Dear Honors College students, alumni, friends and supporters,

It’s hard to believe that another year has come and gone. It is both humbling and heartening to reflect on all that we have accomplished in 2011 as a community. With this issue we hope you will not just celebrate the successes of the Honors College at Michigan State University, but your own as well. We have all had the opportunity to experience amazing changes in society and likely some in our own lives.

It is an exciting time for people starting out in their careers and desiring to forge new directions in science and the arts—and in their commitment to the larger community. For those of us more settled in our life choices, or even contemplating the next adventure, the year-end provides us with an opportunity to take stock and give thanks for all that is great in the people and world around us. We trust and believe all that is to come in the days, months, and years ahead will be better, more exciting, more innovative, and more fulfilling than what has come before.

That alone is reason to celebrate as well. We all stand on the shoulders of generations and years ahead will be better, more exciting, more innovative, and more fulfilling than what has come before.

As you read through this issue of HConnections you will be reminded of the power and potential of the human spirit. You will see and experience the work and passion of our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends—our community. We hope you will be inspired and you will connect with us often, sharing your own stories and excitement. The people who comprise the Honors College community are remarkable. We continue to enjoy incoming freshmen classes that are vibrant and invigorating. Students and alumni never cease to find interesting and important ways to impact the campus, the surrounding cities, the state, the nation, and, indeed, the world.

As always, there are new initiatives and opportunity to experience amazing changes in society and likely some in our own lives.

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HONORS COLLEGE MISSION

The Honors College at Michigan State University serves academically talented, committed students who wish to pursue and achieve academic excellence.

We strive to ensure an enriched academic and social experience for our members and create an environment that fosters active, innovative learning.

Today’s Honors College embodies all of the philosophies and opportunities that have long since made it a beacon of intellectual engagement on campus and beyond.
Three Michigan State University Honors College students have been recognized nationally for their excellence in academic and research work. Senior Rebecca Farnum was named a 2011 Udall Scholar and sophomore Amy Pochodylo and senior Kaitlin Tyler were named 2011 Goldwater Scholars. MSU now has a total of nine Udall Scholars and 30 Goldwater Scholars.

Bridging community voices and public policy

Rebecca Farnum, from Mount Pleasant, Michigan, is a senior in the College of Arts and Letters majoring in interdisciplinary humanities. She also is majoring in anthropology and global and area studies within the College of Social Science and international relations in James Madison College.

In addition, Farnum is completing specializations in Jewish studies, bioethics, humanities and society, political economy, Muslim studies, African studies, Asian studies, Peace and Justice studies, and gender and global change, as well as a minor in economics.

Farnum is co-chair and co-founder of the Campus Interfaith Council and chair of the MLK Student Diversity Council. Her public service activities include executive positions in the Girl Scouts and United Methodist Church and work with Shalom Center for Justice and Peace.

Farnum is an Alumni Distinguished Scholar and a Lincoln Scholar, and she has participated in numerous research projects, including her current religious studies project on the emergence of monotheism. After graduate study, Farnum plans to work with NGOs in the Middle East and North Africa region, bridging community voices and public policy.

Prolific publishing

Amy Pochodylo, from Troy, Michigan, is a junior majoring in chemistry and geological sciences in Lyman Briggs College.

As a professorial assistant in Dr. Robert LaDuca's chemistry lab, Pochodylo has published three scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals. Two other papers are in press, and she has submitted three others for review. Pochodylo plans to pursue a doctorate in geochemistry.

Rebecca Farnum

Kaitlin Tyler, from Apple Valley, Minnesota, is a senior materials science and engineering major in the College of Engineering.

Tyler’s awards and scholarships include the Park-Deaver Scholarship, membership in the Society of Women Engineers, and Tau Beta Pi.

A professorial assistant during her first two years at MSU, she currently conducts research in Dr. Melissa Baumann's laboratory studying the significance of microcracks on bone-forming osteoblasts on hydroxyapatite. Tyler plans to pursue a doctorate in biomedical materials science and engineering and conduct research with implants and other medical devices.

Udall Scholar

The Udall Foundation began in 1992 to honor U.S. Congressman Morris K. Udall’s legacy of public service by supporting students planning careers in tribal health or public policy. The Udall Foundation annually awards $5,000 scholarships to 80 students throughout the United States. This year, 61 colleges and universities were represented among the winners.

The Udall Foundation

December 2011: Rebecca Farnum is named a Marshall Scholar—MSU’s 13th!

Read the full story at news.msu.edu/story/10082/.

Having a (osteo)blast

Kaitlin Tyler

Three Students Recognized with National Scholarships

“All three of these incredibly talented students have every reason to celebrate their many accomplishments. The combination of academics, civic and international engagement, research and other co-curricular activities exemplified by these students is amazing and demonstrates the strength of MSU’s student body. It is very exciting that they have been recognized for their excellence in and dedication to research.”

– Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, Dean, MSU Honors College

Goldwater Scholars

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Started in 1986, the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program, named after U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater, seeks scholars committed to a career in science, mathematics or engineering who display intellectual intensity and who have the potential for significant future contribution in their chosen field. The Goldwater Scholarship provides a grant toward the last year or two of undergraduate tuition and living expenses for students who are planning careers in research.
Winning a national or international fellowship is just the beginning of a great story. For this regular feature of HConnections, we asked a few past fellowship winners for an update.

**Uncovering how viruses hijack cells**

Rebecca Dutch 1986 Churchill Scholar

My years in the Honors College at MSU and my time spent at Cambridge were a Churchill Scholar focused my interest on discovering the molecular details of living systems and gave me the background and confidence to pursue a career as a biochemist. Following a PhD at Stanford and postdoctoral training at Northwestern, I took a faculty position at the University of Kentucky in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry in 2000. I have concentrated my research on understanding the details of infection by emerging viral pathogens—an amazingly interesting field! The details we and others uncover on how viruses hijack cells continually fascinate me. I also greatly enjoy the mentoring and teaching that are part of my position. My years at MSU also launched the other important side of my life—I met my husband, Ken, on the Honors floor in Case Hall. Clearly MSU has been a big part of my life and my family!

**Nurturing curiosity—from hair bundles to shadow puppets**

Kate Leitch 2006 Goldwater Scholar 2008 Churchill Scholar

I am currently living in New York City, where I’m in the second year of my PhD studies at Rockefeller University. I am studying auditory receptor cells known as “hair cells,” so named for their apical transduction apparatus, a beautifully organized bundle of hairy-looking projections. In tetrapods (amphibians, reptiles, and mammals) these hair bundles are capable of mechanically amplifying their inputs. I am interested in the evolution of this trait within the chordates. To begin this evolutionary approach, I am studying the hair bundles of one of the most basal members of the vertebrate clade: a gentle Michigan native, the American Brook Lamprey. The work is extremely fun—I get to make recordings of mechanical behaviors of these bundles with nanometer and sub-millisecond level resolution. I hope to start integrating electrophysiology with my mechanical records.

My interests in sensory neurobiology, evolution, and their intersection were nurtured by many professors in MSU’s Zoology department. However, nearing my graduation from MSU in 2008, I began to wonder if I might be just as interested in more clinically relevant research. I was very curious about human pregnancy and nutrition, and the Honors College helped me earn a Churchill Scholarship so that I could study these topics at Cambridge, England. My year in Cambridge was wonderful, and left me profoundly changed—but after completing my MPhil thesis, I knew I needed to return to the kind of biology I had loved so much at MSU.

When not in the lab, I try to enjoy NYC as much as possible. The sheer density of people here affords community aggregation around all manner of oddball pursuits. For example, in putting on a short shadow-puppet play at an amateur puppet festival in Brooklyn, I learned of the thrilling puppetry scene in New York—it is chock-full of thrillingly talented and nice people. Who knew?

**A Midwest advocate—closing a landfill and saving homes**

Alan Verplanck 1972 Rhodes Scholar

I am a principal in a “boutique,” that is, a modest sized law firm limiting itself to specialized work. Our focus is on complex, mostly commercial, litigation. The range of issues is gratifyingly varied: medical negligence and anti-kickback issues (Stark II), ERISA (disability, healthcare, pensions) insurance coverage disputes, employment law, securities, municipal and education law, business entanglements of all sorts, and the occasional personal injury case. I maintain an active mediation practice and write and lecture for the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Foundation (ICLEF) and at our satellite I.U. campus here in Fort Wayne where I am an adjunct with the Division of Labor Studies. The work frees me to pursue public interest projects: closing a hazardous waste landfill, challenging the constitutionality of the long-term lease of public assets (the Indiana toll road), assisting the Old Order Amish in resisting government consolidation, protecting the first amendment rights of local clubs and media outlets, and the rights of undocumented workers to decent wages and working conditions. I also encourage and support alternative labor market organization, including collective action through members-only, minority status unions.

During the recent downturn I have been assisting with reforms to Indiana’s mortgage foreclosure procedures and serve as a mediator in a program where we have saved over 50% of defaulted home loans from foreclosure. I am most recently involved in grass roots studies of the efficacy of local economic development (tax abatements, workforce development), a project to organize the unemployed, and a study of “corporatism” as an answer to the perceived failure of democratic institutions in the Midwest.

My studies at MSU were entirely liberal arts: history, romance languages, literary theory and creative writing. The literary critic Terry Eagleton supervised my thesis at Oxford and I enjoyed the privilege of sharing informal teas with W. H. Auden at St. Aldate’s coffee house. Despite apparent disparities between then and now, I believe law is or should be viewed as part of the liberal arts and that an understanding of narrative is a fine preparation for practice. A baccalaureate should not be predicated on acquiring “skill sets.” My profession and our country principally and urgently need humane and critical thinkers. I owe much to the Honors College for freeing me from structured curricula...
MSU students recently demonstrated how well they have taken Dr. King’s philosophy to heart. In an effort to build the body of work authored by students that supports the MSU and MLK, Jr. ideals of inclusive excellence, the MLK, Jr. Advancing Inclusion through Research Award was created in 2010 to showcase the legacy of MLK through current student work. Students submitted MSU research papers and creative projects on topics of inclusion, diversity, and marginalized populations in order to be considered. MSU students who were members of James Madison College, Lyman Briggs College, Residential College in the Arts & Humanities, or Honors College (all majors) in fall semester 2010 were eligible to apply. Faculty, staff, and students from the sponsoring colleges comprised the selection committee. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College, noted, “As evidenced through the diverse set of papers and projects considered for the new award, MSU students are engaged in addressing many critical issues of inclusion in our time. It is inspiring to see Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy live on in the current scholarship of our students.”

The $800 first prize was awarded to Claire Glenn, a senior in James Madison College and Honors College, for her paper, “Contradictions and Consequences of Autonomy: The Implementation of Multiracial Self-Governance on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua.” Glenn is active in campus life and is the current president of Elimu Bora, an organization which raises funds to support female education in Kenya. She is also a co-founder of the African Groups Coalition, which seeks to connect students and organizations which focus on development in Africa. Currently, Glenn is working on her honors thesis regarding access to healthcare in Pearl Lagoon, Nicaragua.

Courtney Hutt, James Madison College and Honors College senior, earned second prize and $250 for her research on “The Boundaries of Human Rights: U.S. Immigration Policy toward Haitian Refugees.” She has experience as a coordinator and facilitator of the Global Youth Leadership Institute, which offers leadership programs to students and teachers. She was also a student leader in the Multi-Racial Unity Living Experience program at MSU, which seeks to promote cross-cultural understanding and relationships. Hutt is the president of the Epsilon Epsilon chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority on campus.

Third prize and $100 was awarded to sophomore Elizabeth Dunham, a member of James Madison College and Honors College. Her work, “A Terrible Day,” chronicled the black student protest of April 3, 1968, at Western Michigan University. In addition to her involvement as a Resident Mentor in Hubbard Hall, she was also Miss Kalkaska 2010, representing her community and organizing community service and other local events.

Mitch Goldsmith, a senior in James Madison College, earned honorable mention for “Making Whole What Has Been Fragmented: A Jewish Feminist Critique of Wolfgang Sofks’s The Order of Terror and Female Exclusion within Holocaust Scholarship.” He is very involved in animal rights activism, particularly as a member of Students Promoting Animal Rights. Goldsmith has also been a part of the MSU chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Coalition Against Sexual Violence.

Sherman Garnett, dean of James Madison College, was impressed with the contributions made in the inaugural year of the competition, “We are pleased that so many strong applications were received in the first year of this award, and that Madison students were so well represented in the competition. This is an important addition to the awards available to support undergraduate scholarship at MSU, and it dovetails well with College efforts to encourage scholarly attention to issues of diversity and inclusion.”

“As evidenced through the diverse set of papers and projects considered for the new award, MSIU students are engaged in addressing many critical issues of inclusion in our time.”

Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, Dean, MSU Honors College

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**Research Awards and Grants**

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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### RESEARCHING THE DREAM:

**Three MSU students win first MLK, Jr. Inclusion Research Awards**

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**National Science Foundation Honors**

The following Michigan State University graduates were awarded 2011 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships to continue their study at the institutions listed below. This generous award supports graduates in their educational goals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Graduate Research Fellowship Program recipients earn three years of support, a $30,000 annual stipend, a $10,500 cost-of-education allowance, international professional development opportunities, and TeraGrid Supercomputer access.

- **Michael Wiedower**
  - Bioengineering (University of Maryland College Park)
  - Samuel Rossman
  - Life Sciences—Zoology (MSU)
  - Tasneem Pierce
  - Life Sciences—Developmental Biology (University of Washington)
  - Derek Miller
  - Materials Engineering (MSU)
  - Benjamin Kremkow
  - Chemical Engineering (University of Delaware)
  - Stephen Hammack
  - Mechanical Engineering (MSU)
  - Scott Fulbright
  - Life Sciences—Molecular Biology (Colorado State University)
  - Roy Dong
  - Electrical and Electronic Engineering (MIT)
  - Daniel Dault
  - Electrical and Electronic Engineering (MSU)

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www.nifs.msu.edu

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New Fellowship/Scholarship Website Provides Answers

The National and International Fellowship and Scholarship (NIFS) office at Michigan State University, administered by the Honors College, helps interested undergraduate and graduate students pursue major national and international opportunities by providing information and direct support throughout the competitive application processes. A new website has been launched to help all MSU students find and pursue National and International Fellowships and Scholarships: www.nifs.msu.edu.
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.

The 2011 recipient of the Schoenl Grant, Gregory D. Jones, used the award to help build a four-room school building in Cambodia. Cambodia suffers from extremely low education rates due to the stigmatization of education during the Khmer Rouge. In the rural province of Ba Phnom, the Songkahakamor School and Health Center seeks to educate children in the village, many of whom are orphans or have chronic diseases. The school is completed except for the roof and windows, which are necessary to protect the building from the monsoon season.

Additionally, Jones helped to begin construction on a health center which will be attached to the school to provide care for the residents of the village, as well as provide a teaching tool for the community. With proper education, many preventable diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, and HIV will become less prevalent. Jones has been working with the Ba Phnom community on this project and has encouraged the MSU community to become involved as well through the Bailey Scholars Program.

ReCUR (Red Cedar Undergraduate Research) Enters Year Two

ReCUR is a bi-annual publication of the Michigan State University Honors College that highlights the diversity and quality of our students’ research and creative endeavors from all fields of study. Types of work published by ReCUR include research articles, research notes, literature highlights and a variety of creative works. The creative aspect of the journal really shines through on the cover and back page of the journal, which are both uniquely designed by MSU Honors College students for each edition. In addition to providing Honors College students with an outlet for publication of their work, ReCUR offers students an opportunity to learn about publication in a scholarly journal from multiple viewpoints: as a submitter, as a member of the Student Editorial board, or as part of the Editorial staff. The most recent issue of ReCUR highlights the diversity of the journal with a research article from a student majoring in Political Science discussing domestic violence in Ingham County, to an original musical composition from a Jazz Studies major. ReCUR also takes the time to acknowledge students who have published and presented their work at a range of scholarly venues. Additionally, ReCUR serves as a communication device to highlight MSU alumni and undergraduate students who are awarded highly prized national and international fellowships and scholarships. For more information on ReCUR, or to view a current issue, please visit www.recur.msu.edu.

New Lecture Series Established in 2011

Sharper Focus/Wider Lens is a new lecture series sponsored by the Honors College which includes various MSU departments/units as co-sponsors for each program. The series is designed to give students, faculty, staff, and the off-campus community the opportunity to grapple with important issues or questions in a trans-disciplinary format. At the same time, it showcases the work and talents of MSU faculty to heighten the likelihood that students will be exposed to faculty with whom they may take a class, do research or otherwise interact. Finally, the series covers a wide array of topics to match the needs of the university today, not only for perspective on critical issues, but on the questions of the centuries. Students and faculty from all disciplines are welcome and able to come together to be involved in active reflection and dialogue. All three forums have been well-attended with stimulating and enlightening presentations and engaging discussion/dialogue across the panel and with the audience.

The 2011 Forums Included:

- Understanding Genocide Across Time and Space
- Brain/Mind/Soul: Locating the Human
- Upheaval in the Middle East and North Africa: Context, Consequences, and Implications

Stay tuned for the announcement of 2012 programs!
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 their achievements from the past year.

Tia Ahmad, Matthew Bambach, Garrett Berry, Krista Bir, Elizabeth Cook, Sarah DeBoer, Rebecca Farnum, Joshua Fenton, Thomas Fleitz, Alexandra Ghaly, Kristina Klink, Beth Kolongowski, Laura Kovacek, Kenneth Less, Holly Lewis, Slothman O’Laire, Priyanka Pandey, Craig Pearson, Stacey Piotrowski, Josh Rickert, Carlos Salgado, Rebecca Sawyer, Stephanie Senneker, Johanna Smeekens, Jay Thacker, Thomas Wenzlick, Jessica Wummel, and Xuemei Ye were all involved in award-winning research which was presented at the 2011 University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum.

Sam Herzing spent the summer as a member of a co-operative education program with Kellogg, working on research and development of Kashi Products.

Kaelyn Ickie-Nicks worked with her sales communication specialization team to win the National Team Selling Competition in October. The students designed a strategic marketing plan to win first place against 20 other teams from around the country, garnering a $2,000 cash prize.

Dustin Baker, Steven Kapeles, Christopher Noffz, Sarah Pomeroy, and Devan Sayles were part of the 2011 MSU Homecoming Court.

Denis Bogatov is ranked 98th in the men’s singles college tennis standings, and he was awarded MVP of the Week in April 2011.

Seth Elliot attended the 2011 Bucharest Graduate Conference in Early Modern Philosophy, where he presented a paper entitled “Arbitrary or Imperfect? The Problem of Evil in Leibniz’s Discourse on Metaphysics.”

Kevin Folk won a silver ADDY, which is given for creative works by the Mid-Michigan Creative Alliance.

Courtney Hammer was honored at the Greater Atlanta Sports Champion Banquet, which honors high school students who have demonstrated strong academic and athletic abilities.

Monika Kothari was named a 2011 Presidential Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress.

Geoffrey Levin was awarded the Campus Impact Award from the MSU Department of Student Life based on his three and a half years contributing to MSU’s student community.

Colin Marshall took the spring semester away from campus to tour with Ozzy Osbourne as the official videographer on the “Scream” tour.

Rami Janoudi worked this summer as an Exploration and Production Intern for British Petroleum in Houston and the Gulf of Mexico.

Monika Kothari was named a 2011 Presidential Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress.

Shan Kothari participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan to study the evolution of birds-of-paradise.

Devan Sayles interned for General Mills over the summer, working in the Consumer Internet Applications department.

Austin Molcher was awarded a 2011 Homer Higbee International Education Award for enhancing international understanding and communication at MSU. He is a student leader of the Multi-Racial Unity Living Experience.

Anna Orsini received the Outstanding Community Impact Award from the Michigan Campus Compact for her work to connect the MSU and East Lansing communities. Orsini has worked with Whitley’s Elementary School and MacDonald Middle School to help students learn leadership skills and to encourage community involvement.

Ana Prasad was an intern at the Ford Motor Company, working in Material Flow Engineering and studying ways to reduce packaging while safely transporting parts for production.

Brian Rockwell (third from left) and his collaborators in the College of Engineering designed an innovative internal cooling system for the Sparty mascot as a senior project. Brian is taking his keen design skills to Stanford University where he has started a master’s degree in mechanical engineering.

Brittany Shammas won a first place Mark of Excellence award in both print in-depth reporting and print feature reporting from the Region 4 Society of Professional Journalists.

Erica Shekell was one of 40 college students selected to participate in the 2011 Freedom Ride, which retraced the original Freedom Ride of 1961.

Kaley Shelton received a Heart and Soul award from the Michigan Campus Compact to recognize her time, effort, and commitment to her community.

Randel Tomina won the Next Bright Idea Competition, an innovation competition for the Greater Lansing Area. Tomina created a universal job application to streamline the job application process.

Rachel Yales is currently interning at the State Department in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), where she works in the Technical Collections Affairs office. Her job duties include writing reports for policy makers and helping communicate to other branches of the Intelligence Community about technical intelligence or the knowledge of foreign militaries.

Your Support Matters...

Visit www.SupportForStudents.msu.edu for more information on making a gift to the Honors College, or contact Katie Cable, associate director of development and alumni relations, at (517) 355-2326 or katiec@msu.edu.
Honored for their mentorship and dedicated teaching, Tess Tavormina, professor of English and assistant dean of Lyman Briggs College (and Honors College alumni), and Cornelius Barry, assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture, received the 2011 Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students.

This award was established by the Honors College Student Advisory Committee and the Honors College Alumni Association to recognize faculty who make exceptional contributions through teaching, advising, and mentoring Honors College students.

Instrumental in shaping the Academic Scholars Program, Tavormina was the faculty coordinator for the program from 2002-2008. She has also been involved in ISHALL (Intensive Studies in the Humanities, Arts, Language and Literature), a newer program for high-achieving high school students in English through the Gifted and Talented program at MSU. In the past, she taught honors sections English courses, as well as sponsoring 19 Honors options in the last eight years.

Patrick Kindig, who supported the nomination, said, “no other professor in my time at MSU has been as genuinely concerned with her students’ success.” To that end, Tavormina takes the time to encourage personal interaction with her students, helping them to shape arguments and paper topics. She has mentored multiple professorial assistants, and has overseen projects presented at the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF), and supervised senior theses.

Currently in her last year of teaching at Michigan State, Tavormina will be missed by those she has taught. Mark Kelly, who nominated her said, “Dr. Tavormina’s most important legacy as a Michigan State professor will be through the diverse individuals she has inspired and challenged, each in their own unique way.”

Cornelius Barry was nominated by Bill Holdsworth, a senior, and the application was supported by David Hufnagel, a junior, and Randolph Beadery and Rebecca Grumet, both professors in the Department of Horticulture. Although he joined the MSU faculty in 2007, Barry has mentored multiple professorial assistants, and seven undergraduates currently work in his lab. Bill Holdsworth, Barry’s first Professorial Assistant, is currently working on a project to map, clone, and characterize the uniform green-gene in tomato. His work with Barry has given him “outstanding experience that we can take to our jobs, medical school, or graduate school, as the case may be. He has inspired us to achieve.” Students in his lab have won awards, received grants, and co-authored publications.

Barry is the faculty adviser for the MSU Horticulture Club, which has won numerous awards under his leadership. “His level of commitment is astounding,” said Mitch Zost, president of the MSU Horticulture Club. “He participates in all the functions of the club, and however much he might deny it, he has played an essential role in our club’s success.”

Along with mentoring and supporting students in their research, he is an active participant in the research community at MSU as a judge at the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) and the Plant Science Graduate Research Symposium. He is also involved in the Plant Genomics and MSU internship program, which provides mentored research experiences in the summer for undergraduates, secondary school teachers, and faculty.

Although mentoring undergraduates can be time consuming, Barry always has time for his students. “By dedicating so much time and knowledge to us, he has sacrificed opportunities for his own research or training more graduate students,” said Holdsworth. “He has empowered us all as individuals, pushing us to succeed, and giving us the unique experience and support that each of us have needed at any particular time.”

Casey Harrigan, director of debate, joined the Honors College in July 2011. He received his MA in Communication from Wake Forest University in 2008 and BA in International Relations from Michigan State University in 2006, where he also won the National Debate Tournament as a member of MSU’s Debating Team.

Before returning to MSU, Casey was the associate director of debate at the University of Georgia. He is originally from Holland, Michigan.

Dr. Justin Micolomaco joined the Honors College in the Fall of 2011 as an academic specialist. In this role, he leads assessment and research efforts to evaluate the overall strategic plan set forth by the dean. Responsible for assessing Honors College programs, he also identifies opportunities to collaborate with other faculty and researchers on externally funded research initiatives that align with the Honors College mission. Justin joined the staff after completing his doctoral work in Michigan State University’s Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education program. His research agenda includes issues of organizational development, institutional change and leadership, undergraduate STEM education, and living-learning communities. Justin’s previous professional experiences included work in academic advising, training and development of academic and residential staff, alumni affairs and development, and athletics. He also holds academic degrees from Virginia Tech (MA in Ed) and Harvard College (AB in biology).

Mary Millar graduated from the MSU BROAD College of Business in 2002 with a BA in Human Resource Management. After completing her undergraduate degree, she served as a Program Assistant and found full-time work at MSU, she went on to obtain a Post-Bachelor Paralegal Certificate from LCC and became a contracted Paralegal Specialist from the MSU Human Resource Education and Training Center. Outside of MSU, Mary is actively involved in the Odyssey of the Mind program in addition to teaching community education classes in her local school(s). Mary provides administrative support to the National/International Fellowships and Scholarships (NIFS) Office within the Honors College.

Nicole Moore-Coss joined the Honors College in June 2011 as an academic specialist/adviser. She is a graduate of the Michigan State University College of Natural Science and earned a secondary teaching certification through the College of Education. She brought Biology and environmental studies at a Detroit area high school with her and earning her MA in counseling from Central Michigan University. After receiving her master’s degree, she was a school counselor at both the high school and middle school levels. Nicole serves as the HC liaison for the College of Natural Science, Lyman Briggs College, and the College of Nursing. In addition to her responsibilities as an academic specialist/adviser, Nicole works with the Professional Assistance (PA) program and is the Academic Orientation Program (AOP) coordinator for the Honors College.

Liz Rabidoux joined the Honors College staff in 2011 as the admissions counselor. A graduate of MSU’s College of Social Science and Secondary Education program at the College of Education, Liz was an Honors College member and admissions and student affairs intern in the Honors College office for two years. A former high school educator, Liz has spent time in classrooms throughout Ingham County and helps the Honors College counsel prospective students. She currently works with high school students and their families; traveling to high schools and college fairs across the state and country; coordinating the annual Michigan High School Quiz Bowl; State Championship Tournament; co-advising H-STAR, the HC recruitment student group; setting up on-campus day and oversight visits for prospective students; and coordinating honors housing assignments.

Joyce Samuel graduated from MSU with a BA in Business and from Columbia University with an MA in Social Work. After completing her undergraduate degree, she worked in India for a year at a women’s shelter. Upon completion of her master’s, Joyce returned to MSU to work for the Department of Housing, Residence Life. Joyce is the HC liaison with the Eli Broad College of Business, the College of Social Science, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Undergraduate University Division (GUD).

Philip Seaborn is a graduate of Grand Valley State University where he received his BA in Advertising and Public Relations as well as his MED in College Student Leadership. During his time at Grand Valley State University, he served as the graduate assistant in the Counseling and Career Development Office. As an intern in the LAKER Academic Center, providing academic advising for student athletes. Most recently, Philip worked in higher education at an academic advising office. He is providing support for non-traditional students and veterans. He is dedicated to student retention, overseeing the HC recruitment student group; setting up on-campus day and oversight visits for prospective students; and coordinating honors housing assignments.

Carly Wunderlich, Project/Event Coordinator for the Debate Team, graduated with a BA in Chemistry from Michigan State University where she was an Honors College student. As a former member of MSU's Debating Team, Carly won the National Debate Tournament and University of Kentucky Tournament. After graduation, she worked as an assistant debate coach at Gonzaga University before returning to MSU. Her duties for the Debate Team include overseeing public debates nationally and on campus, coordinating outreach to the high school debate community; and assisting with the Spartan Debate Institute.
SPARTAN DEBATE TEAM

Big wins, new programs, and the outstanding competitive record continues...

Second, the debate team added two new members to its staff, both MSU alumni and previous national champions. Casey Harrigan (’06) replaced Greta Stahl as the Director of Debate. He was previously the associate director of debate at the University of Georgia and coached a national championship team at Wake Forest University, where he received his Master of Arts in Communication. Carly Wunderlich (’10) accepted a new position as Project Coordinator for the team. She won the 2010 NDT for MSU and coached previously at Gonzaga University.

Third, the MSU debate team’s high school summer camp, the Spartan Debate Institutes, reached new heights this year with the announcement of the Hoya-Spartan Scholars program in conjunction with Georgetown University. A seven-week summer program taking place in Washington, D.C., and East Lansing, the Scholars brought talented students from ten different states to MSU’s campus to learn about their year-long topic of U.S. space policy.

Fourth, Michigan State was asked by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to participate in a public debate for its annual conference on environmental justice, which took place this year in Detroit. Representatives of the MSU team debated against Wayne State University on the topic of the siting of polluting industries near low-income and minority communities. This was the second public debate that MSU has participated in for the EPA. The first took place in Washington, D.C., against the University of Mary Washington in 2008.

Finally, the team has already produced notable competitive results in 2011-2012. Kaavya Ramesh and Eric Lanning, an International Relations senior from The Woodlands, Texas, won the elite Kentucky Round Robin with an 8-0 record, the first time MSU has ever been undefeated at that event. The pairing of Ramesh and Lanning also led to a finalist slot at the Harvard University tournament, outlasting over 80 of the nation’s best teams.

With its all-around strength in competition, public debates, service, and high school instruction, the MSU Debate Team clearly continues to be ranked among the top debate programs in the country.

debate.msu.edu/team

In Memoriam

Jessica Hockensmith passed away on November 23, 2011. She was a core member of the MSU Debate Team who will be remembered not only for her competitive success, but more importantly for the way she conducted herself toward others with kindness, honesty, and respect. She was a friend, a student, a debate partner, and a colleague. She will be deeply missed.

A fund has been established in Jessica’s memory. For information regarding making a donation, please contact Casey Harrigan, director of Debate, at harriga8@msu.edu.
Like the University itself, GATE has grown and changed over the last quarter of a century. Expanding from one program serving Ingham County in 1986, GATE now has campuses across the state. In 2011, twelve individual programs were offered. In spite of the growth, the mission remains the same. Twenty-five years ago, gifted education at MSU was just one woman, Dorothy Lawshe. Ms. Lawshe had served as the gifted coordinator for Purdue University when the Ingham County Intermediate School District (ISD) brought her to the Lansing area to work as gifted education director for the ISD. While she eagerly took on her tasks, Ms. Lawshe also incorporated completely new duties into her job. She worked tirelessly to establish inter-institutional collaboration with Michigan State University and Lansing Community College. To accomplish her goals, Ms. Lawshe formed a new group to liaise with these higher education institutions. The ISD/MSU Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Advisory Board was composed of educators, community leaders, and parents to establish and institutionalize academic programming for students with high academic ability or potential. In addition, the board was responsible for fundraising and monitoring the programs’ accessibility to all students regardless of social or economic background. One of the first programs GATE launched was CHAMP: Cooperative Highly Accelerated Mathematics Program. CHAMP teaches students the content of a four-year high school math curriculum in just two years and is taught by MSU professors. Since 1989, over one thousand gifted seventh through tenth graders have been able to participate in Advanced Placement courses, Dual Enrollment college classes, or electives they would have otherwise not been able to take thanks to CHAMP. One of those advanced mathematics students was Julie Pearlman. Julie participated in the 1989 CHAMP program and went on to conduct undergraduate neuroscience research through a National Science Foundation grant. Later, she was the first female graduate of the Joint MBA/MD Program at the University of Chicago. Julie said she was “thrilled with the accelerated program and enjoyed being allowed the independence to study on [her] own with limited classroom time. The ability to learn independently proved itself a very useful skill as I went on to undergrad and medical school. It was wonderful to be able to enter undergrad already having exceeded the pre-med mathematics requirements after my coursework at MSU.” GATE has always provided students like Pearlman with an opportunity to truly challenge themselves. Later in its founding year, GATE launched the inaugural High Achievers class. This program gives high school students the opportunity to earn college credit over the summer. That first year, High Achievers had four students; in 2011 it taught sixty. Class offerings range widely from biotechnology to economics to philosophy. Classes rotate each year so students have the chance to participate in a different class over each of the four years in high school. One of the High Achiever students who participated in 2000 was Rachel Linz. She described herself as a typical student who “didn’t know what I wanted to do with my life or even what I wanted to study in college. I participated two summers in a row in the High Achievers program; the first year I took a psychology course and the second year I took a philosophy course. At the time, I was much better at math and science than reading and writing so it was great to be challenged in these areas!” High Achievers offers students the chance to have an introduction to college before they begin applying. Students (continued on page 18)
Continued...

In 1999 and went on to Columbia participated in MST@MSU Towns Foundation, GATE started Math, Foundation and later the DART after gaining financial support from academic laboratories. By 1989, science, communications skills, and opportunity to reach greater levels camp at Michigan State University Dimensions took day academically advanced students. two additional programs for rapidly expanded, launching the High Achievers program.”

That I was able to participate in work all year, and I am thankful it is important to do academic maintain and improve our skills. summer was really valuable for high school students during the informal education. The opportunity to also with a better appreciation gained valuable knowledge, but leave the program not only having high school.

New York, he worked heavily with youth advocacy and policy. Today, he serves as a math instructor at Fenger High School in Chicago where he is a lead teacher for the Junior Math Team. He developed the AP statistics program, organized Back-to-School Night, the student-led conference series to increase parent engagement, and coordinated efforts to integrate math and science instruction across the eleventh-grade all in one year. Ron said, “The Gifted and Talented Education program gave me an opportunity to develop my math skills so that I could be successful in high school and collegiate-level mathematics. Ultimately, this helped me develop my content knowledge as a teacher.” Not only does the GATE Office provide for an educated community, it also seeks to develop better citizens. Many GATE participants use their talents to improve the world around them.

By 1991, GATE had grown large enough to warrant its own office. With the support of Dr. Donald Lammers, director of the MSU Honors College, GATE was given permanent space at Eustace Hall. Through growing program enrollment rates and University support, GATE continued to expand. This expansion could be seen most notably within the CHAMP program, where another professor was brought on board to handle the large number of students.

Five years later, GATE had expanded so much that more space was needed to accommodate the high volume of enrollment. As one of his last acts as director, Dr. Lammers made GATE a division of the Honors College to secure its place as a continued institution at MSU. He also moved the office to Bessey Hall, where it still resides today, to accommodate the larger volume of work conducted by the office.

Two years later, Dorothy Lawshe retired and Jenny McCampbell took over as director of GATE. Under her stewardship the organization continued to maintain a high level of excellence as a model educational program for academically talented students. Shortly after becoming the director, Ms. McCampbell also became responsible for all of the Dual Enrollment high school students at Michigan State University. Ms. McCampbell’s work, ensuring GATE’s long-term success and expansion into international education, has defined her directorship.

By 1999, in order to pursue a goal of MSU President Peter McPherson, GATE worked with dean of the Honors College, Ron Fisher, and a committee of professors from MSU to write and receive a grant for $200,000 from the US Department of Education to provide funds for the development of online AP courses. Top professors in the areas of physics, economics, psychology and human geography constructed these courses for high school students, thereby opening doors of opportunity for gifted students across the state regardless of their location or school.

In 2000, personnel from the MSU Development office and Ms. McCampbell established the Dorothy Lawshe Endowment Fund to provide needs-based scholarship money for students in GATE programs. The fund reached almost $100,000 within five years. This generosity has given GATE the chance to provide all gifted students, regardless of their socioeconomic status, with an advanced education.

The Dorothy Lawshe Endowment Fund provides needs-based scholarship money for students in GATE programs. The fund reached almost $100,000 within its first five years. Donor generosity has given GATE the chance to provide an advanced education for all gifted students, regardless of their socioeconomic status.
Improvements to existing GATE Programs are ongoing. For example, innovative technology and science courses have been added to MST@MSU, such as Hands-On Video and Desktop Publishing, Flash I and II, Nuclear Astrophysics, Public Health, and Zoology.

GATE’s newest program, with its inaugural year in 2011, is LEAF: Cours de Langue pour Etudiants Avancés de Français, an intensive, two-year French language program offered after school for high school students. Improvements to existing GATE programs are ongoing. For example, innovative technology and science courses have been added to MST@MSU, such as Hands-On Video and Desktop Publishing, Flash I and II, Nuclear Astrophysics, Public Health, and Zoology.

In addition to changes in programming, the GATE Office has increased its marketing of programs with a comprehensive brochure, an electronic newsletter, monthly e-mails or postal mailings, and a presence on both Facebook and Twitter.

LEAF has expanded across the state. Meanwhile, CHAMP offers an accelerated, two-year Language and Literature Intensive Study of Humanities, Arts, Language and Literature, which offers an accelerated, two-year English program modeled after the highly successful CHAMP program. Meanwhile, CHAMP has expanded across the state in the past two years. GATE now provides outreach programs for academically advanced students in Memphis, Michigan—MCHAMP—and Newaygo County—NEWCHAMP.

Mrs. McDonald has continued to represent the GATE Office on campus by participating on the Precollege Leadership Committee and the Precollege Committee, and by serving as the Michigan Liaison for the Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search, which seeks the brightest young minds in the Midwest through opportunities for out-of-level testing of highly-able 7th-9th grade students. She continues to act as an adviser for all high school students who dual enroll at Michigan State. With more students in Michigan seeking precollege programs, she is continuing efforts to expand enrichment through outreach to underserved areas.

Gated and Talented Education at Michigan State University is very different today than it was 25 years ago. The office now has a dozen programs running, yet the original goals and principles of GATE remain unchanged. GATE still strives to maintain the highest level of excellence and professionalism as it provides challenging opportunities for students. The MSU Office of Gifted and Talented Education eagerly looks forward to another 25 years of growth and success.

On Monday, September 19, GATE celebrated its Silver Anniversary with faculty, staff, donors, and former students at the University Club of MSU.

Coming in Spring 2012

The GATE Office will be hosting a reunion luncheon on Saturday, April 14, 2012. This event is being organized to bring former faculty and students together to celebrate their GATE memories and share post-program achievements. Contact the GATE Office at 517.432.2129 or e-mail gifted@msu.edu for further information regarding this event. For a link to this event, go to www.gifted.msu.edu.

Celebrating 25 Years of GATE at MSU
HC: Do you have a favorite travel destination?  
Diana Bell (DB): I can’t say that I have a favorite destination per se. We are blessed to live on the planet earth which is full of places that are distinctively beautiful. The first time I went to Hawaii, I thought there just could not be a better place to experience the beach. The black sand beaches on Kauai were breathtaking. I learned the sand was black because it was derived from volcanic lava. That was in 1980. In 1991, I made my first visit to the African continent and spent two weeks travelling through Kenya. When we went to Mombasa, Kenya, a city on the Indian Ocean, I saw the prettiest, finest white sand that you could ever imagine. I learned there that the finer the sand, the older it is. So—the chunky black sand pebbles in Kauai versus the fine white sand of Mombasa . . . which is better? Neither. They are just in different stages of life and growth.

I will say that I have a leaning toward water—beaches and oceans. I was in South Africa in 2008 and visited the Cape of Good Hope where the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean come together. The power of those bodies of water crashing into each other was a sight to behold. You could see the crush of the waves, hear the roar of the oceans, and feel the spray of the water on your face at times. Then in 2009, as we returned from Antarctica, we had the great fortune of being able to land at Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America in Chile. There clearly was a spiritual nature to all of these places: Cape Horn, Kauai, Mombasa, and Antarctica. I felt a oneness with the environment and a peacefulness that is hard to explain. If I had to choose a favorite place, I guess I would put that continent at the top of my list. I mean, that is a once in a lifetime journey, right?

HC: You have travelled extensively. What are some of the trips you have taken, either with the MSU Alumni Association or on your own?  
DB: (My) MSUAA trips [have included] Expedition to Antarctica (2009) and Churchill Canada – Polar Bear Expedition (October, 2010). I’ve also traveled to Australia—Melbourne and Sydney. I am a tennis fan and attended the Australian Open in 2010. Serena Williams came back from a set and 4-0 to win her quarterfinal and ultimately won the Singles Championship. She and Venus also won doubles. I was there to cheer them on through the quarters, semis and finals.

In 2008 I visited Mozambique because I had my DNA analyzed and discovered that my maternal ancestry started there over 60,000-80,000 years ago. I am a member of the Shangaan tribe so I called everyone from that tribe “cousin.” This trip was on the heels of President Obama’s landslide victory and people in Mozambique and South Africa wanted to celebrate with us. I was so happy that I thought to bring along some Obama memorabilia as gifts. Only 2% of the African slave trade came from Mozambique and I am part of that group.

HC: How do you decide which trip to take next?  
DB: Some of my decisions are strategic and goal oriented. For example, I made a decision to visit every continent once I realized that I had already been to 5. Other decisions are tactical. My friend Susan (who went with me to Antarctica) invited me to go along with her and another friend to the Galapagos Islands this past May. My first time at the equator was during my trip to Kenya. We stopped and took pictures while en route to the lake region where we saw thousands of flamingoes. Ecuador was my second equatorial experience.

In Feb 2010, I went to Memphis, Tennessee, with my sister and nieces to celebrate my sister’s 60th birthday. What fun! Memphis would have NEVER made my list had my sister not wanted to go there to see a Tyler Perry play. But it would have been my loss to miss experiencing this lovely city full of civil rights and music history. Every American needs to put this city on his/her must-visit list.

HC: Do you have a list of places you still want to see? What are some of the locations?  
DB: I think that I should visit all of the 50 states. As I watched the results come in from the last presidential race, I realized how much of America I have experienced. But I also noted the places that I have not been and why. I have not been to the Deep South (Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas), nor have I been to Montana, the Dakotas, Maine, or Vermont. Maybe a train trip through the US could be fun. I have avoided the Middle East but would love to experience it—Jordan, Israel, etc. I also have avoided parts of Africa, such as Egypt and Ethiopia. There are so many places to go. Did I mention Machu Pichu??
trips. I worked or HP in L’Isle d’Abeau, France in 1986 (near Lyon, France). He taught Gary back to campus. “While driving to campus one day the idea popped into my head: set up scholarships in the Honors College for College of Agriculture and Natural Resources students,” he told HConnections. “That way I would be thanking both the Colleges that did so much for me.” He eventually donated funds to create the Dr. Gary L. Seevers Endowed Scholarship, which supports ten students each year. He credits the Honors College and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources for handling the endowments well.

Each year, Gary visits campus to meet the students he is supporting. “To him, this connection to students was an obvious move. “If I do something of this size, I want to keep track of it as long as the students are agreeable,” he said. The dinner is an opportunity for him to get to know the students who are at MSU in part because of his support. It is also an opportunity for his students to learn a little about their benefactor and the importance of giving back to the University. “I have been fortunate to have been part of the dinners that Dr. Seever hosts on campus,” said Dustin Baker (Senior, Agribusiness Management). “It’s very surprising to see what a down-to-earth and caring individual he truly is. It is easy to tell that Dr. Seevers genuinely cares about his students and the CANR and is genuinely interested in how his scholarship dollars are being put to use.”

“Gary Seevers has been an ideal supporter of Michigan State, partly because he is so focused on our students and their experiences,” he told HConnections.

For information on how you can establish named scholarship endowments in support of Honors College education, please contact Katie Cale in University Scholarships & Fellowships, by phone at 517.355.2526 or by emailing katie@msu.edu.
The Honors College is currently undergoing an effort to ensure our alumni records are up-to-date. In response to a recent request for current information, we received many emails. One in particular that we enjoyed came from Daniel Hornstein, PhD, an orchestra conductor and professor of music currently living in Huntsville, Alabama.

We hope you enjoy Dr. Hornstein's story as much as we did!

Philharmonic, the BSO Symphony in Europe; the western Bohemian Symphony in the Czech Republic, etc.) And I’ve done a lot of performing—as a cellist, pianist, conductor, brass player—and a lot of writing (chiefly music education articles in professional journals) and arranging and composing.

In 2001, I was honored first by my string teaching colleagues in North Dakota as “String Teacher of the Year” and then later in the same year by the National Music Educators’ National Conference—our major professional organization—as one of ‘America’s Top 500 Music Educators.”

In Alabama, I became one of only 13 Alabama Music Educators who achieved National Board Certification and served as president of both the Alabama Orchestra Association and the Alabama chapter of the American String Teachers Association.

So that’s about 50 years of history. Julie, who I met on a blind date right after she got on campus in 1965 (I’d been on campus for two weeks during band camp already) and I are getting ready to celebrate #43 at the end of (September) and we have two grown children. [Our son] Hans (viola), graduated in physics from CalTech. His freshman physics teacher was Richard Feynmann and (Hans) appeared both on College Jeopardy and ‘Win Ben Stein’s Money.’ He now works for HP in San Diego. [Our daughter] Miriam (violin and singer) graduated with a dual major in geology and voice from Oberlin (and I say that fits her to sing ‘rock songs’—she HATES that joke!). She is a National Park Ranger now spending 15 years (minus one as a Fulbright exchange teacher in Munich) at Minot State University, where I taught brass, cello, theory, music education, music history, and world music, along with conducting the Minot Symphony, the Western Plains Opera, and the Brass Band of Minot.

I came to Alabama, first at the University of North Alabama, where I was a half-time professor of music (theory, music education and strings), a half-time conductor of the Shoals Symphony Orchestra, and worked half time in the Florence, Alabama, schools re-creating their strings program. I then came to Huntsville—and the rest of the story.

I’ve done a lot of guest conducting—both here and in Europe (the Arctic Chamber Orchestra, Fairbanks, Alaska; the Scottsdale [Arizona] Symphony Orchestra; the Colorado All-State Orchestra; the Colorado All-State Philharmonic). I’ve conducted a lot of other groups in the US, including the Western Bohemian Symphony Orchestra of the Czech Republic as well as others.

We were happy to be able to inform Dan that he officially graduated in 1969. Our congratulations come over 40 years later, but we wish him the best in his retirement!
1960s


Richard Hoehlein (1965) recently retired from a position as director of the Adult Studies Program at Virginia Wesleyan College. He is currently serving as co-coordinator of the Fort Lewis College Lifelong Learning Program, a volunteer role with the Professional Associates; a group of retirees who support the College’s advancement in a variety of ways. The Hoehleins have also contructed the first LEED home in La Plata county, which will achieve the Platinum level of LEED certification, a third-party certification system encouraging environmentally responsible building techniques.

Jim McKeown (1966) retired from Pennsylvania State University in December 2009 and is now professor emeritus of accounting.

Janet Halfman (1967) had three children’s picture books published in 2010 on various imprints. She has published 33 children’s books to date.

Glenn Detrick (1968) currently teaches a course called “Individual and Organizational Introspection” and has also established a center in memory of his daughter at Webster Groves High School in Missouri called the Chelsa Detrick Experiential Learning Center.

John Snyder (1968) has been promoted to professor at the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston. He also presented a paper at the August 2010 conference of the North American British Music Studies Association entitled “Towards a critical edition of Coleridge Taylor’s Symphony in A Minor.”

Jane Devlin (1969) is an attorney at Flynn & Clark in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 2010 she was named to the board of trustees of Renew International.

1970s

Patrick Colestock (1970) has been a staff member at the Los Alamos National Laboratory for the last ten years and is working on various aspects of space science, including remote sensing of the space environment, and the physics of the radiation belts surrounding the earth. He was recently selected as a Laboratory Fellow.

William J. Falk (1970) retired at the end of January after a career over of 33 years with the consulting firm Towers Perrin. He was recently elected to a two-year term as a vice president of the Society of Actuaries. The Society of Actuaries provides education and research for life, health, investment and pension actuaries primarily in the U.S. and Canada. It has over 20,000 members. Bill is also a member of the MSU Actuarial Program advisory committee.

Gail Guth (1970) owner and principal of Guth Illustration & Design presented over the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators (GNIS) in July at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, stepping down as president after a two-year term. Gail’s composite illustration (selections from various individual plates) from an ongoing project, a field guide on Philippine birds, was accepted into the GNIS’s Annual Exhibit, which was on display at the NCSU’s D.H. Hill Library.

Ronna Kaplan (1971) has been the president of the American Music Therapy Association since January 2010.

Douglas Laycock (1970) has left the University of Michigan and is now the Armistead M. Dobie Professor of Law at the University of Virginia.

Robert J. Rietz (1970) recently retired as a Director in the Detroit office of Deloitte Consulting LLP where he was the head of Total Rewards practice in Deloitte’s North Central region. He was their chief pension actuary from 2006 to 2009, and has over 30 years of experience in the employee benefits consulting area.

Howard Brody (1971) became the director of the Institute for the Medical Humanities and John P. McGovern Centennial Chair in Family Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. In 2009, Brody published a book titled The Future of Bioethics.

Susan Avery (1972) retired from the University of Colorado having served as director of CReS, interim dean of graduate school, interim vice chancellor for research, and interim provost. She is now president and director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, which is dedicated to research and higher education in the field of ocean science.

James Averly (1972) has retired after 26 years teaching at University of Colorado in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Joseph Fenech (1972) is now semi-retired and living on Sanibel Island in Florida.

James Kalmbach (1972) is professor and associate chair of English at Illinois State University. He recently co-edited (with Cheryl Ball) the book R&W (Reading and Writing) New Media (Hampton Press, 2010).

Christine Corcos (1973) is currently an associate professor of law at the Louisiana State University Law Center and also an associate professor of women’s and gender studies. She recently published a book entitled Law and Magic: A Collection of Essays.

Cynthia Freeland (1973) is a member of the philosophy department at the University of Houston, and has a book, Portraits and Persons (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Ronald Graham (1973) is a neutral mediator with American Settlement Centers, and he maintains a private law practice in the Law Offices of Cordill, McGarry, Schloff, and Graham.

Edward Schneider (1973) has spent the last ten years in the Minnesota Department of Health as a systems administrator.

Charlie Sharp (1973) has been working as a freelance graphic designer for the last 17 years and has won a number of awards with his company, Sharp Designs.

Bruce Fenderson (1974) has recently published the second edition of a popular pathology textbook Lippincott’s Illustrated Q&A Review of Ruben’s Pathology, 2010. Bruce is professor of pathology, anatomy, and cell biology at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.

Cynthia Kay Afendoulis (1975) was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan in 2010. She is also chair of the board of the small business association, representing 10,000 small businesses.

Howard Jones (1975) recently published a book called The Man on the Beach, which details the true story of a homeless schizophrenic man who brought a community together.

Joellen Snow (1975) is a practicing lawyer in Houston, Texas, and recently ran for election to be judge of Harris County Probate Court 2.

Jane Winter (1975) 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.

Marcus Reinkensmeyer (1975) was awarded the Warren Burger Award for Excellence in Judicial Administration in 2009, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to local court operations.

Paul Buszko (1979) is currently working as the supervisory hydrologist in the Hydrologic Studies Section of the U.S. Geological Survey in Indiana at the Indiana Water Science Center.

Diane Callahan (1979) recently left a 12-year career with DuPont's Engineering Service Division to raise her two sons. She is currently president of Commercial Ladies Interclub Golf Association and is the first woman in the region to serve on the board of a private golf club.

Charles Bowder (1979) is currently serving as medical director of the Emergency Department of Flagler Memorial Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.

Send your alumni news electronically! Just complete the form at www.msu.edu/unit/honorcolgrad/alumnupdate.html Why not bookmark html at Just complete the form at www.msu.edu/unit/honorcolgrad/alumnupdate.html? We look forward to hearing from you!
1980s

Patricia Hart (1982) recently accepted a position as associate professor of accounting at Northwood University.

Mojdeh Hojjati (1983) has been living in Mexico for almost two decades and has recently launched a business called Journeys Beyond the Surface, which provides educational and cultural day trips for visitors.

John Goudreau (1988) was recently awarded a grant from the National Institute of Health’s Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to research a protein which may help slow down or prevent cell damage due to Parkinson’s disease.

Colleen Thompson (1988) is currently the North American program manager for small cars at General Motors and is helping to build a small car profitably in the United States.


Aimee Vieria (1993) is an associate professor of sociology at Norwich University, and is serving as chairperson of the Rural Sociological Research Interest Group in Racial and Ethnic Minorities. She is also a primary subject matter expert contracted to design curriculum for Army Special Operations Forces.

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www.honorscollege.org/updates

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To ensure we have your current contact information so that we can continue to provide our printed news updates, so you can continue providing educational and cultural day trips for visitors.

www.honorscollege.org/updates

1990s

Kim Isaacson (1992) was promoted to director of corporate communications at Jackson National Life Insurance Company in Lansing, Michigan, in January 2009. She also earned her FINRA Series 7 license in December 2009.

Gregory Oakes (1993) is now the clarinet professor at Iowa State University in Ames. His first solo CD, New Dialects, was released April 2010.

Alumni Update Form link

Mojdeh Hojjati (1983) has been living in Mexico for almost two decades and has recently launched a business called Journeys Beyond the Surface, which provides educational and cultural day trips for visitors.

1980s

Patricia Hart (1982) recently accepted a position as associate professor of accounting at Northwood University.

Mojdeh Hojjati (1983) has been living in Mexico for almost two decades and has recently launched a business called Journeys Beyond the Surface, which provides educational and cultural day trips for visitors.

John Goudreau (1988) was recently awarded a grant from the National Institute of Health’s Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to research a protein which may help slow down or prevent cell damage due to Parkinson’s disease.

Colleen Thompson (1988) is currently the North American program manager for small cars at General Motors and is helping to build a small car profitably in the United States.


Aimee Vieria (1993) is an associate professor of sociology at Norwich University, and is serving as chairperson of the Rural Sociological Research Interest Group in Racial and Ethnic Minorities. She is also a primary subject matter expert contracted to design curriculum for Army Special Operations Forces.

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Recent Graduates

Christine Bingham, Ellen Bornhorst, Andrew Bromley, Jenna Brown, Alexandra Buckley, Thao Dinh, Emily Disbrow, Lauren Hayes, Rebecca Jaskot, Trevor Logan, Sarah Maki, Ashley Paluta, Leif Petersen, Samantha Rinke, Brian Rockwell, Andrew VanEgmond, Kelly Witt, and Fei Yuan were among the 33 recipients who earned the Board of Trustees Award for their academic achievements at their commencement in May 2011. It was the highest number of recipients in the award’s history, which dates back to 1921.

Arun Mahapatra (2009) earned a master’s degree in mechanical engineering at Arizona State University, seeking an MA/MPhil. Simultaneously, he is working as a research aide at the university in labs similar to those she worked in at MSU.

Lauren Hayes is the volunteer center coordinator of AmeriCorps VISTA at the University of Michigan – Dearborn. While working full-time, she will be managing in community relations and earning a degree in environmental studies.

Rachel Kamish is currently attending University graduate school to earn a master’s degree in engineering management. She is working as a materials engineer at Delphi in Warren, Ohio.

Deanna Koenig is currently attending the University of Texas at Austin to earn a PhD in neuroscience. She is also working as a lab technician for The Globe and Mail in Toronto.

Courtney MacDonald has accepted the position of production engineer for Shell Oil in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, an extension of her undergraduate research work completed at MSU.

Alyssa Meyer has traveled to Ufa, Russia, as part of the State Department’s Critical Language Scholarship Program.

Joseph Nettlman is attending the Michigan State University College of Medicine where he is seeking an MD in family practice.

Jamie Overbeek is currently attending Indiana University to earn a PhD in astronomy and physics. She also has a position there as associate instructor.

Parima Patel, upon receiving a scholarship from BP Global, has moved to Naperville, Illinois, to work under BP’s “Challenger” graduate school program.

Terri Pozehl received the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship at the end of her senior year, which resulted in her move to Yilan City, Taiwan.

Kelsey Sopel currently serves as an Account Executive for Groupon in Chicago, Illinois. She credits her experience in a similar position at The State News for helping her to get the position.

Brandon Springett has accepted the position of Client Representative for IBM in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While an undergraduate, Brandon was named a General Motors Business Study Abroad Scholar.

Vishal Sunkarapalli has accepted a position with General Mills as a financial analyst in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

Sara Tischler will be entering the State and Federal Work-Study at the University of Michigan to complete her master’s degree.
EVERY DAY, NEARLY HALF A MILLION SPARTANS—AT WORK ON EVERY CONTINENT—RISE TO PRACTICALLY EVERY CHALLENGE IMAGINABLE. EACH 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