



Newsletter

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Child Care Endowment Fund Created

By [Laura Fosmire](#) | Originally Published: 01/19/11 11:56pm <http://statenews.com/r/22c6c36a>

The Council of Graduate Students, or COGS, passed a resolution Wednesday to establish a child care endowment fund for MSU graduate students.

Initially, COGS is providing \$20,000 to start the endowment started and provide immediate assistance to students. During a five-year period, COGS would continue to provide \$2,000 a year.

Ultimately, the investment equals the \$30,000 required by the university to create an endowment, COGS President Stefan Fletcher said. "The endowment will be through the university — through the financial aid office," he said. "We're hoping to start granting money if not this semester, then the next."

The resolution previously was discussed during a December 2010 meeting. The representatives decided to table it to further discuss the issue with constituents.

Representatives for COGS are hoping the endowment can become a self-sustaining fund, said Adam Lovgren, vice president for graduate welfare. To achieve that, COGS representatives are approaching various academic departments.

"The College of Engineering has agreed to provide a one-time \$2,000 grant," Lovgren said. "I've approached the College of Agriculture (and Natural Resources). We're still

in discussions, but they've said they will provide something."

He said COGS has approached those colleges and others in hopes additional funding would allow the endowment to grow over time. Five university departments, including the Office for International Students and Scholars and the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services, also have agreed to supply \$2,000 a year during a five-year period.

Fletcher said the ideal funding in the long term would come from private donors who are interested in helping to maintain the endowment fund. One such potential donor is the Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship, with whose board Fletcher has been in discussions.

Lovgren emphasized the large number of graduate students attending MSU with children during the meeting. "In spring of 2010, COGS had a survey that went out to all graduate and professional students," he said during the meeting. "From the responses, 16 percent indicated they had children."

Michelle Russell, a doctoral student in the Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation, said during the meeting she is expecting her first child and anticipating the cost. "I've been shocked by going through all the day care centers," she said. "(Child care) is \$12-13,000 a

year. This is only going to be my first child. I know we won't be able to provide for another child for three years."

Current grants offered by MSU for child care services are not eligible to international students. The COGS endowment fund would extend financial support to the international community.

Michael Beasley, the representative from Student Parents on a Mission, or SPOM, said during the meeting this sort of fund would be helpful. "(My wife and I) know a lot of other international students and a lot of them tend to be older and have families as well. "That makes it even more challenging for them to pursue their education and academic goals," he said.

Fletcher said the next step after Wednesday's meeting is to sit down with the Office of Financial Aid and finalize some of the administration work required to create the fund. Leslie Jablonski, representative for the School of Hospitality Business, said she was glad the endowment had been approved. "As a whole, I think we could potentially lose a lot of wonderful graduate students because they can't afford to have their kids here," she said. "If we don't consider having an endowment like this, we could lose out on a lot of professional students."

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Articles:

- Child Care Endowment
- Bowling Party
- Graduate Academic Conference
- Parking Permits
- Graduate Student Coffee Hours

Next COGS Full Council Meeting:

Wednesday
February 16, 2011
5:30pm—7:30pm
Law College
Castle Boardroom

Find us on:



www.cogs.msu.edu

Google calendar

Graduate Student Bowling Party

The Council of Graduate Students is pleased to announce that tickets are now on sale for our bowling party!

The party will be at Holiday Lanes (3101 E Grand River Ave, Lansing) on Friday, February 4th from 7-10 pm

Tickets cost only \$10 each, and include bowling, shoes, pizza, and beer! You must be at least 21 years of age to attend this event.



Tickets may be purchased at the COGS Office Room 316 Student Services Bldg.

We have a limited number of tickets (only 100) for this event, so hurry!

Graduate Academic Conference: Submission Deadline Extended

Due to technical difficulties with downloading the submission form and problems with applying over Winter Break, the **Graduate Academic Conference submission deadline has been extended to January 31st**. Please note that this is the final deadline.

A few short facts about the conference:

- This year's conference will be held on **Friday, March 25th**.
- You may **present via an oral presentation or poster** at the conference. Any research projects conducted at MSU by a graduate student are eligible. Research projects do not need to be complete before the conference; you may present on **research that is ongoing** as well.
- This year's **prizes will total \$7,000 dollars** and will be divided between the best presenters at each session. Last year, 17 of our 154 presenters (just over 10%) were awarded a prize. The student(s) selected as this year's top oral presentation will also present at the April Board of Trustees meeting, along with the chief faculty advisor of the presenter(s). Additionally, the University Club of MSU has very gen-

erously offered a prize package valued at \$299 for one conference presenter. Winners from each session will be entered in a raffle to win one package for a one-month social and fitness membership to the Club along with a Sunday Brunch for Two gift certificate.

- We understand that many departments are currently struggling to fund graduate travel to conferences. The Conference provides an incentive and opportunity for graduate students to conduct rigorous research and develop their presentation skills at a time when many students **may not be able to afford trips** to other conferences and departments may be unable to provide funding for conference travel. Furthermore, it's an excellent opportunity to practice your **presentation skills** for future conference participation.
- The GAC brings together **diverse research disciplines** on campus, giving you the opportunity to network and develop interdisciplinary endeavors, as well as to practice your skills at translating research for a general audience. The conference submission deadline has been extended to **January 31st**,

2011. Please fill out the attached form and mail to msugac@gmail.com. You may also download the entry form via our website, msugac.com. The submission process is fairly straightforward, and the main requirements involve a short abstract and documentation of quality (an email from a faculty advisor or copy of acceptance letter to a conference). Acceptance into the conference is non-competitive; in the past, the conference has had a very low rejection rate of submissions.

Thank you again for applying to the GAC! You may find additional information about the conference on our website, msugac.com. If you have already submitted an application to the conference, you will be hearing back from our committee sometime in the next few weeks.

Please feel free to contact msugac@gmail.com with any questions. If you are interested in participating as a student judge in the conference, please feel free to contact us as well.

[Download Application here](#)

Discounted Spring Semester Parking

Permits Still Available

Discounted Spring Semester Parking Permits:

The Council of Graduate Students has teamed up with the City of East Lansing to sell reduced cost graduate student parking permits in the Division Street ramp. Cost is \$150 (check or money orders only) and are activated within minutes of purchase. Permits are active for all of Spring Semester from 1/1/11 - 5/15/11. Bring with you:

1. vehicle registration
2. student ID
3. tuition statement showing you have paid your current semesters COGS tax.



Graduate Student Coffee Hours

Graduate Student Coffee Hours have resumed for Spring Semester

Tuesdays

11:00am-1:00pm

110 Student Services Building

Michigan State University

Free coffee, hot tea, & hot chocolate.

This event does not require registration.



Meet other MSU graduate and professional students at MSU Graduate Student Coffee Hours and learn more about graduate student events, news, and resources.

Stayed tuned for a special coffee hour featuring Dean Karen Klomprens of The Graduate School.



A Publication of the Council of Graduate Students

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