MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
HONORS COLLEGE
1956-2006

Celebrating 50 Years of
Educational Innovation and
Student Achievement
This issue of HConnections is devoted to recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of Honors College at Michigan State University. In quick order in 1956, the Academic Council (October 23), the Academic Senate (November 6) and State Board (November 9) approved a proposal from the Committee on Instruction, Curriculum, and Research to establish an Honors College. The College began operations in Fall Term 1957, so the Honors College freshmen at MSU in fall 2006 represent the 50th class of Honors College members.

The formal idea for Honors College originated, apparently, with Thomas Hamilton, Dean of the Basic College, who drafted the first Honors College proposal. Later, then-Provost Hamilton guided the proposal through the governance system to fruition. President Hannah, Provost Hamilton, and faculty recognized that a single, standard course of study was unlikely to serve all types of students well. So, Honors College was proposed to help create different academic approaches and opportunities for what was then called “the very able student.” Key objectives were to allow students to be challenged by the appropriate level of academic work specific to each student and to meet the needs of each student by providing substantial academic flexibility.

It is quite remarkable how clear and dramatic the original Honors College legislation is on that last point. It states that for an Honors College student “all requirements for his graduation, other than total number of hours, will be waived. He will be assigned to an adviser who has been carefully selected for this function in the college of the student’s major interests. The adviser then will work out with the student a program of study which seems appropriate for the individual.”

“Once a student has been designated as an Honors College scholar, all requirements for his graduation, other than total number of hours, will be waived. He will be assigned to an adviser who has been carefully selected for this function in the college of the student’s major interests. The adviser then will work out with the student a program of study which seems appropriate for the individual.”

From “Our Honors College,” the proposal approved by Academic Senate on November 6, 1956, which formed the Honors College.

This hallmark of the MSU Honors College is a main comparative advantage today, even though several private colleges subsequently emulated it.
The report adopted by the Council and Senate identified the Honors College “as the agency responsible for working with the existing colleges to provide a special educational experience for... students of superior ability and achievement.” From the beginning it was intended that Honors College be University wide; MSU undergraduates in any academic major could also be a member of Honors College. Initially, students applied to join Honors College after their first year. Beginning in 1970 as a trial program, entering freshmen were invited to join Honors College, a practice made permanent by Academic Council in 1973. Over the years a system evolved so that Honors classes taught by MSU faculty are offered through the various academic colleges and departments at MSU, and Honors College students work with faculty on research throughout the University.

Today, in addition to the core honors program for high-achieving undergraduates, the College also includes the Academic Scholars Program, a Gifted & Talented Education division to provide academic enrichment opportunities for high-achieving pre-college students, and the MSU Debate Team. There are about 2,600 Honors College members and another 400 students involved in the Academic Scholars Program, about eight percent of undergraduates total. This year departments and colleges are offering over 180 Honors classes, more than 250 faculty members across the University serve as Honors advisers, at least 500 Honors College members are working directly with faculty on research or creative projects, and more than half of Honors College students study internationally.

Not bad for our first 50 years!

President’s Message
“The Honors College embodies the University’s long and rich tradition of supporting excellence in student achievement. The boldness with which the Honors College founders embraced their charge and the boldness of the latest innovations of the program align exceptionally well with the world-grant direction of MSU today. I wish the Honors College all the best in celebrating this milestone and continuing its legacy of advancing academic excellence at MSU.”

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Honors College 50th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday
February 24, 2007
See back cover.
Honors College 50-Year Timeline

The 2006-2007 academic year marks 50 years of Honors College students at Michigan State.

Welcoming Freshmen
In 1973, the Academic Council formally approved the admission of entering freshmen students, a practice that began as a temporary, trial program for the Honors College in 1970.

Building a Reputation for Excellence
Honors College Director John Wilson wanted HC students to realize their obligations as well as their privileges in order to earn the Honors designation. In 1967, he asked the Academic Council for a framework—a key to long-range planning, intelligent advising, and a means of meeting obligations assumed by the university in educating bright students.

"Given an unusually well-disciplined student, a creative adviser; honors courses, independent study, regular courses and graduate courses and graduate seminars... it can result in an excellent program."

Leaving the Library
In a move that signaled the growing prominence of the Honors College and in order to provide expanded administrative offices for student services, Eustace Hall was designated as the home of the Honors College in 1968.

Gaining Support from the MSU Community
In 1967, the Committee on Undergraduate Education recommended establishment of an "all-University Committee on Honors," establishment of college honors committees, a broadening of criteria for admission to Honors College, and "adequate budgetary support to the Honors College."

November 1956
MSU Honors College established

1957
Stanley Idzerda named Director

1958-59
First Honors College graduates

1957-58
First class of Honors College members

1957
John Wilson named Director

1965
John Wilson named Director

1968
William Kelly named Director

1968
Phi Beta Kappa established at MSU

1969
Frank Blackington named Director

1974-75
Paul A. Varg named acting Director of the Honors College, after Director Blackington is appointed as president of University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

1975
James Pickering named Director

1979-80
Honors College Director becomes member of the Council of Deans

1981
Donald Lammers named Director

1980-81
First Honors housing floor established in Case Hall

1975-76
Handbooks were given to students, advisers, and departments outlining flexible requirements for Honors College students—the “modern” Academic Progress Plan

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Strengthening the Honors College Model

The University Honors Programs Committee for Revision of the Legislation Governing the Honors College expanded the criteria used to evaluate students applying for admission to the Honors College in 1969. Emphasis also went toward formalizing the role of academic advising for Honors College students, and annual review of Honors College student academic performance became a requirement.

“...The committee and the Honors College staff strongly believe that the basic program flexibility and freedom extended to Honors College student in the founding legislation is sound... those provisions should be continued in the proposed revisions.”
Directing the Vision...

HC Directors Reflect on Honors College History

To understand the establishment and development of the Honors College, it is helpful to recount the transitions that have occurred over time.

The following is excerpted from a recent dialogue between all of the past directors of the Honors College. The discussion was moderated by current Honors College Dean and Professor of Economics, Ronald Fisher.

Fisher: What were some of the important challenges, issues, and key moments as the Honors College was created and grew?

Blackington: The College mission became a bit of an issue at times because a certain portion of the faculty weren’t convinced we should do something like the Honors College. They confused it with some sort of elitism. But we were quite convinced that the Honors College philosophy, if you want to use that term, was correct and well thought through. And Stan Idzerda was the kind of fellow to whom we owe a great debt, because he shepherded the Honors College through its first years.

Kelly: I think intertwined with all this history, we have to take into account how the Merit Scholars program was growing enormously, the establishment of the residential colleges, and instruction otherwise in the residence halls, as mentioned by John Wilson. I agree with Frank about the first ten to fifteen years. I joined the staff... in 1965 and was there until 1969, and my experience was altogether positive. I’m aware of all these undercurrents, but it seemed to me the College was far outdistancing any of those concerns.

Idzerda: Somewhere along the line... Chitra Smith... made a study of all the Honors College students, and the leadership positions they held, in all fields, everything in the university. And it turns out, to no one’s surprise, that per capita and by gender and everything else, Honors College members far outran the leadership positions... the rest of the general college population.

Blackington: Oh nothing succeeds like success! Obviously, the Honors College students were very successful in all kinds of ways—it wasn’t simply in the classroom—and that was demonstrated to all kinds of people. And they were rewarded by a move to Eustace Hall... The faculty themselves had committed so much of their own time voluntarily. The faculty was perhaps the greatest beneficiary... of the presence of these students, but they certainly contributed to the existence and the advancement of the Honors College through the kinds of commitments they made personally as advisers and as teachers. And the faculty and central staff made an even larger commitment when the Academic Senate approved the addition of a freshman program to the Honors College. This change not only added more members to the Honors College, but also increased the need for and scope of faculty commitment to the Honors College idea. That’s one of the keys to the success story of Honors College—tremendous faculty at Michigan State. That’s one of the untold stories I think in the Honors College history.
Kelly: I had nothing but support from the president, Provost Jake Neville, and others—total support. They made Eustace Hall available, and then the staff and I sat down with university planners, and determined how the space would be divided or created, and they made it possible for us to get good furnishings for the time. It made such sense to get us out of the library and into a home facility.

Lammers: I endorse the point that continued, sustained support from the president and the provost especially has been indispensable. I was on watch in the ’80s and early ’90s and benefited enormously during my first financially difficult year at the university from that kind of wholehearted support from a succession of presidents and provosts.

Wilson: I don’t know whether we should count it, but Phi Beta Kappa was started during these early years. And it was Honors College students who really led the student groups who met with... the folks who finally had to approve our petition for admission. I think it could be said fairly that Phi Beta Kappa would have developed anyway in due course, but to have this vanguard of really bright undergraduates organized and articulate was a very great event.

Lammers: It was during Jim Pickering’s tenure that the director became a member of the Council of Deans. I think that was a signal event in the history of the Honors College, because it put the director into company with the deans and the other major program directors and really made the Honors presence that much more noticeable in those gatherings. It enabled the director to gather all kinds of intelligence about the workings of the university which I, at least, found of extremely great value.

Fisher: Academic flexibility seems to be a continual characteristic of the Honors College. How well has this served students over the years?

Pickering: I think it served the students’ needs because it certainly gave them an opportunity to build an education using the resources at Michigan State that was as good as any education in the country... Michigan State is an extraordinarily rich university in terms of the resources it has to offer students. The question is—how do you get the students to take advantage of those resources?

Wilson: I think Tom Hamilton had a good instinct when he said we’ll have only a one-sentence description of the Honors College, which was that no requirement of the university for a baccalaureate degree will be imposed upon members of the Honors College. And that freedom to make choices, and to be advised to make choices, intelligent choices, was a very important part of it—it still is. But I have a feeling it became too passive an enterprise in the rank and file... the passive side bothered me at the time, because I knew that I wasn’t going to be able to have as effective contact with the students as Stanley managed to do.

Blackett: I think it’s probably true that none of us were able to get anywhere nearly as close to students as Stan was able to do because of the sheer size. But in many cases it was made up for by the presence of senior faculty members who took seriously this whole idea of advisement, and really played a role that people at Eustace Hall couldn’t play. So I think they made up some of the difference, but I agree that there is that potential of abuse.

Idzerda: The open curriculum and waiving all prerequisites did become kind of the *omnium gatherum* for everything the Honors College represented. And most of the students seized upon it, and in fact, the Honors College garnered an awful lot of [attention]. I was called to speak at various convocations around the country, at colleges... on starting Honors programs.

Blackett: The open curriculum was absolutely essential because the University had no way of possibly supporting any other mode of dealing with these individual students. There were too many of them, they were too blessedly bright, and they needed a lot of attention—more attention than perhaps ordinary students do in some respects. And so the faculty was absolutely crucial.

Pickering: We did [various things] to improve the quality of individual student programs... And so one of the things we felt that we had to do was to make sure the students who were in the Honors College were being held to rigorous programs that really reflected an Honors education.

Lammers: By the early 80s when I came to Eustace Hall we had already in place—and I think some of this goes back to the John Wilson or Frank Blackington era—a program of annual in-house review by Honors College staff of the programs developed by the students and their advisers. While the advisers were the principal deliverers of advice and affirmation, we could engage them in discussions about some of the decisions they endorsed. So without attempting to arrogate their authority, we at least were able to maintain a fairly broad measure of consistency in program quality across the very diverse set of students.
Fisher: Some have suggested that the Honors College at MSU became a model for similar kinds of programs at other universities. Did MSU export Honors programming to higher education in general?

Pickering: I think that’s absolutely true. I was very active in the National Collegiate Honors Council when I was director. And what was going on at Michigan State was always held up as a kind of yardstick.

Kelly: I think that’s true. We had a very active group of Big Ten Honors Directors. That group looked at MSU with great envy because they thought we really had something they would like to have had themselves. So the way Stan Idzerda, in particular, helped shape the College in those early years really made it possible for us to become well known, not only in the Big Ten, but elsewhere in the country as well.

Lammers: That was certainly still true in the ’80s and ’90s. I went to meetings of the Big Ten Honors Directors and the National Collegiate Honors Society for fifteen or sixteen years and we were universally acknowledged to be the flagship of the fleet. [Others] really wanted to know what we were doing and what we were doing next, and to follow us to the best of their ability, which in many cases was somewhat restricted by their circumstances. But the basic ideas of the program were very contagious.

Fisher: One notable aspect of Michigan State and the Honors College is the number of students who have won major national and international awards—the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships and the others. Was it always the case that the university’s involvement with these scholarships was coordinated through Honors College?

Pickering: We had outstanding students and we wanted to give them the same opportunities as graduate students as students were getting at Harvard and other places. And so it was a logical place to have the Honors College undertake that responsibility. But by the time I got there, the expectation was that each fall we would assist the students in competing for these fellowships.

Kelly: That was clearly the expectation, I think, from the President’s and Provost’s offices, and President Hannah had a lot to do with that to an extent. We were just looked upon as the kind of coordinating agency for encouragement.

Pickering: I guess I enjoyed the Fall Quarter the best because that’s when we had the various fellowship competitions. And to see those students perform, it gave you a sense of just how good those students at Michigan State really were. And they were, in fact, outstanding. Every year we would send someone to Oxford on a Rhodes or win a Churchill or Marshall. It was an incredible experience.
**Lammers:** Yes, by the end of the ‘80s, this had become a highly formalized activity, and I inherited it as such. We had long lists of qualified faculty interviewers, and we had a timeline taking us through September and October, getting the applications together. Everyone knew and understood that this was a function for the Honors College. We produced an annual scholarship bulletin, which we tried to fill with information covering all these programs. One of my happiest memories is the year 1984/85—that was the *honus mirabilus* for the Honors College—that year we had two Rhodes Scholars, one Marshall Scholar, one Truman Scholar, one Churchill Scholar, and at least a dozen NSF scholarship winners. So from that point of view, it was an exceptional moment.

**Fisher:** What particular accomplishments are you most proud of from your time as MSU Honors College Director?

**Pickering:** The academic progress plan, getting on the Council of Deans, putting out the first Honors College Handbook, which set out the expectations of Honors College membership. We spent a good deal of time working with the Honors College advisers, because having Honors College advisers who knew what was happening around the University was a key to success. I also had a great staff—Scott Vaughn and Mike Conwell and Chitra Smith and Paula Koppisch.

**Kelly:** Part of this history needs to bring in the role of people like Gordon Sabine and others who worked with the Merit Scholar Program seeking sponsorship and recruitment of the Merit Scholars. That was one of the big things in my time on staff and then as Director. I don’t know what the high point was, but at one time I know we had over 600 National Merit Scholars on campus.

**Idzerda:** I think the National Merit Program and the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Program coming together was really part of the subterranean history of the Honors College. Gordon Sabine was Director of Admissions and he really organized that system and linked it directly to the Honors College. I was asked to be an evaluator... for the semifinalists... I observed that a couple of colleges... were sponsoring National Merit Scholarships. So I told this information to Gordon Sabine, who cranked up the system.

**Lammers:** Another thing I would mention, and again this is a fairly recent development I think, during the ‘80s we either introduced or made more formal, a campus-wide program of Professorial Assistantships. This program associated Honors students with interested and receptive faculty to work on research projects and gave many of them a significant leg up when it came to applying for graduate programs or some of these international scholarships.

**Fisher:** How did your time at Michigan State with the Honors College influence the rest of your academic careers?

**Pickering:** I would say that the six years I spent as Director of the Honors College were the most intellectually satisfying of my entire career. Not that I didn’t have other challenges and didn’t have fun elsewhere, but in terms of the intellectual challenge, the intellectual stimulation on a day to day basis—those six years were really terrific.

**Kelly:** It was a shaping influence in my career, no question about it. I don’t think I would have been a college president twice over without that experience with the Honors College.

**Blackington:** It was a tremendous experience to see how the larger institution operated and to learn a lot of lessons about institutional life and life in general. And perhaps more importantly, lessons about yourself.

**Idzerda:** The chief thing that I remember is the wonderful relationships we had with the students. Because they were in and out... of the Honors College lounge, the Honors College offices, and they didn’t seem as young then as they would now! I remember, we did a lot of ad hoc counseling, family counseling, professional counseling, and I remember the students to this day, and I still hear from some of them.

**Fisher:** Anything else to share?

**Pickering:** It’s great that the Honors College is 50 years old and that the same kind of care and attention and visibility is being given to honors education at Michigan State University. There is one story I will just share with you because it’s kind of funny. I was concerned with protecting the turf of the Honors College, as any administrator would be. I also knew that... coming out of the library was an incredibly important part of the visibility of the Honors College. We decided the University should apply to have Eustace Hall put on the National Register of historic buildings. When it came time to design the plaque, I remember insisting that the plaque include the words “Now home of the Honors College.” I figured if that was on that plaque they couldn’t take the building away from us!
In Their Own Words

Amy Astley
’89 Arts & Letters
My father, Irv Taran, was a professor of Art and one time chairman of the Art Department. So essentially I was a faculty brat! I no longer recall how I made my way to Honors College, but I was quite a serious reader and writer all through high school and it seemed to be a good place for me intellectually.

My favorite classes [at Michigan State] were all in the English department... I did love Dr. Beard who taught African-American literature with a feminist perspective. She was an exceptional teacher. I adore poetry and loved the teacher and poet Diane Wakoski. I admired her writing. She was very tough but seemed to feel my work wasn’t complete drivel!! Honors College seemed to feel my work wasn’t positive experience during my visit for the scholarship competition.

When I applied to MSU, I first put down “no preference.” During my visit to MSU for the ADS scholarship competition, I had the opportunity to stay in Case Hall and to meet some of the professors at James Madison College. I then declared Madison as my major and remained at Madison through graduation.

I did, of course, take many classes at James Madison College, from professors such as Lew Gaty and Michael Schechter. I also had a dual major in economics. I especially remember being able to be part of a small class taught by then-President Cecil Mackey, and a course in Antitrust Law taught by Walter Adams that was the closest thing to the “Paper Chase.” I believe I had a public finance course with the current Honors College dean, Ron Fisher.

I went on to earn a Master of Labor and Industrial Relations from MSU, and a law degree from the State University of N.Y. at Buffalo. I am currently a partner with the Syracuse, N.Y. law firm of Ferrara, Fiorenza, Larrison, Barrett & Reitz, P.C. Our firm concentrates its practice in the areas of education and labor law. Looking back, my career path has logically followed coursework. Stanley Idzerda suggested courses that I never would have taken on my own. That kind of stimulus and guidance was priceless. It was a bit like going to a small elite liberal arts school tucked away inside a huge land-grant university.

Craig Atlas
’80 James Madison
I was fortunate enough to be awarded an Alumni Distinguished Scholarship in 1977. I chose MSU and the Honors College because of this, and because of my background in higher education, and works on Latin America.

I am now vice president for social policy at a Washington think tank that works on Latin America. The Honors College is very important at a large school like MSU. It took me, from rural Michigan and with no family background in higher education, and helped guide and challenge me in my coursework.

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Jeffrey M. Puryear
’65 Social Science
I grew up near the University and my father had season football tickets. I never considered any other school. I don’t remember choosing the Honors College. After I got a high grade point my first quarter, the Honors College chose me.

I was fascinated by college but had no idea what I wanted to study. My strategy was to sample everything. I found myself gravitating toward the social sciences, so eventually chose that. But I was not seeking to specialize.

I took an honors course in sociology from David Gottlieb in which we read ten classics in sociology. It was a great experience. I also took an honors course in American Thought and Language in my freshman year from Dr. Strangness and thought he was very good. Another favorite was an honors course in theoretical physics that keyed to non-scientists (we called it theoretical physics for poets). After college I spent two years in the Peace Corps in Colombia and then got a Ph.D. in Comparative Education at the University of Chicago. Then I spent 17 years working for the Ford Foundation in Latin America. I am now vice president for social policy at a Washington think tank that works on Latin America.

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– Jeffrey M. Puryear
Three Generations with Honors

Nearly fifty years ago (1958), I, then Helen Wilson, became a member of MSU’s new experiment in quality education, the Honors College. I enjoyed the many, many opportunities as Director Stanley Idzerda and staff began to shape the program. I took challenging classes and ignored prerequisites. I found employment as a research assistant for a geography professor. I took part in an extra-curricular colloquium which has led to a life-long interest in vernacular architecture. Needless to say, I loved all these opportunities.

Twenty plus years later (1980), I encouraged my children to investigate MSU. The HC personnel rolled out the red carpet for Sarah and Richard on a visit to campus. It only took a stop at a university in another state to convince my children that MSU had something special. Sarah E. Vogel entered MSU and the Honors College in 1981, and her brother, Richard S. Vogel, followed her in 1982. I found it interesting to see how the program had evolved with so many honors sections and honors options. Both made good use of their opportunities including living on honors floors in the dorms. Richard had the good fortune to meet, and marry, another member of the Honors College, Cecilia J. Carmody.

Fast forward to 2004. Grandma Helen volunteers to expose Richard’s son to MSU and the Honors College. It was a wonderful visit to campus, and grandson John M. Vogel enrolled at Michigan State in the fall of 2005. He is now enjoying the many opportunities of the program.

Today most public schools have some sort of gifted/talented program for smart children. This was not true 50 years ago or even 25 years ago. On the other hand, John has been in a gifted program since kindergarten. So my first experience with a gifted program was Honors College. The same was true for Sarah and Richard. It was our first opportunity to learn at our pace and to be placed at an appropriate learning level. (We all enjoyed the lack of prerequisites!) For me it was a truly awesome experience.

—Helen (Wilson) Vogel ('60)

I have been a professor at a small liberal arts college for 14 years. Liberal arts colleges tend to hire people who went to a liberal arts college, so my degree from a big university was a red flag to them at first. When I told them I was an alumna of Michigan State’s Honors College, they were reassured that I understood the ideals of the liberal arts.

As a professor, I see all kinds of students, many of whom need to be forced to get variety and challenge in their schedules. I am so glad that the Honors College trusted us to embrace variety and challenge, and let us build our schedules with a lot of flexibility. For example, I took a junior-level German Literature course (auf Deutsch) my first term on campus, and I used one term of my ADS scholarship for a summer in Germany, all while taking honors math and science courses for my major.

When John was considering colleges, he had a list that included many colleges with “tech” in their name, because he was interested in an engineering major. I am very happy that he has found himself at Michigan State’s Honors College, where he can get a superb engineering education along with breadth and depth in the many other fields that interest him, from philosophy to economics to linguistics.

—Cecilia (Carmody) Vogel (Alumni Distinguished Scholar, ‘87)
Kevin Hankinson ('07)
Grand Rapids, Michigan

I chose to attend MSU because I wanted to be a high school English teacher and MSU has the best secondary education program in the country. Also, I enjoyed the separation between campus and the city.

I have been interested in early American literature for quite a while now, but lately I have begun focusing on literature from the American Renaissance, 1850-1855. Currently I am researching lesser-known works of Nathaniel Hawthorne and how they could provide a unique insight into how one characterizes Hawthorne’s career.

My three favorite classes have been antebellum American literature with Professor Stephen Arch, the twentieth-century British novel with Professor Judith Roof, and Language Use in the African American Community with Professor Geneva Smitherman.

Volunteering at the MSU Child Development Laboratory every other week was a great experience. Spending time with three-year-olds playing word games and practicing numbers was a nice reprieve from the rigors of college.

Right now, I am trying to decide between becoming an English professor or a high school English teacher. Both careers seem quite appealing, and once I begin receiving graduate school application responses in March, I hope to make the right decision.

The Honors College provided me with a research grant last spring that enabled me to travel to and present at a research conference in Indiana. At the conference, I met many scholars and learned a valuable experience about presenting my own research.

Brittany Naber ('07)
Columbus, Ohio

I knew I wanted to go to a big university, and the Honors College offered me opportunities I couldn’t find anywhere else—I mean, who else wants to promise a history major a paid research position her first year?

I am writing my senior Honors thesis in history this year on the African American press’ reactions to events in South Africa in the twentieth century. I think the connections between the United States and South Africa are important and interesting, so I’m trying to study as many of them as I can at MSU.

History Professor David Bailey has been my mentor from the beginning here at MSU. He was my faculty mentor when I was a Professorial Assistant, and he teaches a great sequence of American intellectual history classes that students from different majors like to take. It was wonderful to take my favorite subject with a great professor and students from all fields.

This year I’m president of MSU’s chapter of the Mortar Board, which is a national honors society for seniors that want to do community service activities together. It’s one of the most active and prestigious honors societies on campus, so it’s a lot of fun. I’ve also just become involved with starting a chapter of a new human rights group here on campus, called International Justice Mission.

I’m planning to become an attorney, so my next step is law school. I still have to decide whether I want to go into the academic side of the law, or public interest, or both or neither.

The Honors College has been my home base all throughout my college experience. I took a leadership class there my first semester on campus, met with my mentor there for years, and now work in the main office. I lived in Honors housing for two years and met my best friends on the Honors floor and in Honors classes. It sounds like I’ve lived in an Honors bubble, but I promise I haven’t—it’s just been great to have a “home” here in this wonderfully large university.
James Pita ('07)
Rock Springs, Wyoming

I chose MSU because of the phenomenal learning experiences that are available both in and out of the classroom. MSU is a place that prides itself in diversity and has opened my eyes to new experiences, sights, cultures, knowledge and a vibrant college history. It has also opened many doors for my future and was an excellent stepping stone for my dreams.

I am currently a computer science major and plan to continue on to earn my doctorate in computer science. Since my freshman year, I have been passionate about computer science research that involves biological processes and thought processes. I plan to pursue a graduate program in artificial intelligence when I enter my graduate program with an emphasis in autonomous agents. Most likely I will become a professor where I will hope to mentor students, but I am not adverse to doing industry research as well.

I have enjoyed almost all of my professors and classes at MSU. My learning experiences have been diverse and all of my professors have been eager to help outside of class. I’ve developed meaningful relationships with many of them. Now I am completely comfortable having lunch with them or just dropping in to say hi even though class is over.

I am involved in many student groups on campus including a greek fraternity, an honors fraternity and numerous engineering organizations. I also enjoy walking around our scenic campus and taking advantage of the numerous events MSU hosts every weekend. My favorite activity, though, is taking advantage of the many gym facilities MSU has on campus in order to keep in shape and relieve some stress from my daily activities.

The Honors College has given me the opportunity to explore a wider range of disciplines by giving me the opportunity to take classes not in my major and substitute some of them for my major requirements. I have taken classes from theatre to economics as a computer science major.

Jennifer Jones ('07)
Muskegon, Michigan

I knew going to a school as large as MSU would provide me with opportunities that I would not have at a smaller school (in terms of the variety of classes to choose from).

The fact that MSU has a beautiful campus was an added bonus. Finally, and most importantly, I chose MSU because the Honors College faculty was amiable, and they made me feel as though they wanted to give me a unique and tailored educational experience.

I am in love with the Italian language. I have taken three Italian classes thus far, and I am continuing to study the language in my final semester. This past summer, I took advantage of MSU’s status as a leading study abroad university and spent six weeks in Florence studying Italian language and culture.

I have three favorite classes: ISP 205 and ISP 213H, which are astronomy/physics courses that are driven more by concepts than math, and THR 101, which I am taking now. My favorite professor has to be “Dr. Phil” Schertzing, who I had for Criminal Justice.

My favorite thing in life is music. If I’m not singing or playing piano, I’m listening to it. I also like to be active. I’m an avid runner, and every now and then I play tennis or basketball.

If I don’t pursue a career in music, I intend to first go to graduate school in psychology, and then become an industrial psychologist. More specifically, I would like to do consulting for various businesses.

The Honors College has been amazing, in that it allowed me to substitute certain classes that I preferred for the classes that are normally requisite for students. I was also able to enter classes without having taken all of the prerequisites for them first. All in all, it has made my undergraduate career much more enjoyable.

Looking for OF NOTE? This section that reports student success around campus will return in the regular 2007 edition of HConnections.
# National & International Scholarship Recipients 1919-2007

## Major International Scholarships for Postgraduate Study in the U.K. and Ireland

### Churchill Scholars
(Study of science or mathematics at University of Cambridge)
- 1964 Thomas Stoeckley
- 1969 Larry Benninger
- 1978 Thomas Murphy
- 1980 Stephen Scherr
- 1982 Christopher Bishop
- 1983 Ronald Ellis
- 1985 Frank Sottile
- 1986 Rebecca (Dutch) Ellis
- 1988 Lisa Gloss
- 1989 Eric Hooper
- 1990 Donald Bott
- 1991 Richard Cohn
- 2000 Jason Fuller
- 2002 Camilia Smith
- 2006 Timothy Howes

### Rhodes Scholars
(Study at University of Oxford)
- 1919 Calvin Overmyer
- 1926 Douglas Steere
- 1953 John Wilson
- 1972 Alan VerPlanck
- 1974 Roy Pea
- 1975 Paul Hunt
- 1976 Steven Holtzman
- 1982 Molly Brennan
- 1983 Claudia Skran
- 1984 Judith Stoddart
- 1985 Robert Leland
- 1993 Rujuta (Bhatt) Srivastava
- 1996 Dayne Walling
- 1997 Stephanie Palmer

### Marshall Scholars
(Graduate study at universities in the UK)
- 1975 Katharine (Clarke) Hunt
- 1978 Ian Redmount
- 1979 Robert Koons
- 1981 Richard Cordray
- 1985 Sandra Pinnavaia
- 1999 Jennifer (Sykes) McLaughlin
- 2004 Jared English
- 2005 Bhooma Aravamuthan

### Mitchell Scholar
(Study at Irish universities)
- 2001 Kathleen Romig

### Gates Cambridge Scholars
(Study at University of Cambridge)
- 2002 Robin Stein

### Hollings Scholars
(Planning careers related to atmospheric or oceanic policy)
- 2005 Anna Cajiga
- 2006 Allison Campbell

## Major National Scholarships for Sophomores & Juniors

### Goldwater Scholars
(Planning research careers in science and engineering)
- 1993 Michael Potter
- 1994 Roberto Bello
- 1995 Jennifer Loconto
- 1997 Michael Young
- 1998 Andrew Mienaltowski
  - Daniel Thornhill
- 1999 Jason Fuller
- 2000 Brian Ngo
- 2002 Michael Davis
  - Sarah Lansing
- 2003 Megan Dennis
- 2004 Bhooma Aravamuthan
  - Nathan Lord
- 2005 Katie Barott
  - Timothy Howes
  - Janelle Shane
  - Matthew Stasiewicz
- 2006 Stuart Kaltz
  - Katherine Leitch
  - Anjali Rohatgi

### Truman Scholars
(Planning careers in public service)
- 1979 Steven Kautz
- 1980 Donna (Pickrell) Harrison
- 1981 Linda Ewing
- 1983 Thomas Young
- 1985 Lori Brown
- 1986 Connel Fullenkamp
- 1988 Benjamin Dennis
- 1990 Wendy Fritzen
- 1992 Rujuta (Bhatt) Srivastava
- 1995 Dayne Walling
- 1998 Jennifer (Sykes) McLaughlin
- 1999 Adam Wright
- 2003 Jared English
- 2006 Jacob Phelps

### Udall Scholars
(Planning careers in environmental policy or tribal health)
- 1997 Waseya Cornell
- 1998 Meegan (Dorn) Mahan
- 2004 Jerilyn Church
- 2005 Jacob Phelps
- 2006 Jacob Phelps

### Hollings Scholars
(Planning careers related to atmospheric or oceanic policy)
- 2005 Anna Cajiga
- 2006 Allison Campbell
The HC Welcomes
Jenni Marsh
Coordinator, National/International Scholarships and Fellowships

Raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Jenni lived in Marquette and Iron Mountain/Kingsford. She graduated from Marquette Senior High School and was a Rotary Youth Exchange Student from the Marquette Breakfast Rotary Club to Machala, Ecuador, South America in 1993-94.

After returning from Ecuador, Jenni received her BA in Spanish and Natural Sciences from Alma College in 1997, as well as a Michigan secondary teaching certificate. She taught both high school and middle school Spanish and science classes in the Detroit suburbs for almost ten years. She earned an MPA (public administration) from the University of Michigan in 2002.

Jenni’s new position involves helping to prepare the next generation of major fellowship winners from MSU.

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

While we continue to work to recruit the finest Michigan resident students to MSU, the Honors College needs your help to bolster out-of-state enrollment. 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 fall 2006. Please help us grow this proportion of out-of-state students to at least 30% in 2007. 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 MSU and Honors College from a family member or friend! Additionally, use the Alumni Update Form on page 26 or go to 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!

IN MEMORIAM
Scott R. Vaughn

Scott R. Vaughn, Honors College assistant director emeritus who retired in 2004, passed away on July 2, 2006. Dr. Vaughn worked for the College for 35 years of its 50 year history as adviser, supporter, and mentor to Honors College students. He had enormous influence on the history and direction of the program as he established strong relationships with the College’s students, served on numerous College and University-wide committees, and developed solid College relationships with external scholarship programs and organizations.

Donations in Scott’s memory may be sent to the American Civil Liberties Union, Doctors Without Borders, or Amnesty International.

Curious about the 2006 Alumni and University Distinguished Scholars?
A story on the newest Alumni and University Distinguished Scholars can be found at http://newsroom.msu.edu/site/indexer/2801/content.htm
Scholarship Winners

Jacob Phelps Wins Truman & Second Udall

With a passion for protecting the environment and educating others about conservation, Jacob Phelps, from White Lake, Michigan, (by way of Escazu, Costa Rica), was selected as a 2006 Truman Scholar, making him the 14th Truman Scholar from Michigan State University.

Phelps was also chosen as one of 80 students nationwide to be named a 2006 Udall Scholar. He also was a 2005 Udall Scholarship recipient. [See 2005 edition of HConnections for more information]. The Morris K. Udall Foundation awards scholarships of up to $5,000 to juniors and seniors in environment-related fields and to American Indian and Alaska Natives in fields related to health care and tribal policy.

Phelps completed an internship with a nongovernmental organization called Community Conservation in La Democracia, Belize. He worked with residents of a rural community to create a group that promotes local involvement in conservation and to create local employment opportunities through ecotourism.

Phelps is majoring in environmental studies in the Lyman Briggs School of Science in the College of Natural Science and art history in the College of Arts and Letters. He also is a member of the MSU Honors College.

So how did Phelps find out he’d been awarded a Truman Scholarship? A trip to the U.S. Embassy in Belize was arranged, and MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon phoned to notify him that he had been selected.

“Jacob is very deserving of the Truman Scholarship, and this award really speaks to his abilities not only as an exceptional student, but as someone who wants to make a significant contribution to the field of environmental conservation. The research opportunities Jacob has had are instrumental in his selection and will serve him well in his future academic and professional pursuits,” said Ron Fisher, dean of the Honors College.

Phelps plans to pursue a master of science upon graduating from MSU. His career plans involve working for an environmental conservation agency where he would manage international conservation and development projects.

Phelps is majoring in environmental studies in the Lyman Briggs School of Science in the College of Natural Science and art history in the College of Arts and Letters. He also is a member of the MSU Honors College.

While working at Canada’s Muttart Conservatory in Edmonton, Alberta, Phelps developed a permanent display that showcases a realistic representation of a rainforest and provides visitors with information about tropical plants.

Phelps spent last spring semester in Thailand as an intern for the World Wide Fund for Nature where he worked on environmental education and wrote a report on the illegal trade in protected plants between Thailand, Laos and Myanmar.

At MSU, Phelps serves as associate curator of the university’s orchid collections. He also has been active in Students for Economic Justice, MTV’s Rock the Vote, MSU Extension’s 4H environmental education, the college swing dancing club State Swing Society, and as a volunteer in the presidential campaigns of Howard Dean and John Kerry.

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship is a merit-based grant award that provides up to $30,000 to undergraduate students with extensive records of public and community service, a commitment to careers in government or elsewhere in public service, and outstanding leadership potential and communication skills.

For more information on the Truman Scholarship, see www.truman.gov/

For more information on the Udall Scholarship, see www.udall.gov/

Reprinted with permission from University Relations.
Timothy Howes Earns MSU’s 15th Churchill Honor

Had Michigan State University senior Timothy Howes lived 200 years ago, he’d have been a naturalist who traveled the world cataloguing new organisms.

Instead, he is majoring in chemical engineering at MSU and has traveled the world in search of new research experiences that will help him toward his goal. Howes plans to pursue a career in biotechnology and bioengineering and hopes to eventually engineer bacterial strains that can help break down environmental pollutants and make for cleaner chemical and pharmaceutical production.

Howes’ goals and research experiences have resulted in his selection for a prestigious 2006 Churchill Scholarship to pursue graduate study at the University of Cambridge in Great Britain. Only 10 to 12 Churchill Scholarships are awarded annually, and they cover all tuition and fees plus stipends for living expenses and travel.

Howes is MSU’s 15th Churchill Scholar, and he plans to pursue a master’s of philosophy, or M.Phil, in computational biology at Cambridge.

Needless to say, Howes is thrilled to have been selected. “I’m very excited to explore some new territory before launching into a Ph.D. Cambridge is a perfect fit for someone with my academic interests,” said Howes.

But he’s got even more reason to be a perfect choice for a Churchill Scholarship: His great-great-uncle, Sam Howes, was Winston Churchill’s chauffeur for several years. In 1932, Sam Howes married the Churchills’ parlor maid, Olive. He was a mechanical engineer and went on to a career in aeronautics, working on the development of jet engines in the early 1940s. He and his wife moved to Canada in 1955 and to California in 1957. He retired as group engineer at the Solar Aircraft Co. in San Diego in 1970. He maintained correspondence with Churchill and his wife and daughter throughout his life. (See www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/h/Howes, Samuel_Musgrove). “I’m sure he would have been proud to see me start my career as an engineer with support from the Churchill Foundation,” said Howes.

A member of MSU’s Honors College, Howes has been working closely with professor Mark Worden in chemical engineering and materials science, and professor John Ohlrogge in plant biology.

According to Ohlrogge, who has been working with Howes for about two years, Howes has that rare combination of modesty, intellectual curiosity and ambition that will serve him well.

“Tim is shy, but he has that ability to be a leader while being very modest,” said Ohlrogge. “He has jumped at every opportunity that has come his way, and his research experiences have definitely benefited his work in my lab. I don’t think I’ve ever seen anyone with as many types of research experience as an undergraduate. Plus, he’s dedicated to doing something good for the world; he’s not just in it for personal gain.”

Two summers ago, Howes worked in a plant biology lab at the University of Hawaii, and last summer he spent 10 weeks doing research at the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences of the Claremont Colleges consortium. This past fall he took part in a research project in a bioreaction engineering lab at Osaka University in Japan.

“These experiences have made me feel at home in a laboratory and have allowed me to learn first-hand about the techniques of molecular biology and biochemistry,” said Howes. According to Ohlrogge, these are techniques that Howes will use the rest of his career.

But that isn’t even the end of Howes’ exploration. While abroad in Panama, he joined field researchers studying the biodiversity of the Central American rainforests and coral reefs, ultimately writing a report on bioprospecting—the search for valuable chemicals and genes from exotic organisms—as a way to support conservation efforts. He explored the tension between agriculture and rainforest preservation in Nicaragua. While in Europe he visited the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization to learn about food safety and food-borne diseases.

“The research at these organizations helps to shape international policy on food trade, so I was able to see one of the ways that scientific research affects people around the world,” said Howes.

Howes’ list of accomplishments at MSU has been impressive. He came to MSU as a recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Scholar, the university’s highest merit award for undergraduates. Last year he was awarded a Goldwater Scholarship for top students in math, science and engineering. He also is the recipient of a Dow Junior Competitive Scholarship, Cole Study Abroad Award, Professorial Assistantship and a National Merit Scholarship.

It would seem that Howes would have time for little else but research and school work, but he manages to be a fully engaged member of the MSU community. He has served as a student government representative of the College of Engineering, associate fiction editor for a local literary review, a member of honor societies for chemical and pharmaceutical engineering, and a member of the scuba club. In whatever spare time he has, Howes enjoys drawing, reading and playing guitar.

The Churchill Scholarships are awarded by the Winston Churchill Foundation to outstanding U.S. students to pursue graduate study in engineering, mathematics and sciences at Churchill College, University of Cambridge.

For more information on the Churchill Scholarship, see www.winstonchurchillfoundation.org.

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Three Take Goldwater Scholarships

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 mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

“It is a tremendous honor for students to be selected for these prestigious national scholarships,” 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.”

Stuart R. Kaltz, junior from Lapeer, MI.

Seeing his grandmother walk pain free following her total knee replacement is inspiration to Kaltz, whose recent research focuses on the benefits of using a type of ceramic in artificial bone implants and a chemical coating for orthopedic implants. A materials science and engineering major in the College of Engineering, he plans to pursue a doctorate in biomedical engineering, and conduct orthopedic research with a company or as a university professor.

Katherine J. Leitch, sophomore from Rockford, MI.

Leitch’s love of science that led to a research lab at MSU got its humble beginning while she played in the mud with toads as a child. A major in zoology and neurobiology in the Lyman Briggs School of Science in the College of Natural Science, Leitch has used salamanders to study certain aspects of the olfactory system. She plans to pursue a doctorate in neurobiology and immunology, and conduct research and teach at the university level.

Anjali Rohatgi, junior from Ft. Wayne, IN.

Some of Rohatgi’s research has dealt with studying genes in mice to understand the role certain cells play in the injury of arteries, and her current work involves testing and evaluating small, organic drug-like molecules that might target the parasite enzymes that cause elephantiasis. She plans to conduct research “at the bedside and bench” to better understand the physiological manifestations of pharmaceuticals at the molecular level. Rohatgi is majoring in biochemistry in the Lyman Briggs School of Science in the College of Natural Science and English in the College of Arts and Letters.

To read the full reports on each scholarship winner, please connect to http://special.newsroom.msu.edu/students/.

For more information on the Goldwater Scholarship, see www.act.org/goldwater/.

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Allison Campbell, Orchard Lake, Michigan, grew up with a lake in her back yard and a father who instilled in her a love of fishing, hiking, snowshoeing and environmental stewardship.

The recipient of a 2006 Hollings Scholarship, Campbell, a junior at MSU, now combines her college education and work experiences with her desire to advocate for responsible and sustainable use of natural resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded the scholarship.

“This responsibility lies with both business and government to meet the needs of the present, while ensuring future generations are able to meet their needs,” Campbell said.

“Today’s leaders need to examine issues from different perspectives,” she said. “When views from multiple players are incorporated, effective environmental management can be achieved because everyone has a vested interest in the situation’s success.”

Campbell, daughter of Albin and Penny Campbell, is among approximately 100 students nationwide to be named a 2006 Hollings Scholar. 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 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or an affiliated agency.

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

“I am excited to have this internship, because I will have hands-on experience in the field that goes beyond my major,” Campbell said. “It’s a tremendous opportunity to work and study with key scientists and leaders who are working to preserve our natural resources.”

Campbell is majoring in international relations in the James Madison College with specializations in international development and Latin American and Caribbean studies through the College of Social Science. She also is a member of the Honors College.

She said working at wilderness lodges in Denali National Park in Alaska furthered her interest in the environment.

“I spent two summers in Alaska and saw the conflicts and tension between groups with different viewpoints toward preserving resources and stimulating economic growth,” she said. “We have to be able to find a balance and strategize to maximize the interests of all concerned parties.”

Besides her work in Alaska, Campbell has had opportunities to broaden her interests in environmental policies at home and abroad.

She organized a series of local events to raise awareness of international sustainable development, which featured the Rwanda coffee produced through MSU’s Partnership to Enhance Agriculture in Rwanda through Linkages.

She also was named one of 30 college women internationally to attend a National Wildlife Federation Women for Sustainable Development conference.

Campbell has seen the policy side of life through her internship in the Lansing office of U.S. Senator Carl Levin and as a member of the Associated Students of Michigan State University, James Madison College Senate and the MSU Model United Nations.

She also has worked on environmental projects in Chicago, Mexico City and Nicaragua. She is on the leadership team for the Michigan Sustainability Coalition that is creating an umbrella organization to support all progressive and environmental student organizations and advocate for sustainable policies on campus.

Among her other MSU activities, she was a member of MSU’s Big Ten Rowing championship team in 2004-05.

Campbell plans to pursue a graduate degree in environmental management and policy with a focus on economics. She hasn’t ruled out a career working in higher education, the World Bank, the United Nations or even making documentaries.

“Whatever approaches I take,” she said, “I will strive to further environmental stewardship and create better social and economic decisions that take into consideration the role of our valuable, yet finite resources.”

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Two Featherstone Prizes Awarded to Honors College Members

Monica Markovski and Regina Visocchi were selected this year to receive the Featherstone Prize from the Featherstone Society. The Richard Lee Featherstone Endowed Prize is given annually to the student(s) who display 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.

Monica Markovski from Waterford, Michigan, studied biochemistry and molecular biology through Lyman Briggs School of Science. Monica worked in the research laboratories of both Professor Wedemeyer and Professor Kaguni. Monica was involved with ASMSU, the Organic Chemistry Club, and a wide variety of volunteer activities. She has started a Ph.D. program in microbiology at Harvard University.

Regina Visocchi from Macomb, Michigan, studied mathematics and earned a teaching certificate. Regina studied abroad in Italy, participated in a mathematics Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at Williams College, tutored elementary and high school students, and plans to be part of the Urban Teacher Preparation Teaching Fellowship in Detroit through the MSU College of Education while continuing on with graduate education.

Cole Excellence Honors

The following students were awarded Cole Excellence Awards from the Honors College for the 2006-2007 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.

Cole Scholars

- Zachary Beamer ................ LBS Mathematics and Philosophy
- Emily Brockschmidt ....... Audiology & Speech Sciences
- Christina Cooper ............ LBS Zoology
- Greeshma Enukonda ......... Chemical Engineering and Economics
- Kate Fedewa .................. History and Ancient Studies
- Kurtis Geerlings .......... LBS Physics
- Sarah Gray ....................... Animal Science
- Kevin Hankinson .......... English
- David Harris .................... LBS Biology
- Emma Hummel .............. Biosystems Engineering
- Joseph Jonaitis ............ Physiology
- Jennifer Jones ............. Psychology
- Kaveri Korgavkar .......... LBS Chemistry
- Sarah Marzec ............... LBS Human Biology and LBS Science & Tech Studies
- Serina Mazzoni ........... Microbiology
- Katherine Morabito ........ Psychology
- Nathan Scherbarth ........ History
- Katie Scott ................. Psychology
- Kristy Slominski .......... Interdisciplinary Humanities and Psychology
- Sean Sullivan ............... Chemistry
- Elizabeth Trexler .......... Mathematics and Economics
- Leandra Wilden .............. History

HC Study Abroad Scholarships

In 2006, 115 Honors College students earned either Cole International Study Awards or Benschop International Enrichment Awards for study abroad. The scholarships are worth between $250 and $1000 and are made possible by two sets of generous alumni benefactors.
The Honors College has a beautiful and permanent HC Service Award display, so the winners of the awards can be honored in Eustace-Cole Hall for all of their contributions to the Honors College.

The 2006 Honors College Scholars

Gillette & Stein Scholars
Matthew Chaldekas, Luke Capizzo, Shawn Katterman, and Katherine Morabito have been selected 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.

- Matthew Chaldekas (Stein): Classical Studies and English
  TOPIC: Application of modern psychological theories of depression to a character depicted by Sophocles in Trachinian Women
  Mentored and recommended by University Distinguished Professor William Blake Tyrrell, Classics

- Luke Capizzo: James Madison College PTCD and Professional Writing
  TOPIC: Relationships between political rhetoric and technology through analysis of 20th century American presidential rhetoric.
  Mentored and recommended by University Distinguished Professor M. Richard Zinman, James Madison College, and Professor Danielle DeVoss, Director of Professional Writing.

- Shawn Katterman: Psychology
  TOPIC: Effectiveness of different treatment options for and stigmatization of eating disorders.
  Mentored and recommended by Professor Kelly Klump, Psychology.

- Katherine Morabito: Psychology
  TOPIC: How inducing a negative mood in depressed participants affects mood congruent false memories.
  Mentored and recommended by Professor Christine Larson, Psychology.

Adams Scholars
Walter and Pauline Adams Scholarships are awarded annually to exceptional students preparing for careers in public policy or law. Adams Scholars for 2006-07 are:

- Amy Burhop, Spanish
- Ashley Dalman, International Relations
- Victoria Moeller, LBS Physics and Public Administration and Policy
- Mary Selig, Interdisciplinary Social Science/Environmental Policy
- Kristin Sulewski, International Relations and Social Relations

Seevers Scholars
Gary Seevers Scholarships are awarded annually to exceptional Honors College members pursuing majors through the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. New Seevers Scholars selected for 2006-07 are:

- John Hakenjos, Animal Science
- Ellen Hystead, Food Science
- Tracy Petzke, Animal Science
- Stephanie Willmarth, Animal Science

2006 Honors College Service Awards
Honors College Service Awards are given at spring commencement to recognize exceptional and enduring student service to the Honors College and its mission through involvement in multiple HC organizations programs, and events. The 2006 winners were:

- Lindsey Candey
- Brian Cook
- Veronica Fitzpatrick
- Melissa Gallego
- Sara Johnson
- James Reinhart

Thank you for all of your contributions to the HC community!
Michigan State Team Wins National Debate Championship—Again!

For the second time in three years, a team from Michigan State University has been crowned national debate champions.

MSU’s top two-person debate team of Ryan Burke and Casey Harrigan won the 60th annual National Debate Tournament. The event was hosted this year by Northwestern University.

Both students are senior international relations majors in MSU’s James Madison College. Burke is from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and Harrigan is from Holland, Michigan.

“The quality of schools in the quarterfinals was really high, including Emory, Harvard, Northwestern, UC-Berkeley, Dartmouth and Wake Forest,” said coach Will Repko. “Ryan and Casey finished the season-ending rankings third behind Berkeley, so it was really difficult to face them in the quarters.”

The topic all teams debated was whether the United States should apply economic pressure on China over political and human rights issues.

Burke and Harrigan were undefeated through the preliminaries, so advanced as the number one seed. The MSU team had previously defeated a team from Berkeley in the quarterfinals and one from Wayne State in the semifinals.

Two additional, younger teams from MSU also qualified for the tournament, but did not advance out of the preliminaries. Having three teams entered was a rarity in itself since only 78 teams from across the country can compete.

“First place at the NDT is the ultimate prize of intercollegiate debate, so to have two champions in three years is quite a remarkable record for our program,” said Ron Fisher, dean of the Honors College where the debate program is housed.

“Very few public universities have won the national championship. The financial and recruiting resources at the private universities tend to be greater, plus there is a history there,” said Repko. “Debate started at the Ivy League institutions, so they have a long track record, but we’re building our own tradition of success at MSU.”

The MSU Debate Program was, at the time, led by director Mike Eber and head coach Will Repko. Additional coaches were Joshua Gonzalez and MSU’s 2004 national champion David Strauss.

Reprinted with permission from Deb Hammacher, University Relations.
Championship Debater Returns to Michigan State as Program Director

As a Michigan State University senior, Greta Stahl of Shelby Township was a 2004 National Debate Tournament champion. Returning to her alma mater, she is the new director of the MSU Debate Program.

“The MSU debate team has established an impressive record of competitive success during the last several years, including winning two national championships within a three-year period,” Stahl said. “I am looking forward to the challenge of carrying on this winning tradition, and I am excited to work with the great group of students who compose the MSU debate team.”

Stahl graduated with a dual major in international relations from MSU’s James Madison College and in history from the College of Arts and Letters. She also was a member of the MSU Honors College. She and her teammate David Strauss of East Lansing formed the two-person team from Michigan State that won the 2004 national tournament.

That same year, Stahl was selected as a Marshall Scholar, one of only 40 students nationwide to be awarded one of the prestigious scholarships for graduate study in the United Kingdom. She completed her work for a master’s of philosophy in international relations at the University at Oxford this past summer.

“Michigan State is incredibly fortunate to attract someone like Greta—an internationally recognized scholar and champion debater—to continue the superb tradition of debate at MSU,” said Ron Fisher, dean of the Honors College, where the debate program is housed. “To have an MSU and Honors College alumna return to the university is a special honor.”

Stahl, who began serving as director July 1, replaces Michael Eber, who served as director for the past four years and currently is attending law school.

Reflecting on her new duties, Stahl said, “While I greatly enjoyed the time I spent at Oxford, I am so pleased to have this chance to work at my undergraduate alma mater. East Lansing still feels like home.”

For more information on the MSU Debate Program, visit the Web at www.debate.msu.edu.

Reprinted with permission from Kristin Anderson, University Relations.
Two Win Coveted Honors College Faculty Awards

Elizabeth Booth, professor of practice in the Department of Finance, and Sandi Smith, professor in the Department of Communication, were selected as the 2006 recipients of the Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students. A number of current Honors College business students (including Joshua Pierce and Kevin Smith, working with Broad College of Business Corporate Academic Relations Director Helen Dashney) nominated Professor Booth for the Award; Professor Smith was nominated by Honors College sophomore Samantha Munday, with the support of a number of student colleagues.

Professor Booth serves as an Honors Adviser for students in the Department of Finance and regularly teaches the honors section of Finance 311, Financial Management. Many students comment on the value of the challenging case studies that she incorporates into the Finance 311 class, which helps make complex financial theories more understandable and relevant. Extremely student oriented, she is a much respected and appreciated mentor to a number of Honors business students, challenging students to reach their full potential. One student nominator noted of Professor Booth, “her most compelling attribute is the interest she takes in the futures of her students. She has pushed me to explore options I would not have pursued, and I have grown immensely from the experience.”

Professor Smith is the Honors Adviser for students in communication and also coordinates numerous honors options by students in Communication 325, Interpersonal Influence and Conflict. Professor Smith is particularly appreciated by her students as an especially dedicated and passionate adviser and mentor. As one student nominator wrote, “Sandi works so hard for her students that it is flat out impossible not to be encouraged and believe you are capable of so much more.”

This Award was established in cooperation with the Honors College Student Advisory Committee and the Honors College Alumni Association to recognize exceptional contributions to Honors College students through teaching, advising, or mentoring. The Award was presented at the University Undergraduate Scholarship Recognition Dinner on May 4. In addition to a certificate, the Award recipients received 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.

“Helping [Honors College students] clarify their goals, facilitating their progress toward reaching those goals, and interacting with them as they learn, explore, and play with ideas is personally rewarding . . . students have noted that these relationships with me and other faculty members, built upon communication, create a smaller community within MSU where they feel a sense of family and camaraderie.”

Sandi Smith

“The Honors College is a tremendous asset to MSU. It provides a unique forum within a large University for individualized learning and allows the personal development of both faculty and student to flourish.”

Elizabeth Booth
Reflections from the winners...

Elizabeth Booth

As a member of the Honors College faculty, I have had the great privilege of working with the best and the brightest students not only at MSU but also in the world. I am convinced that many of our students are actually better than those attending Ivy League schools. As a case in point, one of my students graduated in May and accepted a position at a Wall Street investment firm. Most of his fellow trainees were from the best East Coast schools. He called at the end of his training period to tell me that on the final exam, he was the only person to achieve a perfect score on the exit exam. He was surprised; I was not!

One of the nicest aspects of teaching at MSU is that the students are genuine and unpretentious. The only attitude you see in the classroom is one of respect and enthusiasm. During the past seven years, I have watched many students discover a passion for the discipline of finance. It is incredibly rewarding to nurture and develop that spark for learning and to watch the human growth and development of these students. I feel at the end of each semester that I have learned as much, if not more from my students, as they have from me.

Many of my former students have achieved high levels of success in business, giving me a sense of pride and accomplishment. However, it is the personal connection with the students that is most important to me. I keep in touch with most of my former students and many have become personal friends. I know from speaking with many of my colleagues in the Honors College that they have developed similar bonds with their students.

The Honors College is a tremendous asset to MSU. It provides a unique forum within a large University for individualized learning and allows the personal development of both faculty and student to flourish.

Sandi Smith

My scholarship and work with Honors College students, two of the loves of my life, share many commonalities. Communication scholars share an interest in messages at the core of their endeavors. We are concerned with the production and interpretation of messages and the ways that transactions between people, as they share messages, drive the formation of relationships and creation of communities in many different contexts.

Whether in the context of Fireside Chat dinners, advising appointments, classrooms, or grant research teams, the messages exchanged and relationships that I have developed with members of the Honors College have brightened and enriched my life. Advising Honors College students is a privilege. Helping them to clarify their goals, facilitating their progress toward reaching those goals, and interacting with them as they learn, explore, and play with ideas is personally rewarding. Honors College students have noted that these relationships with me and other faculty members, built upon communication, create a smaller community within MSU where they feel a sense of family and camaraderie.

Over the years some of the goals and dreams that honors students in my department have successfully pursued include being good communicators, family members, and community citizens, as well as professionals attaining careers such as screen writers, attorneys, human resource specialists, public relations practitioners, faculty members, museum specialists, and media producers. They have had films at the Sundance Festival, worked for companies such as the Discovery Channel, and pursued graduate careers at schools such as the University of Southern California, Northwestern University, and Michigan State University, among others.

When I found out that I received this award, and that I was both nominated and chosen by students, I was honored and happily surprised. Honestly, I was unsure whether or not I was worthy of this honor. After reflection, one lesson that comes to me from this experience is that others perceive excellence in the performance of small everyday interchanges, such as genuinely desiring to know and help the other, answering questions with respect and encouragement in a timely fashion, helping others find information and make connections, and challenging them but making yourself available for help each step of the way. Not ironically, each of these small acts is based on communication. In closing, I want to thank all of the Honors College students with whom I have formed rewarding relationships, my fellow faculty members in the Department of Communication who value education and scholarship so highly, and the personnel at the Honors College who facilitate the development of honors students in all of their endeavors.

Eric Grosse (1975) was appointed as a Bell Labs Fellow, for innovations in network security, scientific computing, and successful application to Lucent products and services.

Andrea Kay Billmeier Deming (1976) was recently recognized for serving as the professional advisor to the highly successful Kalamazoo chapter of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance.

Kevin A. Singel (1985) was recently promoted to Senior Executive at Accenture. Singel is currently responsible for the overall management of a unit of Accenture Learning. His group provides technical training to customers and employees of Sun Microsystems at 25 training centers.


Michael P. Coyne (1988) has started a rotation with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence after 15 years with the FBI.

Amalia Gladhart’s (1989) translation of *The Potbellied Virgin* by Ecuadorian novelist Alicia Yáñez Cossio was published in June by the University of Texas Press www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/yanpot.html

Catherine Marie Landrum Schrock (1994) received National Board Certification in education and has taught at the same public school in Detroit since 1995.


Steven Haas (1998) received a Ph.D. in Sociology in 2004 from the University of Wisconsin. Since 2004 Haas held a postdoctoral fellowship as a Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholar at Harvard University. In fall 2006 he joined the faculty of Arizona State University.

Anthony Victor Ludlam (1998) completed doctoral research in biochemistry at the University of Michigan for solving the crystal structure of the bacterial ribosome-bound chaperone “trigger factor.”

Lorelei E. Simpson (1998) completed a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in June 2005 and is now completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. She recently accepted a faculty position at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Dawn Marissa Haney (1999) completed her Masters degree in Health Promotion and Behavior from the University of Georgia in August 2005. Haney has been named Executive Director of Sexual Assault Services Organization in Durango, Colorado, a nonprofit agency that advocates for survivors of sexual assault.

Christopher Guyer (2002) received the 2006 Department of Emergency Medicine Award and the 2006 Distinguished Service Award. He also received an M.D. from Wayne State University in 2006.

Annette Marie McCoy (2002) graduated from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2006. She started a one-year large animal medicine and surgery internship at the University of Minnesota in June.


Michael A. Hanak (2003) was nominated to serve a three-year appointment on the MSU Alumni Association National Board of Directors, beginning in May 2006.

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**Send your alumni news electronically!**

Just complete the form at [http://www.msu.edu/unit/honcoll/grads/alumupdate.html](http://www.msu.edu/unit/honcoll/grads/alumupdate.html) (Why not bookmark it?) OR send or email the paper form provided on page 26. We look forward to hearing from you!
Amy Beth Meldrum (2003) is a master’s student at the University of Denver in International Administration. She is also serving as a community and organizational development Peace Corps volunteer in a Russian speaking area of Moldova.


Joshua Van Dyke (2003) says, “the Eli Broad College of Business study abroad programs and flexible MSU Honors College options allowed me to launch an exciting investment banking career in Asia.” After spending his senior semester in Bangkok in 2003 Van Dyke joined the staff of a Thai investment company.


Laura Portwood-Stacer (2004), graduate student at the University of Southern California, co-authored an essay on beauty pageants, reality television and post-feminism that was published in the most recent edition of the journal Feminist Theory.

Alison Faith Tomak (2005) was a quarter finalist for oral advocacy skills in the G. Mennen Williams Moot Court Competition at the University of Detroit Mercy. She was also hired as law clerk at the law firm of Gursten, Koltonow, Gursten, Christensen & Raitt, P.C. in Southfield, Michigan.


Brenna Flannery (2006) is teaching high school math in the Teach for America Program.

Alison Himelhoch (2006) received a fellowship through the International Radio and Television Foundation for summer travel, living expenses, and work at a news organization. She was one of 25 selected from a pool of over 800 applicants.

E. Mitchell Hopper (2006) is attending graduate school at Northwestern University on a Cabell Fellowship and is seeking a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering.

Rosemary Kanasty (2006) is teaching 7th - 10th grade math in Guinea with the Peace Corps.


Evan Koch (2006) is teaching English at the National Aeronautics Institute of China outside of Beijing.

Robert Murphy (2006) is pursuing an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Chicago on a scholarship covering half of his tuition.

Katherine Skorpinski (2006) is attending the Physical Anthropology M.A./Ph.D. program at the University of Florida. She received the University of Florida Alumni Fellowship and the Department of Homeland Security Graduate Fellowship.

Ryan Sullivan (2006) is working at Bank of America Securities in New York City as an investment-banking analyst.

Kartik Viswanathan (2006) is attending graduate school at Stanford University on a Cancer Biology Training Grant.

Lesley Whiting (2006) is serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA member with the Greater Manchester Red Cross in New Hampshire.

Mary Catherine Wilcox (2006) is attending Ave Maria School of Law on a $20,000 Board of Governors Scholarship.

Bradley Wilson (2006) is attending Law School at Boston College on a half-tuition scholarship.

Yvonne Wood (2006) is a Peace Corps Volunteer in Latin America.
This scoop just in...

Honors College Ice Cream!

Remember the delicious ice cream from the MSU Dairy Store? When you are back on campus for the Honors College 50th Anniversary, you will have the opportunity to try the new Honors College 50th anniversary ice cream flavor!

In honor of our anniversary, the MSU Dairy Store is creating a special flavor for the Honors College. Honors College students have spoken by sending flavor and name suggestions for the ice cream. The MSU Dairy Store will make the final decision and the winning flavor will be announced at the Honors College Anniversary Open House on November 6, 2006, (the date the Academic Senate approved the Honors College 50 years ago).

The Honors College Anniversary Open House is open to all MSU Students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends. Cake and Honors College 50th Anniversary Ice Cream will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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Alumni News Update

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.

Current Name (first, middle, last)

Name while at MSU (if different)

Degree Earned/Major Graduation Year

Home Street Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone Work Phone

E-mail Address

Employer

Position

Business Address

RECENT Professional & Educational Achievements/Family & Personal Accomplishments:

Additional Degrees (university, degree, year)

May we publish your recent accomplishments in the next issue of 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:
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Michigan State University, Eustace-Cole Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824

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In honor of our anniversary, the MSU Dairy Store is creating a special flavor for the Honors College.

In Your Inbox!

Beginning in November 2006, the Honors College will be sending up-to-date information through our new E-News. In addition to the HConnections magazine, you can receive Honors College E-News twice per year.

To update your contact information with the University and/or the Honors College, contact Katie McMurray at 517/355-2326 or email mcmurr17@msu.edu. OR, to update your information electronically, please fill out our online form at www.msu.edu/unit/honcoll/grads/alumupdate.html.

We look forward to hearing from you!
Honors College Alumni Association

Tuition Raffle

Through the Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA) Tuition Raffle, families of HC students have made possible a major expansion of the HCAA Scholarship Program. Because of the generous response of parents of HC students, the HCAA was able to award SEVEN incoming students with $2000 each toward their first year expenses. Three outstanding current students also received $1500 scholarships from the HCAA for the 2006-2007 school year. The 2006-2007 Tuition Raffle will be kicking off soon, with tickets being distributed to parents of HC students in early November. Watch for more information about this year’s winners!

If you would 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.

A Note from Katie McMurray, new HC Alumni Relations Coordinator

Hello Honors College Alumni! I am thrilled to be part of the Honors College team and look forward to meeting all of our outstanding and distinguished alumni.

I guess I’m a “new Spartan” as I completed my Bachelor of Arts at Ohio Northern University, a small, liberal arts university in Northwestern Ohio, where I majored in Communication Arts. Soon after graduation, I migrated west to Las Vegas, Nevada, where I spent time coordinating a small state senate campaign. From the campaigning business I found my way to association management, where I coordinated membership retention programming, solicited new memberships, and planned membership events. Although living in Las Vegas was personally and professionally fulfilling, it doesn’t have the Midwestern charm in which I was raised.

My passion for alumni relations began during my undergraduate career, when I spent four years working in the alumni relations office. There, due to a small professional staff, I was able to have a hand in planning alumni events for the University. Additionally, as a member of the ONU musical theatre cast of “On Broadway...On the Road,” I traveled with the Alumni Relations department to events all over the country as a performer and student ambassador.

I do plan to become part of the MSU alumni crowd someday, as I will begin working toward my Masters degree at MSU next year. Right now, I am truly enjoying being back in the Midwest. I had nearly forgotten how much I enjoy pleasant people, summer festivals and green grass. I’ve also been developing an appreciation for MSU’s beautiful campus with its ever-changing fall colors.

I am pleased to be working for such a well-respected institution as the MSU Honors College. I look forward to meeting many of you in the upcoming years. If you are in the neighborhood or thinking of taking a trip to campus, please call me at the 517/355-2326 or email mcmurr17@msu.edu.

HC Staff Profile

Katie McMurray (far right) at the summer meeting with leaders of the MSU Alumni Association (l to r): Dean Ron Fisher, Kelly Borchert-student representative, Ken Beachler-treasurer, Molly Brennan-president, Renee Szostek-vice president. Not pictured: Denise Yockey-Secretary, Bob Rietz-Member At-Large, Jessica Greenia-student representative.
Peterson's Guide to OCCURS

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 – Frank S. Kedzie Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who make a commitment between $1,000,000 and $4,999,999 to MSU or a documented planned gift of at least $1,500,000. Corporations, foundations, and associations are also offered Kedzie Society recognition upon reaching this level of giving.

Shaw Society – 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 $500,000. Corporations, foundations, and associations are also offered Shaw Society recognition upon reaching this level of giving.

Abbot Society – 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 $200,000. Corporations, foundations, and associations are also offered Abbot Society recognition upon reaching this level of giving.

Snyder Society – Jonathan L. Snyder Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who make a commitment between $100,000 and $249,999 to MSU or a documented planned gift of at least $200,000. Corporations, foundations, and associations are also offered Snyder Society recognition upon reaching this level of giving.

Hannah Society – John A. Hannah Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who make a commitment between $50,000 and $99,999 to MSU or a documented planned gift of at least $100,000.

Beaumont Tower Society – Beaumont Tower Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who make a commitment between $25,000 and $49,999 to MSU. Chartered during the University’s first capital campaign, it is named after the one landmark that so thoroughly symbolizes Michigan State University, its history and traditions.

Presidents Club – Presidents Club, named in honor of the presidents who guided the University to its present eminence, was established in 1963. It recognizes individuals who make a commitment between $10,000 and $24,999 to MSU. The Presidents Club was the first donor recognition group established at Michigan State University and remains the largest.

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, named for the beloved MSU librarian and first female instructor on campus, recognizes and honors individuals and families who, through their estate plans, have established a planned gift of any size benefiting Michigan State University. These future gifts can take many forms, such as a bequest through a will or personal trust or one of several charitable life-income plans.

1855 Club – The 1855 Club consists of contributions from current MSU employees or retired MSU Employees. Recognition in the 1855 Club requires an annual gift of $1,000 per year for five years to any MSU designation of the donor’s choosing.

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.
The Honors College is indebted to its many supporters who donated between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.
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