HONORS COLLEGE SPARTANS

HAVE THE LAST WORD

IN NATIONAL DEBATE FINALS
Dear Honors College students, alumni, friends and supporters—

It is a joy to reflect on all that has occurred in the Honors College at Michigan State University this past year! I hope that you will be inspired by and proud of all of the exciting things going on at the University. In this edition of HConnections, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the talented, hardworking and principled individuals that are a part of the Honors College tradition.

Whether it’s doing amazing things in the classroom, the local community or around the globe, Honors college students, staff and alumni are dedicated to making a positive impact on those individuals and communities with whom we come in contact. Our undergraduates are excelling in the classroom, earning recognition as national and international scholarship winners, participating in research, and implementing projects that impact the human condition (e.g., providing clean drinking water in remote villages, assessing the nutritional intake of elementary school children, or helping to refine medical implants). Honors College alumni are leading major corporations, launching nonprofit organizations, running cities, educating youth, advising world leaders; if you can think of it, chances are there is an Honors College alumnus who is doing it and doing it well.

We are excited by the success of the 2010 National Debate Champions and pleased at how the university community rallied around the team. The outpouring of support from students, faculty, athletic coaches and university administrators continues to amaze and empower us to continue to pursue greatness. The dream team coaching and administrative staff included the 2004 National Champions Greta Stahl, Director of Debate and Marshall Scholar and David Strauss, Assistant Debate Coach; and Head Coach Will Repko, who has been with the team for all three of the recent championships (2004, 2006, 2010). The year ahead will be an opportunity to bring along talented new recruits and continue to grow and develop seasoned veterans.

The Honors College dean, staff and alumni joined together in the spring to create the Honors College Spartan Scholarship Challenge Endowment. It is our hope that within five years, this scholarship will be fully funded in order to enable us to provide additional opportunities for high-achieving students. Equally exciting was the May launch of a new undergraduate research and creative arts journal (www.recur.msu.edu), one of the few of its kind in the nation. The Red Cedar Undergraduate
Research Journal (ReCUR) blends natural science, social science, business, law, etc. with visual and performing arts to highlight the best of the best that Michigan State University has to offer. Renowned university professors work closely with undergraduates on research and creative works and to publish the journal. It is a partnership that is the essence of all that is excellent and exciting about undergraduate education.

We appreciate the dedication and service of several of our colleagues who have made their own transitions recently. Dr. Michael Conwell retired in May after 37 years of service; Dr. Katy Colbry was offered the opportunity to be a part of a new endeavor in the College of Engineering at Michigan State University; and Patricia Shropshire returned to school to pursue a degree in Divinity. We wish them well and are excited to welcome Joyce Samuel to the academic specialist/advising staff. The year ahead promises to be exciting and filled with new opportunities; we plan to take full advantage of each of them and to continue to excel in honors education.

There are many more accomplishments highlighted throughout these pages and undoubtedly some that aren't noted here. We continue to be proud of the approximately 3,000 students who are affiliated with the Honors College and the faculty that teach, mentor and do research with these same students. It is awe-inspiring to think about the many different ways in which students and alumni contribute to the Honors College and Michigan State University. Examples include undertaking research and community service, starting new organizations, sitting on committees, and participating in scholarship selection processes to enable students to study abroad, engage in research and otherwise fulfill their educational goals. We would love to hear more about your story. Tell us what interests you about the Honors College at Michigan State University and be sure to stay in touch with us to share your news and updates. We welcome your inquiries about the latest happenings in the college. You are important to us and we thank you for your interest in and support of the Honors College at Michigan State University.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore
Dean and Professor

“Our undergraduates are excelling in the classroom, earning recognition as national and international scholarship winners, participating in research, and implementing projects that impact the human condition . . .”
Spartan Debate Team Crowned 2010 National Champions

The two-member team of Carly Wunderlich, a chemistry senior, and Eric Lanning, an international relations junior, claimed the first-place honor at the 64th annual competition. The five-day tournament was held at the University of California in Berkeley, California. Both students are members of the Honors College.

There are 12 students on the MSU debate team. The team’s road to the championship included victories over the University of Kansas, Emory University (which entered the tournament ranked No. 1 in the nation) and the University of Mary Washington in Virginia.

In the final debate, MSU faced fellow Big Ten competitors Northwestern University, which entered the tournament No. 2 nationally and had not lost a debate at the tournament. At about 1:00 a.m., after two hours of debate and another hour of waiting, the five-judge panel voted unanimously and named MSU champions.

“Carly and Eric’s victory demonstrates their commitment to hard work, research and devotion to the activity,” said Greta Stahl, MSU’s director of debate. “Supported by a team of extremely hard-working coaches and teammates, their success demonstrates that MSU continues to stand among an elite group of competitors in the debate community. Their success is incredibly well-deserved.”

The MSU Debate Team, a division of the Honors College, continues to reign among the top debate programs in the country. The team participates in several public debates and hosts one of the largest summer debate programs in the country.
For the third time in seven years, a team from Michigan State University has won the National Debate Tournament.

This year’s debate topic was the United States’ nuclear weapons policy, Stahl said.

She explained that throughout the year, when students endorsed government action (referred to as being affirmative), they argued the U.S. should declare it would never be the first to initiate the use of nuclear weapons during a conflict. Other examples included reducing the number of U.S. nuclear weapons, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off high alert and shifting to development of non-nuclear weapons for deterrence purposes.

“This year’s resolution said that the U.S. federal government should reduce the role, mission or size of its nuclear weapons arsenal,” Stahl explained. “This topic was chosen due to its timely nature: The Obama administration is due to release its Nuclear Posture review in early April, which sets the administration’s policy on many of the questions above.”

MSU won this particular tournament two other times—in 2004 and 2006—and had been to the “Final Four” five times before that. MSU also won the Cross Examination Debate Association National Tournament in 1995 and the Seasonal National Championship Awards in 1996 and 2002.

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The Spartan Scholarship Challenge leverages a $7 million anonymous gift to MSU that recently made national news to generate $21 million in needs- and performance-based financial assistance for undergraduate students. The initiative, available until December 31, 2010, maximizes donors’ gifts through a $1 match for every $2 in new endowed scholarships.

“We’re excited about the opportunity provided by this anonymous gift,” said MSU Provost Kim Wilcox. “The donor’s generosity is inspiring. We hope it, in turn, inspires others to help the university expand support to deserving undergraduate students as they prepare for the future.”

The challenge will significantly build MSU’s endowment—the key to providing scholarship funds for students both now and in the future. For every two dollars a donor gives to a new scholarship endowment as part of the Spartan Scholarship Challenge, one dollar will be designated from the anonymous gift.

“The steady stream of income generated from endowed funds provides the assurance the university needs to recruit and retain the best and brightest students and provide access to a world-class university education,” said MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon.

Donors who make a commitment of $20,000 or more will have the opportunity to create a permanent scholarship in their name or the name of someone they wish to honor. Typically, a minimum of $30,000 is needed to begin a named endowment. The match will apply to new endowment gifts of up to a total of $1 million per donor.

Commitments to the challenge can be paid over a period of five years or less. Smaller gifts can be directed to a university-wide Spartan Scholarship Challenge Endowment.

“Michigan State University is a recognized leader in providing an affordable education and offering financial assistance to students in need,” said Joel Ferguson, chairman of the MSU Board of Trustees. “This match will help us to expand our ability to support more bright, talented, hard-working students of limited means.”

Unlike funds that are expendable, endowed funds have a lasting effect because the total amount of the gift is invested. Only a portion of the invested income earned is spent each year, preserving the principal.

Upon fulfillment of the Spartan Scholarship Challenge, MSU will be able to offer an estimated $1 million in new financial aid each year on a permanent basis, including aid for women and minority students. The match opportunity expires when the $7 million made available through previous gifts has been exhausted or by December 31, 2010, whichever comes first.

“When it comes to financing a college education, many students and their families are facing very tough decisions in this economy,” said Robert Groves, vice president for University Advancement. “At the same time, the importance of a college education has never been greater. We’re very hopeful that many members of the Spartan community will take advantage of this unique opportunity to help many generations of future students.”
The Honors College Spartan Scholarship Challenge endowment was established in 2010 as a part of the MSU Challenge by the dean, staff and alumni of the Honors College at Michigan State University, acting on their love for MSU and passion for helping students achieve their dreams for higher education. The scholarship was created as part of the University initiative to increase the number of scholarships available to students as incoming freshmen.

Recipients will be selected from those students admitted to Michigan State University that have been invited to membership in the Honors College. The awards are granted based on financial need and are not limited by a student’s intended major or field of study. Scholarships will be renewable until the scholarship recipient’s graduation, provided the student remains eligible for federal need-based financial aid programs and continues in good standing academically.

Contributions to the scholarship benefit students directly. Gifts to the fund are invested as principal, and the scholarship awards will be paid out of the annual interest earned by the investment. The scholarship awards are not restricted to a particular academic discipline, and are awarded to incoming freshmen based on demonstrated financial need.

Contributions to the Honors College Spartan Scholarship Challenge endowment will receive credit for Michigan State University donor recognition groups. Inquiries concerning

MSU’s donor groups should be directed to Jennifer Bertram, Director of Development for the Office of University Scholarships & Fellowships at (517) 432-7330 or via email at bertram9@msu.edu.

Multi-year pledges to support the Honors College Spartan Scholarship Challenge endowment are encouraged. Gifts payable over five years are readily accommodated. If you work for a matching gift company, your gift may be matched at a 1:1 or 2:1 ratio from your company. The company’s matching gift will not be eligible for the 1:2 match provided for by the Spartan Scholarship Challenge program. The Office of University Scholarships & Fellowships Development Office would be pleased to discuss how you may include the Honors College in your estate plans.

The Spartan Scholarship Challenge program runs through December 31, 2010. Please contact the Office of University Scholarships & Fellowships Development Office to learn more about how you can contribute, or for information on creating a named endowment.

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MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon

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The Marshall Scholarships were founded by an Act of Parliament in 1953 and commemorate the humane ideals of the European Recovery Program or Marshall Plan. They are funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and administered by the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission in the United Kingdom. The selection process in the United States is administered by the British Council on behalf of the British Embassy in Washington.

For more information on Marshall Scholars, visit www.marshallscholarship.org.

Michigan State University senior Jessica Muir, of Romeo, Michigan, has become Michigan’s only 2010 Marshall Scholar and the university’s 14th such scholar.

The 2010 class of Marshall Scholars includes 35 students throughout the United States who will use the scholarship for two years of graduate study in the United Kingdom. It covers university fees, cost-of-living expenses, research and travel grants and fares to and from the United States.

Muir graduated in May 2010 with degrees in physics and astrophysics. In 2009, she was named a Goldwater Scholar.

“I will be spending a year at Cambridge, obtaining a certificate of advanced studies in applied mathematics, which means I’ll be taking lecture courses on topics in theoretical physics,” Muir said. “My plans for the second year aren’t set in stone, but I’m hoping to enroll in a master’s program on science communication at Imperial College London.”

While at MSU, Muir conducted undergraduate research in experimental high energy physics in the laboratory of Joey Huston, professor of physics and astronomy. In summer 2009, Muir participated in a competitive summer student program at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in Geneva. In the local community, she serves as the assistant physics director for Science Theatre, a student-run outreach program that performs at schools throughout Michigan.

“The fact that MSU made it possible for me to get involved in research early on has been incredibly valuable,” Muir said. “Not only did it give me experience doing actual research work, but also it made me more familiar with my field in a broader way and with different opportunities—like summer research internships—that I could get involved with. The support I’ve received from my professors, advisors and the Honors College has been invaluable as well.”

In addition to being a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Dean’s Student Advisory Council for the College of Natural Science, Muir is a National Merit Scholar and Distinguished Freshman Scholar. She is fluent in French and has worked as an intern at the particle physics laboratory in Annecy-le-Vieux, France.

“Jessie exemplifies how combining undergraduate research with a rigorous curriculum and leadership in student groups coalesces into an academic experience that prepares young scientists well for the challenges and rapid changes that they will face in their careers,” said R. James Kirkpatrick, dean of the College of Natural Science. “The scientific community at MSU is honored by her accomplishments.”

Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College, agrees. “Jessie is an absolute gem. It is thrilling to see her named as a Marshall Scholar and to know that she has the intellect, dedication and energy to excel in her chosen profession and the community at large,” she said. “She truly exemplifies the best and brightest amongst MSU’s many talented undergraduates.”

Honors College Senior Named 2010 Marshall Scholar
Hoping to help fill the gap of women in engineering, Michigan State University senior Kendell Pawelec, of Howell, Michigan, was named a 2010 United States Gates Scholar.

“During my search for the perfect graduate school, I became intrigued by the history and academic excellence offered by Cambridge,” said Pawelec, MSU’s third Gates Scholar and the only 2010 such scholar in the Big 10. There were about 800 U.S. applicants, according to Cambridge University.

“Without a doubt, the questions that interest me the most in my field are related to the way living systems interact with materials,” she said. “I am excited at the prospect of studying materials science at Cambridge, with its excellence in biomaterials research, as I obtain my PhD.”

A member of the Honors College, Pawelec had a 4.0 grade point average. She is now pursuing a doctorate in materials science and metallurgy at Cambridge after receiving her bachelor’s degree in materials science and engineering from MSU in May 2010.

Pawelec began materials science research in 2007 while serving as a research assistant for MSU’s Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. Most recently, she worked as a research assistant for the Department of Chemical Engineering. Pawelec’s strong research focus landed her a position on MSU’s Undergraduate Research Advisory Board in 2008.

In addition, she spent summer 2008 interning at the Institute of Material Science and Technology in Jena, Germany.

“Kendell is a superb scholar with a true passion for biomaterials research,” said Satish Udpa, dean of the College of Engineering. “I am confident that her commitment to her work in biomaterials today will have a great impact in the field of medical technology tomorrow. We are honored that one of our own has been recognized with this prestigious scholarship.”

And while Pawelec is passionate about science, she also has a fondness for arts and language. She plays first violin for the Livingston Symphony Orchestra in Howell. Pawelec is also an ambassador for the MSU branch of the German Academic Exchange Service, helping to promote the New York-based organization’s scholarships and serving as a liaison for parents and students.

“Kendell Pawelec knew with uncanny certainty that Cambridge University is where she needs to be to continue her academic studies. With single-mindedness purpose she has worked hard and engaged others in her goal,” said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of MSU’s Honors College. “Kendell’s success is yet another example of the truly amazing things MSU undergraduates are capable of achieving.”

Ultimately, Pawelec hopes to use her international education and research experiences to foster advances in medicine.

“With a firm understanding of biomaterials, I plan on working in an industry where I can have the greatest impact on current medical technology,” Pawelec said.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation established the scholarship in 2000 with a $210 million donation to allow postgraduates to continue studies at Cambridge University. The awards cover the full cost of graduate study—doctorate or master’s level. Since 2001, there have been 827 Gates Scholars from 85 different countries. The 2010 cohort of U.S. scholars includes 29 students from 20 states.

For more information on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, visit www.gatesfoundation.org.
Pierce named 2010 Goldwater Scholar

Michigan State University senior **Tasneem Pierce** wants to understand how genes interact with each other—and she uses chickens to do it. That curiosity, coupled with her love of research, earned her a spot as a 2010 Goldwater Scholar.

Pierce, who is from Grand Rapids, is majoring in genomics and molecular genetics. She is MSU’s 28th such scholar.

In addition, Matt Durak, a junior in MSU’s College of Engineering and the Honors College, received an honorable mention. Durak, of Canton, is majoring in computer engineering.

“I am deeply honored to be a Goldwater scholarship recipient,” Pierce said. “MSU has given me the amazing opportunity to conduct scientific research and reinforce my love of science.”

Pierce manages the research lab of C. Titus Brown, assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, and assistant professor of computer science.

“Tasneem’s experience in the lab, as well as the classroom, has provided her many opportunities for advanced study in gene regulation, evolution and understanding the mechanisms of development,” said James Kirkpatrick, dean of the College of Natural Science. “We are proud to have provided her a strong foundation for her success as a future leader in science.”

Pierce is vice president of MSU’s Microbiology Club. In 2009 she was awarded a College of Engineering Summer Research Internship to further her study of chicken embryos.

“It is very exciting that Tasneem Pierce has been selected as a Goldwater Scholar; it is a well-deserved honor,” said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College, who is MSU’s official representative to the Goldwater Foundation. “Tasneem’s success is another example of what students accomplish through hard work, dedication, commitment and a strong mentoring relationship with faculty.”

The Goldwater Foundation plays an important role in helping MSU and other research universities assist students in following their research passions.

On March 31, the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation awarded 278 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 1,111 mathematics, science and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide.

In its 24-year history, the foundation has awarded 6,079 scholarships worth approximately $58 million dollars. The foundation plans to award about 300 scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year.

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

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Nezich Nets Unique NIH Award

Catherine Nezich will be attending Cambridge as a National Institutes of Health Oxford Cambridge Scholar (NIH OxCam). The NIH OxCam program is an accelerated doctoral training program in the field of biomedical research. This intensive program is based in research, and each scholar develops and implements an international research project under the guidance of a mentor affiliated with NIH and one from either Oxford or Cambridge. Nezich will be conducting research on neurodegeneration as she pursues her PhD. While at MSU, Catherine was also named a Goldwater Scholar.

National Science Foundation Honors

The following Michigan State University Honors College graduates were awarded 2010 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. This award supports graduates in their post-graduate educational goals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Graduate Research Fellowship Program winners earn three years of support, a $30,000 annual stipend, a $10,500 cost-of-education allowance, international research and professional development opportunities, and TeraGrid Supercomputer access.

Teresa Franklin
University of Michigan, Mechanical Engineering

Robert Friederichs
Cambridge University, Materials Engineering

Monica VanKlompenberg
University of California-Davis, Animal Science

Victoria McCoy
Yale University, Paleontology

Shannon Morey
Cornell University, Inorganic Chemistry

Nathan Sanders
Harvard, Astrophysics

Linsey Seitz
University of California-Berkeley, Chemical Engineering

Andrew Temme
Michigan State University, Electric and Electronic Engineering

Boren Fellows Named

Eric Branoff, Melissa Crawford, Fatima Foflonker, and Nada Zhody were awarded Boren Fellowships to specialize in less commonly taught languages. This award provides for study and research in areas critical to United States national security interests for up to two years. Zodhy and Foflonker will be studying Arabic in Egypt, while Branoff is in Jordan to continue his Arabic studies. Crawford, an International Relations major, will be studying Turkish.

DID YOU KNOW?

• MSU has had 16 Truman Scholars; 11 of them were students in James Madison College.

• The Rhodes Trust has given over 7,000 Rhodes Scholarships since 1902.

• The total scholarship count at MSU now stands at: Goldwater, 28; Rhodes, 16; Churchill, 16; Marshall, 14; Udall, eight; Hollings, six; Gates, three; and Mitchell, one. MSU’s record of Rhodes Scholars has led the Big Ten for 40 years.
Where Are They Now?

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

Camillia Smith Barnes
2002 Churchill Scholar

After graduating from MSU with degrees in math, English, and French, I was privileged to enjoy a year studying mathematics at Cambridge University. The opportunity to participate in “Part III of the Mathematical Tripos” helped me to challenge my mathematical abilities and to meet students and scholars from numerous countries. Not only did I delight in British and Cantabrigian cultural heritage, but I also acquired new perspectives on life and learning. Following my year in England, I continued graduate study at Harvard, where I recently completed a PhD in mathematics. Throughout graduate school, the joy of teaching my own classes, together with fond memories of my experiences at Michigan State led me to a deep personal commitment to undergraduate education. Currently in my second year as an assistant professor at Sweet Briar College, a small liberal arts and sciences college for women in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, I now teach math and statistics and continue to pursue research interests in enumerative combinatorics. My years in the Honors College at MSU were a tremendous help in preparing me for a career in the liberal arts.

Dayne Walling
1996 Rhodes Scholar

I was elected Mayor of my hometown of Flint, Michigan in August 2009 and I have been working every day since then to deal with the difficult economic, social and fiscal challenges facing this community. It is a hard job but also very rewarding because there are a lot of families that my office is able to assist in some way. I also am encouraged by the residents, business owners, and civic leaders who are resilient and committed to finding new solutions to our old problems of unemployment, crime, and segregation. More than 1,000 participants engaged in a citywide Neighborhood Action initiative that established shared strategic priorities and identified immediate improvements. Working together we are changing Flint for the better.

For me, the wider vision is about transforming Flint into a sustainable 21st Century. This work has its roots all the way back to my senior honors thesis at James Madison College. I studied the environmental cleanup of a former General Motors dumping area on the south side of Flint. Through that research I started to see that economic development and environmental protection did not have to oppose but instead could be mutually reinforcing goals. Obviously much is yet to be written and debated about this, but one thing is for sure, and that is my experiences at Michigan State University and Honors College helped make me who I am today.
UK Bound, No Matter What

Applying for a major international fellowship is a process which takes time and commitment. Many more students apply than receive these scholarships. The benefit of applying for a major scholarship, however, is more complex than just the possibility of funding for graduate studies.

Robert Friederichs, a 2009 Honors College and College of Engineering graduate applied for both the Churchill scholarship and the Gates trust. He was selected to interview for the Gates award, but in the end, did not receive either.

This didn't discourage Friederichs, who had still been accepted to Cambridge to complete his master's degree. He applied for more scholarships, and ultimately received the Cambridge Overseas Trust and the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship.

“These scholarships are very demanding and require students to have a pretty impressive college track record,” said Friederichs. One of the most important aspects of the applications is a record of undergraduate research, as all the scholarships Friederichs applied for were research-based. Because of the research opportunities at MSU for undergraduates, he had worked in Dr. Melissa Baumann's lab, which enabled him to explore his interests in biomaterials.

Another important part of major scholarship applications is the personal statement, which draws out relationships between experiences in a student's undergraduate career. “I was surprised at what came out of this as I didn't see the connection between a lot of my extra-curricular activities and research at first.”

The Honors College is very involved in the application process. Dr. Laura Symonds, the Coordinator of National and International Fellowships and Scholarships, helps each student with their application and the interview process. Dean Jackson-Elmoore and Dr. Symonds also schedule mock interviews for applicants to help students prepare for what they will face from external reviewers.

Friederichs is currently pursuing his PhD in Materials Science and Metallurgy at the University of Cambridge, which allows him to work with leaders in his field and experience the entrepreneurial environment fostered by Cambridge. He hopes to be involved in industry or small business when he graduates.

An important part of major scholarship applications is the personal statement...

“I was surprised at what came out of this as I didn’t see the connection between a lot of my extra-curricular activities and research at first.”

Robert Friederichs
Baranski Earns Coveted Featherstone Prize

Marci Baranski, originally from Suttons Bay, Michigan, knew she wanted to be a biologist in the ninth grade. She now has a degree from Michigan State University in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with High Honors, and has received the Richard L. Featherstone Prize.

The Richard Lee Featherstone Endowed Prize seeks to identify the most outstanding graduating senior who exhibits an open, curious, creative approach to education and ideas, as well as intellectual ingenuity. The search committee looks for intellectual curiosity and innovation in the applicants, along with leadership qualities.

Baranski was involved with the university research community from her first days as an undergraduate. She began with a Professorial Assistantship from the Honors College, which culminated in a co-authored paper about the use of a computer program to analyze changes in soybeans. She continued to assist with research and teaching at MSU and abroad in Bangladesh.

In 2009, Baranski led a bike tour from Michigan to Washington, D.C.; eight Michigan college students rode with riders from across the country. The riders stopped along the way to talk to activists and also residents in towns affected by the environmental impacts of air pollution from coal mining power plants.

Looking toward the future, Baranski says, “With my scientific background, experience in environmental advocacy, and desire to further explore environmental science and policy at the graduate level, my ultimate career goal is to become an environmental science policy advisor for the United States government or an international agency.”

Baranski is enrolled in Arizona State University's doctoral program in Biology and Society as a way to continue her interest in interdisciplinary topics in bioethics and environmental policy.
Gillette & Stein Honors for Senior Researchers

The Honors College’s Genevieve Gillette Fellowship and the Hymen and Miriam Stein Scholarship fund the research of students who are planning a senior thesis or its equivalent. The scholarships seek to support innovative, substantial, and interesting undergraduate research.

Rachel Hartwig was chosen to receive the Stein Scholarship to assist in the production of her senior thesis. She is majoring in psychology and has helped her mentor, Dr. Jason Moser, develop the clinical psychophysiology lab at MSU. She is researching coping mechanisms for her senior thesis, with a focus on positive reinterpretation and the effects of this optimism on electroencephalogram (EEG) data, a measure of electrical brain activity over time. This research will help determine how this method of coping can be used in behavioral therapy, especially emotion regulation. In the summer, Hartwig ran a study which used EEGs to measure students’ response to negative visual stimuli.

Isabel Laczkovich, a James Madison student with a double major in International Relations and Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy, received the Gillette fellowship to support her research on the political identity of the European Union (EU). Born in Germany, Laczkovich was curious to learn more about how the EU has developed. Her research will focus on the juxtaposition between the great strides the EU has made towards becoming a political, economic, and social entity and the pessimism of many Europeans. Previously, Laczkovich participated in a field experience with the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C., which furthered her knowledge and interest in the EU. To complete her research, she travelled to Brussels in the summer to learn more about the European security system and visit the European Parliament. Laczkovich also travelled to Germany to speak with citizens of the EU about their thoughts and feelings. She is mentored by Dr. Norm Graham of James Madison College.

Gary L. Seevers Scholarship

The Gary L. Seevers Scholarship assists Honors College students pursuing studies through the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. This scholarship is endowed by Gary L. Seevers to support the intent and potential of land grant institutions. Seevers was a charter member of the Honors College and earned three degrees from Michigan State University.

Rachel Olson and Nickolas Salic have received the scholarship as incoming freshmen because of their outstanding high school records, while winners Sarah Castle, Caroline Keson, Jeffrey Lolkus, and Daniel Tratt were named Seevers Scholars because of their exceptional work on campus.

Walter and Pauline Adams Award

The Walter and Pauline Adams Award is awarded to Honors College students who demonstrate strong academic and leadership abilities and are planning to pursue a career in public service or law.

The 2010 recipients are Cam Brown, Joan Campau, Kevin Dean, Alexia Duffey, Ryan Gimarc, Jaclyn Murphy, Daniel Nadratowski, Anna Orsini, Sarah Pomeroy, and Rachel Worthington.
Schoenl Recipients Work to Improve Life Abroad

The Schoenl Grant is an innovative award which funds student projects that assist communities abroad. Projects proposed by Honors College students must address a dire human need outside the United States, such as clean water, food, or medical care.

Kathryn Bonnen earned the Schoenl Grant recipient for 2010 to enhance community health in Peru. Her efforts were a continuation of work done by other MSU undergraduates. “Energy and education are the keys to a healthy community and increased socio-economic development,” said Bonnen. Huamachucho is a village in Peru situated in the Andes where 80% of residents live in poverty. Previously, MSU undergraduates designed, built, and installed solar powered water heaters in the village; one in the hospital and one in a school.

The Schoenl Grant, combined with benefactors in Peru and the United States, allowed Bonnen and other MSU students in Huamachucho to expand efforts to include six new water heaters in schools and at the nearby medical post. The medical post, which currently has no hot water, is at a disadvantage due to a local belief that cold water is dangerous. Access to hot water means greater cleanliness at the post is possible, which is integral to new mothers and their infants.

Priyanka Pandey, the second Schoenl award recipient for 2010, helped to improve access to clean drinking water in India. Even though India has experienced rapid growth, this growth has been uneven in different regions of the country. Many villages still live in poverty, struggling against malnutrition and corruption. Pandey is using the award to fund five community pumps in the low-caste section of the village of Bedani, which is separated from the rest of the village. Water previously could only be accessed from the river or stagnant ponds nearby.

Pandey says of her project, “I have come to appreciate how lucky I am, and has taught me to be less complacent about goals in my life. This project has motivated me to continue helping people in rural populations, with the goal to starts building communities from the basic elements up.” She has also started the Bedani Foundation to help the village continue to develop.

Cole Excellence Awards
The students at right were awarded Cole Excellence Awards from the Honors College. These scholarships are intended to reward members who demonstrate academic excellence through a program of study enriched by opportunities offered by the Honors College.

Nina Boychuck (Lyman Briggs College Zoology)
Andrew Bromley (Hospitality Business)
Claire Carpenter (Communicative Science and Disorders)
Laura Evangelista (Journalism)
Thomas Fielitz (Chemical Engineering)
Laura Hanke (Human Biology)
Virginia Heinen (Zoology)
Elyse Hodges (Retailing)
Ashley Kitts (General Management)
Matthew Kravutsk (Accounting)
Srikanth Kumar (Civil Engineering)
Erin Milne (Lyman Briggs College Genomics and Molecular Genetics)
Drew Newell (Electrical Engineering)
Anthony Pecchia (Accounting)
Carlos Salgado (Genomics and Molecular Genetics)
Jillian Stewart (Kinesiology)
Mark Zaguskin (Finance)
Cole and Benschop Awards
Fund HC Study Abroad

The Cole and Benschop Awards are designed for students pursuing international study. Made possible by generous alumni, the awards range from $500-$2000. This year, 80 students received these scholarships to help to fund their international pursuits.

“I had the opportunity to study in Israel Summer 2010, thanks in part to the Cole International Study Award. The summer was one of academic enlightenment, personal growth, and hope. I learned about Israel’s geography, culture, politics, and society in the classroom and had the opportunity to go hiking the mountains, swimming in the seas, and walking through the markets. I interviewed Israelis and Palestinians about the prospects for peace in the Holy Land while studying the histories of both peoples, giving me greater insight into what a solution needs to include. My summer in Israel prepared and fueled me for the remainder of my study at Michigan State. It was a wonderful chapter in my life—and I do not believe it is over yet!”

Becca Farnum

“I had an absolutely wonderful time on my Study Abroad trip to London. It was such a rewarding, exciting and eye-opening experience to be studying what I love in such an amazing city. It made me realize the enormity of the world and how much I can’t wait to experience more of it. The sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of a city are so diverse and all-consuming. I learned so much and got to know some amazing people—it is an experience I would recommend to anyone thinking about studying abroad.”

Erica Christensen

“Going to Ethiopia, my father’s home country, has been a dream of mine ever since I came to MSU. I was able to learn my familial language of Amharic, connect with relatives, and share my knowledge of English and music with a local elementary school. Without the support and funding of the Honors College and the Mowbray Scholars Program, I would not have been able to experience such a memorable and life-changing trip.”

Joseph Robele
ADS and UDS Fellows Program Established

This year the Honors College launched the ADS/UDS Fellows Program, to help recipients of both the Alumni Distinguished and University Distinguished Scholarships form a strong community of scholars.

Activities include both service and scholarship, with ADS/UDS Fellows organizing the first in what will be a series of annual academic forums, as well as a service forum aimed at organizing a substantial project to be completed during Spring Semester. For the academic forum, Fellows will select and prepare presentations on opposing sides of a contemporary issue as the beginning of a larger informal conversation. In the service forum, Fellows will give presentations on past service activities with the goal of identifying one or more projects which offer the opportunity to make a substantial contribution to the community.

ADS/UDS Fellows in their first year at MSU will also participate in a series of workshops which will offer tools to help new Fellows get involved in the MSU community while making ongoing reflection an essential component of that involvement. These workshops will focus on identifying involvement opportunities, the difference between participation and leadership, and using personal narrative tools as a way to clarify and express long-term goals and values.

By building on the relationships that already exist among ADS/UDS recipients, the ADS/UDS Fellows Program seeks to help an incredibly talented group of students utilize their formidable resources to make an impact on their own communities, the MSU community, and beyond.

HC Supports Freshman Seminar Abroad Programs

Being a freshman at Michigan State University can be an overwhelming experience. Studying abroad, likewise, is a major change from a traditional college setting. MSU created the Freshman Seminars Abroad program to combine the two, which helps to ease the transition from high school to college with a study-abroad experience. This unique experience allows incoming freshman to experience the rigors of the college classroom while exploring a new country. This year students studied in Ireland, New Zealand, or South Africa, covering diverse subjects from “Comparative Legal Issues in Ireland” to “People and Places: Influences on Sustainable Thought and Action.” The program also ensures that participants have friends on campus before Fall Welcome even begins.

This year James DuPui Jr., Rose Fox, Mackenzie George, Rebecca Kiefer, Jessica Knotts, Katharine Lee, Krista Lueck, Kevin Perlberg, Kristen Saunders, Katherine Stuehrk, Emily Topham, and Erica Zentner received Honors College scholarships for their Freshman Seminars Abroad.

“It is opportunities such as both the seminars and Honors College that make me even more excited for the coming years”

Erica Zentner
Explore Africa is a program which seeks to broaden participants minds by exposing them to African culture. At its minimum, it is an exciting week-long residential experience at MSU, with classes in African language, dance, and history.

Instead of focusing on the many difficulties Africa is facing as a continent, Explore Africa teaches the unique cultural aspects of Africa which are often ignored in typical social studies classes. Stereotypes are diminished through understanding, and the goal of Explore Africa is to promote openness.

For the first time in Explore Africa’s history, in the summer of 2011, a second, optional week will include a study abroad experience in South Africa following the 1-week program on the MSU campus. Dr. John Metzler, who led the team which developed the program, said the goal of the program is to provide students “with an introduction to South Africa, and whet their appetite for further exploration of South Africa and beyond.” The program will visit two sites in the country, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, to show students the diversity of South Africa.

Each day of the program will begin in a traditional classroom environment, where students will have an opportunity to discuss the theme of the day. Then the participants will go on excursions for the remainder of the day, traveling to historical sites such as Robben Island and contemporary sites to engage students with global issues and the growing importance of a global society. One day of the trip will be a service day, where students will work with an organization in a township outside of Cape Town focusing on children impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Although South Africa is often associated with apartheid, it is also a very modern country and is a major player in global affairs. As such, it is a perfect environment to engage the minds of young students. Explore Africa is an innovative program designed to actively engage high school students while exposing them to, and in fact immersing them in, a different culture.

Two college credits can also be earned for participating in the program. For more information or to enroll in Explore Africa, please visit gifted.msu.edu.

The Office of Gifted and Talented Education, a division of the Honors College, seeks to connect younger high achieving students with subject matter which inspires and challenges them. This mission aligns well with the larger Honors College goal of creating an environment which promotes academic excellence and innovation.
This past fall, the Honors College launched ReCUR (Red Cedar Undergraduate Research), a new, bi-annual undergraduate research and creative arts journal that showcases the exciting and diverse research and creative work being pursued by MSU students.

“The goal of ReCUR,” as Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, Honors College dean and professor of political science and social work, stated in her introductory letter to the inaugural May 2010 issue, “is to demonstrate the scholarly success of students in all majors, professions and disciplines at the University.” In this spirit, the first issue of ReCUR included original poetry, visual art, creative prose, musical composition, documentary film and research articles contributed by 15 Honors College students hailing from eight different colleges across campus. Also included in ReCUR were brief summaries of work that HC students had published in scholarly journals and books.

Honors College Students were involved in all stages of ReCUR production. More than 40 submissions were received and considered for publication. One student author, second-year Honors College student J.T. Whitman, said this regarding his experience as a student author in ReCUR, “Through my work as an author for ReCUR inaugural edition I gained some very valuable experiences. Some of these include learning how to write a technical paper, how to conduct literature review to support research findings, and how to write concisely enough to fit your work within a publisher’s guidelines. In addition, I gained an appreciation for the amount of time and hard work that goes into a publication like ReCUR.”

Katelin McArdle, a first-year Honors College student, served as the managing editor of ReCUR as part of her Professorial Assistantship. As part of the ReCUR editorial staff, she helped to develop a timeline for publication, guidelines for submission and review and managed student submissions throughout the review process. When asked about her experiences working with ReCUR, Katelin said, “Holding the position of Student Managing Editor for ReCUR has helped to define and shape my vision of the directions I can go with a degree in professional writing. Since this is a flexible major, working on the journal provided insight as to how I can make a career out of writing, which is something that I love in every context. ReCUR allowed me to test my writing abilities in situations outside of turning in assignments for class, while still having the benefit of access to feedback from professors. Receiving credit in the opening pages of a university scientific/literary/art journal is very different from receiving points for a course assignment, and this experience helped me to learn that while I’m still a student. In addition, I became more familiar with the process of publishing, which will certainly benefit experiences in college and in the future.”

Katelin was joined on the ReCUR editorial staff by third-year student Hailey Schaldach. Hailey served as the design editor for ReCUR as part of her journalism internship. Participating as design editor gave Hailey the opportunity to apply the skills that she had learned in class about design and layout to a new format—a scholarly publication.

Honors College students also participated in the review process as part of the student editorial board. Several members of this board worked alongside faculty mentors on the editorial board to solicit and evaluate peer reviews and make recommendations regarding publication. Other members of the board wrote feature pieces about national and international fellowship and scholarship winners. Carolyn LaPlante, a fourth-year Honors College student and member of the editorial board said, “As someone pursuing a career in academia, serving on the editorial board provided valuable insight into the academic publishing world that will inevitably help me as I continue to write and develop scholarly material in the years to come.”

David McWilliams, trumpet, performed an original composition at the ReCUR Creative Arts Exhibition in February.
working on the journal provided insight as to how I can make a career out of writing. ReCUR allowed me to test my writing abilities in situations outside of turning in assignments for class, while still having the benefit of access to feedback from professors.”

-Katelin McArdle
First-year Honors College student
Managing editor, ReCUR

Other members of the student editorial board included Eric Armstrong, Tyler Augst, Sarah Blakely, Lori Bates, Erik Booker, Diana Busby, Mary Deluca, Andrew Elzenga, Charles Eveslage, Fatima Foflonker, Chelsea House, Cortney Hurtt, Jessica Johnson, Mark Kauth, Mark Kelly, Nicholas Laverty, Brian Lovett, Micah Luderer, Thomas Maatman, Sarah Meyer, Laura Mitchell, Jennifer Orlando, Joseph Orsini, Cameron Paxton, Meredith Reynolds and Lauren Talley. Membership on the student editorial board was not limited to students in the Honors College, but was offered to students who were nominated for the positions by colleges and departments across campus.

Launching ReCUR also required the dedicated effort of several MSU faculty members who volunteered their time and provided their expertise in scholarly research and academic publishing. The initial vision for the journal originated with Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, who also served as editor-in-chief. Dr. Melissa Baumann, Honors College Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, played an instrumental role in shaping the format and scope of the journal, developing its editorial and management structure, and seeing it through a successful launch as part of her role as chair of the editorial board. Dr. Stephen Lacy, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences and Professor of Journalism, and Dr. Scott Michaelsen, Associate Professor of English, served as faculty advisers to ReCUR as part of their honors professor consultancies and provided unique insights on all aspects of development and production. This group of faculty was assisted in their efforts by Dr. Jennifer Auchtung, an Honors College academic specialist/adviser who served as staff adviser to ReCUR.

Additional insights were provided by an exceptional group of distinguished faculty from across MSU who agreed to serve on the editorial board. This group of faculty included Dr. Margaret Agwu, Associate Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Professor of Family and Community Medicine; Dr. Mohammed Ayoob, University Distinguished Professor of International Relations and of Political Science; Dr. Charles L. Ballard, Professor of Economics; Professor James Forger, Dean of the College of Music; Dr. Ram Narasimhan, University Distinguished Professor and John H. McConnell Professor of Business Administration in the Department of Supply Chain Management; Dr. Mark D. Reckase, University Distinguished Professor of Measurement and Quantitative Methods; Professor Anita Skeen, Director for the Center of Poetry and Arts Coordinator for the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities; Dr. Sandi Smith, Professor of Communication and Director of the Health and Risk Communication Center; Dr. James Tiedje, University Distinguished Professor of Crop and Soil Sciences and of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics; and Dr. Satish Udpa, Dean of the College of Engineering and University Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The editorial board mentored members of the student editorial board through the process of identifying and recruiting faculty members to serve as reviewers of submissions, evaluating the reviews that they received, and providing recommendations regarding publication of submitted work. Their work was essential for narrowing the field of submissions to the high quality works that were published in the first issue. In addition, many other faculty members contributed to the successful launch of ReCUR through their efforts in guiding the students they mentored in research through the process of authoring a paper, promoting publication in ReCUR to their students, nominating students to serve on the student editorial board and reviewing students’ submissions.

The end product of this hard work, as Dean Jackson-Elmoore stated, is a journal in which “the intricate weaving of art and science through the pages highlights the multi- and inter-disciplinary strength of undergraduate education at Michigan State University.” Using the inaugural issue as a firm foundation, it will be interesting to see the ways in which this journal progresses and continues to showcase the strengths of MSU students.

An electronic version of the May 2010 edition is available at www.recur.msu.edu. The fall issue is expected to be released online on December 15, 2010. 🎉
In addition to being recognized for their academic accomplishments and work at MSU with many scholarships and honors, Honors College students are lauded around the nation and world. Here is a sample of achievements from the past year.

**Alicia Adamczyk** is currently interning with CRAVE, a company which focuses on women-owned businesses. Currently, Adamczyck is working with the team that is developing the CRAVE guidebook of these companies in the Detroit area.

**Nicholas Baker** co-produced and directed “Publicly Defended,” a documentary about a 1985 trial which shows many of the flaws in the Michigan justice system. The documentary aired on East Lansing’s public television station, WKAR-TV.

**Maria Bianchi** and **Laura Kovacek** won the first nationwide Washington Media Scholars Case Competition. The competition presented teams of students with a hypothetical public-policy campaign and challenged them to create a media plan for the campaign. Along with recognition and a monetary reward, the Washington Media Scholars Foundation has donated money to James Madison College in honor of Kovacek and Bianchi.

**M. J. Crawford** was selected to receive an Institute for International Public Policy Fellowship, sponsored by the United Negro College Fund. This program, which spans the rest of Crawford’s undergraduate career, provides experiences to prepare students for both careers and graduate school in the field of international affairs.

**David Crouse** was selected as a US Presidential Scholar, an honor that recognizes some of our nation’s most distinguished high school graduates, and traveled to Washington, DC, in June to receive the Presidential Medallion.

**Becca Farnum, Sarah Pomeroy** and **Evan Stewart**, members of Act for Justice, an Honors College-affiliated social justice theatre group, were invited performers at the 7th Annual MSU MLK, Jr., Community Dinner.

**Brianna Gardner, Megan Gebhart**, and **Alice Topping** were named to the 2010 MSU Alumni Association Homecoming Court.

**Alexandra Hartford** was selected as a finalist in the Italian Packaging Technology Awards, organized by the Italian Trade Commission. She earned a trip to Italy to visit machine manufacturers and attend a packaging trade show.

**Chris Heffner** co-presented a poster at the twelfth biannual Conference on Laboratory Phonology with his professor, **Dr. Laura Dilley**.

**Caroline Keson** interned for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Ottawa Indians. She worked on environmental issues such as water monitoring.

**Ben Kremkow** and **Adam Loyson’s** solution to the 2010 American Institute of Chemical Engineering (AIChe) Student Senior Design Contest Problem was selected as the best Michigan State University team entry and has been submitted for national judging. The project consisted of designing a monoclonal antibody chemical plant to help cure different types of cancer.

**Phillip Lehman** won the 2010 AIChe (American Institute of Chemical Engineering) National Student Design Competition, which tests students’ ability to solve a realistic chemical engineering design problem.

**Colin Marshall** received the inaugural scholarship from the MSU Telecasters Alumni Group, which is designed to help further professional and educational goals which pertain to telecasting. In 2010, Colin also produced a promotional video for the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Competition.

**Justin Mrkva** runs his own software company, novastormsoftware.com, and is developing iPad and Mac applications.

**Kaitlin Young** was the 2010 Upper Training Level National Champion for the Intercollegiate Dressage Association.
Dr. Jennifer Auchtung, together with Juliette Niemi from the MSU Undergraduate Research Office (part of the Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education), presented a seminar, “Developing Citizen-Scholars through Undergraduate Research Experiences”, authored by Dean Jackson-Elmoore; Dr. Korine Steinke-Wawrzynski, director of the Undergraduate Research Office; former Honors College academic specialist/adviser, Dr. Katy Luchini-Colbry; Ms. Niemi and Dr. Auchtung, at the Council on Undergraduate Research National Conference held in Ogden, Utah from June 19-22, 2010.

Dr. Auchtung was also a co-author of an article in the July 2010 issue of the International Society for Microbial Ecology Journal titled “Unprecedented levels of horizontal gene transfer among spatially co-occurring Shewanella bacteria from the Baltic Sea.”

In addition to her ongoing biomedical materials research, Dr. Melissa Baumann is participating in a pilot program called “Future Scientists.” The program places high school juniors in the labs of MSU professors for one-on-one mentorship and a unique research experience.

Gavin Craig earned a master’s degree in Literature from the Department of English in the College of Arts & Letters at MSU in December 2010.

Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore became Senior Associate Editor for the Journal of Urban Affairs, the scholarly journal associated with Urban Affairs Association. The five-year term began July 1, 2010. Dean Jackson-Elmoore is part of a three person team that successfully competed to bring the journal to Michigan State University, where it is housed within the Global Urban Studies Program (Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Laura Reese, and Managing Editor, Dr. Louise Jezierski).

Melissa Mattingly earned a master’s degree in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education from the Department of Educational Administration in the College of Education at MSU in May 2010.

Will Repko participated in Grandparent’s University, an MSU program which encourages cross-generational learning. Grandparents, many of whom are alumni, bring their grandchildren to campus to take part in mini-classes. Repko has taught a very popular public debating class at Grandparent’s University for the past two years.
Honored for his mentorship and dedication to undergraduate research, Joey Huston, professor of physics and astronomy at Michigan State University, received the 2010 Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students.

The Honors College Student Advisory Committee and the Honors College Alumni Association established the award to recognize exceptional contributions to Honors College students through teaching, advising or mentoring. The award is presented once each year during the spring semester.

“It is a wonderful opportunity to be able to recognize one of the many faculty members at MSU who demonstrates dedication and commitment to mentoring Honors College students,” said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. “Joey Huston's students and colleagues admire and respect his efforts to help students excel in research.”

Huston was nominated by Wolfgang Bauer, University Distinguished Professor and chairperson of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Honors College alumnus Kurtis Geerlings and senior Honors College member Jessica Muir also supported the nomination.

From 2005 to 2007, Huston taught an honors physics course that covers electricity, magnetism and optics. Several students from the class subsequently worked for Huston developing a computer program for the reconstruction of jets produced at hadron-hadron colliders (such as CERN in Switzerland).

The program became an instant success and was named “SpartyJet.” While he was a student, Geerlings presented “SpartyJet” at several national high-energy physics conferences. Under Huston's leadership, Geerlings won a Goldwater Scholarship and is currently a physics graduate student at Yale University.

“Dr. Huston always extended examples into modern research, fought hard to keep us engaged and took every possible opportunity to challenge us,” Geerlings said.

Muir continued the development of SpartyJet and is now one of the few undergraduates actively working on physics analysis on the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

She presented the results of her research at this year's Midwest Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics. Muir was named a 2009 Goldwater Scholar and 2010 Marshall Scholar.

“Thanks to my experience as a research assistant in Dr. Huston's group, I have made much progress both in my knowledge of high-energy physics and in my understanding of the social and professional nature of the field,” Muir said.

Bauer also spoke highly of Huston's work.

“The Goldwater and Marshall scholarships are among the most prestigious that undergraduate students can be awarded,” he said. “The merits are clearly those of the students . . . (but) what is also needed for an honors student to be successful in these scholarship competitions is a dedicated mentor. Professor Huston is exactly that kind of mentor.”

In addition to a certificate, the award recipient receives an honorarium of $1,000. All recipients of this award are identified on a permanent display located at the Honors College in Eustace-Cole Hall.

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Honors College Alumni Serve Around the State

Honors College alumni met at the Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS) in Detroit on September 25, 2009 for an Alumni Service Day. HC alumni and Dean Jackson-Elmoore assisted in repainting one floor of the facility where temporary residents are housed. Following their hard work, the alumni were treated to food and refreshments by MSU alumni Tom and Margie Ogden at the new MSU Detroit Center.

The Honors College Service Corps also worked in Grand Rapids at the Kids Food Basket on October 23, 2009. The group of alumni, students, and Dean Jackson-Elmoore, assisted in packing sack dinners for children in the Grand Rapids schools. The service day participants were hosted at the Grand Woods Lounge by MSU alumnus and former MSU Trustee, David Porteous.

Home to Honors College alumnus and Mayor Dayne Walling, the city of Flint was the latest site for an Honors College Alumni Service Day on May 14, 2010, at Flint's Windiate Park. Honors College alumni volunteers and Mayor Walling helped to clean up the park by picking up debris, pulling weeds, sweeping picnic areas, and raking leaves. Volunteers were treated to a picnic reception by Flint's Diplomat Pharmacy.

Please watch your mail and email for upcoming opportunities to participate in the Honors College Alumni Service Corps!
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!

Every Spartan Has a Saga

Michigan State University is collecting the stories of the Spartans—alumni, students, faculty, and staff—in an epic storytelling project.

Visit the Spartan Sagas Web site to see the newest Sagas, to nominate Spartans to be featured, or to tell your own Spartan Saga.

spartansagas.msu.edu
The Honors College Senior Class Committee (HCSCC) is in its second year of existence. The committee is charged with building community among the HC graduating class, assisting with the HC Senior Class Gift effort, planning events for the HC Senior Class, and serving as class ambassadors as Honors College alumni. The 2010 class celebrated the year-end during a week-long email scavenger hunt and picnic at Adams Field.

The 2009-2010 HCSCC also produced a YouTube video to show their support of the Honors College Senior Class Gift effort. View the class of 2010’s video by visiting www.youtube.com and entering “MSU Honors College” in the search field.

The Senior Class raised over $700, to be matched by the Honors College Alumni Association, resulting in a $1,400 expendable scholarship for a current Honors College member. Many members of the class participated in the 2010 Club by giving $20.10.

The Class of 2011 HC Senior Class Committee is planning to host a restaurant fundraiser, a service event, and the 2nd annual scavenger hunt and picnic. Please watch the Honors College website for more information on the HCSCC’s events and Senior Class Gift efforts.

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 HC network is easy.

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 entering 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
- Contact Katie Cable at katie@msu.edu or 517-355-2326 to update your contact information
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!

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2010 Graduates

Megan Almendinger, Stefanie Gjerpen, Megan Justus, Karren Lewis, Kristin Merony, Cortney Shively, Sam Stuckey, David Tindle, and Paula Willuweit (2010) were accepted to Teach for America, an organization that sends college graduates to teach in American schools to help to eradicate educational inequity.

Terry Barrett and Paul Luethy (2010) were awarded a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) award from the National Science Foundation. These awards support active research participation by undergraduate students in areas of research funded by the NSF. Both students were nominated by Dr. Lee Kroos.


Christopher Bush (2010), mentored by Dr. Stephanie Watts, presented his research, “The Existence of Prion Proteins in the Vasculature,” at the 63rd High Blood Pressure research conference in Chicago. Christopher was Dr. Watt’s professorial assistant, and hopes to publish a full paper on the same topic by the end of the year.

Gabriel Buzinski (2010), a trail interpreter with the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program, is working with children and teens in Northern Minnesota to encourage outdoorsmanship and environmental awareness.

Andrea Cohen (2010) was accepted to veterinary school through the Western Interstate Coalition for Higher Education Program, which allows for students to enroll in out-of-state programs and provides significant scholarship support. She is attending Colorado State University.

Mike DelBene (2010) has been selected as a 2010 New York City Urban Fellow. This nine-month fellowship, involving only twenty-five outstanding students per year, focuses on urban issues and public policy while providing hands-on experience in mayoral and departmental offices across the city. Students also participate in several trips and workshops to further explore the interaction between various levels of government in an urban setting.

Mike DelBene, Ginger Gamble, Megan Hart, David Orban, Liz Rabidoux, and Courtney Whitmore (2010) received Honors College Service Awards for their enduring work in Honors College organizations, programs, and events.

James Dittmar (2010) was hired by CalServes Americorps, a sector of the Americorps program based in Napa County, California. He is a full-time literacy specialist in the program.

Matt Ferrel (2010) is an insights analyst with MediaCom in New York City, which provides media planning and buying for firms throughout the world.

Mallory Hines (2010) is living in Santiago, Chile, and is a missionary for Youth with a Mission.

Jessica Hoffman (2010) is continuing an internship with the Information Technology Empowerment Center in Lansing, a non-profit organization designed to increase technological literacy in Lansing’s youth.

Kayla Kalmbach (2010), a manufacturing engineer, has moved to Clarksville, Tennessee, to work for Hemlock Semiconductor, a company which produces safe and sustainable polysilicone.
Britt Larson (2010) will be serving in Uganda as a Peace Corps member for over two years beginning in fall 2010. She will be working on animal husbandry and agricultural extension.

Angelica Leigh (2010) received the Bernice I. Sumlin Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., for having the highest GPA of all undergraduates in the Great Lakes sorority region. The award was accompanied by a free 10 day trip to Australia and New Zealand during the summer to represent the sorority.

Dan Redford (2010) was selected (along with honors college alumna Rachel Smith) to participate in Expo 2010, an international exposition in Shanghai that attracted over 70 million people. The expo featured 190 nations in an exchange of cultural and technological achievements. About 140 student ambassadors from the United States were selected from a pool of approximately 700 applicants. He is currently writing about his experiences as a student ambassador on the MSU Alumni Association blog.

Jessica Zalucha (2010) started her first year in Michigan State University’s School of Veterinary Medicine.

Ryan Wyeth (2020) received a Kathryn Davis Fellowship to study Russian at Middlebury College in Vermont over the 2010 summer semester. The Davis Fellowships are merit-based and intended for exceptionally qualified individuals with demonstrated interest in international, global, or area studies, international politics and economics, peace and security studies, and/or conflict resolution.

1950s & 1960s

Edward Williams (1959) retired from active practice as a veterinarian. He is a broker of veterinary practices with Veterinary Practice Sales Group (www.VPSG.com).

Julian Donahue (1963) retired 17 years ago from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and still does moth taxonomy. He travels the world on birding expeditions as an excuse to explore the natural world and enjoy exotic cultures and cuisines.

Richard Guertin (1963) is retiring at the end of this year from Stanford University, after 40 years of service in computer science.

Ron Yogman (1964) is a former 12-year staffer with the St. Petersburg Times but left to launch Ron Yogman and Associates, Inc., a Tampa Bay based public relations, advertising, and community relations agency. Most recently, Ron served as Chair of Tikvah (Hope) Suncoast, Inc. which is dedicated to providing safe, secure, wholesome and interactive housing for adults with special needs.

Erik Goodman (1966) has been selected to direct the new Bio/computational Evolution in Action CONsortium (BEACON) center at MSU. BEACON is a National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center—one of only five in existence. The grant, worth $25 million dollars, will be used to conduct research on evolution as an ongoing process.

Jeanne C. Marsh (1969) recently completed a third term as dean of the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. She will return to teaching and research after spending the 2010-II academic year on sabbatical at the Center for Health Services in Paris.

1970s & 1980s

James Reising (1970) retired in May from the University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana, where he taught electrical engineering for 30 years. Prior to joining the faculty there, James was a Teaching Fellow in Chemistry at Harvard University, and a physicist, research engineer, and sales manager in industry. During his time at the University of Evansville, James served as the director of the honors program for three years. He has worked as a consultant on projects for the Naval Weapons Support Center at Crane, Indiana, Eagle-Picher Technologies, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. James also has his own consulting company.

Teresa A. Sullivan (1970) has been chosen to succeed John C. Casteen III as president of the University of Virginia. Sullivan, formerly Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas before returning to serve at the University of Michigan. She has also
authored or co-authored over six books and 80 scholarly articles as a sociologist specializing in labor-force demographics.

Jacqueline Brayman (1971) is looking forward to the publishing of her first book in November: Taking Flight to Literacy and Leadership!, by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and Rowan and Littlefield Publishers. Written with colleague Maureen Grey and contributing author Mike Stearns, Ed.D., the book was presented to the National Association of Professors of Educational Leadership in Washington DC. The book is about engaging school staff in a systems approach to transforming schools into a learning organization. Taking Flight! weaves the work of high profile researchers into a unified approach to improving schools. The book celebrates teachers and bolsters the work of a district's formal leadership.

John Farley (1971) is enjoying retirement after a 30-year career in higher education, including 29 years on the sociology faculty at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). John is a past president of the Midwest Sociological Society, the Illinois Sociological Association, and the SIUE Faculty Senate. In his retirement John is enjoying skiing, travel, and weather and nature photography.

Carol Beard (1973) is teaching at Central Michigan University this year and hopes to finish her PhD in June 2011.

Deborah Alpert Sleight (1973) received a doctorate in educational psychology in 2000 from MSU and has been working as a faculty member in the MSU College of Human Medicine since then. In 2008 she was promoted to associate professor. Her research interests are distance learning, faculty development, and performance support systems.

Bruce Krueger (1975) retired from Hastings Area School System as student services coordinator and K-12 counseling chair on July 1.

Charles A. Janssen (1976), a lawyer at Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith PC in Lansing, has been recognized as one of the best lawyers in America in his field. He earned the distinction of Michigan Super Lawyer every year since the founding of the survey, and sits on various boards in the Lansing area, including the MSU College of Law Board of Trustees. He also co-chairs Lansing's Project Play, which raised money for new playground equipment throughout the capitol area.


Jane Winter (1977) is currently the capital campaign officer for Dominican University of California, an independent university located 12 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge in Marin County.

Margie Yansura (1978) was quoted in the recently-published book The Wealthy Freelancer: 12 Secrets to a Great Income and an Enviable Lifestyle by Steve Slaunwhite, Pete Savage and Ed Gandia. She is a former newspaper reporter who started her own public relations consulting business 20 years ago in West Palm Beach, Florida. In the past year, Margie has had clients

**Peter Arnett** (1984) is a professor at Pennsylvania State University and recently took on the position of director of clinical training for the doctoral program in clinical psychology.


**Michael Seneski** (1987) recently transitioned to global controller of marketing and sales for Ford Motor Company, after having served most recently as assistant treasurer at Ford. In his 20 years with the company, he has had the opportunity to work all over the world in functions ranging from product development to Ford Credit to Ford Customer Service Division.

**Colleen Thompson** (1988) is the North American program manager for small cars for General Motors and is pleased to help lead the effort to build a small car profitably in the US.

**Paula Brantner** (1989) is the executive director of Workplace Fairness, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization that provides legal information to workers about their employment rights and keeps the public abreast of workplace developments. Last year, the Workplace Fairness website, www.workplacefairness.org, was nominated for a Webby in the category of Best Law Site.

**Greg Buzzard** (1989) was promoted to the rank of professor in the Department of Mathematics at Purdue University.

**David Henkhaus** (1989) has been admitted to the PhD program in Educational Measurement and Statistics at the University of Iowa.

**Matthew Steele** (1999) has been promoted to managing director of valuation services for Mesirov Financial Consulting in Chicago. Steele joined Mesirov Financial in 2005 and oversees the valuation of businesses and intangible assets for purposes of M&A advisory, financial reporting, tax planning, corporate restructuring, and litigation.

**Liza Weinstein** (1999) is assistant professor of sociology at Northeastern University and a senior research associate at the Kitty and Michael Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy. She received her PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago in 2009. Her research focuses on cities and globalization, urban political economy, and state-civil society relations, with a regional focus on India. Her research on these topics has appeared in the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Politics & Society, City & Community*, and several edited volumes. She is currently working on a book manuscript, tentatively titled, “Developing Informality: Slums, Citizens, and the State in Globalizing Mumbai.” Based on historical and ethnographic research in Mumbai’s Dharavi settlement, this work examines the state’s changing response to residential informality in the context of economic globalization and global city formation.
The Honors College serves approximately 2,700 students. Along with the 300 students involved in the Academic Scholars Program, honors students comprise 8% of the undergraduate population at MSU.

2000s

Allison Marie Loconto (2000) is a PhD candidate at MSU in the Department of Sociology. Allison was a Fulbright Fellow to Tanzania in the 2009/2010 academic year. During this period she conducted data collection for her thesis entitled “SustainabiliTea: Shaping Sustainability in Tanzanian Tea Production.”

Annette McCoy (2002) recently finished a residency in equine surgery in lameness, as well as a MS at Colorado State University. She is starting a PhD in comparative molecular biosciences under a NIH T32 training grant at the University of Minnesota this fall.

Monica Narula (2002) started a new small business, Narula Eye & Vision Care P.L.C., in Farmington Hills, Michigan. She is the primary optometrist at this location and performs routine eye exams, diabetic eye exams, children’s back to school vision exams, as well as contact lenses, eye infections, and allergy/dry eyes.

Linsey (Gleason) Aten (2003) is an estate planning attorney at Varnum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is also licensed to practice in Florida after passing the February 2010 Florida bar exam.

David Cooper (2005) has been working at the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) for a little over a year. Currently, he works with ABC News for the graphics department researching and creating graphics for World News Now and America This Morning that currently air 3-5am EST. David was recently elected as an alternate member of the Directors Guild of America’s Associate Director/Stage Manager/Production Associate board. He is also an active member of MSU’s New York City Alumni Club.

Julie Ecclestone (2005) works at The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago as a pediatric speech pathologist. She will be presenting a poster at the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine Conference entitled “Transition Skill Building in Younger Populations: Journey to Success.”

Justin Kuxhaus (2005) has been working for Boeing since his graduation from MSU and the Honors College, where he has used his Honors College experience and liberal arts degree from James Madison College to adapt and learn new skills integral for his job. Most recently, he worked on a Corporate Diversity Initiative which won recognition for addressing the implications of diversity and the problems with stereotypes in the workplace by using multimedia tools as well as encouraging employee involvement in a multicultural soccer tournament and other community events.

John Rood (2005) earned an MA from the University of Chicago and has spent some time in management consulting. Last year, he founded a test preparation company, Next Step Test Prep. The company provides one-on-one tutoring for the graduate-level entrance examinations in 18 markets nationwide, including East Lansing.

Alison Himelhoch (2006) has been reporting at Channel 6 News in Lansing for the past three years. Alison recently left the news field and landed a position at Seyferth PR in Grand Rapids. She will coordinate all public relations for McDonald’s restaurants in Michigan.
Scott Howell (2006) recently moved to Mesa, Arizona, where he attends the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health. He will receive a doctorate of dental medicine and a master's in public health.

Leah Karchin (2006) teaches at Blue Valley Center for Advanced Professional Studies in Kansas and is starting a new program this fall for talented high school upperclassmen. The program, called interactive design, enables students to learn through one-on-one mentorship, shadowing, and internships in the fields of graphic and web design, animation, application development, and game design.

James Reinhart (2006) graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School in May and started a combined internal medicine-pediatrics residency at the University of Michigan this June.

Nathan Triplett (2006) was selected as one of Lansing’s “10 over the next 10,” a list of 10 professionals who are expected to contribute to the area within the next 10 years in a dynamic and significant matter. Triplett is currently a city councilmember for the City of Lansing.

Shawn Katterman (2007) is in his fourth year of a clinical psychology PhD program at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At Drexel, Shawn received the Dean's Fellowship as an additional stipend for his first two years of graduate school.

Michelle Malinowski (2007) is among the three percent of Army pilots to fly the AH-64D Apache Longbow Helicopter, which is the primary attack helicopter of the U.S. Army. She is currently deployed in Afghanistan.

Ian De Silva (2008) is pursuing a graduate degree in computer science at the University of Minnesota.

Annah Le (2008) completed a certificate program in baking and pastry at the Culinary Institute of America at the Greystone Campus in Napa Valley, California. She is working as a research and development food technologist at Fresh Start Bakeries North America in Northlake, Illinois, doing product development on baked goods.

Brian Mund (2008) was recently offered a teaching assistant position at the University of Denver and is pursuing a PhD in psychology.

Kristen Pratt (2008) has been working for the Chicago Conservation Corps (www.chicagoconservationcorps.org) for the past two years and was recently promoted to the Student Clubs Project Coordinator. Her job is to provide training and support for a network of volunteers as they improve the quality of life in neighborhoods through environmental service projects designed and implemented with the support of communities. In July, Kristen started her MA in urban environmental leadership through Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Lauren Sharp (2008) is pursuing a master's degree from Purdue University in the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics and is continuing to co-op for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Her research at Purdue is in microgravity fluid dynamics. Upon graduation, she expects to transition to a full-time position at NASA.

Alex Plum (2008) works with the Peace Corps in the Federated States of Micronesia. He lives and works on a very small (1 1/2 square mile) atoll island called Moch, where he teaches English, reading, and writing to 11th and 12th graders. He has recently been selected as the Peace Corps Volunteer Leader (PCVL) and asked to extend his term through July 2011. In addition to his work in the classroom, Alex has added responsibilities to create and facilitate teacher-training workshops focusing on ESL, English curriculum, model lesson planning, and training facilitation for new Peace Corps Trainees-cum-Volunteers to Micronesia.

This summer, Alex organized and founded ‘Camp Boys to Men.’ The Camp serves boys ages 13-15 who have completed 8th grade and are preparing for high school. During this year’s inaugural camp, the camp addressed issues critical to the development of young men in Micronesia: sexual & reproductive health, HIV/AIDS awareness, mental
health awareness, substance abuse avoidance and awareness, and high school preparedness and the importance of attending high school. Drawing on a funding grant from the Australian government and working closely with two colleague volunteers and a group of positive Micronesian men counselors, Alex kept the camp as local and simple as possible, and stressed a safe environment where all could learn and participate without fear.

Shannon Scott (2008) recently finished her Teach For America service in St. Louis, Missouri, and her master’s in education from the University of Missouri. She is the director of development and corporate relations for The Institute on Religion and Public Policy and is attending George Mason University pursuing a master’s degree in public administration.

Lauren Taubitz (2008) is working on her PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

Geng Wang (2008) is working in Pittsburgh as the co-founder for a new online start-up called Rent Jungle (www.rentjungle.com), a rental housing search engine. His current responsibilities are in sales and marketing as chief marketing officer.

Leslie Warner (2008) recently took a position with the United States Department of Agriculture as a county operations trainee. After successful completion of the trainee program, she will be placed as a county executive director.

Michele Berry (2009) spent a year in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was hired by the Madison Metropolitan School District at James Madison Memorial High School where she will be teaching physics and chemistry.

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