

Endowment

Milton Muelder (center) is pictured at the October 30 signing ceremony for the *John M. Hunter and Milt Muelder Endowment for Latin American and Caribbean Studies*. Also pictured are Acting Dean of International Studies and Programs Jeffrey Riedinger (seated, left), Acting Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Peter Beattie (seated, right), Vice President for University Development Charles Webb (standing, left), and Associate Dean of International Studies and Programs Dawn Pysarchik (standing, right).



Muelder Gift Enhances Programs at Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

“CLACS, International Studies and Programs, and MSU owe much to the efforts of John Hunter and Milton Muelder, whose vision and hard work helped make our university an institution of international engagement,”

— Peter Beattie,
CLACS acting director

Milton Muelder, vice president emeritus for research and development, has established an endowment that honors his late friend and colleague John M. Hunter. The endowment will enable the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) to expand its support for academic initiatives.

Hunter, professor emeritus of economics, passed away on September 26, 2006. He was director of CLACS from 1965 to 1983.

Established in late October 2006, the *John M. Hunter and Milt Muelder Endowment for Latin American and Caribbean Studies* is the third endowment made possible by Muelder’s generosity. It joins a number of other worthy philanthropic initiatives he and his late wife have supported and which benefit many aspects of the university.

“CLACS, International Studies and Programs, and MSU owe much to the efforts of John Hunter and Milton Muelder, whose vision and hard work helped make our university an institution of international engagement,” said CLACS acting director Peter Beattie. “The gift will enable CLACS to better serve its faculty and students. It will also serve as a testament to the many contributions these two leaders made to develop Latin American and Caribbean studies at MSU.”

Muelder, who retired in 1976, enjoyed a distinguished 41-year career as both an educator and an administrator at MSU. As a professor he taught courses in the Department of History and the Department of Political Science and Public Administration.

As an administrator, he served MSU in many capacities, including chair of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, dean of the School of Science and Arts, dean of the Graduate School, vice president for Research Development, acting dean of International Programs, and acting vice president of Student Affairs.

John M. Hunter earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University. Prior to coming to MSU in 1950, he served in both the European and Pacific theaters during World War II and was awarded a Bronze Star from the United States Army.

An accomplished academic, Hunter published four books and numerous articles on topics ranging from internal migration to issues of economic development and banking in Latin America. His directorship of CLACS was marked by involvement in many international projects and the establishment of relationships with many educational institutions in Latin America. He retired from MSU in 1984.

Hunter’s hobbies included photography. He was a longtime member of the Lansing Camera Club and won numerous prizes for his work. Some of the photos he took during visits to Latin America appeared in *Fine Tuning*, a magazine published by WKAR, and others can be found in the book *Global Focus: Images of a Land-Grant Tradition*, published by MSU Press. Hunter regularly volunteered his time and his voice to WKAR’s *Radio Talking Book* program that benefits those who cannot read or those who just enjoy listening to others read.

The Hunter-Muelder Fund will be used annually to support any of the following activities: a distinguished speaker series on Latin American topics, scholarships for undergraduates who have a Latin American academic focus, graduate pre-dissertation research in Latin America and the Caribbean, short-term faculty research on Latin American and Caribbean societies, or stipends for CLACS faculty who have exemplified excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and service.

— Kim Gladstone

For more about MSU’s Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, visit www.isp.msu.edu/clacs