

EVERETT AND JANE EVERSON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN PLANT BREEDING

The Everett and Jane Everson graduate fellowship was established to honor Everett and Jane Everson for their many contributions to plant breeding and graduate education. This fellowship is especially dedicated to Dr. Everson for his forty years of mentoring more than two dozen graduate students at Michigan State University. Both Everett and Jane made enduring contributions to the development of these plant breeders and dedicated world citizens.

Dr. Everson's forty year research career profoundly impacted wheat production in Michigan and throughout the world. Everett's MSU breeding program released eight cultivars that have been used extensively in Michigan, New York, Wisconsin and Ontario. These cultivars were responsible for \$150 million in increased wheat production in Michigan from 1981-85. Everett has been a pioneer in utilizing the computer (mainframe and PC) to assist his breeding program. His software program has been a model for many programs throughout the world. Everett also played a significant role in developing controlled-environment chambers (Sherer-Gillette). In addition to his impressive breeding program Everett has been a dedicated teacher and mentor during his long career. As an educator he taught the basic plant breeding course to both graduate and undergraduate students. In this course, students were taught the principles of scientific agriculture and the need for interdisciplinary research. He used his wheat breeding program to show how interdisciplinary research projects are initiated and implemented.

Everett was involved in many international development projects. His work as an agronomist with the Ford Foundation in India had a significant impact on India's wheat production during the Green Revolution. He spent two years as project leader for a major USAID Multiple Cropping project in Egypt. He worked for the Lutheran World Federation and many other development agencies. Everett's dedication to international development serves as an inspiration to his students.

Jane Everson served as an invaluable partner with Everett in helping graduate students develop their professional skills and become world citizens. Jane was also involved in international development, spending two years in Vietnam and two years in Egypt. Jane was a great hostess and friend to graduate students and foreign visitors. She had a great enthusiasm for life and a special love of music. She was an accomplished pianist and used her music in helping students feel welcome and at home.

It is the intent of the Donors that this endowment fund a graduate fellowship program in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences. The recipient should be a graduate student doing research in plant breeding. Preference will be given to students studying cereal breeding. For the academic year 2015-2016, the award amount will be up to \$2,500, and shall be credited FS15 during the tuition payment process.

Proposals and nominations should be no more than two pages in length and include the following:

- Name
- Country of origin
- Degree objective, area of study, and GPA
- Description of the request, including budget
- A statement of need

- Brief statement of support from Major Professor
- Names of two individuals familiar with the work/project

The Everett and Jane Everson Graduate Fellowship in Plant Breeding Award Committee will select the awardee(s) based on the following criteria:

- Scholarship/quality of science
- Personal need
- Programmatic need
- Potential to enhance graduate experience

All recipients will be required to make appropriate acknowledgment to the donors within six weeks of notification of the award:

Russell and Ruby Freed
1408 Basswood Ct.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Proposals must be submitted to: Sandie Litchfield, A286-D PSSB, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, by 5:00 p.m. on February 20, 2015. Awards will be announced on or after April 1, 2015.