

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

**NEZICH'S WIN MARKS MSU'S 24TH GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP;
FOUR MSU STUDENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE GOLDWATER
FOUNDATION**

EAST LANSING, MI, APRIL 3, 2008:

Catherine Nezich, a second year biochemistry and molecular biology major in Lyman Briggs College and Honors College student at Michigan State University and 2006 graduate of Marquette Senior High School, has been selected as the University's 24th recipient of the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship.

"Since I started the application process in October, I tried not to get my hopes too high," Nezich said. "This award brings a lot of prestige and expectations, but it also will take a huge financial burden off of my shoulders. I plan to use this money to help pay for school, but I am also going to continue working in a lab - not for the money, but for the experience."

Nezich interned at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under the supervision of Dr. Yoshihiro Kashiwaya and also has worked with Michigan State University professors, Robert Maleczka (Dept. of Chemistry) and Beronda Montgomery-Kaguri (Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) as an undergraduate Professorial Assistant. Her research has led to production and purification of the RcaE protein and presentation of a poster at NIH. Nezich plans to continue building her research skills this summer when she interns at the Merck Chemical Co., Inc. in Rahway, NJ as part of a Process Chemistry research group working in biocatalysis.

"Catherine is a great example of the impact early involvement in research can have on a Michigan State University undergraduate," said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. "Her plans to work in the public sector developing drugs to treat chronic illnesses also indicate the influence she will have as a scholar of the future. We are very proud that Catherine has received recognition from the Goldwater Foundation for her efforts, and look forward to the ways she will continue to enrich our academic community."

Daughter of Dennis and Laura Nezich of Marquette, Nezich is the 24th Goldwater Scholar selected from Michigan State University. Nezich's two-year scholarship will cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

The Honors College is also proud to announce that MSU's three other nominees for the Goldwater Scholarship Program were recognized for their achievements by the Goldwater Foundation. The following students received Honorable Mention designation:

Andrew Keller is a third year Honors College member from Lindenhurst, Illinois, and has dual majors in Physics in the College of Natural Science and East Asian Languages and Cultures in the College of Arts and Letters. Keller plans to pursue a PhD in physics.

Kaveri Korgavkar is a third year Honors College member from Troy with dual majors of Chemistry in the College of Natural Science and Comparative Cultures and Politics in James Madison College. Korgavkar plans a PhD in Biochemistry or Medicinal Chemistry, studying drug function in humans.



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Donald VanderLaan is a junior Honors College member from Grand Rapids majoring in Electrical Engineering in the College of Engineering. VanderLaan plans to pursue a PhD in Electrical Engineering so that he can conduct research on and teach electromagnetic theory at the university level.

The Goldwater Scholarship is among the most competitive undergraduate scholarships in the nation. Goldwater Scholars are selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of over 1,000 mathematics, science, and engineering students who are nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide. The Scholarship Program honoring Senator Barry M. Goldwater is designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship is the premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields. In its twenty-year history, the Foundation has awarded 5,523 scholarships worth approximately fifty-four million dollars.

For over 50 years, the Honors College at Michigan State University has been serving academically talented, committed students who wish to pursue and achieve academic excellence. Honors College members have had phenomenal success in major national and international scholarship recognition programs, a legacy which includes 24 Goldwater Scholars, 16 Rhodes Scholars, 16 Churchill Scholars, 15 Truman Scholars, 13 Marshall Scholars, 8 Udall Scholars, and 2 Gates Cambridge Scholars.

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