

Honors College Fireside Chats

Fall 2020

A unique opportunity for Honors College first-years to connect with faculty in an informal setting and meet other students with similar interests.

Important Notes for Students

- Be sure that you are available to attend on the posted date and time before registering for a specific chat.
- Each student may attend one chat. We ask for your top 3 preferences in case all the available spaces for your first choice have been filled.
- In some cases, you may be contacted to attend other chats you are interested in if there are additional openings after the initial sign-up period concludes.
- ALL FALL 2020 CHATS WILL BE HOSTED VIRTUALLY. The links and passwords will be sent out via e-mail in advance of designated meeting time.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Honors College

Who am I?, Why am I?, What am I?

Sunday, August 23rd 4:30-6:00pm

Hosted by Dr. Rhonda Conner-Warren

Student Mentors: Mia McPherson and Royal Byrd

Modality: Online via Zoom

In the face of what we are seeing and hearing, we must ask ourselves these questions: Who am I?, Why am I?, What am I? As a PNP (Pediatric Nurse Practitioner) in the community, it is our tenet as health care providers for our clients/colleagues/friends/family to be the best we can be by asking ourselves the hard questions and helping while individuals on their path to BREATHE. We will discuss some things we need to breathe through, using this acronym:

Break: Break the pattern of movement, thought, and anxiety.

Rest: Resting is a form of resistance

Exam: Examine your thoughts

Accept: Accept your thoughts and feelings

Tell: Tell the story-share what you need with others

Hold: Hold on to hope

Encourage: Encourage & explore the possibilities for change.

(from Leah Robinson, Ph.D. Wayne State University)

Students of all majors are welcome to attend and participate!

Dr. Rhonda Conner-Warren is a pediatric nurse practitioner in Detroit and an assistant professor of health programs in MSU's College of Nursing. Learn more about Dr. Conner-Warren in this [December 2019 Faculty Focus](#) highlight from the College of Nursing.

Does Music Make You Smarter, and Why Would We Care? Considering the Arts in Schools

Sunday, August 30th 6:00-8:00pm

Hosted by Dr. Ryan Shaw

Student Mentor: Kaitlin Gaynor

Modality: Online via Zoom

In this chat, we will delve into the tenuous place of the arts, especially music, in schools, looking at justifications for programs and how a research agenda has tried to justify the arts based on non-arts outcomes. More importantly, we will ask why this continues to be an oft used strategy.

Dr. Ryan Shaw is an assistant professor of music education at Michigan State University's College of Music, where he teaches Introduction to Music Education, Teaching Instrumental Music, and graduate courses in psychology of music education, curriculum, and measurement. His scholarly interests include arts education policy and the ways that policy affects music teacher stress, planning, and instructional practices.

The Arts Are All Around You!

Sunday, September 6th 3:00-4:30pm

Hosted by Dr. Karenanna Boyle Creps

Student Mentors: Jennel Mead and Hannah Friend

Modality: Online via Zoom

In K-12 education contexts, the arts are often considered "specials" or "non-academic," and artistic forms of expression are understood as limited to the school subject areas of music, visual art, (and if you're lucky) theatre, and (if you're really lucky) dance. Arts education, practices, and scholarship function quite differently at the college level. For instance, scholars who specialize in a non-arts discipline (like disability studies, anthropology, physics, and many, many others) may communicate their research findings through a particular art form, like dance. At MSU, you will have the opportunity to encounter art forms that U.S. K-12 education typically excludes, such as landscape architecture. During this chat, students will have the opportunity to learn about

a plethora of on- and off-campus opportunities to engage with the arts during their time at MSU, whether for personal artistic growth, for pleasure, or for scholarship. Dr. Creps will also discuss how her own education research is infused with poetry, theatrical performance, storytelling, and the visual arts, among other art forms, and will help students brainstorm about integrating arts-informed assignments into their postsecondary coursework. Please bring a paper notebook and a pencil or pen to this virtual chat.

Dr. Karenanna Boyle Creps is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Teacher Education at MSU. She is the Art Education Subject Leader in the Department, and is also a faculty member in the First-Year Seminar Abroad program.

Finding your Path in College

Sunday, September 13th 3-5pm

Hosted by Dr. Ellie Louson and Dr. Isaac Record

Student Mentor: Quinn Abate

Modality: Online via Zoom

High achieving students often come to college with a plan - a major, a chosen career, and the route to get there. But your experience in college isn't a straight line with a set endpoint. It's a branching path, and there can't be a "right" destination until your choices get you there. You can choose to be a different person, and that's a good thing. This discussion is hosted by two MSU academics who each started as honors students in their own colleges, and who ended up getting PhDs in entirely different fields from where they started. You will participate in a "Designing Your Life" quick-sketch activity, which prompts you to reflect on your priorities, values, and potential futures.

Dr. Isaac Record is the Director of Experiential Learning and a Teaching Professor in the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science at Lyman Briggs College. Dr. Ellie Louson is an Academic Specialist Learning Designer and Communicator in the Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology and an Instructor in the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science at Lyman Briggs College.

Starting Your Path to Successful Transitions

Sunday, September 13th 4-6pm

Hosted by Dr. Nancy DeJoy

Student Mentor: Aruna Aggarwal

Modality: Online via Zoom

Big life transitions, like the transition to university life, present us with physical, emotional, intellectual, relationship, and other changes, challenges, and opportunities. This is especially true as we start the semester amid a pandemic. Thinking about how the skills, knowledge, and attitudes we bring with us can create a sense of belonging is one way to deal with big life transitions, especially those that happen in unexpected ways. In this session, each of you will select something you are good at and explore the ways that being good at that thing means that you have some of the skills, knowledge, and attitudes it takes to be successful as you start your career at MSU. (In past sessions, students have explored areas of expertise from skateboarding to baking, coding, running and more.) Students will share their stories of expertise and leave with a clear sense of how what they bring with them to MSU contributes to their success.

Dr. DeJoy is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures. Her creative work focuses on the inclusion of poetry in public art movements and on making spaces for social justice art. Her academic research focuses on helping students understand how to successfully participate in and contribute to their education and major fields in successful ways.

Reaching Your Fullest Potential: Conquering Your Fear

Sunday, September 13th 6-8pm

Hosted by Professor Ross Chowles

Student Mentor: Rian Harlow

Modality: Online via Zoom

You have an amazing person inside you that is struggling to get out. That amazing version of you is being held back by fear. What we will chat about is how to break out of your stifling comfort zone and unleash the best version of yourself.

Professor Ross Chowles is a Professor of practice, COMARTS, Department of advertising and public relations. He is a 36-year veteran of the advertising industry which is driven by creativity. Having spent many years confronting creative blocks and fearful clients, he has discovered ways to unblock and unleash.

COVID-19: A Presidential Perspective

Tuesday, September 15th 3:30-4:30pm

Hosted by MSU President Samuel Stanley

Mentor: HC Assistant Director of Admissions Andrew Abad

Student Mentor: Carly Sandstrom

Modality: Online via Zoom

Beyond its deadly impact across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped the routines, outlooks and very lives of many of us. This virtual fireside chat is hosted by MSU President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D. A physician who at one time specialized in infectious disease research, Dr. Stanley has been closely following the novel coronavirus. For the past six months, he and other MSU leaders have worked to support students' success and continue MSU's educational, research and outreach excellence while keeping the safety of the campus community at the forefront of consideration. Dr. Stanley came to MSU after leading Stony Brook University in New York for 10 years. Since his arrival in August, 2019, Dr. Stanley has moved decisively to ensure MSU is a safe, respectful and welcoming place for all.

Mental Illness and Academia: How one professor has coped with mental illness and went on to have a successful teaching/researching career

Thursday, September 17th 4:00-5:30pm

Hosted by Dr. Rob LaDuca

Student Mentor: Greg Stevens

Modality: Online via Zoom

Join Professor LaDuca for an evening 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, while experiencing periodic mental illness episodes.

Dr. Rob LaDuca is a Professor of Chemistry in Lyman Briggs College. 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 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 ran the largest American music festival in the genre for 13 years.

Exploring Africa at MSU: Opportunities to engage with Global Africa

Friday, September 18th 3:00-4:30pm

Hosted by African Studies Center Faculty and Staff

Student Mentor: Maggie Haite

Modality: Online via Zoom

Michigan State University is a uniquely diverse institution with a long history of engagement with the African continent. MSU's faculty, staff, students and visitors from around the world represent a diverse array of cultures and identities. Essentially, MSU brings the world to your doorstep. This chat will take you through opportunities to engage with Africa inside and outside of the classroom. You will have a chance to learn about the African Studies Center at MSU and the center's various programs and activities that will enrich your knowledge of Africa. Opportunities include studying abroad in Africa, taking African language courses and participating in Africa-oriented student organizations. Faculty, staff and students with expertise in Africa will share their experiences working, studying and teaching at MSU as well as leading study abroad programs in Africa and partnering with African institutions.

Role of College Sports (If There is College Sports)

Sunday, September 20th 2-4pm

Hosted by Professor Ronald Fisher

Student Mentor: Travis Nitkiewicz

Modality: Online via Zoom

Why do colleges operate large intercollegiate athletic programs (with 75,000 fans in Spartan Stadium and nearly 15,000 in Breslin in a typical year)? Which college sports program has had the greatest success competitively? Do those programs make money? Which college's sports program has the most money? Does college sports affect the school regular students choose? Who was the first celebrity coach? And what's the current status of college sports in the pandemic? All of this (and more) is part of the ISS class I teach about the Social Science of Sports. Let's explore the evolving role of sports in the college world. Home run or fumbled ball (to mix a metaphor)?

Ron Fisher is Professor of Economics, an MSU Honors College alumnus, and former Dean of Honors College.

Let's Talk About Holism

Sunday, September 20th 4:00-5:30pm

Hosted by Dr. Katherine Ruger and Dr. J'Aimee Lippert

Student Mentor: Sameera Mahimkar and Sophia Kesler

Modality: Online via Zoom

This Fireside Chat will focus on holistic medicine as part of the conversation, but we will also be talking about how we can all strive for holistic health; mind, body, and spirit. How can we maintain homeostasis in our lives when we're under stress, experiencing change, and trying to make good decisions, all while attempting to ensure our own peace of mind? Join Katherine

Ruger, Ed.D. who leads admissions and student life initiatives as Associate Dean for the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and J' Aimee Lippert, D.O. who serves as Associate Professor in the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. Together, we will help you tackle some of these crucial questions. We cannot wait to meet you!

What Even Is Trust? A Criminal Justice Conversation

Sunday, September 20th 5:00-6:30pm

Hosted by Dr. Joseph Hamm

Student Mentor: Caitlyn Finerty

Modality: Online via Zoom

The relationship between criminal justice agencies and the communities they serve has been brought into sharp focus. Although most of this discussion focuses on reform, much is couched in terms of protecting or rebuilding public trust. This fireside chat will explore the nature of trust as contextualized against the justice system. This semi-structured discussion will present students with a basic understanding of the social science of trust which will provide a platform for a discussion of what it means to trust criminal justice actors and for speculation as to the changes that are most likely to impact it.

Joe is an associate professor jointly appointed in the School of Criminal Justice and the Environmental Science & Policy Program.

From Nuclei to Stars: “Visit” a World-Leading Nuclear Science Lab and Talk with Faculty and Graduate Students

Wednesday, September 23rd 5:00-7:30pm

Hosted by Artemis Spyrou, Heiko Hergert, Kyle Brown, and Kaitlin Cook

Student Mentor: James VanAntwerp and Riley Lawson

Modality: Online via Zoom (with tour of NSCL/FRIB laboratory)

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. At the same time a new facility is on its way at the same location, the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) which will be the world's most powerful accelerator for nuclear science experiments. We are excited to have such unique facilities on the campus of 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, and take a virtual tour of the lab.

Your hosts for the evening are four faculty members: Artemis Spyrou, Heiko Hergert, Kyle Brown and Kaitlin Cook. Artemis and Kaitlin are experimental nuclear physics faculty, Heiko is a nuclear theorist, and Kyle is a nuclear chemist. Laboratory graduate students will join us as well. A laboratory virtual tour will take place between 5 and 6pm.

Transforming Teaching Through Reflective Writing Experiences: A Fireside Chat with Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures (WRAC) Faculty

Thursday, September 24th 6:15-7:45pm

Hosted by Dr. Denise M. Acevedo, Assistant Professor, Dr. Cheryl Caesar, Associate Professor, & Dr. Tracie Swiecki, Assistant Professor

Mentor: Emileigh Stoll, Honors College Graduate Assistant

Modality: Online via Zoom

Here are some statements about college writing. Answer True or False.

Only writers with problems need feedback.

Good writers write quickly and easily.

Good writers know what they want to say before they start writing.

Short words and sentences make a writer sound dumb.

A thesis should be one sentence.

An essay should be five paragraphs.

It's wrong to use "I" in an essay.

Good writing will appeal to every audience.

(Adapted from St. Louis University, "10 Myths of College Writing.")

In fact, all of these are false. Surprised? Join WRAC faculty for a discussion of college writing, what it is, what it can do for you, and what resources are available to help you do it.

The 2020 Election and YOU!

Friday, September 25th 1:00-3:00pm

Hosted by Dr. Matt Grossman and Dr. Sarah Reckhow

Student Mentor: Maude Antol

Modality: Online via Zoom

Dr. Grossman and Dr. Reckhow are both political science professors at MSU. Dr. Grossman focuses his research on American national elections, and Dr. Reckhow is researching efforts to increase student voting. Both professors will be able to answer questions about the presidential, congressional, and state elections, review sample ballots, and discuss the campaign. The professors will also lead discussion on how political scientists assess elections and voting decisions.

Corporate Sustainability Risks: Are U.S. Corporations Taking Them Seriously?

Sunday, September 27th 4:00-5:30pm

Hosted by Dr. Elizabeth Connors

Student Mentor: Shubham Chandra

Modality: Online via Zoom

In recent years, U. S. companies have gotten better at identifying Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) risks and some companies are attempting to convey ESG performance information to stakeholders. Why has this improvement occurred? Can we trust that information that companies present or are they simply “greenwashing”? What are the most significant risks for individual industries? How should we think about carbon emissions goals that will not be achieved for decades? How has the Black Lives Matter movement and Covid-19 changed the landscape for the Social component of ESG?

The corporate sustainability space is changing rapidly and sometimes dramatically. We will talk about why and how this is happening and what the future of corporate ESG performance might look like.

Dr. Connors is an Assistant Professor in the Accounting and Information Systems department of the College of Business.

What Does the Term ‘Humanities’ Even Mean?

Sunday, September 27th 5:00-6:30pm

Hosted by Dr. Alejandra Marquez Guajardo

Student Mentor: Kelli Weigold

Modality: Online via Zoom

We know that we live in a STEM world. From social media to medicine, our daily lives are run by technology and science. Nonetheless, the world that we are currently living in has emphasized the need for the skills taught by the humanities such as critical thinking and empathy. Are you interested in a humanities career? Are you curious about what the humanities encompass? This fireside chat will focus on understanding why we need them more than ever. As an Assistant Professor of Spanish who considers herself an accidental academic, I will share how I reached my own path when I had no idea what I wanted to study, and how that eventually led to me finding my passion for literature and teaching.

Dr. Alejandra Marquez Guajardo earned her Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2018. She also has an M.A. in Spanish from

Texas A&M International University. Her research interests span a wide range of topics, including contemporary Latin American literature, contemporary Mexican chronicle, gendered narratives of northern Mexico, gender identity and transgressions, depictions of state-sponsored violence, and Latinx literature and culture.

Budgeting for College Success

Thursday, October 1st 5:00-7:00pm

Hosted by Instructor Allison Dellapelle

Student Mentor: Madeleine Batra

Modality: Online via Zoom

Overwhelmed at the thought of paying back thousands of dollars in student loans once you graduate? Are you interested in learning more about how you can take control of your finances & establish simple, dependable methods for successfully managing your budget while you are in college? Come to this Fireside Chat to learn about how to set yourself up for financial success hosted by instructor Allison Dellapelle.

Instructor Dellapelle teaches within the accounting department of the Eli Broad College of business where she focuses on teaching financial accounting courses. She is an alumna of MSU's undergraduate and graduate accounting programs and was a member of the Honors College. Dellapelle is a licensed Certified Public Accountant and has experience in both public and corporate accounting. She also owns her own business, ManageMint Financial LLC, in which she helps individuals and small businesses manage their finances and make important financial decisions.

You've been a student for how long?!? The long journey of academic research

Sunday, October 4th 11:00am-1:00pm

Hosted by Dr. Aaron Reifler

Modality: Online via Zoom

Entering into the world of research reveals many surprises, and not just in your chosen field of study. One of the revelations is what a significant investment it is to become a part of the faculty at a big university like MSU. Following an undergraduate degree, many people spend well over 10 years establishing themselves as experts in a field before finding opportunities as independent scientists, and even then, it is a highly competitive and demanding career. We'll discuss many of the milestones and obstacles for anyone interested in research and/or teaching at a large academic institution.

Dr. Reifler is the Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, serving over 600 of our research associates and fellows who are spread throughout all the colleges at MSU. While he is not

currently getting much use out of his Ph.D. in Neuroscience or his Master's in Education, he enjoys his work and finds new challenges on a daily basis.

Living Through a Dual Pandemic: COVID-19 and Racism, and the Importance of Activism in Our Communities

Sunday, October 4th 4:00-6:00pm

Hosted by Dr. Renée Canady, Dr. Robey Champine, Dr. John Clements, Dr. Connie Currier, and Dr. Wayne McCullough

Student Mentor: Katy Zink

Modality: Online via Zoom

What classifies a pandemic? What is racism and why is it considered a health issue? Do you understand what a health disparity is? How important is health activism? Join Drs. Renée Canady, Robey Champine, John Clements, Connie Currier, and Wayne McCullough as they lead an engaging conversation on the dual pandemic, COVID-19 and racism, and its simultaneous effects on communities in the United States. This discussion will focus on how pandemics, racism, health disparities, and health equity frameworks can have significant impacts on the lived experiences of people in differing communities. Speakers will reference the current 2020 news events to generate relevant discussion. Students will come away with an understanding of how public health professionals are making significant impacts on some of our most challenging issues: locally, nationally, and globally.

Spartans in public health are empowering communities and improving health through education, advocacy, policy making, and research. We are public health professionals working with the community and in the community to advance health.

Dr. Renée Canady is CEO of the Michigan Public Health Institute and Adjunct Professor in the Master of Public Health program at Michigan State University.

Dr. Robey Champine is an Assistant Professor in the Master of Public Health program and in the Department of Family Medicine at Michigan State University.

Dr. John Clements is an Assistant Professor in the Master of Public Health program at Michigan State University.

Dr. Connie Currier is an Assistant Professor in the Master of Public Health program at Michigan State University.

Dr. Wayne McCullough is the Director of the Master of Public Health program and Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Michigan State University

The Founder's Dilemma: Do You Want to be Rich or King?

Sunday, October 4th, 6:00-8:00pm

Hosted by Professor Neil Kane

Student Mentor: Jocelyn Chen

Modality: Online via Zoom

What does it mean to be an entrepreneur and what are the characteristics of a good entrepreneur? Do you need to be born with certain skills/traits, or can they be taught? Many people associate the term “entrepreneur” with someone who builds a business and is profit motivated. But what about people who start non-profits? Academics? Entertainers? People in public service—are they entrepreneurs too? Are they entrepreneurial? What traits of good entrepreneurs must they also exhibit to be successful in their endeavors—even if their success is not measured financially?

Professor Neil Kane is an educator and author at the Burgess Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation. He is also a leading authority on technology commercialization, entrepreneurship, and innovation. He is the former co-Executive Director of the Illinois Technology Enterprise Center, at Argonne National Laboratory, and was Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the University of Illinois and Northern Illinois University. He has been the CEO of startup companies in areas as diverse as consumer-packaged goods, toys, nanotechnology, Internet marketplaces, medical diagnostics, and energy storage.

Immigration and Cultural Diversity in Israel

Saturday, October 10, 6:00-7:00 pm

Hosted by Dr. Yore Kedem and Dr. Kristin Janka

Student Mentor: Carly Sandstrom

Modality: Online via Zoom

Are you interested in issues related to immigration and cultural diversity? Come to this Fireside Chat to learn about immigration and cultural diversity in Israel, the new Honors Research Seminar Abroad (there is still time to sign up for next year – 2021-2022). This session is especially for first or second-year Honors College students. For more information about the Honors Research Seminar in Israel visit: <https://honorscollege.msu.edu/programs/israel-honors-research-seminar.html>

Dr. Yore Kedem (ykedem@msu.edu) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics where he teaches Hebrew and is affiliated with the Jewish Studies Center. He has led study abroad programs to Israel for over 10 years.

Dr. Kristin Janka (kristin@msu.edu) is the Director of International Engagement for the Honors College

Foundation for your Success: Defining Your Purpose

Monday, October 12th 5:30pm-7:00pm

Hosted by Dr. Allyn Shaw, Dr. Denise Maybank, and Dr. Terrence Frazier

Student Mentor: Pranjal Dangwal

Modality: Online via Zoom

Being able to understand who you are is an essential part of your growth and development in college. By knowing what is important to you, it will assist you in your discovery, how you define success. Join Drs. Maybank, Frazier and Shaw in a dynamic presentation and discussion on how to better understand and use your talents to explain your purpose. Discovering and refining what is imperative to you will help you strengthen friendships, work relationships and classroom success. Gaining knowledge about what is significant to you will assist your development and build a foundation from which you will make positive decisions in creating your definitions for success.

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.

Imposter or Inclusion? How to recognize and create inclusive environments

Wednesday, October 14th 3:00-4:00pm

Hosted by Dr. Quentin Tyler

Student Mentor: Ayodele Dare

Modality: Online via Zoom

High achieving students and professionals demand a lot from themselves. College is often a time when people reach outside of their comfort zone to experience new things and surround ourselves with people who have different experiences to our own. While this is a fertile ground for personal growth, it can also leave us vulnerable to imposter syndrome, or a sense that someone's going to figure out that we don't belong in the places we've chosen, and the places that have chosen us. This feeling can be particularly acute for those of us in a racial, gender, or other minority in the space we're in. But is it all in our heads, or do our environments bear some of the responsibility as well? We'll talk about inclusion as a practice and have a frank conversation about some of the ways our environments fall short of helping everyone feel like they belong. How do we choose places that know how to welcome us? We'll talk about the red and green flags for different working and learning environments, and how to build our own roads no matter where we land. Join Dr. Quentin Tyler and the Office for Diversity Equity and Inclusion for a discussion about what belonging means and how to carry it with you into any environment.

Dr. Quentin Tyler is the Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He is also serving as Acting Associate Dean for Administration and Faculty Affairs.

Why am I here? College as experience in the context of COVID-19

Sunday, October 18th 11:00am-1:00pm

Hosted by Dr. Amy Mungur

Student Mentor: Madeleine Russell

Modality: Online via Zoom

Throughout his life, educational philosopher John Dewey argued that education was not just preparation for life, but education was life itself. Dewey believed in the social process of education whereby students would learn about themselves through their own experiences and that of their peers. Given the precarity of our social situation in the wake of COVID19, what does this mean for how we experience education? Our relationships with our peers? Professors? While this chat aims to think through our learning in such a new context, we will have an open and direct conversation about what your expectations were about experiencing college more broadly, and consider both what you are gaining from this experience, and what you may be losing. This will be a time to reflect, as first year students, on the uniqueness of your experience.

Dr. Amy Mungur is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Teacher Education and Subject Area Leader for Elementary Social Studies. She works with both elementary secondary preservice teachers.

Success Strategies for Women in Science and Engineering

Date: Thursday, November from 7:00-9:00pm

Hosted by Dr. Angela Wilson and Dr. Karen Draths

Student Mentor: Savannah Finley

Modality: Online via Zoom

Join Drs. Angela Wilson and Karen Draths 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 strengths, addressing any weaknesses, and early identification of opportunities. As well, 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 Dr. Draths is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry with a rich career, including the start-up of her own company.