America in the Trump Era: Talking Politics and Philosophy
Sunday, September 24, 5-7pm

Hosted by Drs. Steve Kautz, Arthur Melzer, Dustin Sebell, and Shikha Dalmia

Wide-ranging conversation about politics and political philosophy with four spectators of the political scene, including discussion of the recent presidential election and the first months of the Trump administration, the rise of populism in the United States and Europe, the phenomenon of political correctness, immigration policy in the United States and Europe, and more. There will be pizza, as well!

Hosts:

- Shikha Dalmia. Journalist, columnist, and policy analyst for Reason Foundation. Originally from India and a former MSU graduate student; Professor Melzer’s wife. Interests include: politics, Indian culture, music, cooking, and dogs.

- Dr. Steve Kautz. Department of Political Science and Associate Dean of the College of Social Science; works on modern political philosophy and American political thought, including the political thought and statesmanship of Lincoln. MSU undergraduate and University of Chicago PhD. Co-Director of the Symposium on Science, Reason & Modern Democracy. Interests include: politics, sports, theater, and Vegas.

- Dr. Arthur Melzer. Department of Political Science; research in political philosophy, especially the political thought of Rousseau and Aristotle. Harvard PhD. Co-director of the Symposium on Science, Reason, & Modern Democracy, a center that sponsors a lecture series and international conference every year on a topic of general interest (last
Why a balanced "liberal arts education"
is a great foundation for Medical education
Sunday, October 1, 11-1pm
*Hosted by Dr. William Strampel*
Dr. William D. Strampel, D.O., and of the Fellow American College of Internists, will host a group at the University Club and discuss how the early years of college education can make a profound impact on future health care careers and practice options. Dr. Strampel has spent more than 40 years in medicine after graduating from Hope College and then spending almost thirty years on Active Duty with the US Army Medical Corps before joining MSU in 1999. He became the Dean in April 2002 and served in this role ever since. He will talk with students about stress management and student mental health issues -- dark secrets of medical education -- as well as answer questions of any topics related to healthcare careers. Dr. Strampel has a major interest in social justice and how medicine must play a major role.

Prosperity without Growth
Sunday, October 1, 11am-1pm
*Hosted by Dr. Rex and Ms. Kathy LaMore*
Ecologists contend that endless growth that consumes more and more resources is not feasible on a finite planet. Economists and economic developers argue that continual growth is necessary to ensure prosperity and an improved quality of life. As emerging scholars your research may contribute to our resolving these seemingly diametrically opposed world views. Join Rex & Kathy LaMore in an informal conversation about the future of our society and planet, as well as how your professional development at MSU might contribute to addressing this dilemma.

Creating the Michigan State of the Near Future
Sunday, October 1, 4-6pm
*Hosted by Drs. Jeff and Chandra Grabill*
Join Drs. Jeff and Chandra Grabill for a social evening to discuss the challenges facing higher education and the role students can play—at MSU and elsewhere—in helping rethink the educational mission of universities. Jeff is Associate Provost for Teaching, Learning, and Technology and Director of the Hub for Innovation Learning and Technology. Chandra is Assistant Dean for Student Wellness and Engagement in the College of Veterinary Medicine. They look forward to facilitating a conversation about your experiences as students and about opportunities for engaging your own experience at MSU. You will also be fed well.
**From nuclei to stars: Visit the Cyclotron Lab and talk with faculty and graduate students**

Wednesday, October 4th, 5:00-7:30pm

*Hosted by Drs. Artemis Spyrou, Heiko Hergert, Sean Liddick, Remco Zegers*

The National Superconducting Cyclotron Lab (NSCL) is a world leading facility for Nuclear Science Research. From studying the characteristics of nuclei themselves to using their properties for understanding the magnificent lives and deaths of stars, nuclear science has a broad spectrum of research themes. Every year, hundreds of scientists from all over the world come to MSU to perform experiments and discuss with the local group at the NSCL. We are excited to have such a unique facility on campus at Michigan State University and we would like to invite you to spend an evening with us, chat about the kind of research we are doing, meet our faculty and graduate students, take a tour of the lab and of course have dinner in our beautiful atrium.

Your hosts for the evening are four faculty members: Drs. Artemis Spyrou, Heiko Hergert, Sean Liddick and Remco Zegers. Artemis and Remco are experimental physics faculty, Heiko is a theorist, and Sean is a Nuclear Chemist. Laboratory graduate students will join us as well. Our graduate students will lead the laboratory tour between 5 and 6pm, and will be happy to discuss their experiences with you over dinner right after.

**The Opioid/Heroin Epidemic:**

**Epidemiologic and Public Health Perspectives**

Sunday, October 8, 4-6 pm

*Hosted by Dr. David Barondess and Colleagues*

The United States is in the midst of a prescription opioid overdose epidemic. In 2015, over 12 million people misused prescription opioids, over 2 million misused prescription opioids for the first time, and some 33,000 people died from an opioid overdose. Over 800,000 people used heroin; 135,000 for the first time. The cost associated with the epidemic has been estimated at over 78 billion dollars and growing in terms of healthcare, law enforcement, and lost economic productivity. The National Institute on Drug Abuse has recently advocated for an “All Scientific Hands on Deck” approach to address this crisis, focusing on overdose-reversal interventions, innovative medications and technologies to treat opioid addiction, and continued pursuit of safe, non-addictive treatments to manage chronic pain. Please join us for a home-cooked dinner, a playful evening with the family retriever, and a lively discussion of these (and whatever else you would like to talk about) and related issues.
Women in Science and Engineering: Strategies for a Successful Start
Monday, October 9, 6-8pm
Hosted by Dr. Angela Wilson
Join Dr. Angela Wilson for a discussion about strategies to use while in college to work toward a career in science. While the focus of the discussion will be targeted towards women in science and engineering, the discussion is open to students in any area. The discussion will target identifying and maximizing your strengths, addressing any weaknesses, and early identification of opportunities. As well, over dinner, we will have a positive discussion about the communication style and perspective differences between women and men, and how realization of them can aid in your success, from college to your career.

Dr. Wilson is the John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, and she presently serves as the Director (Head) of the Division of Chemistry at the U.S. National Science Foundation. In her role as the NSF Division Director for Chemistry, she is responsible for determining the overall direction of ~$245M of funding for chemistry research in the U.S. Her primary research area is quantum chemistry/quantum mechanics, including the development of computational chemistry methods, and also does research in areas including drug discovery, protein modeling, environmental science, and materials science.

Men in College: Confronting Privilege, Overcoming Challenge, and Finding Happiness in the Modern World
Sunday, October 15, 4-7:30pm
Hosted by Dr. James Lucas
Although men still have the advantage in many aspects of society, when it comes to college, they are not doing so well. Men are less likely to attend college, participate in specialized college programming (like the Honors College), and graduate; they are also more likely to be a victim of a violent crime, skip class, not do their homework, consume too much alcohol, and face academic and/or disciplinary probation. Researchers attribute these social and academic issues to gender role conflict: the concept that young men live in a world with changing social norms, yet they are still taught and held to very traditional norms. This discrepancy creates conflict between how men are socialized to act and the skills required for success. This chat will discuss the concept of male engagement and leadership in college, giving first-year students the opportunity to talk over dinner about some of the questions and challenges they face and get advice about being an effective student, leader, and change agent.

Your host this evening is Dr. Jim Lucas. Jim works with the first-year seminar abroad program, and leads 2 – 4 study abroad programs per year. His research area focuses on male engagement in college, and he recently implemented a new study abroad program for fraternity men to explore masculinity and leadership. Before attending the chat, please take some time to listen to the following NPR show, On Point, about men, relationships, and health: http://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2017/08/22/middle-aged-men-need-more-friends.
Matters of Sex and Gender: In Brain, Mind and Body  
Sunday, October 15, 5:30-8:00pm  
With Drs. Cindy Jordan and Marc Breedlove  
Sex differences in behavior are common in vertebrate species, including humans. We’ve spent almost our entire adult lives trying to understand how sex differences in the structure of the nervous system arise in non-human species. In those animals, like rats and mice, the rules are pretty simple, but we’re always asking whether they apply to humans. The answer is, it’s complicated. As a wife-and-husband team of neuroscientists who work closely together, we’re also acutely aware that society views men and women, especially men and women scientists, quite differently. We would love to promise some answers, but can only guarantee more questions. Come with your questions and curiosities and a willingness to engage in what we hope will be a fun and stimulating chat over food and drink.

Field Research and Learning Opportunities:  
WK Kellogg Biological Station (KBS)  
Sunday, October 22, 3-8pm  
Hosted by Dr. Kay Gross and Colleagues  
Join Director Dr. Kay Gross and other faculty for an evening visit to the Kellogg Biological Station (KBS: http://www.kbs.msu.edu/) to learn how a summer at a field station can change your life. Located on beautiful Gull Lake, in southwest Michigan, KBS provides a unique “living and learning community” for students to combine coursework, research opportunities and paid internships. Outside of class, students enjoy on-site recreational activities, including swimming, canoeing, biking, volleyball, soccer, campfires and barbecues and have the opportunity to explore SW Michigan. KBS is not just for the ‘science student’; internships are available in communications and marketing, landscape design, environmental and science education.

The evening will include dinner at the historic Kellogg Manor House (former summer home of WK Kellogg, of cereal fame), a tour of the grounds and facilities, and an overview of the KBS programs for summer 2016. Your hosts will include several KBS faculty who teach and conduct research at KBS and have mentored undergraduates. Transportation will be provided by MSU undergraduates who worked and studied at KBS during a previous summer. They will also share their experiences at KBS and how this experience helped them define their career goals and develop friendships and professional connections that will last a lifetime.

Mental Illness and Academia: How one professor has coped with mental illness and went on to have a successful teaching/researching career  
Sunday, October 22, 4-6pm  
Hosted by Dr. Rob LaDuca  
Join Professor LaDuca for an afternoon of discussion about his history with mental illness, specifically focusing on how he learned to cope with it, so that he was able to have a successful career, both teaching and researching. Additionally, this chat will include discussion about careers in science involving teaching and researching. This chat is perfect for any student who is interested in a career in science academia, or who would like to learn from someone who has had a great deal of success, despite experiencing mental illness.
Dr. Rob LaDuca is the Associate Dean for Administration and Academic Governance of Lyman Briggs College, as well as a Professor of Chemistry in Lyman Briggs. After receiving his PhD from Cornell University, he went on to teach at King's College before beginning his time at MSU. His research interests include synthesis and characterization of inorganic/organic hybrid oxide materials; coordination polymers via hydro-thermal techniques; and organometallic approaches to inorganic polymers and ceramic materials. Additionally, he is an avid listener of progressive rock music and, if you attend his Fireside Chat, you can listen to Queen’s “Bohemian Rapsody” on his professional grade sound system!

**Scaling up Social Innovation**

**Thursday, Oct. 26, 6-8pm**

*Hosted by Drs. Larson and Dearing*

Sometimes the greatest impediment to solving problems is not a lack of innovation, but our inability to spread or scale a proven innovation. Imagine that you participate in a program sponsored by your high school. This program helps high school students better understand loans, debt and saving for college. It’s a great program – students have a much better understanding of what student debt means in the long term, they report increased savings, and some are planning on completing college in three years to reduce costs. “Wow, this is great! Everyone should enroll is this program,” you say to yourself: How do you make that happen? How do you take a program that works well in your high school and spread it to high schools in your region, across the state, across the country? Join your hosts for a discussion about how social innovations scale-up. They will discuss their research results about scale up strategies, and the challenges that innovators face. Students interested in the nonprofit sector or public policy will leave with new ideas that could influence their course of study.

Yours hosts for this evening are Dr. Jim Dearing and Dr. Sam Larson. Jim is the Chair of the Department of Communication and a scholar of diffusion theory. Sam is an Assistant Dean in the College of Education and her research focuses on organizational strategy. They both love to cook and entertain, so the Fireside Chat will be held in their home in East Lansing. They will arrange to pick up students from the International Center on campus.

**Interesting Ideas from a Vibrant Area of Mathematical Research**

**Sunday, October 29, 4-6pm**

*Hosted by Drs. Bruce Sagan, Tsveta Sendova, and Mark Iwen*

Combinatorics is the mathematical domain which deals with discrete structures. It has seen recent explosive growth in part because of its applications to statistics, physics, and computer science. Professor Sagan will present a wide range of combinatorial topics for discussion, including some unsolved problems in the area. Your hosts, Professors Sendova and Iwen, will provide the venue and dinner. There will also be musical entertainment.
**Using Your Talent to Fulfill Self**

Thursday, November 2, 5:30-7:30pm  
*Hosted by Drs. Maybank, Frazier, and Shaw*

Being able to understand your multiple identities—MSU Student, Honors College student, Major, Passions-- and how they intersect are incredibly important in knowing who you are. Join Drs. Maybank, Frazier and Shaw in a discussion on how to better understand and use your talents. Utilizing the DISC instrument is a tool to help you learn more about your strengths and where you draw your energies. This will help you in your friendships, working environments and the classroom.

Join us for dinner at 150 Student Services Building to discuss the instrument, results and how to be the best version of yourself. Dr. Maybank is the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services and Drs. Frazier and Shaw are the Assistant Vice Presidents for Student Affairs. Both Drs. Maybank and Shaw are MSU alumni.

---

**Why do groups differ?**

Sunday, November 5, 4-6pm  
*Hosted by Dr. Joseph Cesario*

Dr. Joseph Cesario, Associate Professor of Psychology. He is a social psychologist who studies decision-making, specifically police use of deadly force. He works with approximately 25 undergraduates each semester in his experimental psychology lab, including off-campus data collection in police departments across the Midwest.

If there is one constant across time and place, it is that groups differ in their outcomes. In response to a question about why some groups do better than others, economist and social theorist Thomas Sowell replied, "Nowhere in the world do you find this evenness that people use as a norm. And I find it fascinating that they will hold up as a norm something that has never been seen on this planet." The question of why different groups end up with different outcomes is one of the most important of our time, ranging from the issue of sex differences in STEM participation to racial and ethnic differences in economic attainment. The causes of these differences and what to do about them differ from topic to topic, and are sometimes complicated, sometimes less so. In this fireside chat, we will talk about group disparities of all sorts, with a focus on racial disparities in police use of deadly force. The questions are difficult and the answers -- to the extent we have any --- are often controversial and may not fit with what you wish to be true... not for the faint of heart! That said, the conversation will surely move from research to social and other academic topics and will hopefully be engaging throughout.