Connections

Transition & Growth

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Honors College Mission

The Honors College at Michigan State University serves academically talented, committed students who wish to pursue and achieve academic excellence. We strive to ensure an enriched academic and social experience for our members and create an environment that fosters active, innovative learning.

The past year has been a most interesting year of transition for Michigan State University. Lou Anna Simon moved from the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs to President and identified a set of objectives for the University denoted Boldness by Design, intended to plan a course so that MSU might become the land-grant university model for the 21st Century. Kim Wilcox (MSU and Honors College, 1975) returned to MSU as Provost and embarked on an initiative to enhance opportunities for undergraduate students, including the addition of new faculty, expansion of opportunities for students to participate in research, and strengthening of advising and career services operations. The University, of course, celebrated its Sesquicentennial, reflecting on our remarkable history and looking to the future with optimism.

Honors College is also in transition. This past year saw a number of staff changes. Most notably, Scott Vaughn, Assistant Director who served the College since 1970, retired after a distinguished career affecting generations of students. Beth Zinman also retired from her advising position after many years serving students. Professor Kate See returned to her position in James Madison College, and several other staff members relocated. Honors College was fortunate to attract a number of new additions—including Professor Steve Kautz (MSU and Honors College, 1981) as Associate Dean, and three new academic advisers (see article, page 18).

Ten years ago the challenge facing the Honors College was to again attract a sufficient number of high-achieving students to Michigan State, so it could be a viable entity for students in the full range of majors at the University. Now, with some 2,600 Honors College members and another 400+ students participating in the Academic Scholars Program, College membership is strong and diverse. Maintaining that success is a continuing challenge, and your help in establishing scholarships and interacting with prospective students will continue to be crucial. With our recruiting and membership in good condition once again, our attention naturally turns to the opportunities for those Honors College members.

The College is launching a new program of Honors Research Seminars (HRS) to provide freshmen and sophomores with research experiences under the close supervision of an MSU faculty member. The HRS program is designed to enable a faculty member to mentor 5 to 15 students who are working on common research, scholarly, and creative projects, culminating in a report or presentation. The College is also collaborating with the Graduate School to enhance the information and assistance we provide to students who are competing for major national and international scholarships and fellowships. Although MSU students have an exceptional record of achievement in attaining major national and international awards, participating successfully in these competitions is more difficult than ever before. Additional advisers dedicated to this role will greatly assist our students. Finally, academic units at MSU offer more than 170 honors courses and sections each year that our students may incorporate into their individualized academic programs. Maintaining and possibly expanding these class opportunities in a time of tight resources is a continuing challenge.

In the 2006-07 year, the MSU Honors College will mark its fiftieth anniversary. With your continuing interest and help, the support by the University administration and academic units, and the contributions of Honors students, the optimism for the future for Honors College matches that for the University.
Bhooma Aravamuthan of Kalamazoo was the recipient of a Marshall Scholarship in 2005 and was given the opportunity to study in the United Kingdom.

She is pursuing a doctorate in neuroscience at the University of Oxford, where she will continue seeking answers to and treatments for Parkinson’s disease and other neurological illnesses.

“I am so excited to be a Marshall Scholar and represent MSU, my state and country,” she said. “I am so lucky and so fortunate to win this scholarship. When I was interviewing I let people know that MSU has given me a great education. I am proud of my school and the education I have received here.”

The Marshall Scholarship program allows up to 40 young Americans (from approximately 1000 applicants) to study in the United Kingdom. Individuals are selected based on academic and personal achievements.

Aravamuthan, daughter of Raja and Lakshmi Aravamuthan, majored in biochemistry and physiology in the College of Natural Science and is an Honors College graduate. She has been involved in numerous research projects at MSU, Actives International and Borgess Health Alliance in Kalamazoo.

Last year she also worked with other researchers on a ship off the Antarctic coast examining the diving patterns of Weddell seals.

Later in 2005 Aravamuthan was also designated one of two National Institutes of Health (NIH)-Marshall Scholars, the premier international and collaborative biomedical research honor. The award has a value in excess of $200,000 in research and stipend support and is renewable for up to five years. As a result, she will spend two years working on her doctorate in neuroscience at Oxford, one to two years at the NIH to finish the degree, and then three to four years at Washington University in St. Louis to earn her medical degree.

The recipient of a 2004 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, she also received the MSU Alumni Distinguished Scholarship, the Ronald E. McNair Outstanding Natural Science Research Scholar award and the Dallas J. Chapin Natural Science Scholarship.

Her MSU activities included Associated Students of MSU, MSU Science Theatre, Honors Students Actively Recruiting, Asian Pacific American Student Organization and fundraising efforts for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.

The Marshall Scholarship was established in 1953 by the British government to mark the implementation of the European Recovery Program, or Marshall Plan. Aravamuthan is the tenth Marshall Scholar from MSU and the third in two years.

For more information about the Marshall Scholarship program, visit the Web at www.marshallscholarship.org.
Voice from the Past

Jared English

2004 Marshall Scholar & 2003 Truman Scholar

After graduating from Michigan State University with degrees in International Relations and Finance, I started an internship with the Environment and Trade Division of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in the Executive Office of the President in Washington DC as part of my Truman Scholarship. There I was a research assistant working on trade negotiations with developing countries, providing background research for trade treaties and assisting US negotiators in their preparations for trade talks. While at the USTR, I learned a lot about the political process of trade, the dynamics of negotiations and the connection between trade and the environment.

After leaving the USTR, I undertook the first year of my Marshall Scholarship at the London School of Economics (LSE) studying for a Masters of Science in International Political Economy. Whether it was studying under the uniquely English system or speaking to students from every imaginable country, the experience of the last year will be with me for the rest of my life. One of the reasons I chose to study in England was to get a broader view of international relations and the LSE has not let me down. Debating with students whose views on politics are different from my own has been a rewarding educational experience. I find that the conversations I have with my newfound friends have made me think not only of my career in public policy, but how I can have a positive impact on international relations.

This fall Jared started the PhD program in International Relations at the London School of Economics.

The Alumni and University Distinguished Scholars who started at MSU in 2005 are an exceptional group from around the nation. Their average high school GPA was 4.2; median SAT was 1540; and median ACT was 34.

Nicholas Ahn
Midland, Michigan

Albert Alexander
Richardson, Texas

Leah Andrews
Shelby Township, Michigan

Angel Chen
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Jeffrey Craig
Williamsville, New York

Terrance Foessett
Erie, Pennsylvania

Timothy Francisco
Livonia, Michigan

Kathryn Johnson
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Peter Liu
Okemos, Michigan

Theodore Madsen
Anchorage, Alaska

Martha McCoy
Wexford, Pennsylvania

Thomas Morrissey
Blasdell, New York

Jessica Ogden
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

Lauren Paluta
Madeira, Ohio

Abelard Podgorski
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Selena Ransom
Los Angeles, California

Tanya Rodriguez
Evanston, Illinois

Shane Stecher
Elsberry, Missouri

Andrew Valentine
Grove City, Pennsylvania

John Vogel
Sherrard, Illinois
Phelps Wins Udall Scholarship

**Jacob W. Phelps**, an Honors College student with majors in Lyman Briggs School Environmental Science and Art History, earned the prestigious Morris K. Udall Foundation Scholarship in 2005 for excellence in environmental policy.

The Udall Scholarship recognizes the top 80 sophomore or junior collegiate scholars in the nation in environmental studies. Phelps, who now calls many parts of the world home, including Costa Rica, Barbados, Canada, and Thailand, has made a habit of working around the world in environmental education. Since early in his high school career, he has been involved in local, national, and international community and political efforts to protect and educate about the environment. His passion for orchid conservation has led him to the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Florida, the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation at the Muttart Conservatory in Edmonton, Alberta, and international orchid conservation conferences, all of which have informed his role as assistant curator of MSU's Orchid Collections and enabled his popularity as a traveling consultant on orchid conservation.

Phelps' Udall essay was written during his MSU study abroad internship program at the Asian Institute of Technology. Regarding development of a curriculum to use flagship orchid species to address a local forest fire problem caused by poor farming practices in Thailand's Uthai Thani Province, he said, “This experience is clear indication of the importance of identifying environmental problems, promoting community discourse, and encouraging participatory problem solving... I believe that a functional and practical balance of resource utilization and preservation are key to maintaining a sound conservation ethic.”

Phelps believes that diversity of interests is as important as his focus on the environment and eventual career in international environmental education. To that end, Phelps has found time to pursue a second degree in art history with a specialization in museum studies and a particular interest in the early medieval period.

He is also fluent in Spanish, proficient in French, and has beginning skills in Thai and German. While at MSU, Phelps has been active in Students for Economic Justice, MTV's Rock the Vote, the Mowbray Scholars Program, The Michigan Peace Team, 4H education, State Swing Society, and the Theatre department.

For more information on the Udall Scholarship, visit the Web at www.udall.gov.

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**Honors College First-year Students**

The Honors College welcomed 480 first year students in fall 2005. The cohort is among the largest, strongest, and most diverse in Honors College history. The average high school GPA—with some GPAs weighted for AP and honors work—was 4.03(!) Nearly 25% of the entering class is from outside Michigan with 27 states represented.
“Four” — a Special Number on the Academic Front at MSU

MSU boasted four Goldwater Scholars in 2005—the first time in MSU history that the university has had four winners of this prestigious national scholarship for mathematics, science and engineering students.

Goldwater Scholars are selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,091 mathematics, science and engineering students who were nominated by their faculty. This year 320 scholarships were awarded nationwide.

The scholarships, available for either one or two years, cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of $7,500 per year. Typically these scholarships are given to junior-level students to pay for their senior years; however, it is possible for sophomores to receive the scholarship to pay for their junior and senior years.

“It is a tremendous honor for students to be selected for this prestigious national scholarship,” said Ron Fisher, dean of the MSU Honors College. “This reflects well on MSU’s educational programs and speaks to the students’ abilities and accomplishments. The Goldwater Scholarship is the premier undergraduate award of its type in the sciences, math and engineering.”

The Goldwater Foundation is a federally endowed agency established by Congress in November 1986. The scholarship program honors former U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater and is designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

In the last five years MSU has had six Goldwater Scholars.

For more information on the scholarship program visit the Web at www.act.org/goldwater/sch-2005.html.

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**MSU’s 2005 Goldwater Scholars, all members of the MSU Honors College, are:**

- **Katie Barott,** a junior from Ypsilanti majoring in biochemistry and zoology, *College of Natural Science*
  
  Barott’s career aspirations include incorporating biochemical analyses into marine biology and conducting research in both the laboratory and the field. Her primary interests lie in toxicology and how it affects the physiology of marine organisms.

- **Janelle Shane,** a sophomore from Niles majoring in electrical engineering, *College of Engineering*
  
  Shane plans to conduct research in the field of optics, studying light and interaction with matter, eventually putting what she has learned directly to work in the research laboratory, producing results that positively impact lives.

- **Timothy Howes,** a junior from Brighton majoring in chemical engineering, *College of Engineering*
  
  Howes would like to pursue a doctorate in chemical engineering, and his interests lie in metabolic engineering, the redirection of cellular metabolic pathways for purposes such as industrial biosynthesis, environmental bioremediation and medical treatments.

- **Matthew Stasiewicz,** a sophomore from Grosse Pointe Woods majoring in biosystems engineering in the College of Engineering and philosophy in the College of Arts and Letters
  
  Stasiewicz’s ultimate career plans include promoting a safer food supply and more efficient food processing system via a career in interdisciplinary research and teaching, to help identify and resolve issues of food safety, eliminate wasteful over-processing and develop more efficient systems for better-quality food.
Two Michigan State University students are making history, as are their national scholarship awards from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

MSU Students, Hollings Scholarship

Making History...

Anna Cajiga of Penfield, New York, a junior education major in the College of Education, and Nicholas Gebauer of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, a junior earth science major in the Lyman Briggs School of Science, College of Natural Science, are among the initial recipients of the new Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarships.

The Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program, recognizing the retiring Democratic senator from South Carolina, is intended to increase undergraduate training in oceanographic and atmospheric sciences, research and technology, and increase public understanding of these topics.

Cajiga and Gebauer, members of MSU’s Honors College, are among approximately 100 students to be named 2005 Hollings Scholars. The program includes up to $8,000 for full-time study, possible reappointment for a second year of study and a 10-week internship with NOAA or NOAA-related agencies.

Cajiga, a 2003 graduate of Penfield High School, is the daughter of Jorge and Janice Cajiga. She’s studying language arts at MSU and plans to take her MSU classroom knowledge and internship experience back to the classroom at the elementary school level.

“Science is often a neglected part of education in the United States,” she said. “I want to ensure that I personally have an education that, among other things, will thoroughly prepare me to instill in students passion and excitement for the sciences and a sense of responsibility toward our planet.”

Cajiga’s MSU and community activities include serving as a College of Education representative to the Associated Students of Michigan State University, working as a professorial assistant for the “Teachers for a New Era Project” and volunteering with several East Lansing-area organizations. She took part in a summer 2005 study abroad trip through Europe, working closely with experienced photographers to create engaging photojournalism projects.

Gebauer, a 2003 graduate of Fort Atkinson High School, is the son of Daniel and Melanie Gebauer. He plans to combine his love of earth science, meteorology and atmospheric science studies with spatial information processing and geographic information systems (GIS) remote sensing to help the public better understand natural weather-related phenomena.

He said combining his MSU academic experiences with an internship will provide an opportunity to share his knowledge with students and help define his career path.

“I believe there is much potential by merging GIS and meteorology,” Gebauer said. “This scholarship will provide me with an opportunity to further understand atmospheric phenomena through research, data collection and spatial analysis, a process of extracting or creating new information about a set of geographic features.”

Gebauer has worked as a professorial assistant and a residence hall mentor. As a member of the ECO Club, he promotes public awareness of environmental issues. He also is a volunteer with several MSU and East Lansing organizations, including Habitat ReStore, Michigan Harvest Gathering and Middle School State Science Olympiad.

Students who will be juniors and who are studying science, mathematics, engineering, social science and teacher education are eligible to apply for the Hollings scholarship.

“A scholarship that advances research about and understanding of atmospheric and oceanic issues is exceptionally important to the Great Lakes State,” said Ronald Fisher, dean of the MSU Honors College. “Michigan State is very proud that two of our students are among the first to be recognized and benefit from this wonderful opportunity.”

For more information on the scholarship, visit the Web at www.orau.gov/noaa/Hollings Scholarship/.

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Ng Honored with Featherstone Prize

Richard Lee Featherstone was a scholar and leader in the College of Education’s Department of Educational Administration. The Richard Lee Featherstone Endowed Prize is given annually to the student who displays characteristics such as an enthusiasm for the teaching and learning process, an intellectual curiosity unbounded by traditional disciplinary orientation, a distinguished record of applying and sharing leadership expertise, and a strong commitment to serving other people.

2005 Featherstone Prize recipient and Honors College graduate Sze-Ling (Sue) Ng embodies the ideals of Richard Lee Featherstone, including the expression of genius, scholarship, creativity, and innovation. As is evident in her tireless work, research and service over the last four years, Sue also shares Dr. Featherstone’s love of MSU.

Sue’s other primary passion is obviously for the sciences, specifically biochemistry. Her academic and research resume is long and strong, including two Bachelor of Science degrees from Lyman Briggs School in Biochemistry and Physiology. At graduation she earned the Board of Trustees Award for carrying a perfect 4.0 grade point average throughout her studies at MSU. She completed the quintessential MSU career when she participated in a study abroad program on medical ethics & history of healthcare in the United Kingdom.

Sue also conducted research under the tutelage of Dr. Min-Hao-Kuo for about 20-25 hours each week from her sophomore to senior year. The research resulted in a co-authored publication in the journal of Nature Biotechnology, “A tethered catalysis two-hybrid system to identify protein-protein interactions requiring post-translational modifications.” Not surprisingly, Sue won the biochemistry poster division at the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum in 2004 and 2005. Sue took a hiatus from her research at MSU when as a sophomore she was offered a summer research internship at Iowa State University to study soybean cultivars for a disease resistance gene.

Alongside these stellar academic accomplishments is the set of activities that Sue pursued with zeal and leadership at MSU. She was president of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Club; president of Mortar Board, the senior service honorary organization; and president of MOSAIC, the Honors College’s multicultural organization. Sue’s service involvements extend locally and globally including the American Cancer Society fundraiser Relay for Life and two spring breaks in Mexico and Puerto Rico respectively on MSU’s Alternative Spring Break programs.

In addition to the Featherstone Prize and the Board of Trustees Award, Sue was also recognized at graduation with one of the Outstanding Senior Awards and a Phi Kappa Phi graduate fellowship.

Sue is now pursuing a PhD in the molecular and cellular biology program at Harvard University where she has the opportunity to rotate through various research projects to find a good fit. Her interests currently include the study of nucleic acids and protein dynamics, particularly the mechanisms of transcription and regulation of gene expression.

Sue was nominated by Philip Strong and professors James Smith and Min-Hao Kuo.

Several other exceptional Honors College graduates were finalists for the Featherstone Prize and were honored in the spring: Bhooma Aravamuthan, Chris Hill, Andrew McCoy, and William Sulton, whose collective contributions to MSU and greater communities leave a lasting legacy.

“From my participation in middle school science fairs, to my involvement in Science Olympiad during high school, to my research and tutoring experiences as an undergraduate, my love for science has steadily grown. When I began working in a lab at MSU, I knew that it was in research that I would find my calling. Eventually, I hope to work in academia as a primary investigator, professor and mentor.”

Sze-Ling Ng
2005 Featherstone Prize Winner
2005 Gillette & Stein Scholars

*Patrick Harrington, Devin O’Conner, and Shanti Zaid* have been chosen as the most recent recipients of the Hymen and Miriam Stein and Genevieve Gillette Scholarships for senior thesis research.

The Hymen and Miriam Stein Scholarships and the Genevieve Gillette Scholarship are intended to support Honors College students who propose a substantial, interesting and innovative senior thesis. The Stein Scholar receives a $2500 stipend for living and research expenses for the summer, a $2500 academic scholarship for the senior year, and a $500 research grant to cover costs of travel, special equipment or data acquisition. The Gillette Scholar receives $2000 to support research activities in preparation for the senior thesis and a $500 research grant.

2005 GILLETTE SCHOLAR

**Patrick Harrington**, a physics major, has spent the last year performing sensitivity analysis of Arrhenius parameters for denaturation of proteins via differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). He presented his results in June at the ASME Summer Bioengineering Conference in Vail, Colorado. Patrick has been studying thermodynamic and kinetic parameters in biophysical chemistry since 2003 and has worked in laboratories at both MSU and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Patrick plans to use his studies to aid “the development of a parameter estimation scheme that enables individual protein denaturation reactions in multi-component biomaterials to be distinguished. Obtaining the sensitivity coefficients for the Arrhenius parameters, we will be able to begin discriminating the multiple kinetics models claiming to ‘best’ describe the rate of protein denaturation for proteins not forming single cooperative units.” After graduation, Patrick plans to pursue graduate study in either theoretical chemistry or biophysics.

*Patrick has been mentored and was recommended by Professor Anthony T. Paganini, Radiology, and Professor Neil T. Wright, Mechanical Engineering.*

2005 GILLETTE SCHOLAR

**Devin O’Conner** is a mechanical engineering major who is interested in composite materials, especially as they provide insight into biological or “natural composite” materials. “Because of their microscopic construction,” Devin says, “composite materials can have microstructure dependent properties, which offer versatile properties for industrial applications. Based on their microscopic compositions, biological materials are also composite materials, or more specifically, natural composite materials, optimized through millions of years of evolution. An understanding of engineering structures at nano levels could lead to an understanding of biological structures and functions.” Devin hopes that his research will lead to a journal publication, and act as a jumping-off point for Masters degree work at MSU, and an eventual Ph.D. and career in professional research.

*Devin has been mentored and was recommended by Professor Dahsin Liu, Mechanical Engineering, and Professor Tom Pence, Mechanical Engineering.*

2005 STEIN SCHOLAR

**Shanti Zaid**, a history major and McNair/ SROP scholar, is studying the religious history and experience of enslaved Africans and their descendents in Cuba, especially through the formation of religious and mutual aid organizations known as *cabildos*. Shanti has already spent two summers conducting research in Cuba and plans to use the Stein Scholarship to focus on “the contemporary history of cabildo organizations as sites of religious transculturation in Oriente (eastern) Cuba.” The cabildos have received less scholarly attention than the traditions of the western regions of Cuba surrounding the Havana, Matanzas and Pinar del Rio provinces. Shanti plans to conduct both field and documentary research with the goal of producing a religious kinship map for the Regla de Ocha/Ifá and Reglas Palo communities.

*Shanti has been mentored and was recommended by Professor Jualynne E. Dodson, Sociology, and Professor Laurent Dubois, History.*
2005-2006

Cole Excellence Award Winners Named

The following students were awarded Cole Excellence Awards for the 2005-2006 academic year. The Scholarships, worth $1500-$2500, are intended to reward members who demonstrate academic excellence through a program of study that is enriched by opportunities offered by the Honors College. Cole Scholars are students who have displayed the capacity to set and achieve educational goals and the initiative to seek experiences which advance their progress. CONGRATULATIONS!

Christen Berndt – Accounting
Holly Bodjanac – English
Greeshma Enukonda – Chemical Engineering and Economics
Kate Fedewa – History and Ancient Studies
Teresa Franklin – Mechanical Engineering
Erin Gallagher – Psychology and Communication
Sarah Gray – Animal Science
Angella Guerrero – JMC Political Theory & Constitutional Democracy and JMC Social Relations
Seacel Ho – Finance
Emma Hummel – Biosystems Engineering
Katherine Kelly – English
Tara Klein – Studio Art
Emily Kujawa – Human Biology
Michelle Martinchek – LBS Microbiology and Biological Science
Matthew Nelson – Mathematics
Jennifer Piccard – Psychology
Matthew Piszczek – Psychology
Stephanie Pittman – Journalism
Catherine Pokropek – LBS Human Biology
Isaiah Scott – LBS Zoology
Stephen Shaw – Chemical Engineering
Kristy Slominski – Interdisciplinary Humanities and Psychology
Jim Sorenson – Psychology
Jennifer Stynoski – Zoology
Stephanie Willmarth – Animal Science

These students earned either Cole International Study Awards or Benschop International Enrichment Awards for study abroad in 2005.

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>MAJOR(S)</th>
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<td>Laura Anderson</td>
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<td>Vibha Gupta</td>
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<td>Nicholas Hurwitch</td>
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The scholarships are worth between $250 and $1000 and are made possible by two sets of generous alumni benefactors.

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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Carroll</td>
<td>2005 Honors College graduate and former Cole Scholar</td>
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“MSU resources have given me opportunities to conduct research in the rainforests of Panama, immerse myself in the culture and literature of Ireland, study the fauna of Antarctica, and learn international relations at the heart of the international community in Belgium. The amazing experiences, memories, and lessons will inspire me the rest of my career, encouraging me to go beyond the limits of the ordinary.”

The scholarships are worth between $250 and $1000 and are made possible by two sets of generous alumni benefactors.

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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Learning through Service

The HC has been fortunate to have students who serve MSU in nearly every part of the University. Our 2005 graduates each impacted the University and various communities in myriad ways—in ASMSU, in music, on athletic teams, SAF, at The State News, in their residence halls, and so on. We would especially like to thank our senior members of the Honors College Student Advisory Committee—Kate Pitsch and Kendal Holtrop for their leadership with HCSAC. Special thanks also belong to graduating leaders of H-STAR (Honors Students Actively Recruiting), who have helped ensure that other exceptional students will choose MSU. Thanks to Ben Lorson, Stephanie Simpson, Shannon Houghton, Allison Meyer, Amanda Prinke, Amy Woltanski, and Nancy Veltema who did an amazing amount of recruiting over their college careers.

Winners of the 2005 Honors College Service Awards:

Bhooma Aravamuthan – Bhooma has earned her share of academic honors, but she has also served the Honors College in so many capacities. Bhooma represented the Honors College student body by speaking at our now annual convocation for incoming students and at the ADS competition. She was an active member of H-STAR since she was a freshman and served on the ADS leadership team for two years.

Jason Bruveris – Jason was a long-term member and leader of H-STAR. Jason has also committed hours and hours of volunteer time over three years as a student leader of the Michigan High School Quiz Bowl tournament that the HC sponsors annually. What we especially admired about Jason was his unselfish willingness to help the HC in so many different capacities.

Jennifer Carroll – Jennifer has always been willing to go above and beyond for MSU—(strange for a student who swore she would not attend MSU after her ADS weekend!) Jennifer served for two years on the ADS leadership team and was involved with H-STAR throughout. She also spoke about her four study abroad experiences to ADS guests.

Sue Ng – Sue was president of the Honors College multicultural student association, MOSAIC, for the past two years. In that capacity she planned many service and social events for MOSAIC and her presence and commitment will be sorely missed. Sue was also helpful, even in her last month of school, assisting with recruitment of students through H-STAR.

Erin Wendt – Erin was heavily involved in the Honors College Programming Board since she was a freshman. She held together HC dances, picnics, and pumpkin carvings, and put much time into making sure HC events were fun for all of our students.
The Spirit of Michigan State

Comprehensive MSU Book Released—Author Donates Proceeds

*The Spirit of Michigan State* is the most complete history of Michigan State University between two covers. This 512-page book, authored by J. Bruce McCristal, Class of 1954, blankets the spectrum of Michigan State’s people, excellence, leadership, and achievement.

*The Spirit of Michigan State* is the only book with...

- A historical sketch on every year of the University’s existence
- A Sesquicentennial Salute—150 highlights of MSU history
- A chapter devoted to all fifteen of MSU’s Colleges as well as the Honors College and International Studies and Programs
- A 22-page chapter on alumni achievements, listing career successes of more than 600 Spartans by professional field
- Chapters devoted to national and international championships won by MSU students in 19 different disciplines, and student academic excellence
- Special chapters on MSU’s leadership in minority opportunity, and on buildings and places named for MSU people—off-campus and on
- A listing of all of Michigan State’s team and individual sports champions—Olympic, National and Big Ten—both men and women
- More than 440 historic and recent photographs

ALL PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF THE SPIRIT OF MICHIGAN STATE GO TO MSU

www.spiritofmichiganstate.com
Debate Success Continues

The MSU Debate Program is a division of the Honors College

Michigan State earned a second place finish at the largest debate tournament of the semester. The 49th Annual Wake Forest University Shirley Classic was held November 12-14, 2005, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. With over 70 colleges and 140 teams in attendance, success at Wake Forest is considered the capstone accomplishment of the fall.

Seniors Ryan Burke (JMC International Relations, Bloomfield Hills) and Casey Harrigan (JMC International Relations, Holland) defeated seven teams in preliminary debates. Those teams represented colleges from all over the nation: the West (UC Berkeley), Pacific Northwest (University of Puget Sound), Northeast (Dartmouth College), South (University of Georgia, Emory University, and Liberty University), and Midwest (Wayne State University).

Burke and Harrigan entered elimination debates as the third seeded team. The road to the final round was treacherous. MSU had to defeat the University of Kentucky, Northwestern University, Emory University, and Idaho State University. The final round was against Harvard University and was not decided until well after midnight.

Burke was awarded the tenth Place Individual Speaker Award. Harrigan was awarded the Twelfth Place Individual Speaker Award.

“Our accomplishments this semester are stronger than ever before. Burke and Harrigan were first, second, third, and fifth at the major competitions of the year,” said Mike Eber, Interim Director of Debate.

“We’re known for always gaining momentum during the spring, so the team is positioned very well right now,” said Will Repko, Head Debate Coach.

Mike Eber,
Interim Director
of Debate.

Highlights of the Season:

FIRST PLACE
University of Texas - Austin Tournament

FIRST PLACE
Georgia State University Tournament

SECOND PLACE
Wake Forest University Tournament

SECOND PLACE
Wayne State University Tournament

THIRD PLACE
Harvard University Tournament

FIFTH PLACE
University of Kentucky Tournament
If you happen to stop by campus in late July or early August, you might just hear the buzz of hundreds of young voices honing their skills as they strive to become championship debaters. As the debate program at Michigan State has accumulated awards and national championships, high school debaters have taken notice. Students eager to advance their debating skills to the next level want to learn from the best, and the Spartan Debate Institute (SDI) offers them exactly that opportunity.

The SDI started out modestly in 1992 as a two-week program with a few dozen in-state students and a handful of instructors. Now in its fourteenth year, the SDI is considered one of the top national summer workshops for high school debaters, with some sessions lasting up to five weeks. This summer, nearly 300 high school debaters from over 30 different states chose to attend the SDI, making the institute one of MSU’s larger residential summer programs geared toward high school students. In the last five years alone, the SDI has helped over 1200 students from 45 states and Washington DC.

Although the SDI faces competition from other prominent debate institutes hosted by Northwestern University, the University of Michigan, and Dartmouth College, students seem to be drawn to the MSU campus year after year. The SDI is known for its commitment to providing outstanding instruction at affordable prices. The curriculum emphasizes small group instruction and learning through practice. Many students find their experiences at the SDI so educational and enjoyable that they return to the institute in successive summers.

Students at the SDI are divided into small workgroups called “labs” which are taught by high school debate coaches, college debate coaches, and college debaters. On a typical day, each lab of students will conduct research at the library, attend instructional meetings and participate in practice speeches and debates. The camp is focused on the annual high school policy debate topic. This year, the national topic is: “Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially decrease its authority either to detain without charge or to search without probable cause.” Students are spending this summer researching a variety of high profile issues such as detainment at Guantanamo Bay, immigration, and Homeland Security. As they explore these topics, they develop arguments with evidence to support their views using the vast library resources available at MSU. Their efforts eventually culminate in a camp-wide tournament at the end of each session where two-person debate teams match wits in front of staff judges.

The educational benefits are enormous: students learn about important social issues, advance their public speaking skills, and strengthen their organizational and research skills. Plus, they get a sense of life on a college campus. For some students, the SDI is their first time away from home for more than a few days. Some high schools even send students with zero debate experience to the SDI’s Novice Program as a way to prepare their incoming freshmen for their first year of debate competition.

College debaters involved with the MSU Debate Team and Spartan Debate Institute view the summer program as a tremendous opportunity to give back to the high school debate community. The SDI also offers an excellent recruiting opportunity for the University. Debate students are typically at the top of their class, and many fall in love with the campus and the idea of becoming a Spartan after just a few weeks here. Debaters are often interested in careers in law and politics and have been attracted to MSU’s James Madison College in particular. Usually at least one of each year’s Alumni Distinguished Scholars has been an active high school debater. In addition, many of MSU’s recent debaters, including 2004 National Champion David Strauss, first encountered the MSU program through the Spartan Debate Institute.

“I found a relaxed environment, conducive to learning, and had a lot of fun in the process. I couldn’t have been more pleased with the experience, the knowledge, the talent, and the friends I walked away with from this amazing camp.”

Chris Dunagan
Northeast Magnet High School (KS), 2-week SDI

“SPARTAN DEBATE INSTITUTE

The SDI provided me with the tools to succeed. It was awesome! I loved the atmosphere, the lab leaders and the quality of evidence and instruction. I would recommend this experience to anyone as I have become a better person.”

John Kee
St. Marks (TX), 4-week SDI

Photo by Jesse Teal - State News

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Chris Dunagan
Northeast Magnet High School (KS), 2-week SDI

Photo by Jesse Teal - State News
In addition to being recognized for their academic accomplishments and work at MSU with many scholarships and honors, Honors College students are being lauded around the nation and world. Here is a sample of the achievements from the past year.

Goldwater Scholar Katie Barott (see article, p. 4) was on the Big Ten Championship Water Polo Team and won the Coaches’ Award in 2005. The team also placed third at Nationals. She spent the summer doing work and research on a fellowship at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

A group of Israel advocacy student activists, led by Jennifer Bloom and David Dworin, was recognized as “Israel Activists of the Year” at the American Israel Public Affairs Conference (AIPAC) in Washington, DC.

Remy Brim received the Duvall Award from the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics for her professional goals and research initiative. She is doing research under Dr. Donna Koslowsky on Trypanosoma brucei.

Andy Brown received a $5,000 scholarship, the largest given from a Detroit Advertising foundation, for his essay about societal responsibility in advertising.

Aaron Chester completed an NSF REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) project at MSU, investigating the application of the time of flight technique for nuclear lifetime measurement to relativistic beams of heavy nuclei. For the same work, Chester also won a travel and lodging award to present his work at the 2005 CEU (Conference Experience for Undergraduates) held in conjunction with the 2005 Division of Nuclear Physics meeting of the American Physical Society in Maui, Hawaii. Finally, Chester is the lead author on a paper about the application of the TOF (time of flight) technique that will be submitted to Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research. He is hoping to have it published shortly.

Anne Coburn and Aggie Ostrostowski (2005) earned the most recent national scholarships from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Upon graduation in 2007, Coburn is hopeful that she will be able to study and analyze security issues in the context of US Policy at DHS. Ostrostowski, now a graduate student at MSU, seeks to assist the US legal system through her work in forensic chemistry.

In addition to serving as the recruitment coordinator for the Lyman Briggs Ambassadors and the senior coordinator of the Holmes Orientation Team, Christina Cooper also co-coordinates the Science Theatre’s Public Relations council, an organization “that educates the public about science in a fun and exciting way.”

Kenneth Currell, the recipient of the Burton L. and Rosalie Gerber Scholarship for an outstanding student pursuing a career in international and public service, recently completed an internship with the Bangladesh Rural Advancement committee in Bangladesh.

Alvin Davis, Jr. and Kimberly Jerkins were named Pfizer Scholars. This award was given to eight MSU minority students who excel in the classroom and the laboratory.
Justin Dolfus received the Rubner Scholarship for an outstanding student pursuing the study of international relations and Middle East studies and experiences.

Matt Castel and Marie Piasecki were members of the team that took first place for in the Electrical Engineering Senior Design Competition sponsored by Prism Venture Partners. They designed and built and RF Comb Generator.

Terrell Frazier was accepted into the American Sociological Association Honors Program from a national pool of candidates. Frazier’s research focuses on the dynamic between Black Power and integration advocates within the Civil Rights movement. Frazier has also completed an internship at the United States Labor Department, graduated from the Institute for Responsible Citizenship, finished Georgetown University’s Public Affairs Seminar/Internship program, and won the national Newhouse Scholarship, which pays $10,000 and is awarded to talented young writers.

Sufna Gheyara took part in the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) at the University of Michigan. Her research in neuroscience was presented at two independent research symposia.

Jessica Godell was named one of two Ronald H. Miller Broadcast Scholars for top students from accredited journalism schools in Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana. Godell was mentored and recommended for the honor by journalism professor Kim Piper-Aiken. Among other activities, Godell has interned at WLNS-TV 6 in Lansing and served as anchor and reporter for Focal Point, the student-produced TV news magazine at MSU.

In addition to earning the Gillette Fellowship from the Honors College (see article, p. 7), Patrick Harrington completed an NSF REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) fellowship to study fundamental chemical reaction dynamics at JILA, located at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He also presented two papers at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Summer Bioengineering Conference: “Sensitivity Analysis of Collagen Denaturation” and “Sensitivity of Trichopyton Rubrum to Heating.”

Mary Beth Huttlin attended the International Clarinet Convention in Washington, DC, and performed as a member of the International Clarinet Association Collegiate Clarinet Choir. In the past year, Huttlin has also presented research on music advocacy.

Ali Jafari won the 2005-2006 MSU Martin Luther King, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Award. The award was established in 2003 to recognize individual students who have continued Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s fight against injustice and have worked to promote equality for all on every possible level through demonstrated leadership, community involvement and service.

Through a Dean’s Assistantship in the College of Social Science, Kathleen Kelley is working with Professor DeJong of the School of Criminal Justice examining the relation of gender and use of force in police work, by using past collected data and participating in ride-alongs with area police departments.

Tara Klein’s artwork was shown in an exhibition called “Show Love” at 555 Gallery, located in Detroit. One of Klein’s paintings was also used in an advertisement and is currently used in multiple publications that circulate in the Metro Detroit Area.

Tiffany Lung interned at Leeds’ headquarters in New Kensington, PA. Leeds is one of the top five promotional product distribution companies. Lung was selected from a candidate pool primarily composed of upper-division and MBA students.

Emily Mahnken was one of five MSU students to win the PriceWaterhouseCoopers xTax Competition. This two-week competition required teams to create a solution to a real-life tax accounting problem. The MSU team won $1000.

Josh Mastenbrook was awarded a study/internship abroad grant from Phi Kappa Phi, one of the oldest, largest, and most highly selective honor societies.

(Continued on page 16)
**Of Note...**

**Victoria Moeller** participated in the Fermi National Accelerator Lab Internship for Physics Majors Program, one of eight students worldwide selected for the honor. Moeller’s research focuses on long baseline beam neutrino physics in the Main Injector Neutrino Oscillation Search (MINOS).

**Nick Mrozowski** was named College Designer of the Year for the Society for News Design. Mrozowski is also the current editor of *The State News*.

**Travis Reed** had a paper published in the *Journal of Economic Entomology* with Stelinski, L. L., L. G. Gut, R. E. Mallinger, D. Epstein, and J.R. Miller titled, “Small plot trials documenting effective mating disruption of Oriental fruit moth, Grapholita molesta (Busck), using high densities of wax-drop pheromone dispensers.”

**Maithri Shah** was a 2005 Miss Michigan USA pageant finalist. Shah was also admitted into a one-year program at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York.

**Aaron Sobel** co-founded the MSU Millionaires Club which promotes the study of investment banking, private equity, entrepreneurship, venture capital and executive management. Sobel is also a junior executive member of the Detroit Economic Club.

**Regina Visocchi** completed an NSF REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) at Williams College in Massachusetts, a mathematics research program for 20 undergraduates from around the country. Visocchi was a member of the geometry group which gave a presentation at the Northeast Section MAA Spring conference at Bates College. She is also co-author of a paper titled “Double Bubbles in Gauss Space and High-Dimensional Spheres” and spoke at MathFest in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Katie Wilcox** was appointed to serve as Michigan Outreach Director for American Collegians for Life, a Washington-DC based nonprofit organization.

**Samantha R. Williams** was recognized with the Emerging Student of the Year Award from the Office of Student Life for her involvement with the Residence Halls Association (RHA), her hall government, and the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH).

**Caroline Zickgraf** was awarded the State of Michigan Supreme Court’s History Society Coleman internship. Caroline has been mentored by history professor Bill Schoenl.

**GROUP NOTABLES**

- Bhooma Aravamuthan, Katherine Badder, Neil Bokemeier, Julia Cameron, Justin Gengler, Elizabeth Glover, Jeffrey Gour, Lisa Granskog, Michael Hoerger, Mallory Koglin, Jacob Kuiper, Jillian Maxey, Sze-Ling Ng, Gail Pallister, Jason Shingledecker, David Skalny, Sarah Swistak, Judith Turnbull, and Nancy Veltema were among the MSU graduates honored for earning Board of Trustees’ Awards (perfect or near perfect 4.0 MSU GPAs) at the three commencements in 2005. HC students won two-thirds of the awards given in 2005!

**Andrea Kovac** (president), Sufna Gheyara, Andy Hickner, and Sarah Jones, are the HC members in MSU’s premier co-ed *a cappella* group. Capital Green, founded by (now) Honors College graduates, performed in 2005 for the second year in a row to rave reviews at the...
Honors College convocation for new students. Capital Green competed in the 2005 International Competition of Collegiate *A Cappella* and eventually placed fifth at the Regional Finals.

Abby Caskey, Daniel Ong, Matt Pruente, and Geng Wang are on the student staff of the growing globalEDGE™, a knowledge web-portal that connects international business professionals worldwide to a wealth of information, insights, and learning resources on global business activities. The website [www.globaledge.msu.edu](http://www.globaledge.msu.edu) is consistently the top ranked site with Google, AOL, MSN, and Yahoo for searches on “international business.”

Three HC students, Adam Hinman, Nate Dey, and Alex Schroeder traveled to Dayton, Ohio, to participate in RISE, the world’s largest student investment conference. Their portfolio from a class taught by Professor James Wiggins won first place in the graduate school division for the “Best Value Portfolio.”

HC SCHOLAR ATHLETE NOTABLES

Nathan Egger (Track & Field), a pole vaulter, was named to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District IV University Division Men’s Track and Field/Cross Country first team.

Chris Hill (basketball) was named the 2005 College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-American of the Year, the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-American of the Year and First-Team Academic All-American, earning first team honors for the second straight season and Academic All-America accolades for the third straight season. Hill is just one of four basketball players in MSU history to receive Academic All-America honors, and the only one honored more than once.

Victoria Iakounina (gymnastics) earned Academic All America Honors and was named Student Athlete of the Month in 2005.

Liz Shimek (basketball) was chosen as one of 12 members for the 2005 USA Women’s World University Games Team and competed in Turkey. In 2005 Liz was also named to the 2005 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America Women’s Basketball University Division Third Team.

Katherine Anderson (T&F/Cross-Country), Nathanael Egger (T&F/Cross-Country), Jordan Furrow (Softball), Breanna Harpstead (Field Hockey), Victoria Iakounina (Gymnastics), Andrew Naymick (Basketball), and Miklen Trogdon (Volleyball) were named MSU’s 2005 Top Scholar Athletes in their respective sports.

Chris Hill and Liz Shimek served as team representatives on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for Student-Athlete Support Services.
The Honors College has faced the retirement and departure of several of its employees over the past year. It is a pleasure to welcome our new staff members:

**Gavin Craig**  
**New Adviser**

Gavin Craig graduated with a BA in English from Michigan State University in May 2001. A member of the Honors College and Alumni Distinguished Scholar, Gavin was an active member of H-STAR and edited an undergraduate literary magazine, *The Offbeat*, which continues as a publication of the MSU Press. Gavin will be working with Honors College Associate Dean Steve Kautz on second-year issues for Honors College students, including preparing the second-year seminar and overseeing the second-year review. Gavin will also be working with David Bailey on scholarships available from the Honors College to Honors College students, and on Alumni Distinguished Scholar/University Distinguished Scholar issues and events.

**Kathee McDonald**  
**New Director**

**Gifted and Talented Education**

Kathee McDonald retired from public school teaching after 26 years to join the HC staff. She received the “Teacher of the Year” Award in June 2005 from Laingsburg Community Schools. Kathee was Gifted and Talented Coordinator for Laingsburg Community Schools for 17 years, working with gifted students in grades 1-12. She also served on various Shiawassee Intermediate School District committees for Laingsburg Schools, developed programs for technology, and set up and maintained computer labs. During her career, Kathee has written numerous grants, one of which brought the Lansing Symphony’s "Music In Our Schools" program into the Laingsburg schools, as well as grants for performing arts programs such as oral storytelling, filmmaking, multi-cultural performances and visual arts experiences for students.

**Patricia Shropshire**  
**New Adviser**

Patricia received her B.S. in Zoology from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Shortly thereafter she earned a M.S. in Biology (Parasitology) from The Graduate School at Atlanta University. Her first job was at Atlanta College of Medical and Dental Careers where she taught Bacteriology and Parasitology. She later taught in the Departments of Biology at Spelman College in Atlanta and Temple University in Philadelphia. She moved to the Bay Area in Northern California after her tenure at Temple, to work as a Student Affairs professional at Mills College in Oakland, California. She left Mills as Associate Dean of Students to return to the academy for her Ph.D. Her work at Mills inspired a switch in disciplines from Biology to Sociology. Her areas of concentration in Sociology are race, class and gender; feminist theory; leadership and the sociology of organizations. While at MSU, she has taught several courses for the Department of Sociology and worked with the Office of Diversity Programs in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

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Steven Kautz  
**New Associate Dean**

Steve was an undergraduate at Michigan State University and in the Honors College from 1977-1981, where he studied Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy (at that time known as "Justice, Morality, and Constitutional Democracy") in James Madison College, with a second major in Philosophy. He received his Ph.D. from the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, where he wrote his dissertation on contemporary communitarian political philosophy. After teaching for eleven years at Emory University in Atlanta, Steve returned to Michigan State University in 2000. He teaches in the Department of Political Science. Steve is the author of *Liberalism and Community* (Cornell University Press, 1995), which is a defense of the classical liberalism of Locke and Montesquieu against contemporary critics of liberalism. He has also written on the meaning of the ideas of toleration, privacy, and the rule of law in liberal politics. More recently, Steve has been working on projects on the political thought of Abraham Lincoln and on democratic citizenship and the so-called culture wars. Steve teaches courses on political philosophy, American political thought, and comparative legal systems.
While East Lansing suffered through a Homecoming football defeat, over 40 Honors College students traveled to Stratford, Ontario, in October to see Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*. Joined by history professors David Bailey and Emily Tabuteau, the group was treated to a fine performance in one of the final shows for esteemed Canadian actor William Hutt. Professor Bailey, an Ontario native, gave the students a brief historical context of the land as they toured the autumn countryside, while Professor Tabuteau’s notes on *The Tempest* added to the group’s knowledge of Shakespeare’s final play.

The Honors College Programming Board held its fall event, the annual Pumpkin Carving Celebration, on October 21. More than 50 participants decorated, painted, and carved pumpkins in the Kedzie Hall courtyard as the Honors College welcomed the Halloween season. Programming Board, the student activities group for Honors College events, plans several activities, including ice skating, the HC Ball and Geek Week. HCPB is always seeking new members—if you’d like to participate, contact Andrew McLemore at mclemor4@msu.edu.

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**Staff Profile**

### Melissa Mattingly

Hello Honors College community! My name is Melissa Mattingly and I am the fairly new Admissions Counselor. I started this position in the fall of 2004, but in many ways I have been with the Honors College for a long time.

The story begins in my hometown of Peoria, Illinois, where I was a high school senior in search of a challenging undergraduate program. On a fateful October evening I picked up information from the Michigan State University table at a local college night. In the weeks to follow I read the Honors College brochure, applied to MSU, and visited campus for the first time during the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship weekend. I did not win a scholarship, but MSU and the Honors College had won me over.

I completed my undergraduate career with a BA in International Relations and Political Theory & Constitutional Democracy from James Madison College in May 2004. While a student at MSU I was fortunate to be involved in a number of Honors College opportunities, including working as a Professorial Assistant and serving as an Honors College Resident Mentor, member of the Honors College Student Advisory Council, and leader of Honors Students Actively Recruiting. I also worked as a student assistant in Eustace-Cole Hall for nearly three years.

My time with the Honors College was briefly interrupted as I spent my last undergraduate semester in Bangkok, Thailand, studying at the Asian Institute of Technology and interning at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

I am very excited to be back at MSU and working with the Honors College again! Interacting with high achieving students makes every day interesting and I look forward to meeting more current and future Honors College community members during my journeys. If you are interested in learning more about MSU and the Honors College, please call me at 517/355-2326 or email matting5@msu.edu. I will be happy to help in any way I can!

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**Andrew McLemore**

**New Adviser**

Andrew McLemore is happy to return to the Honors College after years of volunteer work as an undergraduate at Michigan State University. A former Mowbray Scholar and Professorial Assistant, Andrew joined the advising staff in September. A professionally trained vocalist, Andrew remains active in local choral ensembles and coaches the Spartan Dischords men’s *a capella* group. Andrew graduated from the College of Natural Science in 2003 and now advises premedical students for the Honors College. A veteran of numerous Honors presentations and student panels, Andrew is also the staff adviser for the Honors College Programming Board, the organization behind such events as the Honors College Ball, Geek Week, and pumpkin carving.
M. Richard Zinman, University Distinguished Professor in James Madison College and the Department of Political Science, was selected as the 2005 recipient of the Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students. Three current or former Honors College students (John Rood, David Brumbaugh and Sherman Garnett, who is currently professor and Dean of James Madison) nominated Professor Zinman for the Award.

This Award was established in cooperation with the Honors College Student Advisory Committee and the Alumni Association to recognize exceptional contributions to Honors College students through teaching, advising, or mentoring. The Award is presented once each year during the spring semester, and this is the seventh year the Award has been offered.

“...we are very pleased to recognize a faculty member who has affected so many students so positively,” noted Ronald Fisher, Dean of the Honors College. The Award was presented at the University Undergraduate Scholarship Recognition Dinner in the spring of 2005. In addition to a certificate, the Award recipient receives an honorarium of $1,000, and all the recipients of this Award are identified on a permanent display located at the Honors College in Eustace-Cole Hall.

Richard Zinman is a University Distinguished Professor in James Madison College at Michigan State University and executive director of the LeFrak Forum/Symposium on Science, Reason, and Modern Democracy, a research center in the Department of Political Science. At James Madison, he also serves as Chair of its program in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy. Professor Zinman specializes in political philosophy and American political thought, with special interest in the intersection of philosophy and public policy.

For some 36 years, Professor Zinman has been an acclaimed adviser, dedicated and honored teacher, and encouraging mentor to Honors College students in James Madison. A variety of students easily recall his “powerful” classes, which have introduced classical political philosophy to generations of unsuspecting—and subsequently exceedingly appreciative—students. Professor Zinman has also provided superb guidance and support to countless Honors and Madison students seeking the most appropriate graduate or law schools or competing for major national and international scholarships. In doing so he has contributed greatly to the career successes of so many MSU students. One former student summed up these contributions in noting that Dick Zinman “...helped us understand that political philosophizing does not happen in a vacuum, that it can powerfully influence public affairs—and ourselves.”

**Professor Zinman** has made contributions over a long and distinguished career, during which he has greatly affected the lives of Honors College and Madison students as well as the educational environment at Michigan State.

Ronald Fisher
Dean of the Honors College

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**Honors College Faculty Award Announced**

Professor M. Richard Zinman

Recognizing Excellence in Teaching
Three things attracted me to MSU: the opportunity to participate in the founding of James Madison College, the mission of the Honors College, and the land-grant tradition.

IN THE SHADOW OF CONGRESSMAN JUSTIN MORRILL...
...teaching Honors Spartans

By Professor M. Richard Zinnman

I began teaching at James Madison College in 1969. I was twenty-six years old. I had grown up in New York City and been educated at minor outposts of eastern civilization, Cornell (in central New York) and the Claremont Colleges (in southern California). Before coming to East Lansing for an interview, I had spent one day in the Midwest (in Chicago, emphatically “the Second City”) and had never set foot in Michigan. My knowledge of Michigan was largely confined to an entry in Tocqueville’s journal, dated 1831 and titled “A Fortnight in the Wilds.” So I was a typical Woody Allen academic: a New York snob. When I accepted a job at MSU, I planned to stay for two years and then return to civilization. I am now sixty-two and beginning my thirty-eighth year as a Spartan. I have spent my entire academic life teaching undergraduates at Madison. Aside from my relationships with my closest friends and colleagues, the highlight of that life has been teaching serious students. Many of those students have been members of the Honors College. All have been a challenge. Almost all have been a delight.

Why did I come to MSU? Why did I stay? Three things attracted me to MSU: the opportunity to participate in the founding of James Madison College, the mission of the Honors College, and the land-grant tradition. At the time, I only vaguely sensed that these things were somehow related. Looking back, I see that the thread connecting them guided my teaching of honors students from the beginning. Let me try to explain.

In Considerations on Representative Government, published in 1860, John Stuart Mill made the following claims:

The natural tendency of representative government, as of modern civilization, is toward collective mediocrity: and this tendency is increased by all reductions and extensions of the franchise, their effect being to place the principal power in the hands of classes more and more below the highest level of instruction in the community. It is an admitted fact that...the American democracy...is constructed on this faulty model.

While striking (and even demeaning) to us, Mill’s claims were commonplace to his sophisticated readers. First, Mill could appeal to a well-established tradition stretching back to antiquity that maintained that democracy was, by nature, the rule of the ignorant and vulgar. Democracy, after all, is the rule of the majority. But (it was thought) in every society the poor are the majority. Since the poor lack the wealth and leisure needed to acquire a liberal education and since such an education is necessary in order to acquire the wisdom and cultivation needed to rule well, democracy is the rule of the unwise and uncultivated. Second, Mill could appeal to a new set of arguments according to which the problem of democracy had been exacerbated in modern

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times. In modernity, democracy and the commercial way of life go hand in hand. In our time, the tendency of democracy to homogenize society in the direction of the lowest common denominator is married to the commercialization of opinions, passions, and interests. As a result, the souls of citizens of modern democracy tend to be dominated by the desire for material comforts and their minds narrowed to a strictly utilitarian understanding of the sciences and the arts. Modern democracy tends to be even more uncultivated and more vulgar than its pre-modern predecessors.

Mill did not despair in the face of this diagnosis. Rather, he argued that the natural tendency of modern democracy—indeed, modern civilization—toward mediocrity and vulgarity could be countered by an electoral system that included proportional representation for the most highly—i.e., liberally—educated. But this proposal did not go to the root: it did not attempt to transform the nature of modern democracy by transforming the majority of its citizens.

Two years later, in the midst of the Civil War, Representative Justin Morrill (Republican, Vermont) sponsored, the United States Congress passed, and President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the first Morrill Act. This act, which became the foundation of the American system of public, state-supported, land-grant universities, could be said to have had as one of its principal aims the practical refutation of Mills’s claims. Morrill’s proposal was bolder than Mill’s. His did attempt to go to the root.

The Morrill Act of 1862 aimed to establish in each state “at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanical arts...in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes on the several pursuits and professions in life” [my emphasis].

These aims were noble but daunting. On the one hand, the “industrial classes”—that is, working men and women—were for the first time to be given access to higher education. On the other hand, those classes were to receive both a liberal and a practical education. These twin ends were unprecedented. Hitherto, higher education had been the preserve of the leisured few: the rich, even the very rich. Moreover, the core of such an education had been liberal education—an education especially in classical studies and the natural sciences, an education that was meant to be theoretical, beautiful, and useless rather than practical, banausic, and utilitarian. In other words, the Morrill Act aimed to combine things that for ages had been thought to be incompatible: aristocracy and democracy; beauty and utility.

Michigan State was founded in 1855 as “The Agricultural College of the State of Michigan.” It came under the first Morrill Act soon after its passage. As such, it has a claim to be the “pioneer land-grant College.” Cornell, my alma mater, also has such a claim. Founded in 1865, it was the first university established under the provisions of the act. Both MSU and Cornell—indeed, all the land-grant institutions—are defined, in large part, by the tensions embodied in the land-grant mission: the tensions between excellence and access, between liberal and practical education. I suspect
that the challenge of living with those tensions helps to explain the distinctive spirit and vitality that are hallmarks of the land-grant universities. But that challenge has also been a burden; and it is perhaps the principal source of their characteristic anxieties and frustrations.

In my experience, MSU, much more than Cornell, is the living embodiment of those tensions. MSU began as a college devoted almost exclusively to agriculture and the mechanical arts; Cornell began as a university equally devoted to the liberal and practical arts. MSU has always been wholly public; Cornell was from the first partly public and partly private. From its beginning, MSU coexisted uneasily with the older and more exclusive (“elitist”) University of Michigan; for almost a century, Cornell had no serious in-state, public-supported rival.

The Honors College was founded in 1956. If it wasn’t the first, it was one of the first such programs established in the United States. While there were many reasons for its founding, its defining charge was “to provide a distinctive educational experience for students of high ability.”

Looked at in the light of the first Morrill Act, the founding of the HC marks an era in the history of MSU as a land-grant institution. The Morrill Act held out the promise of combining excellence and access as well as liberal and practical education. With the founding of the HC, MSU established a unit explicitly committed to the fulfillment of that promise. Perhaps just as important, it explicitly recognized that “students of high ability” have distinctive needs and special claims on the resources of the university and the energies of its faculty. To put this another way: MSU explicitly recognized that a first-rate land-grant university must be able to attract a critical mass of first-rate students and give them the attention they need in order to flourish. And it implicitly recognized that a first-rate land-grant university must be able to transcend, resolve, mitigate, embrace, or—at the least—learn to live with the tensions between excellence and access and between liberal and practical education.

James Madison College was founded in 1967. It was one of three residential liberal arts units—along with Justin Morrill and Lyman Briggs—established by MSU in a time of booming budgets and quasi-revolutionary ferment. In my judgment, the founding of Madison marks another epoch in the history of MSU as a land-grant institution. Among other things, Madison was an attempt to combine the strengths of a small, intimate, liberal arts college with those of a vast, complex, diverse research university. Many universities had become (or were fast becoming) gigantic, bureaucratized, professionalized, impersonal, alienating, dehumanizing “multiversities.” If this was a danger for American universities in general, it was a special danger for its public, state-supported universities, which had opened their doors to tens of thousands

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of students who were the first in their families to attend college. To speak plainly, the multiversity was, in part, the product of the successful democratization of American higher education—and thus, in part, the result of the attempt to live up to the goals enshrined in the Morrill Act. By establishing Madison, MSU acknowledged that the conditions for excellence in undergraduate education in general and liberal education in particular are not “luxuries” but necessities. Madison sought to establish those conditions while attempting to address the tensions built into the land-grant tradition. For example, although it had (and has) no special admission requirements, it quickly became a kind of de facto honors college. (In recent years, to take only one example, about 35% of MSU’s Phi Beta Kappa inductees have been Madison students.)

As a teacher (and adviser) of large numbers of honors students, I have lived with the tensions inherent in the intertwined missions of Michigan State, the Honors College, and James Madison. In attempting to transcend, overcome, resolve, or mitigate those tensions, I have tried to keep in mind key moments in my own education.

I began my freshman year at Cornell expecting—even longing—to be transformed by my college experience. By the end of my first year, I was both disappointed and disoriented. I was not intellectually mature enough to find my own way and none of my teachers (almost all of whom were renowned scholars) seemed even to be aware that there were lost souls like me in their classrooms. During the first semester of my sophomore year, I wandered into an introductory course in American Government (of all things) taught by Walter Berns. I immediately sensed that Professor Berns was different. I had never encountered anyone who was so thoughtful about serious matters. In particular, he was thoughtful about the question of the meaning of life. He began from and lingered over seemingly elementary questions: Why was what we were studying important to us as human beings and citizens? He asked us to read, write, and argue about old, strange, and difficult books. He was extraordinarily demanding. He somehow brought us to the realization that the most important questions for each of us were “Who am I?” and “What is a good human being?” Above all, in a class of more than two hundred, he seemed to speak to each of us as...
“...I felt as if I had been released from a kind of bondage, turned around, opened up... I knew I wanted to do for undergraduates what [my professor] had done for me.”

individuals. For me (and many others), the effect was electric: I felt as if I had been released from a kind of bondage, turned around, opened up, and set on an exhilarating path of self-discovery that would require the most rigorous self-questioning. Professor Berns’ class was a hoped for but unexpected gift. And, suddenly, I knew what I wanted to do with my education and my life: I wanted to do for undergraduates what Professor Berns had done for me. I soon discovered that Professor Berns was not alone. There were other Cornell professors who were exemplary scholars and masterly teachers: men like Allan Bloom, David Brion Davis, Donald Kagan, and Walter LaFeber.

It would be many years before I was able to persuade myself that I had the ability to teach well enough to justify living the life of a teacher. As I was about to leave graduate school at Claremont for MSU, I sought out Leo Strauss, one of my mentors, for advice about teaching as a vocation. Professor Strauss was one of the most influential thinkers and teachers of the last century. When I knew him, he was quite old and very frail. Yet he still approached every class as if his students’ lives depended upon it. Professor Strauss’s advice was simple (and, I subsequently learned, the same he had given to generations of graduate students): “Always assume there is one silent student in your class who is by far superior to you in head and in heart.” He meant by that at least two things. First, “Aim high.” Second, “Do not have too high an opinion of your importance, and have the highest opinion of your responsibility.”

His advice reinforced my humility. But it also conformed to the practice of my best teachers. All of them had invited their students to attempt to discover and overcome themselves.

In my time teaching honors Spartans, I have tried to live up to the demanding goals of the first Morrill Act and the humbling examples of my best teachers. In my experience, we teachers often ask too little of our students. James Madison and the Honors College have given me the freedom to ask much of my students (and myself). When I make good use of that freedom, I find that my honors students are ready, able, and eager to the rise to the challenge. Helping set them on the path of self-discovery and self-overcoming has been the peak of my academic life. Watching many succeed has sustained my modest hope that Justin Morrill caught a bit more of the truth than did John Stuart Mill.
One of HC’s Own Takes MSU Academic Reins

Among the new members of the MSU community in fall 2005, was none other than Honors College graduate and new Provost, Kim A. Wilcox.

MSU’s new provost, Kim Wilcox, has great memories of his undergraduate days at MSU. He’s also establishing exciting new connections with the university today. And his vision for MSU’s future extends well into the 21st century.

Memories of the Past
As an undergraduate, Wilcox lived on campus in Holmes Hall for four years.

“I grew up in that environment,” says Wilcox. “I learned how to be responsible for myself and how to make my way in the world. Living and working in the residence hall, the whole undergraduate experience made me a better person.”

He also remembers thumbing through a course catalog in the spring of his sophomore year, looking for a new major after realizing that he wasn’t as interested in physics as he had thought he was. Curious about the field of audiology and speech sciences, he met with an adviser and was pleasantly surprised to learn that he could combine his interest in physics with the study of how people talk and his desire to work with children. The following fall, he was a junior with a new major.

Early experiences with instructors at MSU sparked Wilcox’s interest in becoming an educator. He realized the value of a strong teacher and valued those who were really good at it.

“I knew I would become a professor before I knew what I would be a professor of,” says Wilcox.

Connections to the Present
When he came back to campus this past April for his first interview with the provost search and selection committee, Wilcox says he was struck by the appetite the university’s students, faculty and staff had to entertain a new future—literally an appetite for change and forging a new future.

“As good as things are at MSU, people aren’t satisfied and want to do better,” Wilcox says, noting that he’s felt that same widespread appetite for change at every campus visit since then.

Given that appetite for change, Wilcox says he’s looking forward to working on initiatives in support of health-related biomedical research, education and outreach. Such projects provide a great opportunity for the university, he says, especially given the resources of MSU and the needs of the world.

“Everyone is turning toward life sciences research and exploration as a way to solve so many of our problems in the world, and MSU has a great set of resources there,” he says. “Unfortunately too many people are looking at that question from a myopic, very American-centric kind of perspective. We have the potential at MSU to give that a truly global perspective.”

Wilcox also notes that health and environmental problems in Africa are among the most daunting in the world—and that MSU has one of the strongest African studies groups in the nation. The extent to which MSU can help find solutions for those problems is going to make the university even more able to find solutions for problems closer to home.

Wilcox sees the university’s commitment to interdisciplinary work as a defining strength that sets it apart from other institutions.

“It’s a strong statement of the university’s commitment to working across department and disciplinary boundaries, he says.

Visions for the Future
The issue at hand, Wilcox says, is what the land-grant institution is going to look like in the 21st century, noting that the 21st century is going to be more about knowledge than brawn, global issues than national issues and broad interactions than local interactions.

“So how do we then take those realities and most effectively address them for all the population?” he asks. “The land-grant philosophy, in my mind, is always about taking the best of the world and making it accessible to the biggest swath of the world.”

“We’re poised to think not just administratively but, more importantly, philosophically about how those goals should be addressed by an institution of our type,” Wilcox says. “Some institutions are going to define this for us for the 21st century, and I believe Michigan State is as well positioned as any to do that.”

In Good Company...
Fellow MSU Honors College alumna Teresa A. Sullivan was recently named provost and executive vice president for academic affairs of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.
The Distinguished Alumni Award is given annually to alumni who have distinguished themselves by obtaining the highest level of professional accomplishments and who possess the highest standards of integrity and character to positively reflect and enhance the prestige of Michigan State University. The Honors College is proud to have an alumna recognized in this category:

**CHARLOTTA KLEIN ROSS** has been a member, and former principal, of the cello line of the prestigious Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra since 1968. Following her studies at MSU, she went on to pursue and receive a masters degree as a cellist from Carnegie Mellon University. She has led a very distinguished career as a concert cellist, performing as a member of the North Carolina Symphony and Dallas Symphony before joining the Pittsburgh Symphony. Charlotta is also directly involved in PSO education and outreach efforts serving as conductor of the Three Rivers Symphonette whose stated mission is to "provide musically talented youth in the tri-state area with the opportunity to achieve the highest level of artistic advancement, music education and social growth."

The Alumni Service Award is given annually to alumni who have demonstrated continuing outstanding volunteer service to Michigan State University and/or meritorious public service on a local, state, national or international level. Candidates must possess the highest standards of integrity and character to positively reflect and enhance the prestige of Michigan State University. The Honors College was fortunate enough to have an alumna selected in this category:

**MOLLY K. BRENNAN** has been incredibly active in service to Michigan State University. In 1988 she led the Parade of Roses in Pasadena, California, which preceded the Spartan Football Team’s victory over USC in the Rose Bowl. She has served on the MSU Alumni Association National Board, the College of Engineering Alumni Board and she was re-elected to her second term as President of the Honors College Alumni Association. In 1987, she served on the MSU National Committee for the Student-Athlete Academic Center, which culminated in the construction of the Clara Bell Smith Student Center. In addition to the hours of time she continues to dedicate, Molly and her husband, William Devlin, have been very generous in their financial support for MSU. She and Bill have consistently donated to the MSU Honors College, the College of Engineering and Spartan Athletics.

"I have been blessed to spend my lifetime as a professional symphonic musician in a world-class orchestra. My music making doesn't cure cancer, stop hurricanes or bombs or crime, or feed the homeless, but the universal language of music brings joy, peace, and comfort to the human soul. My heartfelt thanks to MSU, my cello professor Louis Potter, the School of Music and the Honors College for their part in preparing me for this privileged life of music making."

**Charlotta Klein Ross**
Sylvia Wallace McGrath (1959), one of the first members of the Honors College, is Regents Professor and department chair of history at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX.

Lee Burgett (1961) was installed as president of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) at its 2005 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. ASHRAE, founded in 1894 is an international organization of 55,000 persons with 163 chapters and members in 135 countries.

Maurice D. Fisher (1962) is the publisher and owner of Gifted Education Press (www.giftededpress.com).

Patricia D. Stokes’ (1964) newest book, *Creativity from Constraints: The Psychology of Breakthrough* was published in 2005. According to reviewers, the book is “groundbreaking” and “practical.”

Judith Grifka Buchalski (1965), professor of psychology, was named Lake Michigan College’s 2004 Faculty of the Year and Outstanding Employee of the Year. Professor Buchalski is also editor of *The Lake Michigan College Journal of Psychology*.

Erik D. Goodman (1966), MSU professor of electrical and computer engineering and mechanical engineering, was named a senior fellow of the International Society for Genetic and Evolutionary Computation.

Daniel M. Lichtstein (1970) is currently the Program Director of the Internal Medicine Training Program at Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami School of Medicine and Director of Education and Post-graduate Education for the Department of Medicine at the University of Miami School of Medicine.


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Gary Byerly (1970) has been named Associate Dean of Basic Sciences and holds a University Alumni Professorship at Louisiana State University.

Steven Pueppke (1971) has been named director of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and assistant vice president for research and graduate studies at MSU.

Michael Lasecki (1975), staff anesthesiologist at Anesthesia Services P.C. in Mobile, has been named Alabama Delegate to the American Society of Anesthesiologists and is the medical director of the Mobile division of the University of Alabama School of Nurse Anesthesia.

Debra Bowen (1976) has served as California state senator (D-Redondo Beach) since 1998. Senator Bowen is the chairwoman of the Senate Elections, Reapportionment & Constitutional Amendments Committee and serves on the Appropriations; Energy, Utilities & Communications; Government Modernization, Efficiency & Accountability; Natural Resources & Water; Revenue & Taxation; and Rules committees.

David Spain (1982) has been appointed Professor of Surgery and Chief of Trauma/Critical Care Surgery at Stanford University Medical Center.

Debra Ziehm McGuire (1983) has been appointed chairperson of the communications section of the Council for the American Society of Association Executives in Washington, DC.

Jeff Cummings (1985), co-administrative partner at Miner, Barnhill & Galland was honored as an alumnus of the Northwestern University School of Law’s Student Funded Public Interest Fellowship. Cummings was honored for his efforts to advance the cause of civil rights, both through his private practice and his extensive service with the nonprofit sector.

The Honorable Ronald J. Tenpas (1985) was recently named Associate Deputy Attorney General. Tenpas has served the Southern District of Illinois as the United States Attorney since November 2003. From 1997 to 2003, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Maryland and for the Middle District of Florida. Since February 2005, he has served on the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee (AGAC), a group of United States Attorneys who advise the Attorney General on policy matters. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the AGAC’s Sentencing Subcommittee.
Amy Astley (1989), Editor in Chief of Teen Vogue, was Vice Chair of the 2005 Fall Gala for New Yorkers for Children (NYFC), a charitable organization that provides private resources needed to assist Children’s Services and by increasing the private sector’s awareness of child welfare issues.

Chris Johnson (1994), copyeditor, reporter, and freelance writer in Milwaukee, WI, has published her first novel, Esperanza. Of her work she says, “As a third-generation feminist, born and raised in rural poverty, I write books that are angry, intense, and based in a gritty reality I know all too well. I write about people in horrific situations who rarely act as society expects, and I put them in very real settings, such as the women’s prison detailed in the novel…”

Jeff A. Johnson (1997) is a digital artist in the digital effects and animation field. Recent screen credits include Lord of the Rings: Two Towers, Terminator 3, Matrix Revolutions, and Star Wars Episode III.

Timothy A. M. Schmidt (1997), Pastor/Director of Youth and Family Ministry at North Salem Lutheran Church is married and has one daughter, Sophia. Reverend Schmidt is directing a new model for shared ministry between three churches in rural Ohio.

Karun D. Naga (1998) represented medical device industry clients in intellectual property legal matters in San Diego and Los Angeles for four years while an attorney with Jones Day, an international law firm with 30 offices worldwide. In 2004, he represented Jones Day in conducting seminars in New Delhi and Bangalore, India relating to global strategies for intellectual property development, procurement and enforcement for India’s booming tech industry. In 2005, he joined Mentor Corporation in Santa Barbara, CA, as its first in-house intellectual property attorney to advise on matters related to the aesthetic and urological medical industries.

Eric J. Griswold (1999) has joined the law firm of Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey, P.L.C. in Kalamazoo, MI, as an Associate. He will practice in the area of litigation law.

Liz Abdnour (2001) served as a legal intern at the Center for Justice and International Law in San Jose, Costa Rica, working on international human rights issues. Currently she is working as a legal intern at Break the Cycle in New York, an organization that focuses on providing services and education to youth in abusive relationships, and working on policy issues relating to teen dating violence. She is in her second year of law school at NYU.

Melissa Bailey (2001) is completing a masters degree in social work at the University of Washington and is also working at the school’s Center for Women’s Welfare researching the Self-Sufficiency Standard.

Kevin A. Brown (2001) moved to San Jose, CA, and has started work as a patent attorney.

Are you far away from MSU? We need YOUR help.

While we continue to work on recruiting the finest Michigan resident students to MSU, the Honors College needs your help to continue to bolster out-of-state enrollment. Such geographic diversity enriches the Honors College experience and the greater campus community. Students from 27 states and four countries comprised nearly 25% of our new students in the fall of 2005, up from 20% in 2004. Please help us grow this proportion of out-of-state students to at least 30% in 2006. You can help in several ways: the best way is to simply share stories of your wonderful Honors College experience. More than 50% of out-of-state students learn about the Honors College from a family member or friend! Additionally, use the Alumni Update Form (see page 33 or www.msu.edu/unit/honcoll/grads/alumupdate.html) to indicate that you are willing to:

• Identify outstanding students in your area and encourage their application to MSU
• Telephone, write, or email Honors College invitees from your area or anywhere
• Attend local college fairs on behalf of MSU
• Host a reception at your home or business for HC invitees from your area

Please contact Melissa at matting5@msu.edu if you would like more information. Thank you!
Douglas Dowland (2001), former HC Gillette Research Scholar, is pursuing a PhD in English at the University of Iowa. Doug's first article on John Steinbeck’s “Travels with Charley: In Search of America” is forthcoming in Literature Interpretation Theory. Douglas has taught courses recently in the interpretation of literature, literature and sexualities, fiction(s), and American lives.

Lesa Ingraham (2001) is working for the Holland Sentinel in Holland, Michigan.

Melinda Baker (2002) is pursuing a PhD in Chemistry at Princeton University.

Charlie Freund (2002) is in nomadic pursuit of a fun, easy life of work, friends, and adventure.

Davin Hall (2002) has a forthcoming publication called “Not So Landmark After All? Lawrence v. Texas: Classical Liberalism and Due Process Jurisprudence” in the William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal. He is a Teaching Assistant in Constitutional Law for William and Mary School of Law and will become an Associate at the law firm of Dechert LLP in New York in 2005.

Matthew Means (2002) graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, with a masters of Divinity and was named Most Outstanding Senior by the Seminary faculty for showing the greatest achievement in all areas of study, as well as the greatest potential for further accomplishments in ministry. Matthew is now employed as Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry at Memorial United Presbyterian Church in Xenia, OH.

Robin Sloan (2002) began working with a small team to plan and implement the online half of Al Gore’s new cable TV network, http://robinsloan.com/

Meredith Barnes (2003) ran the San Diego Rock ’n Roll Marathon in June 2005 and raised more than $5000 as a part of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training. Also in June of 2005, she gave an invited talk at the 65th Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association in San Diego, CA, on hypoglycemia and counter-regulation in animals.

Lia Bottinelli (2003) has completed her first year of mathematics teaching at her high school alma mater in Grand Blanc Community Schools.

Anne Edison-Swift (2003) is attending Yale Divinity School on a full tuition scholarship. Through her search, Anne was also offered full tuition awards to Emory, Princeton, and Harvard. Anne taught in the Teach for America program for the past two years in Houston, TX.


Jeff Thelen (2004), an investment banking analyst with Banc of America Securities (BAS), and Robert DeMarais helped to start an on-campus recruiting program for MSU students interested in pursuing careers in the field.

Anika Yusaf (2004) was a legal intern at Farmworker Legal Services of Michigan in summer 2005. She worked with migrant farmworkers on employment, landlord/tenant, and immigration issues. Yusaf also works on the Battered Immigrant Project which helps immigrant domestic violence victims. She is starting her second year at the University of Virginia School of Law.

2005 Graduate Notes
Bhooma Arvamuthan (2005) was accepted into the Washington University at St. Louis Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) Fellowship Program which will fully fund medical school and living expenses. Arvamuthan was also selected by Washington University at St. Louis as the Outstanding Incoming MSTP Fellow Scholar which will also cover travel and other miscellaneous expenses.
Sally Behrenwald (2005) is serving in the Peace Corps as an English as a Second Language teacher in a secondary school in Ukraine.

Traci Carpenter (2005) interned in New York City at Newsweek magazine, developing editorial content for newsweek.com. Carpenter also had some bylines on the site.

Andrew Cooper (2005) accepted an NSF Research Training Group Fellowship from the Geometry and Topology Group in the math department at MSU to work toward a PhD in mathematics. Cooper has also presented his computational linguistics research at the Disfluency in Spontaneous Speech workshop in Aix-en-Provence, France.

David de Steiger (2005) was accepted to and awarded a scholarship from MSU’s Eli Broad MBA program.

Jessica Diver (2005) was named the Outstanding Chapter President of the Year from the Michigan Nursing Student Association. As president of the MSU Nursing Student Association, Diver also accepted the award for the best chapter in Michigan.

Patrick Fay (2005) received the Leonardo Da Vinci scholarship based on the bulk material transport design competition held nationally and annually by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Justin Gengler (2005) was the winner of this year’s Jack Chapin Memorial Prize for the most outstanding senior in political theory at James Madison College. Gengler is attending the University of Michigan for graduate school in comparative politics and will continue the study of Arabic.

Michelle Gilmer (2005) completed a summer research internship in a structural biology lab at the Van Andel Research Institute in Grand Rapids. Gilmer also won first prize in her category at the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum for her presentation, Isolation of Clonal Breast Cancer Cell Lines that Inducibly Express Mixed Lineage Kinase 3 Variants.

Jeff Gour (2005) won a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship to fund his graduate studies and research.


Jennifer Gumas (2005) received the John M. Mason Endowed Scholarship in Science Education and will be teaching zoology, biology, and chemistry at Holt High School for her College of Education internship year.

Lauren Hamel (2005) received a full assistantship to complete doctoral work in the MSU College of Communication Arts and Sciences.

Joanna Holladay (2005) was selected as a Broad Fellow and taught bilingual summer school for middle school students for six weeks. Holladay said the experience was invaluable. She is student teaching in Utica, MI, this year.

Andrew Jones (2005) won a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship to fund his graduate studies and research.

Justin Kuxhaus (2005) was hired as a procurement agent for The Boeing Company in Seattle, WA.

Jillian Maxey (2005) won the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Accountemps Scholarship, one of two awarded nationally to student affiliate members.

Shannon McKenney (2005) won Outstanding Spanish Student of the year award from the faculty in the Spanish and Portugese faculty at MSU.

Allison Meyer (2005) won the Undergraduate Competitive Research Paper Competition at the Midwest Section American Society of Animal Science/ American Dairy Science Association Meetings for her paper on the effect of age on antioxidant activity in muscle and identification of iron regulatory proteins in cattle livers. Meyer earned the Miller Assistantship in the Animal Science Department at the University of Missouri-Columbia, which covers tuition and pays an enhanced research assistant stipend.

Sze-Ling Ng (2005) is attending Harvard University to study biochemistry. Sze-Ling was named a Soros Fellow in early 2006, one of only 30 such scholarship winners in the nation.

(Continued on page 32)
Randy Neice (2005) earned a scholarship and graduate assistant-ship to attend the College of William and Mary’s Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy.

Steve Oliver (2005) was the assistant director for a movie made for PBS on migraine headaches. The film aired on PBS and will travel the film festival circuit.

Dan Pettit (2005) was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He was awarded the Air Force Health Professions Scholarship; all of his financial needs in medical school (MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine) will be paid for by the Air Force in return for service as an active duty Air Force physician for four years.

Katherine Pitsch (2005) is the recipient of a graduate fellowship worth $10,000 from the Diplomatic and Consular Officers, an association of retired US Foreign Service Officers with offices in Washington, DC. She attended a National Student Leadership Conference with 14 other MSU students on the genocide in Darfur that was sponsored by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. After the conference, they founded MSU Spartans Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND), which was recognized as one of three national finalists for a $10,000 grant sponsored by MTVU and Reebok only a few months after the organization was founded. Pitsch also gave an oral presentation on the politics of the Palestinian Resistance Movement at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in April at the Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University. She is attending graduate school at Georgetown University.

Gina Polce (2005) is working as an HR Associate for Georgia-Pacific.

Vinayak Prasad (2005) earned the Dean’s Promise in Medicine Scholarship from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. The scholarship, one of ten awarded from 6000 applicants, is awarded on the basis of academic excellence, leadership ability, breadth of life experiences, and capacity to become an excellent physician. The award is worth $120,000 over four years.

Katherine Ruby (2005) received the Outstanding Undergraduate Award from the Department of Biochemistry upon graduation and is enrolled in a biochemistry doctoral program at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

Kacey Sachen (2005) presented her research on Helicobacter hepaticus at the American Society of Microbiology general meeting in Atlanta.

Austin Scott (2005) received a full teaching assistantship to University of Georgia while he pursues a Master of Arts in Speech Communication.

Michael Stone (2005) received a Fulbright Fellowship to work on sustainable forestry in China. He will work with Dr. Xu Jintao at the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy (CCAP) in Beijing, China. Stone wrote a senior thesis on “Dread and Economics” after completing an NSF REU in China which was reviewed by JMC Professor Bryan Ritchie. Stone presented his research at the Joint Conference of Society of American Foresters and Canadian Forestry Association in Edmonton, Canada. Stone will pursue an MS in Agriculture Economics, followed by a PhD in International Relations.

Michael Thom (2005) earned the J. Franklin Hyde Scholarship in Science Education for three years of graduate funding from the Dow Corning Foundation.
Please help us serve you by completing the following Honors College alumni survey. With your permission, this update may be published in the next *HConnections*, facilitating communication in the MSU Honors College alumni community.

- [ ] This is an update or address change.
- [ ] This is the first time I have responded to this questionnaire.

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**RECENT Professional & Educational Achievements/Family & Personal Accomplishments:**

May we publish your recent accomplishments in the next *HConnections*?  
- [ ] Yes  
- [ ] No

May we publish your recent accomplishments on our web site?  
- [ ] Yes  
- [ ] No

Please indicate all of the activities in which you would be willing to participate:

- [ ] Identifying potential Honors students (please send names, addresses, and grade level and we will send HC info)
- [ ] Telephoning Honors College invitees __ in my area __ anywhere
- [ ] Meeting locally with prospective students at an MSU-sponsored event
- [ ] Hosting an information session/reception for prospective students (special need: out-of-state)
- [ ] Providing an internship for an Honors College student
- [ ] Serving in a leadership capacity for the Honors College Alumni Association
- [ ] Supporting a scholarship for Honors College students

Please return to:  

**HConnections • The Honors College**  
**Michigan State University, Eustace-Cole Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824**
Bourke Bequest Funds Honors College Endowed Scholarship

When David Bourke (BA ’76, MLIR ’79) talks about his experience at MSU, there is the unmistakable look of pleasure on his face. He admits to having had great fun working as tennis pro at the University Club in those days, but his memories of his time as a student in the Honors College are what have driven he and his wife Deborah to remember MSU in their estate plans. Future Honors College students will reap the financial benefits of an endowed scholarship fund David and Deborah have established through bequests in their wills.

David grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan. After graduation from MSU, he headed to San Francisco where he built a successful marketing research firm. David and Deborah moved to Bend, Oregon in 1996 and became active with the Central Oregon Community College (COCC) Foundation, where David later served as president. The Bourkes have enjoyed providing academic scholarships at COCC and have actively encouraged others to join them in those efforts.

One of the great pleasures of that work, David noted, has been the opportunity to follow the careers of the students their scholarships have assisted.

“ать emphasize enough how profoundly scholarships can impact lives, and how education, in turn, contributes to the betterment of the community,” remarked David. Because of their generosity, David and Deborah are new members of the Frank S. Kedzie Society.

Acknowledging their gift, MSU Honors College Dean Ron Fisher stated, “Building current and future support for distinguished scholarships is the highest priority for the Honors College within The Campaign for MSU. This generous future gift from David and Deborah will play a significant role in helping us achieve our ultimate goal of scholarship support for every current and future Honors College student at Michigan State University.”

For more information about making an endowed gift or a charitable bequest to the Honors College, contact Dean Ron Fisher at (517) 355-2326.

“I can’t emphasize enough how profoundly scholarships can impact lives, and how education, in turn, contributes to the betterment of the community...”

David Bourke
There are many ways to provide your financial support for the MSU Honors College

Gifts of Cash
Personal checks made payable to Michigan State University or credit card gifts are important sources of financial support for the MSU Honors College. You can now make your credit card gifts by using MSU’s secure web site www.givingto.msu.edu.

Gifts of Securities
You or your broker can transfer shares electronically to benefit the MSU Honors College. Whether making a stock transfer electronically or by any other means, you are required to submit a letter of intent, explaining your intent to transfer the stock.

Gifts of Retirement Plan Asset
If you have already provided for your relatives in your estate plan, you can simply name the MSU Honors College as primary or partial beneficiary of your retirement plan assets [IRA, Keogh, 401(k) or 403(b)].

Charitable Life Income Plans
The charitable gift annuity and charitable remainder trust are two of the planned gift options that are designed to pay you an income for life and provide direct benefit to the Honors College.

Charitable Bequest within a Will or Trust
You can also establish a provision in your estate plan to provide support for the Honors College.

For more information about these or any other gift opportunities at the MSU Honors College, please contact Dean Ron Fisher at (517) 355-2326 or fisherr1@msu.edu.

Honors College Alumni Association
Tuition Raffle
HUGE SUCCESS!

Through the Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA) Tuition Raffle, families of HC students have made possible a major expansion of the HCAA Scholarship Program. HCAA Tuition Raffle scholarship recipients were:

2005  Julia DeGreg

2006  Maleena Garry and Benjamin Green

Because of the generous response of parents of HC students, the HCAA was able to award two additional scholarships for 2005 to incoming HC students.

If you’d like more information about making a gift to the HCAA Scholarship Fund, please contact Dean Ron Fisher at 517/355-2326 or fisherr1@msu.edu
Gift Levels

**Williams Society** – The Joseph R. Williams Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who make a commitment of at least $5,000,000 to MSU or a qualifying deferred gift of at least $7,500,000. Corporations, foundations, and associations are also offered Williams Society recognition upon reaching this level of giving.

**Kedzie Society** – Named for the eighth president of Michigan State University, the Frank S. Kedzie Society honors all donors above the $1 million level.

**Shaw Society** – The Robert S. Shaw Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who make a commitment between $500,000 and $999,999 to MSU or a documented planned gift of at least $1,000,000. Corporations, foundations, and associations are also offered Shaw Society recognition upon reaching this level of giving.

**Abbot Society** – The Theophilus C. Abbot Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who make a commitment between $250,000 and $499,999 to MSU or a documented planned gift of at least $500,000.

**Snyder Society** – Commemorating the leaders, historical and modern, whose contributions have made Michigan State University a vital force for the betterment of the state, the nation, and the world, the Snyder Society recognizes all donors between $100,000 and $249,999 or a documented gift of at least $200,000.

**Hannah Society** – Named for the twelfth president of Michigan State University, the John A. Hannah Society recognizes individual donors above the $50,000 level.

**Beaumont Tower Society** – Founded in 1989, the Beaumont Tower Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who make a commitment of at least $25,000 or a deferred gift of $50,000 or more to MSU.

**Presidents Club** – The Presidents Club was established in 1963 to recognize individuals who have given MSU $10,000 or more. Membership is also extended to those who have made a deferred gift of $25,000 or more.

**Presidents Club Associates** – Recent graduates can join the Presidents Club Associates by contributing at least $2,500 (or any amount up to $10,000).

**Landon Legacy Society** – The Linda E. Landon Society recognizes and honors individuals and families who, through their estate plans, have established a planned gift benefiting Michigan State University. These future gifts can take many forms such as a bequest through a will or personal trust, life insurance, or one of several charitable life-income plans.

**If there is an error in this list, please notify the College office so we may correct our records. Thank you!**
The Honors College is indebted to its many supporters whose names appear on these pages.

We are grateful for the financial investment of alumni, friends, and organizations who have committed to fostering our mission as a leader in promoting academic excellence and enrichment.
We thank these organizations and individuals who have made annual gifts to the Honors College.

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The 2006 edition of HConnections will be a look back at the innovations, leaders, and students who shaped honors education at Michigan State. We encourage your submissions of photographs, recollections, and reflections from the 50-year history of the program!

HC Students left to right: Malik Williams, Nicole Rivera, Danielle Lab, and Courtney Rizzo

HConnections

Transition—a passage from one stage to another
Growth—the process of developing