in the MSU Union. The store will be located on the first floor next to the east entrance to the Union. This will put us in a great position to take advantage of the improved parking facilities being constructed on Grand River Avenue. To service the new store, a small freezer truck is being added to the assets of the Dairy Foods Complex. The Union dairy store will serve the same great MSU ice cream, shakes and sundaes along with our MSU grilled cheese sandwiches. The new store is scheduled for opening in late February 2006. A grand opening celebration to kick off this new venture is in the planning stages. ♦



Michigan was well represented at the recent World Dairy Expo dairy judging contest. Teams representing 4-H, Ag Tech and the 4-year program participated in the national dairy judging contest. Pictured above is the MSU collegiate team (left to right): Joe Domecq, coach; Jennifer Ackerman, Vassar; Katy McCracken, Carson City; Karolyn Terpstra, assistant coach; Amber Black, Morley; Faye Vanderhoff, Hudson; and Beth Munsell, assistant coach.



Thank You's, continued from page 6.

appreciate the effort you have made to advance our industry. I am going to finish school this semester and go back to my home farm in Zeeland. Currently we milk 200 cows and we raise all of our heifers, plus a few extras. I am going into partnership with my family members and I plan to relieve my dad's position as he gets older. Next summer I am getting married to a girl that shares my passion for farming. Both of us will be continually grateful for the opportunity you gave us to start farming.

Nathan Elzinga

MDMSF Provides Support, continued from page 10.

highest ranking for Michigan in more than 20 years. The first- and second-place teams at the contest are invited to the international show each year. Teams from more than 30 states competed in this year's contest. The judging team is working on raising approximately \$10,000 to participate in the international contest. In addition to the dairy judging competition at the show, the 14-day trip, scheduled for June 21 - July 4, 2006, includes farm visits and sightseeing in Ireland and other European countries.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to participate in this international contest," Domecq notes. "It is a tremendous honor to be selected to participate in this contest, and the students have been working very hard to raise the necessary funds to participate."

In addition to supporting the dairy cattle judging program, the MDMSF also provides financial support as needed to the MSU dairy foods judging program. ♦

Former MDMSF Scholarship recipients – what are you doing now?

The MDMSF is developing a list of the various occupations in which former scholarship recipients are now involved. Please help us update our scholarship recipient records by completing the form below and returning it to Dr. Miriam Weber Nielsen.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (optional) _____ e-mail (optional) _____

Major(s) _____

Degree(s), year(s) graduated _____

Current occupation (title or position, employer name and location): _____

Mail, fax or e-mail this information to 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
Fax: 517-353-1699
e-mail: msw@msu.edu



Contributions to the MDMSF (A10901)

Enclosed is my total contribution of \$ _____

Enclosed is my initial contribution of \$ _____

Please send pledge reminders: _____ annually _____ semi-annually _____ quarterly

Name _____

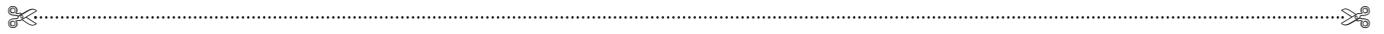
Address _____

Home telephone _____

- Please send me more information on:
- MDMSF honoree recognition
 - Joining MSU donor recognition clubs
 - A personal visit or other assistance

Please make checks payable to Michigan State University, designate for MDMSF and forward with this completed card to:

Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation
 CANR External Relations
 408 Agriculture Hall
 Michigan State University
 East Lansing, MI 48824-1039



Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation
 CANR External Relations
 408 Agriculture Hall
 Michigan State University
 East Lansing, MI 48824-1039

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID East Lansing, MI Permit No. 21
