Dear Honors College students, alumni, friends and supporters—

Welcome to the 2009 HConnections magazine! Thank you for your interest in and commitment to the Honors College at Michigan State University (MSU). It is wonderful to have an opportunity to keep you abreast of the exciting accomplishments and activities of the Honors College.

In addition to the core Honors program for high-achieving undergraduates, the Honors College at Michigan State University also includes the Academic Scholars Program; the National and International Scholarships and Fellowships office, serving undergraduate and graduate students university-wide; the nationally competitive MSU Debate Team (2004 and 2006 National Debate Tournament Champions); and the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) division, which provides enrichment opportunities for high achieving pre-college students.

As you read this issue of HConnections you will see just how amazing your friends and colleagues are. The College’s exceptional people are still its strength; the Honors College currently includes approximately 3,000 talented MSU students, representing approximately eight percent of all MSU undergraduates. This past academic year, departments and colleges offered approximately 190 Honors classes, more than 250 faculty members from across the university were honors advisers, and at least 500 Honors College members worked directly with faculty on research projects. The numbers tell only part of the story of our vibrant academic community. Even with such strength, we continue to look for new and different ways to engage students, faculty, alumni, friends and other supporters with the Honors College, and we welcome your suggestions.

In the past academic year, we have continued to sharpen the focus of honors education at Michigan State University. We are proud of our more than 50 years as a leader in honors education and believe that the next 50 years will be just as innovative. Building on this rich tradition and history of the Honors College, I have charged the staff to deepen collaborative relationships across the university and to begin new partnerships to help the College continue to flourish. To complement our sustained commitment to flexibility in individual academic program planning, we continue to reinforce the message to our students that leadership, research, and service in, for and with the community are critical components of an honors education.
Honors College Mission

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

Having a strong set of university and community partners is vital to the work that we do in the Honors College. Whether preparing candidates for the Rhodes Scholarship competition, and others, or encouraging students to be involved in community service, we rely heavily on the strong and consistent support from our many constituents at MSU and beyond. The strength of our scholarship and fellowship candidates, for example, depends on the investment and time of faculty, as well as current and past scholars. We are grateful for the work that passionate professors and devoted mentors put in alongside talented students.

We have several new staff members to assist in moving the college forward and build on the collaborative relationships across the university and within the community. Over the past year, the Honors College welcomed to the staff associate dean, Dr. Melissa Baumann; coordinator of the MSU National and International Scholarships and Fellowships office, Dr. Laura Symonds; two advisers, Dr. Katy Luchini Colbry (Honors College alumna) and Dr. Jennifer Auchtung (Honors College alumna); and director of development for university scholarships and fellowships, Jennifer Bertram (see new staff profiles on page 15).

Along with the dedicated and committed individuals already on the Honors College staff, they are all looking forward to enhancing honors education at Michigan State University. The college also said farewell to the previous director of development, Barbara Ball-McClure who departed MSU for a wonderful opportunity at another institution; former MSU National and International Fellowships and Scholarships Coordinator Jennifer Marsh who returned to high school teaching; and two advisers: Dr. Mary Zaleta, who retired after many years with the college and Andrew McLemore, who is pursuing a medical degree here at Michigan State University. We continue to wish them well in their new endeavors.

As you will see, we are extremely proud of the accomplishments of our students, during their time at Michigan State University and subsequently in their lives and careers. Whether you are considering the Honors College for the next step in your educational journey, currently a member of the Honors College, a graduate of the Honors College, an honors professor or adviser, or a friend of honors education, please take a few minutes to peruse this newsletter and browse our website (http://honorscollege.msu.edu). Let us know your thoughts. We look forward to hearing your ideas for the future of YOUR Honors College. Here’s to the next 50 years, one year at a time!

Sincerely,

Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore
Dean and Professor
National and International Scholarships

Rochester Hills Junior is Latest MSU Truman Scholar

It is not unusual for Michigan State University President Lou Anna K. Simon to visit a classroom now and then, but when she stopped into professor Louis Hunt’s politics and postcolonialism class in the spring, it was for more than just a friendly visit.

Simon surprised junior Nada Zohdy with the news that she is MSU’s latest recipient of a Truman Scholarship, a prestigious award given to students who have extensive records of public and community service.

An international relations major in MSU’s James Madison College, Zohdy is MSU’s 16th Truman Scholar. Students earning the scholarship receive $30,000 to be used for graduate study.

Zohdy said she was surprised to see the president of the university in her classroom. At the same time, it tipped her off that she just might have won the scholarship.

“I was sort of suspicious,” she said. “I just had a feeling I might have won.”

After earning her bachelor’s degree from MSU, Zohdy plans to earn a master’s degree in public policy and a doctorate in comparative government. Her ultimate goal is to work for the State Department or a nongovernmental agency.

“Eventually I hope to work with the State Department on policy issues related to the Middle East. That’s where my biggest interest is,” she said. “Also for a long time I’ve been toying with this idea of being a scholar-activist. I think that’s something I’d like to try, as well as explore the world of think tanks.”

In her time at MSU, Zohdy has been active in a number of public service activities, including serving as vice president and political action chair of the Muslim Students Association; co-founder and campus coordinator of the “Peace over Prejudice” campaign; chapter coordinator of Amnesty International; and co-founder of the Women’s Faith Forum.

It was her dedication to public service, said Honors College Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, that made Zohdy so worthy of the scholarship.

“Nada has incredible depth and passion and a remarkable commitment to lifelong public service.”

Honors College Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2007 MSU was named a Truman Honor Institution.

The award recognizes institutions that have made exceptional contributions to the Truman Scholarship Foundation. These universities boast a large number of Truman Scholars and promote the values of public service. MSU has had 16 Truman Scholars since 1979.

Left to right: Provost Kim Wilcox; Fredrick Slabach, Executive Secretary of the Truman Foundation; President Lou Anna Simon; Trustee Joel I. Ferguson, Chairman of the MSU Board of Trustees.
“Nada has incredible depth and passion and a remarkable commitment to lifelong public service,” Jackson-Elmoore said. “She is already demonstrating the capacity to be an engaged scholar who uses innovative ideas, concepts and insights from research to positively impact people, organizations and communities.”

Zohdy also served as an undergraduate research assistant in a neuroscience research lab.

“She was able to do this because she received a professorial assistantship which is granted to incoming freshman who are invited to join the Honors College and are in the top 1 percent of high school seniors in the nation,” Jackson-Elmoore said. “There is something about MSU that creates and fosters an environment where students like Nada and other Truman Scholars, past, present and future, can excel.”


She is a graduate of Rochester Adams High School, where she was leader of the debate team; co-editor of Expressions magazine, a publication for Detroit-area Muslim Youth; public relations co-chair of the Michigan Muslim Youth Council; and played on the varsity soccer team.

She is the daughter of Hoda Abdel-Aty-Zohdy and Mohamed Zohdy.

The mission of the Truman Scholarship Foundation is to find and recognize college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in the public service; and to provide them with financial support for graduate study, leadership training, and fellowship with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service.

For more information about the Truman Scholarship program, visit www.truman.gov.

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These prestigious scholarships are offered by international organizations and governmental entities and are among the most well-known and most lucrative awards available to students. They are also the most competitive and are national or international in scope.

Miller Receives Department of Homeland Security Fellowship

Hanna Miller is the recipient of a prestigious 2009 fellowship from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The award is given to students pursuing degrees in engineering, math and science fields. The program encourages and supports them in developing a scientific foundation upon which technological breakthroughs resulting in improved homeland security can occur.

The undergraduate scholarships include full tuition and fees, a $1,000 monthly stipend for nine months and $500 weekly for a summer internship at a DHS-affiliated facility between the junior and senior years.

Miller is a junior in Biosystems Engineering and Microbiology. She works in the MSU Biosensors Laboratory under the direction of Dr. Evangelyn Alocilja.

“Dr. Alocilja has given me many opportunities to work on my own research projects, allowing me to gain practical experience. I also enjoy the unique opportunity the Biosensors Laboratory gives me to combine engineering and microbiology.”

Her extracurricular activities include Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society, the MSU Campus Band, and the Biosystems Engineering Student Club.

Miller is from Midland, Michigan, and is the daughter of James and Joy Miller.

The Homeland Security Scholarship and Fellowship program is coordinated for the DHS Science and Technology directorate by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, a U.S. Department of Energy facility focusing on scientific initiatives and educational programs.

For more information about the Homeland Security Scholarship and Fellowship Program, visit www.orau.gov/dhsed.
Three MSU Students Earn Goldwater Scholarships

Three students from Michigan State University’s College of Natural Science and the Honors College have been named Goldwater Scholars for 2009-10.

Jessica Muir and Nathan Sanders are majoring in physics and astrophysics. MSU’s third scholar, Tory McCoy, is majoring in mathematics and geological sciences, with an emphasis on paleobiology.

“I appreciate the opportunity MSU has given me to do research, and receiving this scholarship makes me feel my research is important,” McCoy said.

McCoy, from Wexford, Pennsylvania, is engaged in scorpion taphonomy—or the study of a decaying scorpion and its fossilization. In addition, she has served as principal investigator on several significant projects in the paleobiology lab, working with Danita Brandt, associate professor of geological sciences. A 2006 University Distinguished Scholar, McCoy earned first place at the MSU Herzog Mathematics Competition and an undergraduate research grant from the Geological Society of America. (See story on McCoy and her family, page 16.)

“Jessie, Nathan and Tory have shown a commitment to the research endeavor and each has been able to make contributions to research projects with at least two faculty members,” said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of MSU’s Honors College. “This demonstrates the drive to excel and the ingenuity and ability to explore multiple interests. Their spirit of inquiry and natural talent will serve them well, particularly as they all continue to work with dedicated faculty and staff here at MSU.”

Muir’s undergraduate research includes condensed matter physics and working in MSU’s High Energy Experimental group. A National Merit Scholar and Michigan Distinguished Freshman Scholar, Muir is fluent in French and has worked as an intern at the particle laboratory in Annexy-le-Vieux, France. She is from Romeo, Michigan.

An aspiring astrophysicist, Sanders has worked with Stephen Zepf and Ed Loh, faculty from MSU’s Department of Physics and Astronomy, to study early-type galaxies and the development of the Spartan Infrared Camera for the Southern Astrophysical Research (SOAR) Telescope. In addition, he and Michael Velbel, professor of geological sciences, used a transmission electronic microscope to analyze comet material from the NASA Stardust Mission. Sanders is from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

“The work of these three scientists, both in the classroom and in the research lab, are indicative of strong, interconnected relations our students have with their education and the opportunities available from a major research institution,” said R. James Kirkpatrick, dean of the College of Natural Science. “These awards reflect the quality of the students and faculty, and we are proud to serve as the foundation for success of these future leaders in science.”

In 2009, the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation awarded 287 scholarships to budding mathematicians, scientists and engineers. The one- and two-year scholarships will cover the cost of tuition, fees, books and room and board up to a maximum of $7,500 per year. The Goldwater Scholars were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,097 mathematics, science and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide.

In its 21-year history, the foundation has awarded 5,801 scholarships worth approximately $56 million dollars. The foundation plans to award about 300 scholarships for the 2010–11 academic year. To date, MSU has produced 27 Goldwater scholars.

For more information on Goldwater Scholarships, visit http://www.act.org/goldwater/index.html.

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Mitchell Earns 2008 & 2009 Udall Honors

Autumn Mitchell of Blanchard, Michigan, a junior at Michigan State University, is using her 2008 Udall Scholarship to encourage the revitalization of tribal language programs.

Each year the Morris K. Udall Foundation awards 80 undergraduate scholarships of up to $5,000 to sophomores and juniors nationally who demonstrate commitment to careers in the environment, or to Native American and Alaska Native students committed to tribal public policy or health care issues.

“To me, receiving this scholarship means that somebody outside the tribal community is recognizing the importance of saving indigenous languages,” said Mitchell, a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. “This is a longstanding issue in indigenous communities, but it doesn’t often reach the mainstream. I hope the Udall Scholarship will enhance my ability to help my tribe retain our language.”

In high school, she volunteered at her local elementary school, helping with curriculum development for the Ojibwe language teachers.

“Autumn Mitchell has a clear and focused desire to revitalize indigenous languages by working in concert with her own and other tribal communities,” said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the MSU Honors College. “She understands the importance of giving back to her community and has a commitment to making sure that her efforts toward language revitalization are sustainable. It is a joy to watch her eyes sparkle when she speaks of her plans for the future; it is obvious that Autumn embodies the ideals heralded by the Udall Foundation.”

As part of her mastery of linguistics and policy skills, Mitchell is studying the Ojibwe language, French and political science at MSU.

“I came to MSU because the university offers Ojibwe language classes,” Mitchell said. “My instructor, Helen Roy, a visiting lecturer in the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages, has known me since I was five, and I think she is an excellent teacher.”

“Ojibwe is structurally very different from English, and she can explain grammar in a way that makes it seem simple and easily understood.”

The Ojibwe (or Ojibwa) language, known to its own speakers as Anishinabe or Anishinaabemowin, is an Algonquian tongue spoken by people in the northern United States and Canada.

Mitchell, daughter of Kevin and Angela Mitchell, is a linguistics major in the College of Arts and Letters, and a member of the Honors College. “I greatly desire to see indigenous languages learned as a first language once more,” Mitchell said. “By working to assist with language efforts and overseeing language political initiatives, I would anticipate increasing the number and quality of those programs within tribal communities.”

At MSU, Mitchell is a Jingle Dress dancer and a cultural programmer with the North American Indigenous Student Organization and a facilitator for the international teaching assistants orientation program. She also speaks to student groups and classes about the history and culture of powwows. In academic year 2008-2009, she was president of the MSU chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. She has participated in study abroad trips in Quebec City and the United Kingdom.

Besides Mitchell’s honor in 2008, Jackson-Elmoore noted that Marci Baranski, an Honors College member from Sutters Bay, Michigan, received an honorable mention from the Udall Foundation in the 2008 competition. Both Baranski and Mitchell earned honorable mention in the 2009 competition.

The application process for national and international scholarships provides students with the opportunity to learn about themselves and articulate a personal vision and plans for the future.

Autumn Mitchell

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Where Are They Now?

Winning a national or international fellowship while at MSU is never the end of the story. We asked a few recent fellowship winners to update us on their current work, study, and research.

I believe that I will enter the MSU community and my PhD program at MSU with a great advantage. The opportunity to live and study abroad, and to get to know so many people from such internationally diverse backgrounds, shaped who I am and how I approach the world. I am a very different person now than when I began this experience abroad, and I firmly believe the change has been for the best. I am excited to return to East Lansing, and hope MSU can continue to enhance the lives of scholars and build ever-stronger international bonds.

Shanti Zaid – Marshall Scholar

My time in London was filled with wonderful experiences and tremendous challenges. The high level of academic independence that characterizes the British educational system required disciplined study habits. Fortunately, my two years of study in Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) resulted in much stronger conceptual thinking and the ability to ask more creative research questions. The academic skills and intellectual foundation learned at MSU, especially within the African Atlantic Research Team, enhanced my experience and provided a solid platform for critical exchange with colleagues.

The international focus of SOAS, and indeed the international diversity of London, supported my competency to engage a truly global world and the dynamic relations among its populations. I am also grateful to now have personal and professional relationships with people from literally all corners of the world. I will treasure the conversations, exchanges, and perspectives that unfolded from this time as I represented MSU abroad.

I have just completed two master’s degrees in Social Anthropology and Migration and Diaspora Studies with honors from SOAS and am about to enter the doctoral program in African American and African Studies at MSU. I was awarded a University Enrichment Fellowship for five years of funding support at MSU and am excited to continue my research in indigenous religions of the African Diaspora at the doctoral level.

Tim Howes – Churchill Scholar

I am now a PhD student in David Kingsley’s lab at Stanford University, where we study the genetics of evolving morphology and physiology traits in the threespine stickleback. During the summer I collected fish from wild populations in Canada, and now I’ve begun genetic crosses in the lab and created transgenic embryos to investigate changes in gene regulation during development. Outside of the lab I have been doing lots of hiking, camping, surfing and diving around the Bay Area. This is a great place to be both for the exciting research and for exploring the natural beauty of California, so I’m looking forward to what the next few years have in store.
Dr. Laura Symonds joined the Honors College in the fall of 2008 as the Coordinator of National and International Scholarships and Fellowships (NIFS), a position that allows her to pursue her strong interest in undergraduate/graduate education while she continues her neuroscience research. As the NIFS coordinator, she works to identify and advise students and their faculty mentors in their applications for prestigious scholarships and fellowships. She has been a faculty member at MSU since 1997, is a member of the Neuroscience Program, and maintains appointments in the Departments of Radiology and Neurology where she runs a laboratory in neuroimaging. Her research is in cognitive neuroscience, including topics such as how the perception of pain is altered during different cognitive or emotional states. She previously held an appointment at the University of California, San Diego, and did postdoctoral fellowships at Princeton University and Oxford University in England. Her bachelor's degree in psychology was earned at Vanderbilt University, and her PhD in anatomy and neurobiology is from the University of Pennsylvania.

If you or someone you know is interested in preparing for or applying for a national or international scholarship or fellowship, please contact Dr. Symonds at symonds@msu.edu.

NIFS helps interested students pursue major national and international opportunities by providing information and direct support throughout the fellowship application process for over 20 nationally competitive awards.

Janelle Shane takes a break in Scotland

Janelle Shane – National Science Foundation Graduate Scholar

After graduating with a BS in Electrical Engineering in spring 2007, I moved to Scotland to study at the University of St Andrews. I worked on a one-year MPhil in physics, which allowed me to concentrate full time on research. In this research, I used short bursts of laser light to move and drill microscopic particles, a project that combines recent developments in the fields of optical micromanipulation and ultrashort pulse shaping. This was the first time I had proposed and led a research project, or built and aligned complex optical systems, so it was an amazing learning experience. In addition to research at the university, I also got the chance to develop new interests in photography and traditional Scottish and Irish music, through meeting and traveling with area photographers and musicians. In fall 2009 I moved to California to pursue a PhD in electrical engineering (photons specialization) at the University of California, San Diego. I’m filling in my technical background by taking classes, as well as beginning a new project on nanoscale plasmonics.

Other Recent Scholarship and Fellowship Winners

In addition to the 2009 successes, Michigan State University has enjoyed recent achievement in national and international fellowship competitions. In 2008, the following students earned major awards:

- **Marshall Scholar:** Monica Mukerjee (also a 2007 Truman Scholar)
- **Hollings Scholars:** Eric Armstrong and Courtney Tresize
- **Goldwater Scholar:** Catherine Nezich
- **Churchill Scholar:** Kate Leitch (also a 2006 Goldwater Scholar)
- **National Science Foundation Graduate Fellows:** Gail Bornhorst, Megan Fritz, Rosemary Kanasty, and Jessica Schwarz
- **Fulbright Scholars:** Daniel Coyle, Bethany Hicks, and Navjot Sandhu
- **SMART Grant Recipients:** Shannon McGraw and Michelle Packard

If you or someone you know is interested in preparing for or applying for a national or international scholarship or fellowship, please contact Dr. Symonds at symonds@msu.edu.
Efevbera and Dawes Net Featherstone Honors

Stephanie Dawes and Yvette Efevbera were selected as the 2009 Featherstone Prize recipients. The Richard Lee Featherstone Endowed Prize is given annually to the student or students who display characteristics such as enthusiasm for the teaching and learning process, intellectual curiosity unbounded by traditional disciplinary orientation, a distinguished record of applying and sharing leadership expertise, and a strong commitment to serving other people. Both women were finalists for the Truman and Rhodes Scholarships and were part of the 2008 MSU Homecoming Court.

Stephanie Dawes, originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, graduated with a biology degree from Lyman Briggs College. Dawes founded the MSU branch of Kila Nafasi, a non-governmental organization which sponsors Maasai girls to attend secondary school in Kenya. She also volunteered with a local Brownie Girl Scout troop and captained Relay for Life teams each year. Dawes’ work with Dr. Kay Holekamp in the Department of Zoology resulted in numerous peer-reviewed publications about spotted hyena behavior. A Bailey Scholar at MSU, she was also active as captain and president of the MSU Women’s Club Ultimate Frisbee team.

Dawes is currently in Nairobi, Kenya, working for the Education for the Future Foundation and developing other community organizations.

Yvette Efevbera, originally from Big Rapids, Michigan, graduated from James Madison College with a degree in international relations. Efevbera’s MSU accomplishments ranged from serving as an intern for the Senegalese National AIDS Council to organizing fundraising efforts for the local AIDS walk and Ronald McDonald House. She served as a resident mentor in her hall; president of MOSAIC, the Honors College multicultural organization; and as an executive board member in the WEB DuBois Society, a student group focused on racial justice. Efevbera was also a McNair/SROP researcher with Dr. Rita Kiki Edozie studying HIV/AIDS policy in Uganda and Senegal and was offered a Fulbright Scholarship to research girls’ support groups in Uganda.

Efevbera is now attending Harvard University to earn a master’s degree in global health.

Cole Excellence Awards

The following students were awarded Cole Excellence Awards from the Honors College for the 2009-2010 academic year. The scholarships, worth $500-$4000, 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 attain educational goals and the initiative to seek experiences which advance their progress.

- Sarah Aldrich: Professional Writing
- Andrew Bromley: Hospitality Business and Dietetics
- Gabriela Fratta: Chemical Engineering
- Lauren Jones: Hospitality Business and Communication
- Xiaozhou Liu: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Drew Newell: Electrical Engineering and Mathematics
- Dena Palasik: Chemical Engineering
- Rachel Roys: James Madison College Comparative Cultures & Politics
- Nathan Sanders: Astrophysics and Physics
- Andrea Silva: Accounting and Humanities-Prelaw
- Zaahir Turfe: Physiology
- Nelson Winkler: Physiology
- Rachel Worthington: Special Education-Learning Disabilities
Gillette & Stein Scholars

Jessica Priestley and Matthew Murray earned Genevieve Gillette and Hyman and Miriam Stein Scholarships respectively to fund their senior thesis research in academic year 2008-2009.

Jessica Priestley was a human biology major in Lyman Briggs College with an interest in the history and philosophy of science. Specifically focusing on cases involving religion, gender, and race, for the past year she designed and implemented a study exploring the effects of biological determinist mindsets on American conceptualizations of gender and sexuality from 1950 until today. Calling on the historical eugenics movement and social Darwinism, Jessica explored the societal and cultural implications for widespread beliefs regarding mathematical ability, leadership, homosexuality, and other human traits. In particular, she focused on beliefs formed through the average person’s interpretation of scientific studies. This fall Jessica plans to pursue a PhD in the history of science and eventually secure an academic research position.

Matthew Murray, a history and economics major, is using his specialization in Muslim Studies, proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic and Turkish, and past travels and experiences in Northern Africa and Turkey to study the changing international relations in the Mediterranean Sea. Matthew focused on the 1801-1805 US-Tripoli war, known as the Barbary War. Often generalized but seldom focused on, the Barbary Wars depict early American involvement in the Middle East and Northern Africa and the cultural and governmental clashes that resulted. “Americans rejected the Barbary system of international relations,” Matthew said, “and instead sought to impose the European system upon Tripoli.” Using his Stein Scholarship, Matthew further researched primary sources at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. His plans include graduate school and a career in international development following a Fulbright fellowship to Tunisia.

Jessica was mentored and recommended by Dr. John Waller, Lyman Briggs College & History Department.

Matthew was mentored and recommended by Dr. Emine Evered, History Department.

New Alumni and University Distinguished Scholars

Nineteen high school graduates from throughout the country are Michigan State University’s newest Alumni Distinguished Scholars and University Distinguished Scholars.

Their reasons for coming to MSU are myriad: unparalleled research opportunities, a healthy balance between coursework and research programs, opportunities to participate in campus organizations, a sense of academic and artistic freedom, Honors College programs and a challenging and supportive network of professors and counselors.

These academically talented students have earned either an Alumni Distinguished Scholarship or a University Distinguished Scholarship for 2009, considered to be among the most competitive awards in the country. All of the students are members of the MSU Honors College.

“We are proud of all of the exceptional students who are joining us at MSU and in the Honors College,” said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. “We’re especially looking forward to the many ways these students, including the new Alumni and University Distinguished Scholars, will enrich and contribute to our campus and broader communities throughout their college careers.”

To read more and to see the profiles of the incoming ADS/UDS cohort, please visit http://news.msu.edu/story/6500/.

The scholarships, valued at about $90,000 for in-state students and $150,000 for out-of-state students, cover full tuition, room and board, books and a stipend for up to eight semesters of study.

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Amy Abramczyk spent the summer in Madrid, Spain, interning at Planta Pilota de Quimica Fina, a pharmaceutical pilot plant, to determine how drugs that have been recently discovered could be produced on a large scale.

Benjamin Arbitter, Hannah Bach, Michael Berkowitz, Teresa Brown, and Kara Krebs presented research completed for their Honors Research Seminar under the direction of Professor Michael Schechter at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Midwest Region, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jennifer Byford was named Crew Person of the Year, chosen from 32,300 McDonald’s crew people employed in Michigan. Byford was the first high school student to win the award in the region as well. She earned an all expense paid trip to Orlando, Florida, for McDonald’s summer convention.

Kristen Daum was the Helen Thomas Endowed Intern at the Washington Center for Politics & Journalism. She also won first place for Online Feature Reporting from the Society of Professional Journalists (Region 4).

Maulik Dhandha, mentored by Dr. Animesh Sinha, received first prize in the category of Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Disease, and grand prize for the field of Science, Mathematics and Engineering at the MSU Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum in April for “Distinct autoantibody subtype profiles correlate with defined clinical subgroups in Pemphigus vulgaris.”

Yvette Efevbera was selected to USA Today’s third team All-USA College Academic Team for being “gifted in the classroom and beyond” and was featured in the paper in April 2009. Among other honors, (see Featherstone story, page 8), Efevbera was presented with the first Mary Anderson best undergraduate paper on women and gender in global perspective award from Michigan State University’s Center for Gender in Global Context. Her paper, “What’s Happening to Uganda’s Girls? The effects of war on youth culture in northern Uganda,” was selected from a competitive pool of entries.

Maria Feldpauch was named Student of the Year in Adapted Physical Education by the national Adapted Physical Education Council.

Rebekah Galang and Zack Bissell had the opportunity, through the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, to participate in the Photovoice project with a group of Malian delegates. The Photovoice project, which uses photos taken by the Malian visitors to represent their U.S. sojourn, is a way to teach students about the lenses of culture and tradition through the use of a camera. Galang worked in the first Photovoice project last year with the Malian delegation, and this year she was one of the primary student facilitators of the project.


Megan Gebhart created a website designed to inspire MSU students and connect them to MSU alumni. The purpose of msuCatalyst.com is to put students in touch with alumni who can offer career and life advice and to encourage alumni to become role-models. The site features students, MSU alumni, and advice columns and is open for contributions.

Alexandria Henry, HC and College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Seevers Scholar, was elected National FFA Eastern Region Vice President. Fulfilling her position responsibilities will require a hiatus from her MSU coursework; traveling more than 100,000 miles; meeting top leaders in business, government and education; visiting approximately 40 states; and participating in an international tour to Japan. During her term, she will provide personal growth and leadership training for students, set policies...
that shape the future of the organization, and promote agricultural literacy. There have only been six National FFA Officers from Michigan over the past 80 years, and Henry is the first female officer. She will represent over a half million FFA members and will even get to ride on a float in the Rose Parade. Henry is featured on the FFA website at wwwffa.org and her election video is also online at http://blip.tv/file/2763890.

Abhinav Kant Katiyar, Amanda Leach, Christine Shepherd, Eric Tingwall, Matthew J. Shaw, Robert J. Friederichs, Stephanie Dawes, and Suzanne Burkowski were selected as Outstanding Seniors by the Office of Student Life.

Alyn Kiel received the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Public Service Leaders Scholarship. This is a national award which covers full tuition, fees, and books, and also includes a paid summer internship, with housing and transportation included. Kiel is currently studying abroad at EARTH University in Costa Rica. When she graduates, she will work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC, as a legislative and public affairs specialist.

An essay by Angelica Leigh is included in Hope, Change and Obama: A Collection of Essays on an Historic Election (NLS Publishing, 2009) which gives a voice to the generation of young people whose votes made a revolutionary statement heard around the world. The colorful and profound collection by author Norma LaVonne Smith explores the impact of the election—for the essay writers, their families, their nation, and for the global community at large. A portion of the net proceeds from the sale of the book will help fund scholarships for college students across the USA.

Kendal Maxwell is writing a senior thesis in psychology on what predicts that a person will be more narcissistic than another. She will examine different predictors such as: gender, race, use of FACEBOOK, if a persons parents overindulged them when they were younger, and if they were involved in a self-esteem program in high school.

Joe Meleca traveled to Eastern Europe with nonprofit organization International Student Volunteers (ISV). Meleca also joined up with a host organization in Romania and volunteered at an English camp for underprivileged children.

Seth Morton and Matthew Murray earned Fulbright fellowships in 2009. Morton will teach English in an assistantship in Germany and Murray will research irrigation and the environment in the colonial history of Tunisia. The Fulbright program is funded by the Institute of International Education, which covers costs, fees and expenses associated with study, research and/or teaching assistantships abroad.

Anthony Pecchia was selected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the State of Michigan as the 2008 Eagle Scout of the Year.


Asra Shaik conducted neuroendocrinology research at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Texas. Beginning this fall, Asra is dually enrolling in MSU’s master’s of science program in epidemiology to complement double bachelor’s degrees in physiology and economics. Shaik was the featured speaker at HATS OFF, MSU’s statewide middle school award program for students who score very highly on standardized tests.

Stefanie Hilton, Jeff Holycross, and Jeff Smith, all scholars in the Broad School’s Financial Markets Institute, took top honors for the second time in three years at the third-annual Fisher Biz Quiz National Challenge, sponsored by Nationwide Insurance and The Wall Street Journal, held at The Ohio State University’s Fisher College of Business. The 24 teams in the “quiz-bowl” competition were required to demonstrate their knowledge of business news, issues and trends by answering rapid-fire questions based on articles appearing in the October and November editions of The Wall Street Journal.

Kareem Janoudi was recently recognized for a second time (2008, 2009) for receiving an Academic Achievement Award from the College of Engineering. Janoudi has worked on a PHP and MySQL development team at IBM. As CEO of Order4Free, an online digital marketing business, Kareem works with over 20 digital marketing companies and has recruited thousands of publishers.

Professorial Assistants Taylor Johnson and Andy Krause, mentored by Dr. Chuck MacCluer, mathematics professor, authored “Our First Benchrest Meet...Every Shot Counts” in Precision Shooting. The article is a set of observations about the vivid subculture of benchrest shooters, who serve as the advance scouts of the technology of accuracy.
Honors Research and Citizenship/Leadership Seminars

Honors Research and Citizenship/Leadership Seminars were created in 2007 to give a broad set of Honors College students an early foray into undergraduate research. The Seminars provide an opportunity for first- and second-year Honors College students to engage in research in close association with MSU faculty members. Now in its third year, the program is moving forward with new and continuing faculty who are committed to mentoring underclass students and developing the tools they need to take on increasingly challenging problems in their respective disciplines or interest areas.

The Seminars:

- offer opportunities for hands-on work, on cutting-edge research projects, under the supervision of MSU faculty members. Students who gain this experience are well situated to find other research opportunities in future.
- are small, typically 5-15 students, and offer the opportunity to work with other interesting students from a wide variety of majors.
- offer the opportunity to present at the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum in April. Many seminars also provide presentation and publication opportunities in other forums, both inside and outside the university.
- count as one Honors experience and, with the approval of an Honors College adviser, may count toward General Education requirements for Honors College members.

2009/2010 Honors Research and Citizenship/Leadership Seminars include:

- Introduction to Materials Research in a Service Learning for Leadership Environment
  Dr. Carl Boehlert, Chemical Engineering & Material Science

- Educating Leaders for a Diverse Democracy: The Role of Higher Education in Preparing Community & Civic Leaders
  Dr. Kris Renn, College of Education

- From Bacteria to Birds: Research Experiences in Life-Science Laboratories
  Dr. Alex Shingleton, Zoology

- Politics of the Policy Making Process in Michigan
  Dr. Matt Grossmann, Political Science

- Resource Conservation at Michigan State University
  Dr. Steve Safferman and Mr. Terry Link, Biosystems Engineering and Office of Campus Sustainability

- First Language Acquisition Seminar: Acquisition of Functional Morphemes
  Drs. Cristina Schmitt and Alan Munn, Linguistics

- Deconstructing the Silk Road
  Dr. Catherin Ryu, Linguistics (Asian languages)

- Sparks of Genius Tools Applied to Textbooks
  Drs. Robert and Michele Root-Bernstein and Dr. Norman Lownds, Physiology, Theater & Dance, and Horticulture

- Exploring Geographic Racial equality in the United States
  Dr. Joe Darden, Geography

- Cultural Application of Geological and Historic Masonry Materials of the MSU Campus
  Dr. Michael Velbel, Geology

- Introduction to Research in Magnetic Resonance and Medicine
  Dr. Ron Meyer et al., Radiology

- Functional Anatomy of Reading Stories Versus Solving Math Problems Using FMRI
  Dr. Jie Huang, Radiology

- Mathematical Biology
  Dr. Igor Nazarov, Lyman Briggs and Mathematics

- Popular and Professional Debates Over Vaccines
  Dr. Mark Largent, James Madison

- Interactive Deception
  Dr. Timothy Levine, Communications

(The seminars are listed as UGS 200H in the Schedule of Courses and Honors College Bulletin of Course Descriptions.)
The CSI Forensic Science Program at MSU

Take 50 middle and high school students, mix in mock crime scenes and police experts on the MSU campus for one week in June, and you’ve got the latest summer program offered through the Office of Gifted and Talented Education, a division of the Honors College. The innovative class was offered for the first time in 2008. Students with an interest in forensic science come to learn and work beside experts from the Michigan State Police, the Michigan State University Department of Public Safety and instructors from the MSU Anthropology Department and the School of Criminal Justice Forensic Science. Michigan State Police Detective Michele Glasgow, who assisted with the coordination of the CSI summer program, was eager to work with the students by increasing their awareness and experience of the criminal justice field. “I based this on what I see every day,” Glasgow said, “minus the body parts.”

Divided into small groups, students spend their mornings listening to lectures beginning with an overview of forensics then on to related topics such as evidence excavation, trace evidence, firearms/tool marks, Biology/DNA, narcotics analysis, latent prints and computer crimes. Each lecture is led by an expert working in that particular field of forensics, giving students a glimpse of the work involved in crime scene investigations. On the last day of lectures, a Lansing FBI agent provides a forensic artist demonstration, computer sketching. Students also have an opportunity to use FACES software.

Each afternoon students and experts pour over the mock crime scenes or spend time in the MSU chemistry lab examining collected evidence. As students prepared a grid over the sand in the volleyball court, another student gathered the tools needed to sift through the sand for bones and other pieces of evidence. At another location a group of students gathered near a beat-up gray Chevy Lumina determining who would dust for fingerprints and who would record collected data. David McKinley from Okemos, Michigan, stated that examining the car was the coolest thing. “The camp gave us a more realistic perspective on forensic science than what is shown on TV.” This summer the CSI program added courses on forensic entomology, crime scene sketch, crime scene protocols and forensic psychology.

MSU police Sgt. Maureen Kennedy said the program is very beneficial as it presents techniques for processing a scene and collecting evidence in the same manner used in the CSI field.

Meanwhile in the mock scenario house, students lifted fingerprints off of the linoleum floor while others studied the blood splatter on the wall. Another student placed his handprint over a bloody one to determine the victim’s fall. “I had to think very quickly on my feet,” said Ashley Henderson. “You have to be able to analyze things and think outside the box.”

As Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Joyce Draganchuk presided, the CSI Forensic Program concluded with students participating in a mock trial; each student presenting evidence studied over the week. With their ability to use their expert witness techniques, justice prevails and many students leave seriously considering a career in some area of forensics.

Kathee McDonald, director of the Office of Gifted and Talented Education, said the program isn’t a typical summer program. In addition to meeting academic criteria in order to satisfy the demands of the program, “Students experience campus life, learn what MSU has to offer and work with academically-able students who have the same interests they have. It’s an incredible experience.”

To learn more about the CSI Forensic Science Program at MSU, go to www.gifted.msu.edu.
National Competitions and Success

The MSU Debate Team, a division of the Honors College, has had a busy year, continuing to compete among the top debate programs in the country while also participating in several public debates and continuing to host one of the largest summer debate programs in the country. Here are a few of the highlights from the last year.

Inauguration Debate Series
Michigan State University’s debate team tackled the Obama administration’s energy and climate priorities for its first 100 days as part of the first-ever Inauguration Debate Series held January 19, 2009, in the nation’s capital. The series, which pitted six schools against each other in three 75-minute debates on the new administration’s policies, was held as part of Barack Obama’s inauguration festivities. MSU, represented by Carly Wunderlich (Brookfield, Wisconsin) and Garrett Abelkop (Alpharetta, Georgia), faced off against Wake Forest University on the topic of climate policy. The rest of the MSU Debate Team accompanied Abelkop and Wunderlich to the event, and attended the Presidential Inauguration on January 20th.

Success at the NDT
The MSU Debate Team finished its 2008-2009 season on a strong note, qualifying two teams for elimination rounds at the National Debate Tournament and reaching the Sweet Sixteen round. The National Debate Tournament, the elite season-ending national championship tournament, was held this year at the University of Texas at Austin. Qualifying for this tournament is both difficult and selective as only the 76 strongest two-person teams in the country are allowed to attend. This year MSU qualified two teams, the senior-junior teams of Garrett Abelkop and Carly Wunderlich, and Amit Bindra and Carlos Eyzaguirre. Both MSU teams won five of their eight preliminary debates, qualifying them to participate in elimination rounds. Bindra and Eyzaguirre debated Harvard University in the double-octofinal debate, and lost on a 3-2 decision. Abelkop and Wunderlich won on a close decision over a very successful team from the University of Texas at Dallas, qualifying them for the Sweet Sixteen round. Unfortunately, in their next round they drew the defending national champions from Wake Forest University, who stopped their impressive run.

Continued Strength of the SDI
Now in its eighteenth summer, the Spartan Debate Institutes (SDI) had another strong year with students traveling to Michigan from all over the country. More than two hundred students, originating from twenty-nine different states, journeyed to East Lansing on July 5th for this year’s SDI. The SDI offers programs of four different lengths, ranging from two to five weeks. The curriculum for all students includes: lectures from many of the nation’s top high school and college debate coaches; practicum sessions with staff; practice speaking drills and discussions with staff on how to increase their persuasion skills; and full practice debates, including a camp-ending tournament for each session of students. Staff members at the SDI come from high school programs and universities all over the country, including prestigious high schools in Texas, Florida, and Michigan.
HC Partners in Innovative ICT Global Corps

Dar es Salaam means “abode of peace” in Arabic. It’s also the name of the largest city in Tanzania and the site for Information Communication Technology (ICT) Global Corps, the latest collaboration among the College of Communication Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering, the Honors College, and International Studies and Programs.

ICT Global Corps encompasses global outreach and research, a new curriculum specialization, and an innovative study abroad program focusing on community and context as much as communication and technology skills.

“Information communication technology is about much more than hardware or software,” said Charles Steinfeld, chair of the Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies and Media. “The real challenge is how technology can be used to enrich and improve the quality of life. We’re concerned especially about the less developed regions of the world where so many communities lack modern technology to communicate for basic needs and also for advanced education and economic development.”

At Dar es Salaam, MSU volunteers share their high-tech interests and expertise with Tanzanian students. But in ICT Global Corps, the learning, like the act of communication itself, is a two-way experience.

“Our goal isn’t to drag undeveloped cities into the 21st century,” said Kurt DeMaagd of ICT Global Corps. “We’re as eager to learn about the culture and the context of our host communities as we are to share what we know and understand about technology.”

Three faculty members—Erik Goodman (HC, ’68), Jenny Olson, Kurt DeMaagd—and four students installed what may be the first set of internet connected, solar powered computers in a primary school in Tanzania. Among the first students who participated was Josh Wong (HC, ’08). Additional students will soon participate in the initiative and engage in study, research, and service abroad.

In early 2009, the Big Ten Network aired a segment featuring the Tanzania trip. A web version of the segment is online at the MSU Today site at http://msutoday msu edu/tv/media/msut ep10_seg02_tanzania wmv.

Portions reprinted with permission from the College of Communication Arts & Sciences.

HC Welcomes New Associate Dean, Director of Development and Advisers

Dr. Melissa Baumann joined the Honors College as its associate dean in August 2008. She came to MSU in 1990 and retains a faculty appointment in the Department of Chemical Engineering & Materials Science in the College of Engineering. Prior to her arrival at MSU, Dr. Baumann was a postdoctoral research associate at the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Oxfordshire, England. Her research interests include biomedical materials, bone tissue engineering, novel implant materials and nanoceramics while her academic degrees include a Bachelor of Science in Metallurgical Engineering from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan, as well as a Master of Science and a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jennifer Bertram was appointed as the new director of development for university scholarships & fellowships in July 2009. She began working for MSU in 2006 as a regional gifts officer, working primarily in the southeast Michigan region. Prior to joining Michigan State University, Ms. Bertram worked for over fifteen years in corporate, political and education organization management. She holds a BA in Political Science from Hope College. Ms. Bertram is very active in her community, as a volunteer coach for the Holt Jr. Rams Cheerleading Squad and manager of the Capital Centre Pride Bantam B Hockey Team.

Dr. Katy Luchini Colbry joined the Honors College advising staff in December 2008. She graduated from MSU with a BA in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy (from James Madison College) and a BS in Computer Science. An Honors College member, Dr. Colbry was a professorial assistant and participated in several undergraduate research projects related to educational technology. She later earned a MSE and PhD in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of Michigan. Dr. Colbry taught computer science at MSU prior to joining the Honors College and is actively involved in the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society.

Dr. Jennifer Auchtung joined the Honors College advising staff in the summer of 2009. She graduated from MSU with a BS in microbiology. As a member of the Honors College, she participated in an undergraduate microbiology research project that inspired her to switch her focus from attending medical school to pursuing further research opportunities in graduate school. After completing her PhD in microbiology and molecular genetics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Auchtung came back to MSU to perform post-doctoral research in microbial genomics and ecology at the Center for Microbial Ecology in the lab of Dr. James Tiedje. Her areas of special interest as an HC adviser include promoting undergraduate research.
The McCoys: Three Generations of Spartans

Martha Eleanor McCoy (Marty) and Victoria Elizabeth McCoy (Tory) were awarded the University Distinguished Scholarships in 2005 and 2006 (the University Distinguished Scholarship is a full scholarship akin to the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship). The two McCoy sisters are the first and second children of Mary Marazita, PhD (MSU, BS Animal Husbandry, HC ’76) and Richard T. McCoy, PhD (MSU, BS Psychology, HC ’76). This is a tale of two sisters, their parents and three generations of Spartans.

Mary Marazita and Dick McCoy attended MSU as undergraduates from 1972 to 1976. The story goes that Mary developed a crush on Dick after an MSU honors professor in a philosophy course praised Dick in front of the class (where Mary was also a student) for his insightful term paper. Mary was smitten and 33 years later, they are now happily married with five children, two dogs, and two successful careers in genetics, physics, education and law.

Marty McCoy graduated from MSU in spring 2009 with double majors in English and environmental geosciences. She was a member of the Honors College and was a professorial assistant to Dr. Suzanne Thiem, with whom she studied environmental microbiology. Marty decided to attend MSU because of the University Distinguished Scholarship she was offered, the freedom of course selection, the beautiful campus, the wonderful people and the incredible research opportunities the MSU Honors College provided.

During her MSU career, Marty traveled with the MSU Fisheries and Wildlife study abroad program to study biodiversity in South Africa. Her group studied problems facing the South African national parks such as the outbreak of bovine TB among the Kruger Park buffalo. The MSU group analyzed how much human interference is acceptable in managing national parks. Marty notes that the best part of her South African experience was that she met South Africans and learned firsthand about a culture so different from the U.S., “It was so interesting to hear local thoughts and opinions on issues such as apartheid, the AIDS epidemic, and the war in Iraq. Our group also went on many game drives where we saw everything from elephants to lions to extremely rare birds”.

Marty McCoy
Marty began law school at Harvard University this fall in order to move closer to her goals of improving environmental protection standards and supporting sustainable growth in the U.S.

Tory McCoy has begun her senior year at MSU with majors in mathematics and geological sciences. Tory chose to attend MSU thanks to receiving the University Distinguished Scholarship and the course freedom offered by the MSU Honors College. She was a professorial assistant with Dr. Danita Brandt, who is studying eurypterids (extinct sea scorpions) to determine how to distinguish molts and carcasses in the fossil record. The importance of this research is to study true palearthropod diversity. Two years ago, Tory received a student grant from the Geological Society of America (GSA) to attend the annual GSA meeting and to provide an academic presentation to GSA members on her research to distinguish scorpion fossils and the fossils of scorpion moults. Tory also received a student grant from Yale University and financial support from the Honors College Research Fund to travel with Dr. Brandt to Yale to discuss research collaboration with Dr. Derek Briggs and his post-doc, Dr. Erik Tetlie. Tory’s second research project is an independent study with Dr. Robert Anstey, where she is studying the biogeography of bryozoans in the Ordovician and Silurian. In this study, Tory observes fossil sites and the relationship of these sites by clustering them by bryozoan fossils using techniques of cluster analysis and cladistics. Most recently Tory was honored on the national level for her research (see Goldwater Scholarship story on page 4).

Tory plans to attend graduate school in mathematics or paleobiology.

Richard T. McCoy, or Dick as he is known to family and friends, is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, where he grew up in a family where his grandmother, his mother and his sister attended Penn State. Fortunately, Dick visited East Lansing for a tour and a stay in the dormitories in connection with the ADS test and, although he thinks he did not get one question right on the ADS exam, he did enjoy the beautiful campus and friendly people. Dick explains that campus life, a four year National Merit Scholarship and the beauty of MSU contributed to his decision to chart a new McCoy university tradition at MSU—which thanks to his daughters, Marty and Tory, is now in its third generation.

“In my view, the principal benefits of an MSU Honors College undergraduate education are course freedom, access to research opportunities, and close contact with professors. These benefits are most significant for the truly committed student who wants to structure his or her own mix of (1) exploration across a large universe of knowledge and (2) deep study of areas of particular interest. I know of no other institution that gives such power and such responsibility to undergraduate students.”

Dick McCoy
At MSU, Dick lived in Case Hall, played intramural baseball and basketball, and worked in the MSU Physics Department with Professor Peter Signell as a psycholinguistics consultant developing a self-paced modular introductory physics course. Dick graduated with highest honors majoring in psychology with an emphasis on cognitive psychology and psycholinguistics. He was a Rhodes Scholarship finalist for the Midwest Region, a Marshall Scholarship nominee, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. After MSU, he attended Duke University law school with a 3-year Reynolds Scholarship where he became editor of the Duke Law Review, member of Order of the Coif and the Moot Court Board. He graduated with his JD in 1979. Most recently, he has been an attorney, entrepreneur, and scientist and, in his spare time, softball coach. Thanks to his love of mathematics and his commitment to childhood education, he has devoted much of his recent time to the testing and implementation of a math and reading program for young children that he has developed over the past sixteen years. This nonprofit program, called “The Pittsburgh Plan” is now in alpha test mode by hundreds of children across the country (for more information see www.pittsburghplan.com).

Mary Marazita grew up in Lansing, Michigan, where her father and mother were high school teachers and administrators. Mary’s parents completed their graduate education at MSU (her father, Philip Marazita received his EdS in Education Administration in 1967 and her mother Eleanor Marazita received her MA in Human Ecology in 1971).

Mary attended band camps and other programs at MSU during high school, and applied to only one college: MSU. As an undergraduate, she worked in a variety of part time jobs, and took as many interesting Honors courses as she could fit in her schedule, including the aforementioned philosophy class where she first saw Dick. She graduated from MSU in 1976 with a BS in Animal Husbandry concentrating on statistical genetics and with honors. Mary attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and received her PhD in 1980 in genetics with a concentration in biostatistics, followed by post-doctoral training in craniofacial biology (University of Southern California) and medical genetics (UCLA).

Mary is currently the director of the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics, professor and chair of the Department of Oral Biology, professor of Human Genetics, and professor of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. Her primary research focus is on the genetics of cleft lip, cleft palate and other craniofacial birth defects, as well as the genetics of premature births and dental disease. Her research is supported primarily by the National Institutes of Health. Mary has published more than 180 peer reviewed scientific articles, and 15 book chapters. Her research interests and projects have taken her and her research teams to India, China, Europe, South America, the Philippines, and across the U.S. She has been a member of numerous national and international scientific advisory committees.

Mary is delighted that Marty and Tory chose to attend MSU and to represent the third generation of her family to do so.

“Our job as parents is to expose our children to as many new experiences as possible, to nurture their individual interests and abilities, and then to stand back and allow them to choose their own paths. I look forward to seeing the future contributions that our daughters and their classmates will be able to make after receiving such outstanding undergraduate educations.”

Mary Marazita

Mary Marazita and Dick McCoy
Faculty Honored for Distinguished Contributions to Honors College Students

Stephen L. Esquith, dean of the Residential College in the Arts & Humanities and professor of philosophy and Katherine O’Sullivan See, social relations professor at James Madison College, were selected as the 2009 recipients of the Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors College Students. Dean Esquith was nominated by current students Rebecca Farnum and Matthew Swartz with support from Professor Richard T. Peterson, chair of the Philosophy Department. Dean Sherman Garnett, Dr. Constance Hunt, and the JMC Faculty Affairs Committee along with several former Honors College students, including Kathleen Romig Krepps, Katharine Sophiae, and Jennifer Sykes-McLaughlin, nominated Professor See.

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Professor Esquith has demonstrated his commitment to honors education through teaching and mentoring many Honors College students. Over the years he has extended his honors teaching to talented high school students who take his introductory philosophy summer courses through the High Achievers Program, many of whom have subsequently decided to attend Michigan State University and become members of the Honors College because of the positive experience they enjoyed in his classroom. He has also mentored several professorial assistants and honors thesis projects. In particular, his leadership of the Residential College in the Arts & Humanities and the 21st Century Chautauqua program have given Honors College students the chance to learn from and with him. He has welcomed and impressed even the newest members of the MSU community with an accessible approach and mentorship expertise. “What makes Professor Esquith great as a teacher and a mentor is what makes him great as a person—his ability and true desire to treat all as equally capable. Thus, when he is working with students, he does not treat us as ignorant ‘newbies’ to academics, but as individuals striving to learn, just as he is.”

Professor See served for many years as an Honors adviser, teacher, and mentor. Because of her enduring commitment to honors students and honors education, she was appointed associate dean of the College in 2003, a position she held for two years. She supervised many honors thesis projects and several professorial assistants, and is also known for her tutelage of several major national and international scholarship recipients. Along with praise from students, her colleagues noted that she shared the mission of the Honors College with junior faculty in James Madison College who wanted to work to enrich their course offerings for the benefit of honors students. About her teaching, one of her former students commented, “…to help students see the world through different lenses and to venture outside of their own perspectives is what we all hope to achieve. Katie See did this for me, and her courses and influence have helped shape my teaching craft.” Professor See’s impact is apparent in the very lives of those she has mentored. Yet another nominator said, “As I trace the threads of my career, I can see that it is because of Professor See that I studied in England, it is because of her that I am today at Harvard, and it is because of her that, some day very soon, I will have the capacity to study poverty and inequality for a living and to effect real change.”
In Her Own Words

Rujuta Bhatt Srivastava
1993 Rhodes Scholar

I was first attracted to MSU because of James Madison College, a small residential college that has access to the tremendous resources of MSU. Even on my first visit, I was struck by the beauty of the campus and the warmth of the people. I was interested in pursuing a double major (International Relations and Biochemistry), and—unlike other schools I considered—MSU was highly supportive of such a path. The strength, reputation, and track record of each program only deepened my interest.

Countless faculty members and staff advised and supported me as I made my academic choices. Among the ones who most significantly influenced my thinking were: Professors Mohammed Ayoob, Ron Dorr, Norm Graham, Dixie Platt, Michael Schechter, and M. Richard Zinman from James Madison; Clarence Suelter from Biochemistry; and Donald Lammers and Scott Vaughn from the Honors College.

The Honors classes I most enjoyed were freshman writing at James Madison; the 300-level organic chemistry sequence; microeconomics; and my honors thesis tutorial. Some of my most memorable teachers were: Ron Dorr, Ron Fisher, Laurie Kaguni, John Stille, and M. Richard Zinman.

After graduating from MSU, I went on to do a master’s degree in international relations at Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. My thesis traced the evolution of the international response to HIV/AIDS over the first fifteen years of the pandemic. I then earned an M.D. from Harvard Medical School. At that point, I decided to make a significant career shift: instead of pursuing a residency, I joined a fast-growing biotechnology company. Over the past eight years, I have worked in the corporate development group at Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Our group is responsible for mergers and acquisitions, product in-licensing, and other types of strategic partnerships. Although I have chosen a different path than I anticipated as an undergraduate, I have found a fulfilling and rewarding career.

The Honors College makes MSU an even more academically attractive and rigorous institution for undergraduates. Not only does it encourage all departments at MSU to offer more advanced courses for students seeking extra challenge, but it also offers world-class academic advising, career counseling, and fellowship support. I personally benefited from the Honors College’s invaluable guidance (e.g., application review, mock interviews) when I applied for the Truman, Marshall, and Rhodes scholarships.

Even though fourteen years have passed since I graduated from MSU, my fondness for the institution as a whole and for the Honors College, James Madison College, and the College of Natural Science in particular, has not waned. The knowledge and experiences I gained at MSU paved the way for my subsequent academic and career choices, and have brought much professional and personal fulfillment.

“The Honors College makes MSU an even more academically attractive and rigorous institution for undergraduates.”
Honors College Senior Disorientation

Members of the Honors College senior class gathered at Dublin Square in East Lansing in the spring to celebrate the end of their senior year. Hosted by the HC Senior Class Committee, the HC Senior Disorientation offered students a chance to reconnect with classmates, learn about their role as HC alumni, and talk about post-graduation plans.

Top Five HC Senior Disorientation Highlights

• HC Seniors were able to reconnect with old friends and members of their class
• Door prizes were awarded and all attendees received a free gift
• HC staff stopped by to wish their students well
• Wall maps were available for seniors to report where they studied abroad and where they would be headed after graduation
• The pre-graduation gathering will be an annual HC event

Looking for a way to reconnect with the Honors College?

Here’s your chance to reconnect with fellow Honors College Alumni VIRTUALLY! The HCAA has launched networks on the popular professional networking sites, LinkedIn and Facebook. If you aren’t already a member of LinkedIn or Facebook—signing up is easy and FREE. The benefits of networking with fellow alumni extends far beyond reconnecting with friends:

• Accelerate your career through contacts and/or referrals from fellow Honors College alumni
• Know more than a name—view rich professional profiles from fellow alumni
• Let other Honors College alumni know what you have to offer them and their contacts
• Strengthen the power of the Honors College alumni network to find and reach new business and professional contacts you need

Joining the network is easy, here’s how:

Linkedin
http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/157950/67923D3FFDD4

Follow the instructions to join the Honors College Alumni Association group! If you are not yet a LinkedIn member, just click on the link, then click the blue “Joining Linkedin” hyperlink in the middle of the page.

Facebook
http://facebook.com

Login to your Facebook account or sign up for your free account by submitting some basic information in the blue box. In “Groups” search for “Honors College Alumni” then select “Request to Join Group.”

Other ways to connect:

• Host an alumni gathering in your city
• Sponsor an existing Honors College Alumni Association event
• Join the MSU Alumni Association and choose Honors College as your affiliate group
• Inquire about serving on the Honors College Alumni Association board or helping with committee work
• Serve in the Honors Alumni Recruitment Program to contact high school seniors who have been invited to join the HC (see sidebar on page 29)
• Contact Katie Cable at katie@msu.edu or 517-355-2326 to update your contact information
Alumni and Friends
Giving Back

The Honors College is indebted to its many supporters. We are grateful for alumni, friends, and organizations who have committed to fostering our mission as a leader in promoting academic excellence and enrichment through financial contributions. Please visit our website, www.honorscollege.msu.edu under the “Alumni and Friends” tab to view the Honors College Donor Honor Roll.

Visit www.givingtomsu.edu for more information on making a gift to the Honors College or contact Jennifer Bertram, Director of Development at (517) 432-7330 or bertram9@msu.edu.

Did You Know?

When you join the Michigan State University Alumni Association, and choose Honors College as your affiliate group, a portion of your dues goes to the Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA).

Alumni and Friends

New Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA) Executive Board officers have been elected. The Board is gearing up for some exciting projects in 2009-2010!

Molly Brennan, President
Ken Beachler, Vice President
Les Starr, Treasurer
Laura Wojcik, Secretary
Leon Gregorian, Faculty/Staff Representative
Barb Stone Reetz, At Large
Dawn Kelly, At Large
Ed Olson, At Large
Margaret (DeVet) Lee, At Large
James VanNocker, At Large

Honors College Alumni Association

Tuition Drawing

Through the Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA) Tuition Drawing, families of HC students have made possible a major expansion of the HCAA Scholarship Program. HC Tuition Drawing winners receive a full semester’s tuition at the in-state rate.

Because of the generous response of parents of HC students, the HCAA has been able to annually award several additional scholarships to continuing students in need and 10 additional scholarships to outstanding incoming students in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

The Tuition Drawing will be held again this year and winners will be drawn in December. Watch the Honors College website 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 Jennifer Bertram at (517) 432-7330 or bertram9@msu.edu.
Honors College Alumni Service Corps

Honors College alumni met at Youth Ville in Detroit in August 2008 for the first Alumni Service Day. HC alumni helped with various projects within Youth Ville’s vast facility and were joined by Honors College dean, Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore.

Since then, the HC Alumni Service Corps has made it way to both sides of Michigan. In fall 2009, the Service Corps volunteered at The Coalition on Temporary Shelter in Detroit and assembled meals at the Kids Food Bank in Grand Rapids. Both events were followed by receptions for Alumni Service Corps volunteers.

Check honorscollege.msu.edu for more information on these and other Honors College Alumni events!

HConnections Goes (Spartan) Green!

In an effort to reduce the impact on the environment, beginning with this edition of HConnections, the Honors College will not (unless requested) send a paper copy of the magazine to alumni who have a valid email address on record at MSU. If you have received a paper copy of HConnections and would like to receive the publication electronically in the future, please send Katie Cable (katie@msu.edu) your email address.

Thank you for being (Spartan) Green!
1950s & 1960s

Emil B. Rechsteiner (1958) published his memoirs, PASSAGE from FREUDENBERG, Through the Thirties, to the New World, and Beyond 9/11 (Trafford on Demand Publishing, 2006).

Jim VanNocker (1961) is now retired from PPG Industries and has moved with his wife Karen to East Lansing to be close to his alma mater and the many associated activities. Retirement has given him time to pursue writing about collecting antique (100+ year-old) sterling souvenir spoons. In the past two years, he has had four articles published in Silver magazine covering topics commemorated by segments of this collection.

Judith Ann Transue (1964) is the Executive Director of Trinity Village Non-Profit Housing Corp., which has built over 500 units of affordable housing.

Katherine Vande Brake (1965, 1966), dean of the School of Arts & Sciences at King College, Tennessee, has published Through the Back Door: Melungeon Literacies and Twenty-first Century Technologies (Mercer University Press, 2009), an analysis of the depiction of Melungeons in fiction, literature and Internet presence. The Melungeons are a group of mixed ethnic ancestry, found primarily in northeastern Tennessee, southwestern Virginia and southeastern Kentucky.

Robert E. Hegel (1965) is a professor of comparative literature at Washington University and was named first Liselotte Dieckmann Professor.

Eric Goodman (1966) was named one of the three recipients of the Michigan Distinguished Professor Award given by the State of Michigan Universities Presidents Council. Professor Goodman has helped to establish MSU as a leader in ecological modeling. He also serves as an academic adviser to Honors College students, leads the ICT Global Corps (see story, page 15) and teaches the senior capstone design course in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Goodman also participated in HC’s spring ADS/UDS event and gave remarks on the evening’s topic of “This I believe...”

1970s & 1980s


John E. Farley (1971) was honored at the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Sociological Association for his contributions both to the Association and the discipline. He retired after 29 years on the faculty of Southern Illinois University (SIU). Farley served in leadership positions in the American Sociological Association, the Midwest Sociological Society, and SIU faculty senate. Farley authored approximately 60 professional publications, including four books.

Rich Bernard (1972) retired as the executive vice president and general counsel of the NYSE Group, Inc. He served on the NYSE Group’s Management Committee and also was responsible for the administrative supervision of the NYSE Group’s internal audit and regulatory quality review functions. His undergraduate degree in the Russian language and study in the Soviet Union during 1970 led him to begin work in Russia in 1990 by lecturing and counseling on the creation of stock exchanges and in the development of securities regulation and disclosure systems in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine. Bernard serves on the International Advisory Committee of the Russian Science Foundation.
of the Cairo and Alexandria Stock Exchange, and is a member of the corporate, banking and business-law section of the American Bar Association and of the business-law section of the International Bar Association.

M. Teresa (Tess) Tavormina (1979) found the Silicon Valley Moms Blog, an experiment in collaborative blogging with early modern medical prognostication and the editing of medieval texts, science fiction, literature and medicine. Among other administrative appointments, she was the founding coordinator of the MSU Academic Scholars Program.

Janet Wasko (1975) recently moved into the ranks of administration from high school assistant principal at West Bloomfield to her current position as principal of Allen Park High School. She has a passion for continuing to learn and grow and received her MS degree in administration from Madonna University.

Mary Therese Morgan (1979) is president and C.M.P of The Morgan Network, Inc., a 10-year-old marketing practice dedicated to creating and growing brands around the world.

Tekla S. Perry Nee (1979) helped found the Silicon Valley Moms Blog, an experiment in collaborative blogging that quickly grew to become one of the most influential mommyblogs in the country. It has been featured in a number of newspaper articles (www.svmoms.com). She works full time in technology journalism and spends much of the rest of her day acting as a driver for her three children, typically blogging after the kids are asleep.

Nancy Louise Simons (1979) has worked as a communications specialist with Sparrow Community Relations Department, and has been recently promoted to director of community relations and marketing at Clinton Memorial Hospital, an affiliate of Sparrow Health System.

John Rivard (1981) is an anesthesiologist with Anesthesia Associates of Ann Arbor and has been actively involved with Operation Smile since 1993.

Kelly Cortese (1982) has been a mortgage loan officer with National City Bank for the last ten years.

Devin Schindler (1983) is associate professor of constitutional law at Thomas M. Cooley Law School – Grand Rapids Campus. She wrote a book, The Constitution in Times of Crisis, which is being considered for publication.

Matthew Joshua Hoptman (1984) was recently promoted from Research Scientist IV to Research Scientist V and is currently working with an NIMH research grant.

Robert Perkin (1985) is in product development and South American operations with Ford Motor Company. He lives with his wife, Louisa, and three boys near Salvador, Brazil. They are working hard on their Portuguese and enjoying living 10 minutes from the beach.

Ed Aboufadel (1986) is currently a professor of mathematics at Grand Valley State University.

Philip Hardebeck (1986) was promoted to Senior Principal Systems Engineer at Raytheon Co.

Terrance M. George (1986) is principal of Birney Middle School in Southfield, Michigan.

Zoe Katsulos (1986) is the founder of inside/out (www.theinsideandout.com), a travel organization that offers “Humanitourism” trips, which combine humanitarian project work with guided adventure travel. Inside/out’s adventures are designed to promote longer-term relationships between communities and travelers. Travelers dispatch to destinations around the world to work on humanitarian projects and then embark on a guided multi-sport adventure local to the area served with a goal of creating a more intimate experience with the local culture and land.

Robert E. Mates (1986) is a patent attorney with Schwegman, Lundberg & Woessner, P.A. in Minneapolis.

Rob Ziegler (1986) leads a technology-oriented department in the applied research at Telcordia Technologies. His oldest son, Brandt, enrolled as a freshman in Lyman Briggs College in 2008.

Kimberly Sue Houchens (1987) has moved back to Michigan to become the vice president of product development at Amcor, a global packing company.

Michael Coyne (1988) has been working at the Federal Bureau of Investigation for nearly 20 years, and is currently working on foreign counterintelligence analysis matters. His greatest achievements remain marrying his wife Vicki and helping to raise kids Peter, Jack, and Molly.

David C. Maurer (1988) is currently a director at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and has published numerous reports over the years on international issues, including a recent testimony before the Senate Homeland Security Committee on nuclear smuggling (see www.gao.gov/new.items/d08999t.pdf). In 2006, he received an MS in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

Send your alumni news electronically!
Just complete the form at www.msu.edu/unit/honcoll/grads/alumupdate.html (Why not bookmark it?) We look forward to hearing from you!
1990s

Laura A. Wojcik (1993) was promoted to vice president at Packer Engineering in June 2008. Based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, she is head of the Biomechanics and Human Performance Center of Excellence and consults in the broad area of biomechanical forensics. She routinely testifies in state and federal courts and performs injury causation and human motion analyses related to industrial machinery, motor vehicles, and consumer products. Outside of work, Laura was selected for the 2006 American Film Institute Catalyst Workshop, which was a program designed to teach scientists and engineers how to collaborate within the worlds of film and television by writing marketable scripts that include “good science” and raise public interest in technical careers. Hollywood hasn’t come calling yet, but she’s keeping her fingers crossed!

Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (1994) published Civilizing the Enemy: German Reconstruction and the Invention of the West (University of Michigan Press, 2006). He has also recently received tenure at the University of Michigan and is now an associate professor of international relations.

Kevin J. Herbst (1995) won the 2004 Best Unpublished Novel award from the Arizona Author’s Association, an international competition, for his debut novel, The End of Heroes; AuthorHouse, 2006; www.theendofheroes.com. Along with the award came a publishing contract; the book was released for sale in July 2006.

Lance Zinman (1995) is a partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP in Chicago, Illinois. He focuses his practice on representing hedge funds, commodity pools, proprietary trading firms, private equity funds and investment advisors with respect to a wide range of corporate and regulatory matters. In addition, he represents many clients in the sports and entertainment industries, including the Chicago Bulls, Chicago White Sox and Oakland Athletics.

Kristina Riggle (1996), freelance journalist for The Grand Rapids Press and short story writer based in West Michigan, has published her first novel, Real Life & Liars (Avon Harper Collins, 2009). Riggle’s novel has received widespread praise; she has been called the Luanne Rice of the Great Lakes region. She has published short stories in the Cimarron Review, Literary Mama, Espresso Fiction, and elsewhere. On Mondays, she can be found blogging at The Debutante Ball, a group blog for authors that debuted in 2009. Riggle also enjoys reading, yoga, dabbling in amateur musical theatre, and spending time with her husband, two kids and dog.

Amanda Sloat (1997) is a professional staff member on the US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, serving as an adviser to Chairman Howard Berman on European and Eurasian policy. She previously worked for the National Democratic Institute (NDI), which included a six-month stint in Baghdad assisting members and staff of the Iraqi Council of Representatives. Prior to joining NDI, Amanda was a post-doctoral research fellow at Queen’s University Belfast in Northern Ireland and earned her PhD in Politics from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Dayne Walling (1996) was recently sworn in as the mayor of Flint, Michigan. A Rhodes Scholar, Walling grew up in Flint and returned there after years of working with the mayor of Washington, DC. Walling is also the owner and manager of 21st Century Performance, a company that develops Flint businesses and nonprofit organizations. As mayor, Walling plans to create jobs, improve the schools and rebuild Flint neighborhoods. For more information on Dayne Walling and his efforts in Flint, visit www.votewalling.com.

Bradley Marks (1998) received the MSU College of Engineering 2009 Withrow Teaching Excellence Award. It was Marks’ third time receiving the award. He is professor of biosystems and agricultural engineering. According to the College of Engineering, he works creatively and tirelessly to bring excellence not only to his courses, but to the entire academic program in the department. In addition, his teaching has been recognized with an MSU Teacher-Scholar Award and the national ASABE Young Educator Award.

Brian McGrain (1998) was elected to the Ingham County, Michigan, Board of Commissioners. McGrain will represent Lansing’s east side and a portion of Lansing Township. He is the associate director and chief operating officer of the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM), a Lansing-based nonprofit group of individuals, businesses and organizations committed to rebuilding neighborhoods and revitalizing communities throughout Michigan.

Aryn Bartley (1999) earned a 2009 MSU Excellence in Teaching Citation, awarded to graduate assistants who have distinguished themselves by the care they have given and the skill they have shown in meeting their classroom responsibilities. She also recently
Each year, we serve about 2,600 Honors College members and another 400 students involved in the Academic Scholars Program, about eight percent of undergraduates total.

2000-2008

Ben L. Pfaff (2001) has co-founded Nicira Networks, a computer networking startup.

Camillia Smith Barnes (2002) completed her PhD in mathematics from Harvard University and has begun teaching at Sweet Briar College in West Virginia.

Dan Bouk (2002) was recently hired as assistant professor of history at Colgate University.

Kristin Brooks (2002), adviser in the MSU College of Social Science, has been selected as a NACADA Outstanding New Adviser Certificate of Merit recipient for 2009. Kristin received the award during a special ceremony at the annual NACADA Conference in San Antonio.

Matthew C. Emery (2002) received a Master of Divinity degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary. He was ordained into the ministry of the United Church of Christ. He now serves as the associate pastor at Second Congregational United Church of Christ in Rockford, Illinois.

Robin Sloan (2002) returned to MSU in the spring to deliver the HC alumni lecture titled, “From East Lansing to Silicon Valley: Lessons from New Media & Entrepreneurship—for Everybody.” While on campus, Sloan also met with MSU journalism students in JRN 200, News Writing & Reporting. Sloan, vice president for strategy at Current, a media company, was also on Michigan Public Radio in the spring discussing Liberal Arts 2.0. The segment is also available online at http://is.gd/lAY8. He is one of the main bloggers at Snarkmarket.com and can also be found at robinsloan.com.

Alicia Dawn Spoor (2002) has received the Adrienne L. Kaplan Memorial Award, which supports the professional training of outstanding students in audiology.

Susan Elaine Vagasky (2002) graduated from MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and plans to pursue a master’s degree in public health from the University of Minnesota.

Allyson Marie Modra (2003) graduated from The University of Texas-Tyler with a thesis on the phylogeny of South American pitvipers, and won the first Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant award. She is now working on her PhD on the phylogeny of New World pitvipers, at the University of Central Florida.

Katherine Robiadek (2003) was awarded a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship to study for one year in Spain.

Tonya Alen Skuse (2003) was hired by MSU Extension to serve as an extension educator in Calhoun County, Michigan.

Julia Faith Cameron (2005) secured a project assistantship with the Water Resources Library at the University of Wisconsin. This position provided complete coverage of tuition and a stipend.

Shannon Houghton (2005) received a grant to travel to China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan to develop lesson plans through www.culturalexplorations.org.

Alison Himelhoch (2006) is a reporter for 6 News in Lansing, Michigan.

Nathan Triplett (2006) was elected East Lansing City Councilmember and is beginning his third year in the position. Among other public policy and public service involvements, Triplett serves on the Capital Area Transportation Authority Board of Directors and several governing committees for the Michigan Municipal League and the Sierra Club.

Andrea Wilmes (2006) has joined Autocom Associates, a public relations agency, as an Account Assistant.

Kristen Pratt (2008), 2007 Udall Scholar, is working for the Chicago Conservation Corps, an organization that recruits and trains grassroots volunteers who work to improve neighborhoods through environmental service projects.

Leah Karchin (2006) finished a master’s degree in special education-autism. She is employed as a middle school art teacher in Kansas.

Abra Jeffers (2006) completed an MPhil in Economics at the University of Cambridge and is currently a graduate fellow in the Department of Management Science and Engineering PhD program at Stanford University. She is researching postmarket surveillance of adverse events in medical devices. Ultimately she would like to create an integrated lifecycle risk management model of medical technologies.
Tom Keller (2007) is writing for the Greensboro, North Carolina News & Record. He blogs and covers high school sports for the paper.

Kate McAlpine (2007) gained fame and even an article in the Chicago Tribune for the 300,000 people she attracted to her YouTube video about the Large Hadron Collider, the groundbreaking particle accelerator that has been built in a 17-mile circular tunnel at the CERN laboratory near Geneva, Switzerland. Curious? http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6aU-wFSqt0. McAlpine is ATLAS E-News Journalist/Webmaster for the ATLAS Collaboration at CERN.

Brittany Naber Cvetanovich (2007) is beginning her second year on the Board of Editors for the Harvard Law Review. She is a second-year law student at Harvard University.

Andrea Stavoe (2008) is in her second year in the PhD program in biochemistry at Yale University.

Monica VanKlompenberg (2008) is in her second year in the PhD program in animal biology at the University of California, Davis.

New Graduates

Alicia Barajas, Kimberly Bos, Brittany Foley, Lindsay Gaynier, Alicia Kildau, Karin Nixon, Jessica Ports, Matt Robinson, Jaclyn Roman, and Matt Stuart (2009) were accepted to Teach for America, representing nearly half of all of MSU’s new corps members for 2009 (!).

Caitlin Blair (2009) is attending Boston University to earn a master’s degree in economics. While at MSU, Blair was a professorial assistant in molecular biophysics and international relations.

Katherine Carlin (2009) is attending Loyola University’s Pritzker Medical School. She was a professorial assistant in a forensic anthropology lab.

Jennifer Flood (2009) is working as a legislative assistant in state senator Buzz Thomas’ office. Flood spent part of her senior year as a business development intern with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in Lansing.

Dana Galbreath (2009) earned a fellowship to attend Keio University in Japan for her master’s degree in environment and information studies. She will begin with a year of research in bird behavior and finish by studying systems biology in the School of Media and Governance. The fellowship covers airfare, tuition, housing, exam fees, and a stipend.

Lauren Green (2009) is attending UC Riverside to work toward a PhD in physics. While an undergraduate, Green participated in physics and astronomy research with Dr. Timothy Beers on stars in the Milky Way Galaxy.

Alan Legg (2009) is pursuing a PhD in mathematics at Purdue University. Legg received the L.C. Plant award and had a professorial assistantship while at MSU.

Katie Johnson (2009) is working full time as a policy associate at the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan after interning there during her senior year. She is conducting policy research and advocacy for community development issues, in addition to website and social media work.

Andrew Keller (2009) has begun a PhD program in physics at Stanford University. He received the Lawrence W. Hantel Endowed Fellowship from MSU’s physics department. While at MSU, he also published research with his mentor Dr. Georg Bollen, on time-of-flight radio-frequency mass separator for continuous low-energy ion beams in the International Journal of Mass Spectrometry.

Megan Machiniak (2009) is attending the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy. While at MSU, Machiniak researched mosquitoes and their host species in Dr. Edward Walker’s lab.

Erin Maddens (2009) is working for Google in the AdWords division in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Maddens was a professorial assistant for Dr. Bonnie Reece in the advertising department.

Kelly Mattran (2009) is attending James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, to obtain a master’s degree in exercise science. During her undergraduate experience, Mattran worked for four years in the Human Energy Research Lab in the Department of Kinesiology. During her kinesiology internship, Mattran authored a manuscript on research regarding physical activity during pregnancy and offspring size.

Jessica Ogden (2009) is attending MSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine. An Alumni Distinguished Scholar, Jessica’s MSU accomplishments include completing two study abroad experiences (South Africa and Antarctica) and being a member of the MSU Homecoming Court.

Lauren Paluta (2009) has been placed through AmeriCorps VISTA in Batavia, New York, and is working at the Genesee County Youth Bureau. Paluta was a professorial assistant in the College of Education and also in the Child Laboratory. She received a Knorr/Mentzer/Byer Scholarship through the Department of Family and Child Ecology.
Nicole Poppe (2009) is working at Google in Ann Arbor as an AdWords Associate. While at MSU, Poppe performed research with Dr. Regina McNally in the marketing department.

Hanna Morrison Rowe (2009) has begun a PhD program in immunology and microbiology at Wayne State University. Rowe’s MSU accomplishments included earning a Distinguished Freshman Scholarship and researching in Dr. Cindy Arvidson’s lab.

Alycia Sedlacek (2009) is attending MSU’s College of Human Medicine. She was active in undergraduate research, having spent time with Dr. Margaret Holmes-Rovner systematically reviewing patient activation measures. Sedlacek also worked with Dr. Dorothy Pathak on components of the Polish Women’s Health Study.

Heather Stewart (2009) is attending the University of Illinois’ School of Veterinary Medicine.

Mark Swartzlander (2009) is working on his PhD at the University of Colorado in chemical and biological engineering. While at MSU, Swartzlander studied abroad and performed research in an engineering lab.

Adam Wagner (2009) is studying Iranian Persian in Dustanbe, Tajikistan. Wagner received a Cole International Study Award and was a professorial assistant.

Ryan Wagoner (2009) is employed with Microsoft Corporation as a software development engineer. Wagoner worked as a professorial assistant under Dr. Magerko in the Telecommunications, Information Studies and Media Department.

Aimee Wilson (2009) published multiple reports in a book produced by the World Wind Energy Associate and is co-author on an upcoming manuscript accepted for publication in Resources, Conservation, & Recycling. She is attending Georgetown University for a master’s degree in conflict resolution.

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Be a Link in the HC Legacy

The Honors College Alumni Recruitment Program is stronger than ever with many opportunities for interested former honors Spartans! Whether you graduated last year or 30 years ago, we need your help to attract the finest students from around the nation and world. To learn how you can get involved, please visit honorscollege.msu.edu/alumni_friends/harp.html. You will find an easy online form to complete to let us know about your particular recruitment interests. Be as involved as you’d like—from contacting talented students in your area to staffing a college fair outside of Michigan.

Thank you in advance for your interest in continuing the great tradition of the Honors education at MSU!
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