A FORCE FOR CREATIVITY, DISCOVERY, AND LEARNING

Getting involved seems embedded in the genes of Jim and Karen Schaefer and daughter Marie. And, although Jim (English 1970), Karen (Journalism 1969), and Marie (current anthropology Ph.D. student) took three different paths in getting involved at MSU, the university would approve of them all. And while it all began at MSU some 45-50 years ago, Jim and Karen can't remember a time when they haven't been involved in issues, causes, concerns or relationships on the local, national or global level.

"Karen and I are both interested in transformational change, and, when speaking specifically about MSU, we believe it's always been the relationships that help create that change," Jim says. "For example, John Hannah, president of MSU when Karen and I were students here, was a family friend who used to pluck feathers off chickens for relatives of mine who had apple farms. The incongruity between the two jobs was not lost on me."

"President Hannah was a superb leader. When I was at The State News (MSU's student-run newspaper) reporting on his office and the administration, I went to board of trustee meetings, and he and we'd meet beforehand."

Lesson learned
"What always impressed me about John Hannah was that he was always prepared, and the lesson I learned was never go into a meeting without already knowing the outcome. That's how he did it, and he was very successful at it. Whether the issue was big or small, he'd done his homework. He'd talked to the people involved, and negotiated out the rest. The meeting was just to confirm the decision."

Asked if he and Karen met while students at MSU, Jim says, "No, that's the weird thing. We were both here in approximately the same timeframe. But she had the 'upper-crust' experience. Karen lived in and was president of East Landon, and was a Spartan Round Table member." (Formed in 1947, the Spartan Round Table was an informal lunch meeting between President Hannah and representatives of various campus groups, as a means of communication between Hannah and students.)

"So, Karen met regularly with John Hannah, too," Jim says. "I lived in Fee Hall; in fact, it had just opened on the far edge of campus, 30 minutes from practically everything. My one major involvement was The State News."

Alabama trip
Jim says one of the most remarkable opportunities he had as a State News reporter happened because John Hannah was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as the first chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. As a result, in 1968, Jim traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, with President Hannah for some civil rights hearings on the Maxwell Air Force base when George Wallace was governor.

"That was a very interesting experience. But I really didn't appreciate it until I got back and people asked, "What was it like?" and I realized just how dangerous it had been. After all, this was a very tumultuous period, during the time of the Freedom Riders. You had to respect that."

Jim added that the people holding the Commission hearings focused on collecting information about equal economic opportunities for African Americans in a 16-county rural and non-metropolitan area in Alabama and Mississippi. At that time, manufacturers generally employed African Americans in the lowest paying and least desirable jobs, usually as laborers and menials. Because of the hearings, Schaefer met people like social activist Julian Bond, and even had dinner with the vice-chairman of the Commission, Eugene. Building the creative skills of a 21st century workforce..."
"We had a newsletter, and were involved in outreach for the children being served. When Karen left the projects outside of the paper."

"Jim was working at the paper there (when they were in the Quonset huts where Breslin was managing editor of The Atlanta Constitution from 1960-68 and, later, The Washington Post). I took photos for WKAR's news publication and was hired as a photojournalist. She did a feature on a barbershop."

"I think there was only one photojournalism course, and you knew what good stories were and how to write them by the time you got out of her class."

"Karen adds, "We started getting involved in various projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education.""

"In 1972, we were married at Bethel Lutheran Church in Muskegon, where my parents were married. Muskegon, where my parents were married."

"Karen says, "Rutledge was a psychiatrist in Louisiana, and a butcher in Oregon.""


"When the Detroit Tigers won the World Series in 1968 and, later, the film crew on several remote assignments, including...(riprap.org), now in its 18th year, has produced more than 200 30-minute television Book Television Program Quarterly, that I was accountable for the decisions that I made."
well-being of people in this state, our nation, and the world."

We've strived to employ those skills throughout our careers to improve the cultural skills we acquired at MSU, and, in my case, from the College of Arts and Letters. "That was quite interesting, to help people like that. They

Helping people..."

because I had to understand the rationale for all that I did through the entire manuscript package with Post-it notes, the color of the cover and why this comment or that was in becoming senior editor during his 10 years there.

Next, Jim became manuscript editor for an academic quarterly, and when they did get published, they'd generally become..."

...published who'd never had that happen before. We..."

"We did that for 14 years as a way to help people get..."

"We continued working together and, in 1974, started..."

Muskegon, where my parents were married."

And commuting back and forth to East Lansing, Karen says. Ultimately, Jim and Karen became involved with one another..."

"Mom said, 'You should take a look at MSU.' But she..."

"So, I asked the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office what..."

Of Interior's Northeast Climate Science Center to be a..."

The program's..."

Community Television Network in the Ann Arbor area."

Over time, Karen and Jim involved themselves with various projects for WKAR at MSU. "WKAR was responsible for the..."

Comparative Studies in Society and History."

"Ripples, and moved to..." Jim says.

Says Marie, "Next, I went to Northern Arizona University..."

Earning her master's in applied anthropology. I chose NAU..."

"Over this same time period, the Schaefer's daughter,..."

Marie Schaefer (upper left) and fellow participants in the 2013 MSU..."

Marie is now ending her third year at MSU. Her first two..."

a Ph.D. in communication studies)."