

## **SEVERSON ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**

Severson spent 11 years working for Dow and Syva, a division of Syntex Pharmaceutical. Then in 1984, he discovered his true calling: turning small, start-up businesses into profitable companies. Severson's latest success story is Abaxis, a medical device manufacturer specializing in point-of-care blood analyzers.

On Feb. 9, 2010, Clint Severson and Conni Ahart donated \$1 million to establish the College of Business' Severson Entrepreneurship Academy. SEA uses business courses to teach multi-disciplinary classes related to the creative process of building a business. Through SEA and the Entrepreneurship Club, students write, analyze, and evaluate business plans and grant seed money to exceptional student concepts. This provides young entrepreneurs with an authentic experience to begin their business ventures.

Severson and Ahart's investment in MSU transcends beyond SEA; to date, Abaxis has provided 10 internships for MSU students.

Severson and Ahart live in Palo Alto, Calif. In their free time, they manage a Sonoma County vineyard, invest in real estate, travel, and hike.