## MSU: Next president hopeful on new role

CONTINUED FROM 1A

three-year contract are pending.

"MSU made the right decision McPherson over her, Simon said. "Three years from now, we will look back and say they made the covered in the press." right decision again."

Simon does have advantages coming into the job. She came to MSU in 1970 as a graduate student and knows MSU and Michigan.

She ran the 45,000-student university last year when McPherson went to Iraq to help rebuild the nation's economy. She's worked closely with him as he's drawn record donations and research dollars to the university.

"She is absolutely a proven commodity," Board of Trustee Chairman David Porteous said.

But she lacks the political connections and management experience of McPherson, who ran a bank and was second in charge of the U.S. Department of Treasury before coming to MSU.

Simon says she has learned working with much from McPherson.

"I've worked with and talked ll years ago," when, after a dead- to a number of national and interlocked vote, the board chose national individuals," Simon said. "There's a lot of publicness in the job of provost. It's simply not

Simon is both intellectual and practical, said Jean Golden, East Lansing's deputy city manager, who has worked with her to improve the often-strained relationship between the city and campus.

"She relies on science to make decisions," Golden said. "She looks at the data and the evidence."

Trustee Joel Ferguson, who voted ll years ago to make Simon president, said Simon's experience compensates for her less-than-glossy image. "People say Lou Anna isn't charismatic. Her charisma is in her knowledge and her expertise."

professor Lister English Matheson, among the many who questioned the board's decision to choose Simon without considering others, said he thinks she

## **Lou Anna Simon file**

• Born: Jan. 1, 1947

Family: Husband Roy

▶ Education: Bachelor's in mathematics, Indiana State University, 1969; master's in student personnel and counseling, Indiana State University, 1970; doctorate in philosophy, administration and higher education, MSU, 1974.

 Career: Michigan State University provost and vice president for academic affairs, 1993-present; also has served as associate provost, assistant provost for general academic administration, assistant director of the office of institutional research and faculty member.

can make a good leader: "Lou Anna Simon and MSU are wellsuited for one another."

To be successful, Simon must be adept at schmoozing with donors and navigating state and federal politics, said John DiBiaggio, a former MSU president who worked with Simon.

"It's a matter of developing those skills that are required," he said. "She's a quiet, reserved person. But she works very hard at what she does."

Staff writer Kevin Grasha contributed to this report. Contact Sharon Terlep at 377-1066 or

## Simon brings ideas, McPherson says

By SHARON TERLEP

Lansing State Journal

EAST LANSING - After more than a decade of working with Lou Anna Simon as his second-in-charge, MSU President Peter McPherson championed the MSU provost as the best person to take over his job.

McPherson offers the following thoughts on Simon:

Why should Simon be the next president?

She's got a knowledge of the university that almost no president comes to a job with. She's a very strong administrator. She understands how pieces fit together and knows

how to get the job done. She is very much the landgrant person — deeply interested in land use, high schools and K-12 education. She sees MSU through this land-grant mission.

And she has lots of ideas. You've got to have new ideas because things keep changing. What will be difficult for

Simon as president?

She can't be the provost and

good at. She will now need to do

gagements. This job is not just

becoming a senior provost ... it's

What are the differences

becoming a president.

between you and Simon?

next president. CHRIS HOLMES Lansing State Journa the president. She just won't managing huge institutions. She's have time to do things she's been had experience managing this doing all these years and is so institution.

**New leader:** 

University

Simon is

Friday by

Michigan State

**Provost Lou Anna** 

congratulated

**President Peter** 

McPherson after

it was announced

chosen as MSU's

she had been

the functions that I've had, and she doesn't agree, she tells you. she'll have a provost who will Will she have support from do the things she's been doing. the faculty? Some of that will be different be-She has lots of support from cause there's some outside en-

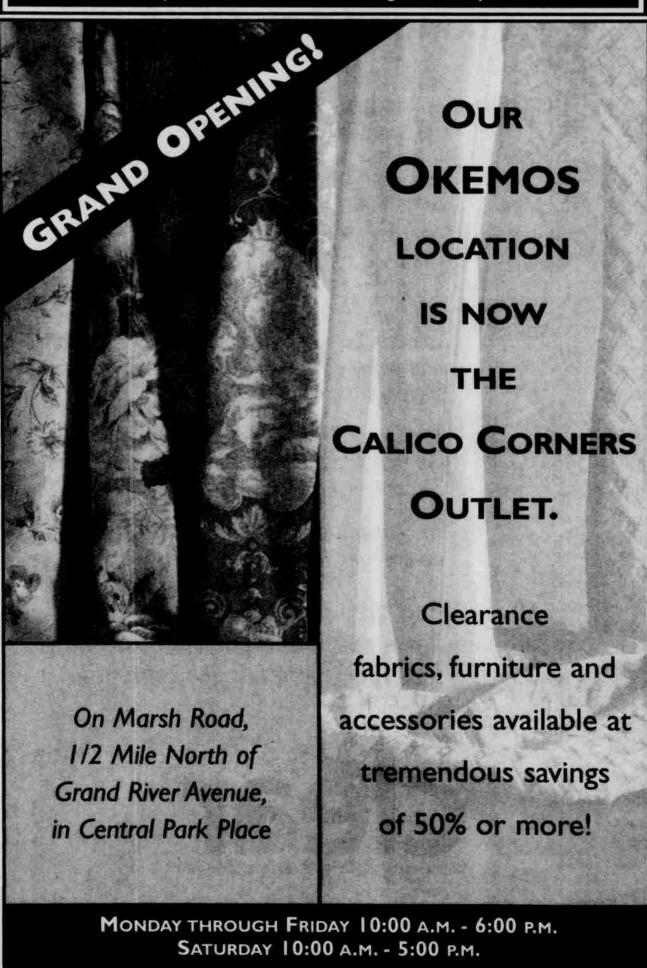
We didn't always agree. When

faculty. The faculty is diverse. Budget cuts are hard. You can't be on the line reducing budgets and have everyone be happy.

There is a broad appreciation for her competence and commitment to this institution.

Her knowledge of the institution. The experience here. I Contact Sharon Terlep brought a lot of experience in 377-1066 or sterlep@lsj.com.





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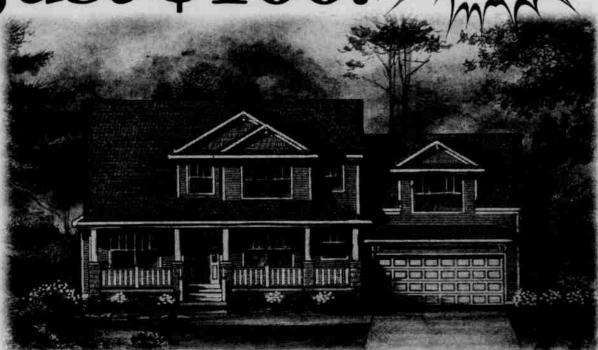
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