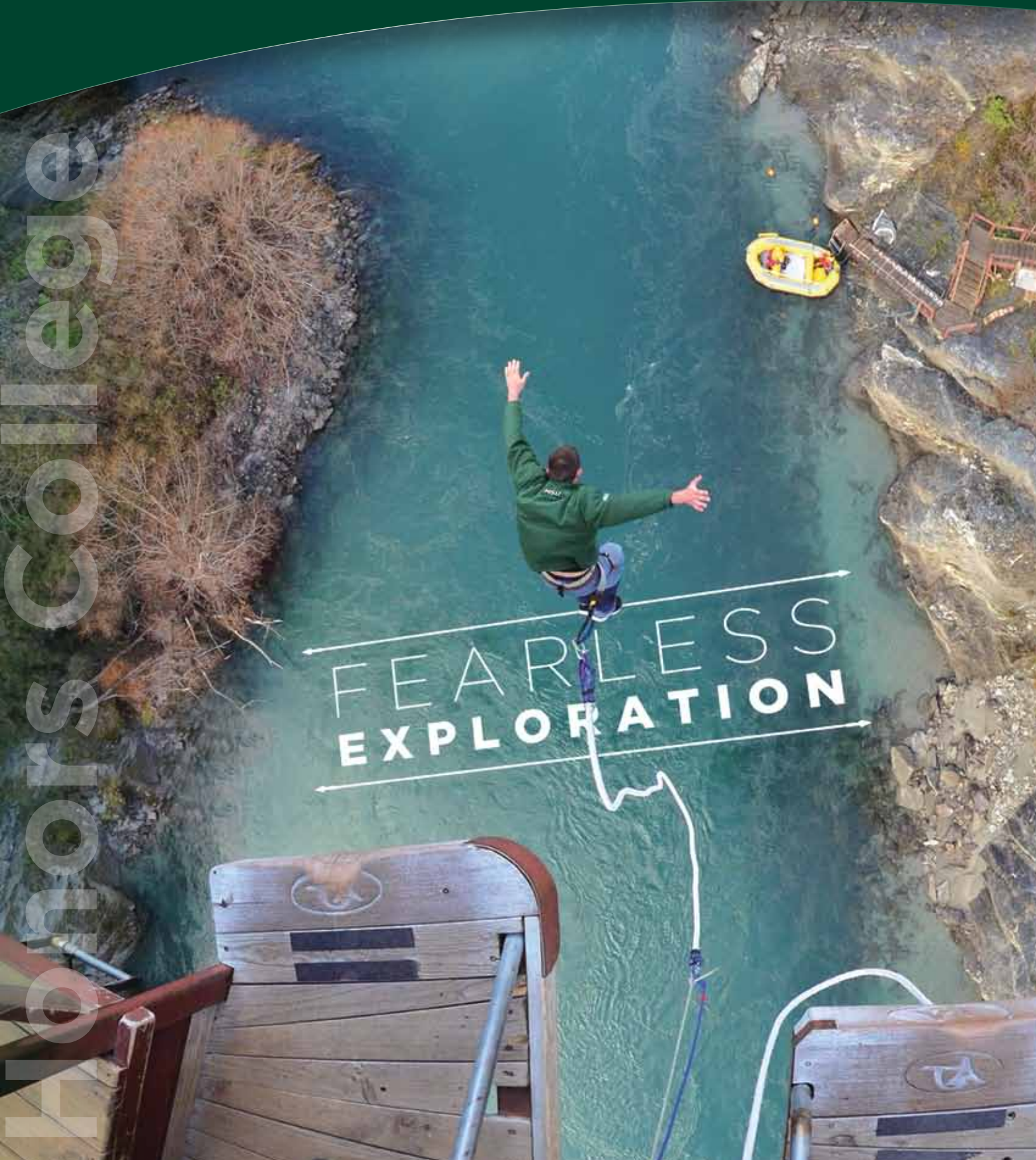


Honors College



FEARLESS
EXPLORATION

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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.



Dear Honors College friends, students, alumni and supporters,

I hope that the past year was filled with experiences and opportunities to learn, grow, and enjoy life at its fullest. We encourage and thrive on lifelong learning in the Honors College and recognize the benefits of giving back to society. That

is why it is so exciting to see, hear, and read about all of the accomplishments of Honors College students, alumni, faculty, friends, and the College itself.

You will notice that the members of our honors community excel in all aspects of life; whether it is doing exciting research and creative activities, tackling new and different career opportunities, or volunteering and leading in our respective communities. The MSU Honors community near and far is finding ways to make the world a better place. We can, will, and are making a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you for keeping in touch with us this past year. I encourage you to continue to do so. We would especially welcome an opportunity to learn how YOU are living up to the Honors College mission to innovate, pioneer, and engage. We look forward to your continued success and contributions! For all the great things to come, small and large, let me be amongst the first to thank you in advance for all that you do with and for the people that matter to you, your community, the Honors College, Michigan State University, and society as a whole.

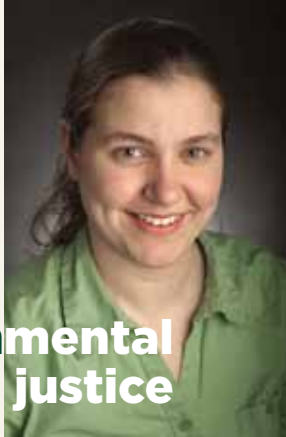
Best wishes for a satisfying and fulfilling year in 2013.

Warmly,

Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore
Dean and Professor

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Honors College



Rebecca Farnum

From First Lady Intern to British Scholar

For her work in environmental justice, Honors College graduate **Rebecca Farnum** was awarded the 2012 Marshall Scholarship. She was one of 36 exceptional students to receive the award and only one of two Michigan recipients. From Mount Pleasant, Michigan, Farnum graduated in May 2012 with degrees in interdisciplinary humanities

in the College of Arts and Letters; international relations in James Madison College; and anthropology and global & area studies in the College of Social Science. She is no stranger to undergraduate research at MSU. Her most recent analysis incorporated mathematic methodology into predicting how—and if—people, organizations, and governments will work together to improve food and water shortages in the Middle East and North Africa. She plans to continue such research in the U.K. and put her passion for environmental justice to work.

“Feeding people can feed peace,” Farnum said. “Helping to ensure equality, through mechanisms such as access to food and water, can help make societies more stable and productive. But do nations need to cooperate around issues of food and water, or can focusing within the state allow for everyone to have sufficient access?”

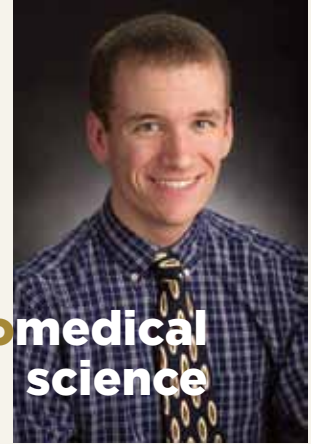
Rebecca’s win comes as no surprise; throughout her college career she has been awarded numerous other scholarships and has interned for First Lady Michelle Obama. Also in her senior year, Rebecca was given the prestigious Featherstone prize, which will assist her graduate studies at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, where she is pursuing a master’s degree in water policy and international development. 🌱

“Feeding people can feed peace. Helping to ensure equality, through mechanisms such as access to food and water, can help make societies more stable and productive.”

Rebecca Farnum
Marshall Scholar

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

An eye toward restoring sight and unanswered evolutionary questions put Goldwater recipients on a path **to lead change.**



biomedical science

Craig Pearson

Craig Pearson, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and **Mairin Chesney**, of Brighton, Michigan, are among the 282 undergraduate sophomores and juniors from the United States who were awarded the Goldwater Scholarship. They are both members of the Honors College.

Goldwater Scholars were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,123 nominated mathematics, science, and engineering students.

“This is very exciting news for the students and their research mentors,” said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. “I am pleased that their early and distinguished commitment to scholarship is being celebrated and that their research is being recognized and indeed encouraged.”

Pearson, a graduate of the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, is pursuing two majors in biochemistry & molecular biology and English in the Lyman Briggs College and College of Arts

and Letters, respectively. Pearson has conducted research with professors Melissa Baumann and Simon Petersen-Jones, developing a bioresorbable drug release vehicle for the controlled release of artificially derived vitamin A. The goal is to restore sight to those suffering from a rare, congenital eye disease.

Pearson’s interest in biomedical science began when he volunteered at a school for children with physical and mental disabilities. Being a visual learner himself, Pearson was most challenged when communicating with children suffering visual impairments. It is because of his experiences working with these children that he plans to earn a medical degree and a doctorate in biochemistry.

“Just the process of putting together my application made me realize how wonderful my first two years at Michigan State have been, and being recognized as a Goldwater Scholar is really the icing on the cake,” Pearson said.

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.

Two HC second-year students from Michigan State University were named **Goldwater Scholars**, bringing MSU's total number of Goldwater Scholars to **32**.



**computational
biology**

Mairin Chesney

Chesney, a graduate of Brighton High School, is majoring in computer science in the College of Engineering. She combined her love of computer science and biology while working with professor Charles Ofria in the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action. Chesney also has collaborated with a fellow undergraduate student to design a joint oral presentation and research poster that won first prize at the Michigan Celebration for Women in Computing Conference. In addition, she earned a Voh Ehr Scholarship, a College of Engineering endowed award benefitting undergraduates.

Chesney's passion for digital evolution grew from her fascination with how simple computer programs could exhibit many characteristics of life. It is because of the many fundamental evolutionary questions that remain unanswered that she plans to obtain a doctorate in computer science and pursue a research career in computational biology.

"Research has been one of the most unexpectedly wonderful parts of college, and I am happy to be able to continue," said Chesney. 🌱

Recent Graduates Earn Fulbright Honors

Sponsored by the Department of State and the Department of Education, Fulbright Scholarships are awarded in all fields of study and enable recipients to pursue one year of study, teaching, or research abroad. The Fulbright program covers costs, fees, and expenses. The following Honors College graduates received Fulbright awards in 2012:

Alyssa Meyer, a 2011 graduate from James Madison College in international relations, is conducting energy research in Kyrgyzstan.

Kathryn Bonnen, a 2012 graduate from the College of Engineering in computer science, is conducting research at The Max Planck Institute in Germany.

Scott Osdras, a 2012 graduate from James Madison College in comparative cultures and politics, is teaching English in Taiwan.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowships Awarded

Honors College graduates were awarded 2012 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships to continue their work 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 \$12,000 cost-of-education allowance, international professional development opportunities, and XSEDE Supercomputer access.

Recipient	Discipline	Proposed Grad School
Kathryn Bonnen	Computer Science	University of Maryland
John Matthew Franklin	Chemical Engineering	University of Washington
Scott James Hall	Aerospace Engineering	University of Michigan
Hanna Miller	Bioengineering	University of Minnesota
Matthew Pawlicki	Aerospace Engineering	University of Illinois
Cory Waltz	Mechanical Engineering	University of Rochester
Virginia Heinen	Behavioral Life Sciences	University of Minnesota
Ryan Goh	Applied Mathematics	University of Minnesota

Winning a national or international fellowship is just the beginning of a great story. For this regular feature of *HConnections*, we asked a past fellowship winner for an update...

Fifteen years ago, **Roy Pea** stood proudly in front of a graduating class of MSU students reminiscing about his past and anticipating the future.

The MSU Honors College alumnus was defining an era not just for the students, but also for himself. Following his graduation in 1974, he assembled an impressive resume with professional experience in research, consulting, and teaching. He was sharing with the graduates a body of work and span of knowledge that was impressive but still evolving in ways he never could have predicated upon leaving Michigan State.

Pea attributes his success to the fellowship he engaged in while attending MSU. “It was the support that I received when I was an undergraduate from faculty, friends, and loved ones that really mattered to me,” said Pea. According to him, those experiences percolate through his work and living, even today as a respected David Jacks Professor of Learning Sciences and Education at the Stanford University School of Education.

He graduated from the College of Arts and Letters with a degree in philosophy and an additional major in

psychology and from the Honors College with high honors. In 1973, he was named a Rhodes Scholar and completed post-graduate doctoral studies at the University of Oxford in England. His formal training in higher education ended in 1978, and since then he has been involved with a career that requires a high level of improvisational skills. As a self-labeled development and philosophical psychologist, he has been greatly influenced by the critical thinking, “learning-on-demand” skills he acquired in the humanities, arts and letters in the Honors College at MSU. His passion and ability to adapt in a field that offers a lot of freedom has led him to unique opportunities and constant growth.



“...pay special attention, in your social life of learning conversations, to when you leave a conversation with more energy than you had coming into it.”

Roy Pea • 1973 Rhodes Scholar

critical thin
learning

The speed of change is what Pea blames for his career path. A majority of his work has involved the designing of new learning environments to make the complexity of important academic subjects more accessible using potent digital technologies. His improvisational skills are put to the test when figuring out how education can keep up with the challenges of the information age. For over 30 years Roy has published widely on K-12 learning and education, especially in science, math and technology, fostered by advanced technologies including scientific visualization, online communities, digital video collaboratories, and mobile computers. He holds three patents in interactive and panoramic video. From 1999 to 2009 he was the co-founder and director for Teachscape,

a teacher professional development services company, and in 2010 he was the co-author of the National Education Technology Plan for the U.S. Department of Education.

He currently serves as the founding director of Kogeto.com, provider of the Dot iPhone lens and a video sharing web platform. He also serves as an adviser to several other companies and is the founder and director of Stanford University's doctorate program in Learning Sciences and Technology Design. He is now the David Jacks Professor of Education and the Learning Sciences at Stanford and director of Stanford's H-STAR (Human Sciences and Technologies Advanced Research) Institute. He continually conducts research projects with government and foundation funding that keeps him "highly occupied on the cutting edge."

His own experience in the arts and humanities and as a Rhodes Scholar at MSU made essential contributions to his career. His advice to students 15 years ago was to "stay active, be productive, and follow your passions as you figure out how to make life meaningful." Today, that remains largely unchanged, "Finding your passion is one of life's most vital quests. My advice is to be reflective in two ways to serve this life goal:

- (1) be attuned to when you are finding passion in the process of what you are doing in learning/creating—when you achieve a state of 'flow' that's telling you something important, and
- (2) pay special attention, in your social life of learning conversations, to when you leave a conversation with more energy than you had coming into it.

These indicators will help guide your way to actualizing your expansive possible self." 🌱

king → adaptability & change
on-demand

The purpose of the Schoenl Family Grant is to identify and fund the most outstanding projects proposed by members of the Honors College, which will serve dire human needs in countries outside of the United States.

Global challenges in water, sanitation, and health have inspired two Michigan State University Honors College students to demonstrate exceptional character, leadership, and interest in improving lives in communities abroad.



John Suddard-Bangsund



Tiffany Abrahamian

As recipients of the 2012 Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grants for Dire Needs Overseas, **John Suddard-Bangsund** and **Tiffany Abrahamian** used their grants to aid communities with a clearly defined need—improved sanitation to prevent the spread of deadly disease and promote economic growth. The purpose of the Schoenl Family Grant is to identify and fund the most outstanding projects proposed by members of the Honors College, which serve dire human needs in countries outside of the United States.

John Suddard-Bangsund used his award to help build composting vault latrines for the small farming village of El Balsamar, El Salvador. Of the 170-some families living in El Balsamar, only 20 have access to sanitary facilities. Composting latrines not only result in improved sanitation for a healthier community, but also they provide an excellent source of fertilizer.

“With the availability of composting latrines, El Balsamar will be given the means to thrive,” said Suddard-Bangsund who went on the first assessment trip to El Balsamar in May 2012 with the Engineers Without Borders chapter at MSU. “Eventually we hope to build a latrine for every family.” Project implementation will occur in the spring of 2013.

aiding communities through improved sanitation

preventing the spread of deadly disease

promoting

GRANT

as a Key to Global Health

“Sanitation is a dire necessity and a basic human right that will be made accessible through this grant.”

Tiffany Abrahamian

Suddard-Bangsund is a second-year Honors College student with junior standing pursuing two degrees in chemical engineering with the Chemical Engineering and Materials Science Department and in interdisciplinary humanities with the College of Arts and Letters. He is also pursuing an additional major in Spanish.

Tiffany Abrahamian's grant was awarded to improve sanitation and hygiene for the rural poor living in the villages surrounding Coimbatore, India, through the installation of sustainable latrines. These latrines provide a cost-effective, sustainable, low-maintenance sanitation solution that will also produce fertilizer to boost crop yield.

“Among the rural families in Coimbatore, lack of sanitation facilities contributes to poor health and female vulnerability,” said Abrahamian, who traveled to India during summer 2012 to participate in community engagement programs through a partnership between MSU Students Advancing International Development and Shanti Ashram, the local NGO. “Sanitation is a dire necessity and a basic human right that will be made accessible through this grant.” The project is expected to break ground in 2013.

Abrahamian, an Honors College alumna, graduated in May 2012 with dual majors in biology and nutrition science in the College of Natural Science and a major in French in the College of Arts and Letters. She is a first-year medical student at the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, expecting to graduate May 2016. 🌱



Tiffany Abrahamian received a henna tattoo from a local child during a summer camp program hosted by Shanti Ashram, a local NGO.



As ad hoc translator for the team, John Suddard-Bangsund (second from left), facilitated communications with a family in El Balsamar.

GATE: Gifted and Talented

CLOSING THE GAP in Cultural Perceptions

In a basement meeting room at the MSU Kellogg Center in early March, a group of teenagers are touching their noses, tapping elbows, stomping feet and saying “whoop, whoop” to each other. What does this have to do with a possible trip to Japan? It’s all part of preparing these students to be ambassadors for their high school, their city, their state, and country.

What began in 1968 as a way to expand the relationship between “sister” states, Michigan and Shiga Prefecture, Japan, the MI/Shiga Student Exchange Program continues to build international ties. Initiated by the Michigan Department of Education and the Shiga Board of Education, the Office of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) at



2012 Michigan-Shiga Exchange Program students and chaperones leaving for Japan

Michigan State University has been administering the program on behalf of the State of Michigan since 1993. As an exchange program created specifically for high school students, it aims to create ties of friendship, education, and understanding between these two states.

When Michigan students apply to the program each fall, they complete an extensive application that shares information about themselves, their family, and their pets. Using this information, a pool of students is selected to attend a Friday night and all-day Saturday Orientation on the MSU campus where they learn basic Japanese language, culture, and customs. Activities are structured to place students outside their “comfort zone,” allowing program committee members to assess each student’s ability to handle themselves in what could be challenging situations, such as living with a new family in a foreign country, perhaps not able to speak each other’s language, or eating unfamiliar food.

At the end of the orientation, 15 students are selected as program participants. Between the early March orientation and until they depart in June, students continue to learn about Japan via bi-monthly e-mails sent by the two Michigan chaperones. The program chaperones are Michigan high school teachers who are well seasoned travelers. With the Japanese school year beginning in April, the Michigan students don’t learn about their host student/family until a week before departure. Unlike the first students who participated

in this program, students today are able to communicate with their host student and family members via the Internet before meeting in Otsu.

In late June, the students and families gather at the Lansing airport, and 18-24 hours later, students and chaperones arrive in Japan. On their first day, students meet local state government officials, travel to local famous sites, and prepare to meet their host family later that afternoon. After this day together, the students are dispersed throughout the Shiga Prefecture, living in all types of environments. Some may be located in rural areas, living in traditional Japanese homes, and riding a bike to and from school each day. Others will live in the city in an apartment and travel by train to school, sometimes long distances.

During their stay with the host family, the Michigan students attend school each day with their Japanese host sister or brother. Lunch time includes a bento box lunch provided by their Japanese mother, consisting of rice, a pickled vegetable, some fish meats, and miso soup. As adopted members



Students and chaperones tour a local temple in Shiga, Japan



ed Education at MSU

of their host family, the Michigan students participate in all family activities, experiencing daily Japanese life. Program chaperones provide students with support while in this new environment. They visit students at their schools during their stay and meet school officials, strengthening the relationship between Shiga and Michigan. At the end of the two weeks, a farewell event is held at the Michigan Center for Michigan University in Hikone, Japan.

In September the roles are reversed, and Japanese students travel to Michigan. After a day spent meeting the Governor of Michigan and the Superintendent of Schools at the state Capitol, they visit the Michigan Historical Museum and take a tour of MSU campus, which always includes a picture with Sparty. The Japanese students then meet their host family. Already considered a member of their Michigan family, the Japanese student takes part in family activities and attends school and learns about life in a typical American family.

At the end of their stay in Michigan, a farewell event is held in Lansing for the host families and Japanese students and their chaperones. Each family shares the highlights of their experiences learning about each other, their town, their state, and their country during this event. All speak emotionally of the rewards they have received during their short time together and many state that participation in the program is a life-changing experience.

Accompanying the students and chaperones this year was the dean of the Honors College, Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore. During her stay, she was able to visit several schools

and meet with students, state, and school officials. "The host families, school officials, government officials, and countless others who work behind the scenes, do an excellent job of ensuring that these promising young people experience, respect, and celebrate Shiga, Japan, and Michigan, USA, through the sharing of cultures, customs and ideas. This is indeed a wonderful and important opportunity," said Dean Jackson-Elmoore.

In recognition of Lansing as the sister city of Otsu, Japan, the Honors College has provided scholarships for Lansing School District students to participate in the exchange. Numerous students from area high schools have had the opportunity to travel to Japan due to this generous support. The Japan Business Society of Detroit has provided scholarships to students from the Detroit area. The Japan Center for Michigan Universities provides scholarship and program financial support annually.

"I feel the students get to experience Japan from the inside out. By staying with a Japanese family and attending school with a Japanese student, Michigan students gain insight into a culture that is fascinating and different from their own. The students not only learn about a foreign culture, they share elements of their culture too," says Susan Karlstrom, Fenton High School teacher and 2012 MI/Shiga Student Exchange chaperone. "Furthermore, I feel that this program benefits our entire state. When Japanese students come to Michigan, they interact with an entire school.

This shared experience educates both students, and both countries. Also, the Michigan students not only share their culture, they share their ways. This causes the students of a foreign language to realize the value of learning a language. It gives the students from Michigan and Shiga a reason for their studies and assists them in perusing their goals."

Reflecting on their adventures, it is evident that the students come away from this experience with a broader understanding of another culture and perhaps even a glimpse into their roles as citizens of the world. In the beginning, the differences are obvious to them. In a game that teaches students how to learn to accept cultural differences by touching noses, tapping elbows, stomping feet, and "whoop, whooping," they discover the ways they are more alike than different. Perhaps this discovery is the most significant lesson they learn during their preparation. It is in that spirit of closing perceived gaps and creating greater understanding that this beneficial exchange program continues to offer these valuable opportunities through the generosity of those that support it. 🌍

"I feel the students get to experience Japan from the inside out. By staying with a Japanese family and attending school with a Japanese student, Michigan students gain insight into a culture that is fascinating and different from their own."

Susan Karlstrom
Fenton High School teacher



SPARTAN DEBATE

The MSU debate team enjoys a long history of success, including three national championship victories in a decade.

In 2012, the MSU debate team enjoyed another year of notable accomplishments and events both within and outside of the competitive realm.

First, the team's competitive depth and prospects for future success were showcased by several accomplishments by its younger members. In February, sophomore Kaavya Ramesh (Honors College international relations and Chinese, Alpharetta, Georgia) and freshman Evan Hebert (international relations, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan) brought home a championship by winning Freshman-Sophomore Nationals. The duo also was the youngest and one of only sixteen teams in the country to receive an automatic qualifying "bid" to the National Debate Tournament held at Emory University in March. Ramesh and Hebert, along with freshman Aniela Butler (international relations, Draper, Utah) and Jack Caporal (international relations, Lexington, Massachusetts), composed an MSU squad that advanced to the late elimination rounds at the National Debate Tournament, defeating the University of Michigan on a close 3-2 decision.

Second, under the leadership of Project Coordinator Carly Wunderlich (MSU & Honors College alumna, '10), the team significantly expanded its public debate program, participating in several events in Michigan. Debaters tackled issues of environmental justice in a debate against Wayne State University for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; race and social policy in a public debate partnered with the Detroit Urban Debate League and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit; and hosted a joint roundtable discussion with MSU faculty on campus about the 2011-2012 college debate topic regarding the "Arab Spring" democratic revolutions. Several more public debate events are planned for the coming year. The team launched its Spartan Presidential Debate Series, which provided non-partisan, expert coverage and analysis of each of the four presidential and vice-presidential debates in venues around the country. Also, in partnership with Winter University, in February the debate team will be presenting a public debate for MSU alumni in Phoenix, Arizona, regarding U.S. energy policy.

2012 Spartan Presidential Debate Series

environmental justice

race and social policy

the presidential election



debate.msu.edu/team

DEBATE TEAM



Finally, the summer camp run by the MSU debate team, the Spartan Debate Institute (SDI), reached record levels of attendance and quality of competition in 2012. The SDI continued its Hoya-Spartan Scholars program in conjunction with Georgetown University, which brings together two summer programs in Washington, DC, and East Lansing for an outstanding seven week experience. For the first time in nearly a decade, the SDI was the host to groups of the nation's strongest high school sophomores and seniors, bringing an amazingly talented group of future debaters and potential MSU students to campus for a month over the summer. Over 250 students from 26 states attended the Spartan Debate Institute. "The Spartan debate camps and public debates provide a vehicle for teaching reasoned civic discourse," said Head Coach Will Repko. "In public policy discussions, young people sometimes forget that there are two sides to these issues. Argumentation can help students grasp both sides of these controversies."

With its strength in competition, public debates, service, and high school instruction, the team has seen broad success and is poised to continue to be ranked among the top debate programs in the country. 🏆

"Spartan Debate camps... provide a vehicle for teaching reasoned civic discourse. In public policy discussions, young people sometimes forget that there are two sides to these issues. Argumentation can help students grasp both sides of these controversies."

Will Repko
Head Coach
Spartan Debate Team



(L-R): Ramesh, Hebert, and Caporal at the National Debate Tournament in Gwinnett, GA



Spartan Debate Institute (SDI)



David Strauss teaching at SDI 2012

UURAF **SPOTLIGHT ON UNDERGRADUATE** (University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum)

The 2012 University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF), held in April, served as a platform for nearly 600 MSU undergraduate students to showcase their research and creative work. Students, faculty, and others gathered at the MSU Union as undergraduate researchers presented research in a variety of categories, ranging from psychology to cell biology.

Students were able to create a research poster highlighting their work or present in front of a panel of judges throughout the day. Only 57 awards were handed out that afternoon, but all participants were able to obtain valuable knowledge and insight into the research process and topic of their choice. By working with knowledgeable professors, students received hands-on experience in the research field and in research presentation. They were asked questions by observers and

were given constructive feedback from the judges, who purposely blended into the crowd.

Fantastic presentations were given in the morning and afternoon, while four rooms were packed with unique, intriguing posters of all sizes, colors, and topics. Student researchers had the chance to present the research they had been working on with a professor throughout the school year.

Amy Pochodylo, a professorial assistant and Honors College student, worked in the MSU chemistry lab where she had the opportunity to create a new ligand. She considered it “one of the most unique and valuable experiences” she encountered at MSU. Honors College senior **Craig Pearson** was one recipient of the \$500 grand prize. He believes UURAF gave him the opportunity to gain



confidence in similar situations, such as when he presented his research to the MSU Board of Trustees.

The projects and methods of research differed from student to student. Many spent their days working in a lab on campus, studying a topic about which they were passionate. One Honors College student, junior **Rachel Brock**, looked at the effects of diabetes on bone loss in mice. Through undergraduate



UURAF posters in Union Ballroom

Students explore...

→ **new ligands**

→ **bone loss in mice**

→ **gender roles in the 1950s**

and much more

RESEARCH

research, she was able to connect her classroom learning to hands-on experiences. “I learned to conduct tests that I had previously only read about in books,” said Brock.

Others sought alternative routes. Allie Browe, for example, befriended librarians and studied primary documents as research for her paper on Sylvia Plath’s work in the context of gender roles in the 1950s. Two group projects, Camouflage and Art and Animal Instinct, had the privilege of being displayed in the MSU Museum.

Each year, UURAF works to provide opportunities to students interested in research through scholarship, faculty interaction and academic programs. The platform on which students can promote and enhance their work and creativity is one that Michigan State University is proud to offer. 🌱

This year, UURAF will be held on April 12, 2013. Registration and other details can be found at urca.msu.edu/uuraf.

Videos of the 2012 event can be viewed at [youtube.com/user/SupportSpartans](https://www.youtube.com/user/SupportSpartans).

Red Cedar Undergraduate Research

ReCUR

ENTERING YEAR THREE



ReCUR cover photo by Honors College student April Korneli

The Wonder of the Snowflake

“...every day has something beautiful in it, some image worth being captured, some memory worth remembering. All you have to do is look for it.”

ReCUR (Red Cedar Undergraduate Research), is a journal of the Michigan State University Honors College that features the scholarly work of MSU students from all disciplines. The most recent issue of ReCUR highlights the diversity of the journal with a research article on African-American vernacular dance and the “art” of breaking, to an unforgettable short story titled “Walking Backwards,” written by a student majoring in biochemistry and English. The 2012 issue of ReCUR is available to view online as a PDF at recur.msu.edu. 🌱

Honors College First-Year Experience

BY THE NUMBERS

The Honors College strives to provide a holistic experience across the undergraduate years. Here's a snapshot of the first-year cohort:

530

Approximate number of new Honors College first-year students in the fall of 2012. The class is the largest incoming class in Honors College history.

450

Approximate number of students who joined the first-year cohort in spring semester 2013 as a result of exceptional academic work in the first semester.

35/36

Average ACT score of this year's Alumni and University Distinguished Scholars

4.07

The average high school GPA of the fall semester entering class

(includes weighted and unweighted GPAs).

23

Approximate percent of students in the first-year class whose permanent homes are outside of Michigan—in other states and countries.

2012

The inaugural year of the Honors College First-Year Forum which draws on the strength of upperclass students as mentors to model and discuss ways to use the advantages and benefits of the Honors College. The Honors College First-Year Council, a selective leadership development group for first-year students, was also started this year.

11

Number of years the Honors College has held a welcome Convocation for new students, a special ceremony that features guest speakers from the faculty, alumni, and student body.

A pillar of leadership, service, scholarship, and character

A Veteran's Transition to Remarkable Leadership



Kent Dell arriving home from his first deployment to Iraq (2006-2007) with his wife Kolina (MSU and HC alumna, '08)

Leading a life of action and leadership, **Kent Dell**, a member of the Honors College at Michigan State University, went from receiving a Purple Heart while deployed in Iraq, to becoming President of the MSU Tower Guard and the MSU Student Veterans of America. Dell is very straight forward when he reflects on his transition from Iraq war veteran to Honors College member, "I've always wanted to attend Michigan State University. There is no better campus than MSU and I am having the best time of my life right now."

With the financial support he receives from the Post-9/11 GI-Bill, Dell has the opportunity to fulfill his dream of earning a bachelor's degree. "I put everything into my classes and try very hard to earn a 4.0 in each of them," said Dell.

"I would urge every student at MSU to take full advantage of their opportunity to be here," which is exactly what Dell has been doing since he first began his journey at MSU. "Kent is committed to a career in public service and his record as a veteran bears witness to the fact that service to the country in any and all capacities will always be first and foremost for him," said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College.

Dell is an Honors College junior in the Department of Political Science with a major in public policy and is currently working with Jackson-Elmoore on research projects regarding information sources for state legislators. "To say that Kent has been an asset to the project is an understatement. He writes clear, concise and accurate summaries of journal articles and is able to make connections between different conceptual frameworks." Jackson-Elmoore reflects. "Because of this he can bring new perspectives to the project. What is most exciting is that I see this carrying over into his degree studies. We often talk about how he is applying what he is learning on the research project to his studies and to life in general."

In addition, Dell serves as president of the MSU Tower Guard. The Tower Guard is founded upon four corners or pillars: leadership, service, scholarship, and character. The organization's main commitment is to serve students with disabilities. Each member upholds this tradition by dedicating a total of 120 hours of reading textbooks and exams through the **Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)**. "It is not unusual for members of the Honors College to be amongst those individuals who are invited to become a part of the Tower Guard," says Jackson-Elmoore, who serves as faculty advisor for the Tower Guard.

Dell grew up in Fowler, Michigan, and is married to Kolina Dell (Riley), a 2008 MSU Honors College alumna. Upon completion of his degree in May 2014, Dell plans on attending graduate school to receive his master's in public policy. His goal is to work for the Michigan legislature as a policy analyst, where he hopes to make a greater impact on the state. 🏆



"Kent is committed to a career in public service and his record as a veteran bears witness to the fact that service to the country in any and all capacities will always be first and foremost for him."

Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore
Dean of the Honors College

PREVIEW OF 2013 HONORS COLLEGE EVENTS

February 1

Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students Award nomination deadline

February 1-2 and February 8-9

The 58th Annual Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Competition

February 4 (7-9pm)

HC's Sharper Focus/Wider Lens Series Presents—Salt Water Encounters: Conducting Research Beneath, Beside and Across the Oceans

February 15

Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas application deadline

February 17

Debate Presentation at Winter University in Phoenix, Arizona

March 1

HC Study Abroad Scholarships application deadline (for summer and fall programs) HC internal application deadline

March 14 (4:30pm-6:30pm)

Honors College First-Year Forum

April 12

University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, MSU Union

April 19-20

Michigan High School State Championship Quiz Bowl tournament sponsored by the Honors College and Meijer, Inc.

April 22 (7-9pm tentative)

Sharper Focus/Wider Lens Series Presents—Food & The City

May 3

MSU Undergraduate Convocation and Honors College Graduation Reception

June 21, June 28, and July 12

Green Carpet Days recruitment program for high achieving students considering MSU for the fall of 2014

July 14-August 9

Spartan Debate Institute

August 1

National and International Fellowships and Scholarships (NIFS) internal application deadline for UK Scholarships (Churchill Foundation, Gates Cambridge, Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarships)

September 6

Honors College Annual Picnic

October 15

HC Study Abroad Scholarship application deadline (for spring programs)

November (date TBA)

Honors College Student Recital (an annual partnership with the MSU College of Music)

November 1

NIFS internal application deadline for the Junior Fellows Program, Goldwater Scholarship, and Truman Scholarship

December 1

NIFS internal application deadline for the NSEP David L. Boren Graduate Fellowship, NSEP David L. Boren Scholarship, and the Beinecke Scholarship Program

December 15

NIFS internal application deadline for the Udall Scholarship

December 17

Deadline to submit student research/scholarly work for the 2014 MLK, Jr. Advancing Inclusion through Research Award (a partnership with MSU's Residential Colleges)



For more information about Honors College events, please email honors@msu.edu or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

HONORS
COLLEGE

HC

Mentoring Scholars**MSU Professor Honored with 2012's Distinguished Contributions Award**

Recognized as an outstanding teacher and mentor, **Dr. Charles Bokemeier**, Professor of Practice in the Department of Accounting, has been honored with the 2012 Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students.

The award was established by the Honors College Student Advisory Committee and the Honors College Alumni Association in 1999 to recognize faculty members who strive to make remarkable contributions through teaching, advising, and mentoring Honors College students.

As Professor of Practice, Dr. Bokemeier incorporates his experience and expertise into teaching the Introductory Financial Accounting course, one he has taught for nine years. During his twelve years at MSU he has also taught intermediate financial, governmental, and MBA financial accounting courses.

His previous teaching experience includes serving as Associate Professor at the University of Michigan – Flint and Assistant Professor at both Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky.

As an honors departmental adviser, Dr. Bokemeier ensures that all students within the business program, along with those that are interested in joining the business program, enlist in academic advising to assist their educational needs. His strong ties to accounting firms and Fortune 500 companies enable him to help students obtain opportunities for experiences and future careers, both regionally and nationally.

Dr. Bokemeier's strong ties to accounting firms and Fortune 500 companies enable him to help students obtain opportunities for experiences and future careers, both regionally and nationally.

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

Dr. Bokemeier makes an effort to engage and bring interested students into the accounting program. He connects students with extracurricular activities that suit their individual program and with professors for academic research and higher-level course opportunities.

In addition to being a professor and adviser, Dr. Bokemeier has actively conducted research and has received numerous awards and accolades throughout his professional career.

The nomination was submitted by HC alumna Andrea Silva, who had the pleasure of working with Dr. Bokemeier. She's especially appreciative of Dr. Bokemeier's teaching methods. In his Honors Accounting 201 class, for example, he assigned a semester-long project that required thorough analysis of companies' financial statements and knowledge of financial accounting and theory to make important investment decisions.

"I was able to develop a strong foundation in the principles of financial accounting [from this project]," said Silva. "From the standpoint of an Honors student in the College of Business, it is extremely beneficial to have and work with a network of intellectually curious and professionally motivated students."

Dr. Bokemeier's mission has always been to not only teach, but also to provide experience. His dedication to enriching the academic and professional experiences of students at Michigan State University is greatly appreciated and widely acknowledged. 🌟

Leading through academics, athletics, artistry...and more.

In addition to being recognized for their academic accomplishments and work at MSU, Honors College students are lauded around the nation and world.



Brandon Alberts, Erik Bates, Bennett Prud'homme, Minh Pham, Adam Scarchilli, Kellie Stilson, and Jessica Stuart presented their arithmetic research at the 9th annual Student Mathematics Conference, hosted by the MSU Mathematics Department. Pictured above are professors Bob Bell and Jeanne Wald with Bennett Prud'homme, Adam Scarchilli, and Minh Pham.



Madison Boden, Dennis Corsi, Michelle Gaunt, Amy Pochodylo, Anna Ricelli, and Allegra Smith were members of the 2012 Homecoming Court.

Denis Bogatov and Christian Roehmer were named Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Scholars for having a GPA of 3.5 or higher. The Spartan tennis team was named as a 2012 ITA All-Academic Team and finished with the highest MSU men's team GPA, a record five years in a row.

Liz Brajevich, along with faculty and three student collaborators in the Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment (RISE) and staff members in Residential Education and Housing Services earned a \$5000 grant from the Be Spartan Green Student



Courtesy of The State News

Project Fund, designed to provide financial support for student projects aimed at addressing sustainability

challenges. The group plans to build a vermicompost system in the Bailey Scholars program GREENhouse. Vermicomposting is a type of composting in which worms are used to consume and process post-consumer food scraps, then excrete nutrient rich castings. Liz was also recently awarded the Glassen Conservation Scholarship from Fisheries and Wildlife department.

Meg Brennan, Neill Campbell, Patrick Furlo, Caroline Glaeser, Anna Goodson, Taylor Herron, Yaoyue Huang, JW Kriewall, Evan Snyder, Hannah Stone, Jane Sylvester, Amelia Van Howe, and Nathan Woodring performed in the now annual November Honors College Student Recital featuring HC students who are in the College of Music. This year's concert was held in the newly renovated Cook Recital Hall.

Kent Dell was featured in a *New York Times* blog article that covered his experience in the military and as a veteran at MSU, with the Tower Guard, and with other MSU organizations. It can be read here: <http://nyti.ms/KVCLCF>.

Bradley Disbrow gave an interview to Chicago Live, a radio broadcast sponsored by the *Chicago Tribune*, in which he discussed his experience as a member of the All-State Academic Team. The interview can be found at <http://trib.in/KteEZm>.



Paul Finstad, hospitality business senior, was awarded a Statler Foundation Scholarship of Excellence for \$20,000. He will use the award in his pursuit of a career in the hospitality industry. Currently he is the CEO of the Hospitality Association at MSU.

Alyssa Firth, Andrea Raby, and **Simon Zagata** premiered their documentary, titled “The U.S. v. Narciso, Perez & the Press,” at the Ninth International Conference of the Philippines in the MSU Kellogg Center. The film, which revisits a controversial 1975 court case, was created in collaboration with assistant professor Geri Zeldes in the School of Journalism.

Mykala Ford, Kaavya Ramesh, and **Hannah Selig** studied critical languages in the summer of 2012 as recipients of the U.S. Department of State 2012 Critical Language Scholarship (CLS). They traveled to Tunisia, China, and Azerbaijan, respectively, where they participated in fully funded, group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences.



Kirk Gordon participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) through the National

Science Foundation during the summer of 2012. He worked in the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center, a part of the Plant Biology department at MSU.



Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College, edited a book this year on environmental contamination (Hula, R. C.,

Reese, L. A. and Jackson-Elmoore, C., (eds.) (2012) *Reclaiming Brownfields: A Comparative Analysis of Adaptive Reuse of Contaminated Properties*. Surrey, England: Ashgate Publishing, LTD.)



Jasmin Haynes, an MSU senior majoring in urban and regional planning in the College of Social

Science, was nominated for the Beinecke Scholarship program. Each year, approximately 100 colleges and universities are invited to nominate one student for this program, which provides substantial scholarships for graduate study in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.



Dr. Lee June, former Vice President of Student Affairs and Services, was awarded

the Outstanding Service-Learning “Champion” Award for his advocacy of and leadership within service-learning courses and projects, expansion of the Alternative Spring Break Program, and partnerships with several community organizations, along with his overall support of the Center for Service Learning & Civic Engagement at MSU.

Andrew League was awarded one of three Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) \$1000 scholarships, given annually to college juniors and seniors who are enrolled in a teacher preparation program and have mathematics as their primary teaching interest.

Kathryn Mahoney, Kelsey Mazur, and **Carson Tabiolo** have been named Scholar All-Americans by the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches/Women.

The gymnasts were recognized for maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the 2011 academic year. Tabiolo, in addition, received the 2012 MSU Spirit Award, and Mahoney and Mazur have been chosen as Academic All-Big Ten selections.

Ben Peck was named Most Valuable Player at the 2012 National Academic Championship in Chicago. His quiz bowl team at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School defeated teams from across the country to win the competition with a perfect 10-0 score.



Dr. Rocío Quispe-Agnoli, associate professor of Hispanic Studies, received the 2012 Fintz Award for Teaching Excellence

in the Arts and Humanities as an outstanding professor of the IAH 203 Latin America and the World honors course. Her superior student evaluations and interactive course syllabus resulted in her winning the award, which recognizes outstanding faculty whom effectively encourage critical thinking and artistic expression within integrative studies.



Marisa Reynolds was selected as a finalist in the National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)

program, for which she was awarded a full-ride study abroad trip. She traveled to Korea, where she studied language and culture and stayed with a host family. She updated a blog throughout her experience, which can be viewed at cupofmarisajo.blogspot.com.

Benjamin Cox

Rewriting the Rules of Filmmaking

By A.S. Lobo

Photography courtesy of elkstudios.com



Benjamin Cox

Ask **Benjamin Cox** to describe his role as a producer and director at Red Square Pictures, the New York-based film production company he founded in 2008, and this is what he'll say: "What it comes down to is my job is to get things done."

Get things done. Something one has no doubt envisioning the energetically confident Cox doing. After brunching together near the East Village apartment building he has lived in for more than a decade, it's even easier to see why.

Cox fluidly moves from topics as far reaching as dissecting Woody Allen movies via note cards, to analogizing credit default swaps with fantasy football teams, to perfecting apple pie crust at Thanksgiving (a modified version of his grandmother's recipe; he uses both frozen butter and oil), to embracing struggle as part of one's creative process in order to achieve something great.

As an Honors College student at Michigan State University, too, such traits were already in the shop for fine tuning. A James Madison College International Relations and Political Economy double major, Cox participated in study abroad programs in Europe and South America, completed internships on Wall Street and Capitol Hill, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in three and a half years—all while working two jobs.

Among the MSU accomplishments that make him proudest are the work he did as vice president of the JMC Student Senate, including lobbying the school to keep its library open late as a quiet place for students to study, and being the brainchild of JMC's first annual all-college joint student and faculty party.

"When someone told me that the all-college party was still going nearly 20 years after we did the first one, that put a smile across my face for about three days," he says. "Really I arrived at MSU at the right time. As a freshman I got to be a ratifying senator of the JMCSS constitution and work with folks who've since gone on to be Rhodes scholars, federal prosecutors and senior advisors at the U.N. and State Department. Meanwhile, all I really knew at the time was that I didn't like following rules. What I discovered, though, was that by getting organized and by being passionate about what was important to me, I could empower myself to change the rules... so why not just do that?"

Put another way: get things done.

Following graduation, Cox went to work on Wall Street via an internship he had obtained by going door to door, phoning various banks' human resources executives from the lobby and offering to work for free—if they ever let him past security.

"When I first got to New York they didn't really know what to make of me," he says. "I'd driven straight through the night from Michigan to avoid paying for a hotel, was wearing a really cheap suit which I'd ironed in my car and didn't go to Harvard or Yale, so why would they want to employ *me*?"

Maybe so. But after getting that first break in the mid '90s (courtesy of JMC alum Michael Damas) and fast forwarding a dozen years through a London and New York investment banking career (most recently as a vice president at Goldman Sachs) which included transactions of all shapes and sizes (he was a key deal team member of the massive Hertz leveraged buyout which, at \$16 billion, was the second largest LBO in history up to that point), while traveling to nearly 40 countries and getting his MBA at Columbia Business School along the way, it would be hard to argue they wouldn't.

Which, of course, brings us to movies.

spartan starts



After making his first short film in the third grade, Cox says it was only a matter of time before he took the plunge. “My wife Erica is really an inspiration to me,” he says. “After watching her transition from working in finance to becoming a photographer and visual artist, I realized that it’s not just your career. It’s your life, so make it count.”

For decades, Cox spent time writing, devouring film books and watching DVD commentaries. He shot films ranging from contest submissions to workplace holiday party videos and even a friend’s wedding. “As long as they were cool with me making it narrative,” he says, “I’d shoot anything as a creative outlet; I was really in need.”

Then, one day he received the opportunity for which he had long been waiting. Stellar Network, a non-profit membership-based organization that benefits up-and-comers in film, theater and television, was looking for a finance director. Cox, who was working in JPMorgan’s investment banking division at the time, knew the white shoe Wall Street firm would never allow him to do it on the side. So he did what anyone who doesn’t like rules might do under such circumstances: he didn’t tell them.

In his new pro bono, top secret film position, he had the chance to work closely with a “who’s who” list of industry professionals, including Hannah Minghella (now president of production at Columbia Pictures) and Jordana Mollick (a 2012 Sundance producing fellow), among others, who were on the cusps of their burgeoning film careers.

Such relationships, when coupled with Cox’s filmmaking self-teaching, helped provide the gateway through which his fulltime switch into the film industry would allow for such staggering results.

Starting with production assistant work (the lowest form of life on a film set) and intensive film schooling via The New School and NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, he quickly realized that his combination of business and creative talents formed a powerful value proposition to potential collaborators. Since that time he has produced, written, directed and crewed projects ranging from “really bad Italian cooking shows” and music videos, to feature films and episodic content—including an Asian television project, which has him over the moon.

Now a professional member of BAFTA New York, he has also provided creative editing consultation on everything from commercial spots to feature films. He returned to Michigan for a shoot a couple years ago when director David Schwimmer invited Cox to spend a few weeks on set for principal photography of *Trust*.

Not only did *Trust* star Clive Owen, Catherine Keener, Viola Davis and Liana Liberato, but Cox was also able to meet and talk shop with producer Robert Greenhut, whose credits include *Annie Hall*, *Manhattan* and *Postcards From The Edge*, and cinematographer Andrzej Sekula, who lensed *American Psycho*, *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*.

“I can’t tell you the tremendous takeaways from that shoot,” he says. “It was simultaneously humbling and exhilarating. And really, if I think about it, it’s those types of experiences that have most catapulted my career in film.”

These days, Cox is preparing to direct his first feature length film, *Stereotypically You*, which through a chuckle he describes as “the worst NYC dating comedy since *Raging Bull*.”

The project, which is budgeted in the single digit millions, has already attracted such industry veterans as producer Tracey Becker (whose film *Finding Neverland*, starring Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet, garnered seven Oscar nominations, including for Best Picture), and Oscar-winning cinematographer Russell Carpenter (who’s lensed such films as *Charlie’s Angels*, *True Lies* and the mega-blockbuster *Titanic*).

With both Becker and Carpenter attached to the film, among others, all systems are a go for Cox targeting a 25 day New York City shoot this spring. Cox, who penned and is also producing the script, explains that the film’s paralleled casting and fundraising efforts are “very close to knocking the Coke machine on its side.”

“It’s been a long road, but a gratifying one. *Stereotypically You* is just the beginning,” he says. “I’ve been very fortunate for this opportunity and I couldn’t think of a better route to take as I travel through the second half of my life.” 🍷



Omari Bouknight

Capitalizing on Honors

My earliest childhood memories are of East Lansing, having grown up minutes from the Michigan State campus. Throughout my school age years, I spent endless hours on campus because my parents were alumni and worked for the university. Needless to say, it wasn't a surprise to many when I decided to attend MSU after high school (I didn't even apply anywhere else). Perhaps what was a tad surprising was my decision to pursue International Relations as a degree, given that my parents are both physicians.

In the summer of 1994, between my junior and senior years of high school, I had a unique opportunity to travel to the former Soviet Union with a church choir, which piqued my interest in a rapidly transforming global economy. Arriving at MSU in 1995, I quickly found myself engrossed in the intimate world of James Madison College. The small class sizes, engaging pedagogical approach, and commitment to cultivating analytical, writing and public speaking skills were the basis for skills on which I have consistently relied in my professional career.

In addition to a strong emphasis on elucidating various approaches to global



policy and economics, the International Relations curriculum required its students to earn a certain number of credits in a foreign language. Despite having taken five years of German prior to matriculation, I was surprised to find out that my results on a placement test qualified me for advanced German courses on campus. At first I thought it must have been an error, but I quickly realized that the likelihood of another 'Omari Bouknight' taking the university-level German placement test was relatively low.

After my first year on campus, I was again surprised to discover that I qualified for the Honors College. While I had been a reasonable student in high school, my mother will attest to the fact that I never really challenged myself academically. For some reason, which escapes me to this day, I decided to really challenge myself during college and push myself to the limit, academically, during my time at Michigan State. The invitation to join the Honors College seemed like a great opportunity to pursue my personal challenge.

The greatest gift that the Honors College afforded me was flexibility in the classroom.

Nothing was off limits from an academic perspective, with a virtual smorgasbord of courses suddenly at my fingertips. Over the next three years I took a range of courses with topics in the areas of agriculture, econometrics, physics—and even bowling.

With unparalleled academic flexibility and an emboldened outlook, I decided to add German in the College of Arts and Letters as a major between my freshman and sophomore years, which I believed would serve as a nice adjunct to International Relations. I found the linguistic challenges associated with learning German to be one-part intimidating and one-part enthralling. Beyond the rote aspects of vocabulary memorization and verb conjugation, I cherished the consistent common faces of my German classmates, the small classroom environment, and the ability to learn about foreign culture from an internal, rather than just an external, perspective. It added great color to some of my more black and white International Relations texts that had intersecting topics.

Toward the end of my sophomore year, I had another revelation: I didn't want to go to law school. Most of my James Madison classmates were beginning to turn their attention to their post-undergraduate lives, and many would go on to pursue careers in policy, communications, labor relations, or law. I personally had discovered an interest in economics. I developed an appreciation for the principles but a passion for the application, particularly in terms of microeconomic business.

**MULTIPLE MAJORS—
one-part intimidating...
one-part enthralling...**



The fact that one could literally apply similar business principles to myriad industries, from medicine to automobiles to film to sports, and produce self-sustaining enterprises that benefited society fascinated me. Continuing to push myself, I decided to add a third major to my list, this time in the College of Business. Having spent the first half of my college career pursuing majors with theoretical, abstract, and academic bents, I decided to add one that was as pragmatic as possible: Supply Chain Management. Suffice to say that I wouldn't have been able to complete all of the credits I needed to attain a third bachelor's degree in two years without the flexibility the Honors College had to offer.

Entering my senior year, I found myself at a new crossroad. I had no concept of what career I should pursue after graduation. Two external influences (my future wife and my cousin) introduced me to the world of management consulting. The appeal was that it would give me a good feel for how business principles applied to a variety of industries, as well as allow me to immediately apply the analytical, writing, and public speaking skills that I had developed. It struck me as odd that one could work as a 'consultant' without much relevant work experience, but I

quickly learned that as a newly minted college graduate, I would be working as an 'analyst' and play a supportive role until I had developed some level of expertise.

After gaining exposure to a few different projects and industries, I found myself becoming very interested in the field of medical technology (medtech). Over the last few decades, the rise of medtech has literally changed the way that we treat acute and chronic conditions. Drug-eluting coronary stents, neurostimulation devices, and implantable defibrillators are all part of revolutionary advancements in the medical arena that extend life and improve the quality of life. There are literally thousands of medical devices now in use targeting these objectives.

I decided I wanted to focus my career on the medtech industry, specifically looking for ways that I could assist bringing these innovations to global markets. I felt the best way to make the career transition was to pursue a master's degree in Business Administration, and in 2002 I found myself at Harvard Business School delving more deeply into business fundamentals and spending my time learning as much as I could about the medtech industry and the healthcare policy environment in which it was ensconced.

A graduate-school-level business education was an important next step for me, as I had the opportunity to take my initial work experience and re-apply it to the classroom. Schools make great efforts to admit students with a diverse set of work experience, such that you learn a great deal from your classmates in addition to the faculty members. The admissions process can be a bit grueling; many applicants feel it is a

relative black box. To clarify the process from a personal and professional perspective, a friend and I teamed up and published *Your MBA Game Plan* in 2003. The book's third edition was published last year. Undergoing the publication process was an extremely rewarding experience for me. It gave me my first taste of a semi-entrepreneurial endeavor.

Upon graduation in 2004, I received an opportunity to work for one of the leading medtech companies in the world and began down a training path that allowed me to work closely with the physicians who used our technologies to improve the lives of countless individuals. This path ultimately led to me picking up a credential as a cardiac device specialist. It gave me an on-the-ground perspective that would be invaluable as I transitioned into roles that were more managerial in nature. Indeed, I spent the next several years operating in roles that allowed me to help commercialize cardiac-related technologies in a worldwide setting.

Given my and my wife's professional focus on medtech, we decided to move to Silicon Valley in 2005, which is considered a major hub of the industry. We continue to live here as of the time of this writing.

In 2011, I joined a medtech startup called Cardiac Dimensions, based in Kirkland, Washington, as its Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Cardiac Dimensions has developed an innovative device that has the potential to treat heart failure symptoms that relate to a condition referred to as functional mitral regurgitation (FMR). FMR

(continued on page 24)



(continued from page 23)

typically results from the dilation of the left ventricle, which is the main pumping chamber in the heart. Dilation occurs after the ventricle has been injured in some way, such as after a heart attack. The increase in the size of the ventricle may also cause an expansion in the mitral valve, which results in valve leakage, known as mitral regurgitation. This can significantly reduce the amount of blood that flows out of the left ventricle and on to the body and its organs. The number of therapies available to address FMR is greatly limited.

Cardiac Dimensions has developed a technology that is designed to address FMR via a minimally invasive procedure. The device utilizes the natural structures of the heart in an attempt to reduce the dilation of the mitral valve. We recently received approval in Europe to make our device available to those who suffer from FMR.

In my role, I am responsible for introducing our technology to the European market, specifically driving awareness of this nascent therapy, building, and managing a team that can support its effective roll-out, and helping to make sure we're operationally prepared for the product's adoption. As one might imagine, I very much capitalize on all three of the disciplines that I pursued at MSU.

Sometime in the future, I would like to investigate inventive ways to make the broader public more aware of the medical innovation that surrounds them. I firmly believe that as medicine becomes more complex, it will be critical for each of us to be more educated as we make important healthcare decisions for our loved ones and ourselves. 🌱

Laura Wojcik Consulting the Law



Honors College alumna Laura Wojcik worked hard and explored numerous career offerings before settling as a litigation consultant in her own firm. She continues to expand her skills today as a consultant, expert, and writer in a field that provides a slew of unique, interesting experiences.

Startups start soon

What is your educational background?

I graduated from MSU with a B.S. in mechanical engineering and moved 60 miles down the road to the University of Michigan, where I earned my M.S.E. and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. My dissertation research was in the area of musculoskeletal biomechanics, which involves the application of mechanical engineering concepts to physiological systems.

What is your current position and company name? Where are you located?

I launched my own consulting firm (L.A. Wojcik & Associates, LLC) in 2010. Like many startup entrepreneurs, I wear most of the hats in the company: I'm the owner, president, and principal consultant. The company is based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Why did you form your own company? Was that always one of your professional goals?

Starting a company never crossed my mind as I was going through school. Right after I finished my Ph.D. I took a tenure-track faculty position as an Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech. I was plowing through all of the grant writing, teaching, research, and service activities, but after a few years I wasn't sure if I wanted to continue along that career path. I explored some other career options with software companies, management consulting firms, and law firms that were looking for people with technical backgrounds for their intellectual property practices. The law firm options intrigued me, but I really didn't want to pursue another degree.



I finally reached out to some contacts from graduate school who were working in the area of litigation consulting, and their general response was along the lines of, “What took you so long?” My first post-academia job was with Exponent, one of the biggest science and engineering consulting firms in the country. I moved on to lead the biomechanics practice group at Packer Engineering, and then I started my own firm.

What is litigation consulting and why was it a good fit for you?

I’m usually hired by law firms or insurance companies when their clients are sued and there are issues related to accidental or product-related injuries or deaths. After I perform an engineering analysis of the problem, the client might ask me to provide a written report, deposition testimony, or trial testimony to explain the technical issues to a jury. People who succeed in this type of consulting must have great technical skills, but they also have to be effective writers and teachers who can explain complex scientific ideas to lawyers, judges and juries, most of whom have little or no math or science background. The general rule is that you have to get your explanations down to about a seventh-grade level of understanding, which can definitely be a challenge.

My job is never boring, and the stories make great conversation pieces! I usually have a few dozen projects open at once, and they run the gamut from low-level insurance fraud all the way up to serious industrial or

automotive injuries and deaths. The fraud cases can be very entertaining—it’s amazing how many people stage their own car crashes or invent stories to claim that they were injured by everything from folding chairs to falling merchandise in shoe stores. Some seemingly fraudulent claims do turn out to be legitimate, and most clients are very thankful to get that kind of honest feedback. I’ve even had companies issue consumer product recalls based on my findings, so it’s nice to know that the regulatory process does work.

The serious injury cases can be sobering, but they’re also satisfyingly complex and extremely interesting. I’ve been able to go into environments like steel processing facilities, rail switching yards, and huge manufacturing plants to investigate cases in which people were trapped or killed by moving equipment. In those projects I am usually asked to determine whether faulty machine guarding or lack of safety equipment led to the accident or if the affected person deliberately bypassed the protection systems.

What do you actually analyze in these projects?

Depending on the case, I might see police reports, accident scene photos, machine drawings or depositions of witnesses. I also usually look at medical records related to the injuries. I am not a medical doctor, so I can’t give opinions about anyone’s diagnosis or treatment, but I can use physicians’ diagnoses, radiology reports, and records of external trauma to pinpoint the injuries that are relevant.

(continued on page 26)



(continued from page 25)

Once I see what the injuries are, I can look at those as a series of engineering failures. For example, how much force does it take to cause a linear skull fracture in the temporal bone? How much acceleration can the head withstand before a traumatic brain injury is likely to occur? Is the external blow described by the plaintiff consistent with a spiral fracture of the humerus in the upper arm, or can that kind of fracture only be caused by loading the bone in a different direction? Can a person the same size as the plaintiff reach into the revolving machinery while standing outside the guarding, or would that person have to stand on top of the protective railing to get into the right position to have a hand drawn into the pulley?

Some projects require a lot of online research in medical and engineering journals. Other cases involve taking measurements at the accident scene or using biomedical instrumentation to document body motions when a volunteer demonstrates what might have happened. Sometimes I can

mathematically model a worst-case scenario for the plaintiff and compare the resultant forces or accelerations to known injury tolerance values. Every project is different, which is half the fun!

What's it like to be an expert witness in court?

I love giving deposition and trial testimony. In a deposition it's usually just you, the lawyers, and a court reporter in the room. The lawyer opposed to your client gets to ask detailed questions about your analysis and opinions in order to form an idea of what you're likely to say at trial. You really have to be able to think and talk on your feet and pay

attention to the nuances of the language that you're using to explain things. At trial, your client gets to lead you through a series of questions so you can explain your opinions to the jury. That's where your teaching and presentation skills come into play, and it's a challenge to compress what can be months of work into courtroom-ready sound bites and exhibits. The opposing attorney also gets to cross-examine you and try to poke holes in your analysis and/or credibility in front of the jury, so once again you have to think on your feet and stay poised even when people are trying to rattle you.

How can people get into this kind of consulting work?

Go to graduate school! There are litigation consultants in everything from engineering and medicine to linguistics and economics. Get the top credentials in your field, and find out what other kinds of job experience will give you credibility in a legal setting.

It sounds like you've collected a lot of interesting stories from your cases that would make great plots for crime-of-the-week TV shows. Are there any novels or screenplays in your future?

I hope so! I was lucky enough to be accepted into the Catalyst Workshop at the American Film Institute a few years ago, which was designed to give scientists and engineers a taste of the Hollywood experience and encourage the use of more real science in TV and the movies. The ten of us in the class were able to get feedback from actual screenwriters and producers, which was terrific. One of these days I'll finish my screenplay and/or start my mystery series in which the heroine uses forensic biomechanics to bring down the bad guys. Never say never... there are a lot of weirder hooks that have made it big in the entertainment world! I'll just have to find a way to market directly to all of the Honors College alumni. 🍷





10th Annual Scholarship Luncheon—a big success!

Over 200 donors, students, and supporters attended this year’s luncheon, held at the Kellogg Center’s Big Ten rooms. The largest turnout in the event’s 10-year history, attendees were greeted with welcome remarks from Associate Provost Doug Estry. Ilycia Shaw, a senior majoring in hospitality business, spoke of coming from a single-parent family in Detroit, and the importance of the scholarships she has received. Julia Ruggirello, a sophomore special education major, spoke about the challenges she faces with cystic fibrosis, and noted that her illness does not prevent her from reaching her dreams. Donna MacInnes spoke on behalf of the generous donors in the room, having endowed a scholarship to honor her late parents.

2013

Honors College Alumni Association Executive Board

The Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA) Executive Board is gearing up for some exciting projects in 2013! Current board members include:

- Molly Brennan**
- Ken Beachler**
- Laura Wojcik**
- Leon Gregorian**
- Ryan Sullivan**
- Barb Stone Reetz**
- Dawn Kelly**
- Margaret (DeVet) Lee**

The Honors College is accepting nominations for the Honors College Alumni Association Executive Board. If you are interested in giving back by serving on the board, please contact Katie@msu.edu by February 28, 2013.

Did you know...

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

Support HCAA scholarships for Honors College Students—join the MSU Alumni Association today!

alumni.msu.edu

shop.msu.edu



Show your Honors College spirit with apparel and gifts from our online store. Visit shop.msu.edu and select “Honors College” from the “College Branded Items” menu tab. Display your MSU Honors College pride with an Honors College hooded sweatshirt, polo shirt, padfolio, aluminum water bottle, or reusable grocery bag.

Look for new HC items in the store: coffee mugs, license plate frames, and canvas tote bags!

Send your alumni news electronically!

Just complete the form at msu.edu/unit/honcoll/grads/alumupdate.html

We look forward to hearing from you!

1960s

Larry Novak (1967) is currently conducting independent research in molecular theory. He has spent the last four years developing and publishing a new molecular theory-based transport property model for correlating and predicting self-diffusion coefficients, viscosity, and thermal conductivity. He has previously conducted research at Lubrizol, Harshaw/Engelhard, and Cleveland State University.

Peter Rheinstein (1963) was elected chairman of the United States Adopted Names (USAN) Council in January 2012. He has been chairman of the American Board of Legal Medicine since 2011. Peter is the publisher of www.discoverymedicine.com, an evidence-based, peer-reviewed, open-access journal of clinical and translational research.

Kennard R. Weaver (1962) has been elected and will begin serving as a trustee of Northwestern Michigan Community College in January 2013.

1970s

David Franzetta (1970) published the book *Changing Places: Making a Success of Succession Planning for Entrepreneurs and Family Business Owners*. *Changing Places* provides a down-to-earth guide to help entrepreneurs lay the groundwork for a successful succession and transition plan. Since every company has its own idiosyncrasies, *Changing Places* helps business owners figure out how to think about succession and transition planning in ways that fit their own specific situation, using rich narrative examples from the authors' practice to bring to life both the potential problems faced by business owners and the practical solutions they have adopted.



Susan Gebelein (1970) has written two books, *The Successful Manager's Handbook* and *The Executive Handbook*, and has just finished a contribution to *Developing your Global Mindset: The Handbook for Successful Global Leaders*, which will be published by Thunderbird University's Najafi's Global Mindset Institute. After 25 years as an executive for Personnel Decisions International (PDI), she is now running her own consulting company focused on developing global leadership talent, executive team alignment, and HR strategy.

Mark Hooper (1976) is a partner at Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC financial consulting firm, based in Okemos, Michigan.

Mary Lee Kortez (1977) is senior editor at the United Nations in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Development Policy and Analysis Division. She is also a master's degree candidate at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. Mary recently did a tour of *Iraq* (a musical) with her band, Mary Lee's Corvette, giving concerts and leading songwriting workshops with Iraqi teens.

1980s

Stephanie Kribs recently accepted the position of facilities & operations manager at the Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum. She previously served as Assistant Director of Operations at the Wharton Center.

Aryc Mosher (1989) serves as the assistant director for the Trachoma Control Program in Africa. She is currently working with the Ministries of Health in Niger, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Ethiopia in the development of action plans to eliminate blinding trachoma in these countries.

Kevin Singel (1985) was recently named managing director at Accenture. He is responsible for a globally positioned team of about 2,000 delivering corporate learning, payroll and HR services. He lives in Colorado with his wife and enjoys watching his two children navigate their way through college (sorry, no Spartan kids here), skiing, hiking, and brewing beer.

II UPDATES

Cheryl Walsh (1985) works for Grinnell College in the Office of the President as the president's correspondence assistant. She has had creative nonfiction published in the *Platte Valley Review*, and has a short story forthcoming in the anthology *Imagination & Place: Cartography*. She read one of her short stories for the audio magazine *The Drum*, and the recording is available on their website.

Jacquelyn Corbin (2008) moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, where she serves as a water resource engineer for CDM Smith.

Thomas Morrissey (2009) worked as the campaign coordinator to Tim Kennedy, who won the Senate seat in New York.



Claire Glenn (2011) presented a session, titled "Microenterprise Development in Michigan," at the 2012 Innovate Michigan! Summit,

hosted by the MSU Center for Regional Economic Development. She is currently a coordinator for the Microenterprise Network of Michigan (MNM), which fosters job creation, asset building, access to capital, and economic growth throughout the state.

Kelly (Averbeck) Noyes (2004) was named as a Wisconsin "Rising Star" lawyer in the area of business litigation. The "Rising Star" honor is based on nominations and awarded to no more than 2.5 percent of lawyers in the state that are under the age of 40. She is currently working as a principal associate at von Briesen & Roper, s.c., in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she practices in the areas of business litigation, civil litigation, and appellate law.

Kari Jaksa (2009) is currently putting her degree in international relations to good use as a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC.

Vinay Prasad (2005) finished medical school and is now training in medical oncology at the National Cancer Institute/NIH in Washington, DC, where he has published several articles.

Julie Lyskawa (2009) was elected to the Georgetown Public Policy Institute Alumni Board. She also serves on the board of directors for the Friends of Long Bridge Park, a new urban park in Arlington, Virginia.

Kristen Pratt (2008) earned her master's degree in Urban Environmental Leadership from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is involved in the planning and implementation of city service projects as a coordinator of the Chicago Conservation Corps (C3), housed at the Chicago Academy of Sciences' Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

Allison Medlin (2000) completed a master's degree in Higher, Adult and Lifelong Education at MSU. She was then hired by the University Scholars Program at NC State University where she has been since 2004. Allison said, "As a HC alum, I really appreciate the opportunity to work with high achieving students at a land-grant institution similar to MSU. As I'm sure the HC staff will agree, working with bright, outstanding young people is truly a gift."

Austin Scott (2005) is a program manager at the Honors College at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

Brenton Montie (2007) appeared on *Jeopardy!* in November as a part of the game show's Teachers Tournament with 14 other educators from across the country. Montie, who was a member of MSU's quiz bowl team, is currently teaching sixth grade social studies at Centennial Middle School in South Lyon, Michigan.

Robin Sloan (2002) has been covered by NPR for his free app called *Fish: A Tap Essay*, which is designed to teach people how to "love" instead of "like." It's made so that a few lines of the essay (which he wrote himself) show up on the screen at a time—a visionary way to read an essay on your smart phone. His first novel, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 2012), was named one of Amazon's Best Books of the Month for October 2012.

(continued)

1990s

Allison (Harnisch) Leotta (1991) published her second legal thriller, *Discretion*, this summer. *Strand Magazine* named it one of the Top Ten Books of 2012, and David Baldacci called it "a first-rate thriller." Allison contributes a weekly blog to *The Huffington Post*, where she evaluates TV crime dramas for what they're getting right and wrong from her perspective as a former sex-crimes prosecutor.

2000s

Robert Besaw (2008) is a research associate for the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research/UC Berkeley School of Public Health in Washington, DC.

Nessa J. Bona (2001) is a program coordinator for the Corporate Work Study Program at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago, IL. Cristo Rey is the flagship school for the Cristo Rey network which helps students in urban communities earn a college-prep education through its innovative work study program. Nessa said, "I'm proud to be part of a program whose education model has recently been recognized with the National CLASSY Award for Educational Advancement and the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Award."

Alumni Update Form

To ensure we have your current contact information so you can continue receiving electronic and printed news updates, please visit the "Alumni and Friends" section of the Honors College website and click on the Alumni Update Form link at honorscollege.msu.edu.

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Greta Stahl (2004) gave an interview to *Popular Science* in 2012 discussing the science and art of giving great speeches, which includes the need to understand your audience, balance emotion and fact, and make it personal. Stahl works as a content developer for communications firm Duarte.

Andy Zimolzak (2002) earned an MD from Washington University in St. Louis in 2007 and completed residency in internal medicine at Saint Louis University followed by a chief resident year. He is now enrolled in a master's program in medical informatics at Harvard Medical School and is expecting to graduate in 2013.



Recent Graduates

Dustin Baker, Leah Bridle, Claire Carpenter, Megan Climans, Bethany Davis, Thomas Degroote, Ryan Duffy, Matthew Durak, Michael Erlingis, John Franklin, Chaun Gandolfo, Elizabeth Gutowski, Robert Hasselbeck, Jordan Kornack, Margaret LaLonde, Andrew Mach, Jonathon Massie, Allison Melkonian, Julie Mianecky, Anna Orsini, Devan Sayles, Alexandra Siciliano, Christopher Sigler, James Smith, Katie Trumbley, Erika Vivyan, Natalie Walicki, Thomas Wilkins, and Nicholas Wilson were among the 37 recipients who received the Board of Trustees Award for their academic achievements in the May 2012 commencement ceremony. It was the highest number in the award's history, which dates back to 1921.

Beverly Bell was awarded a Knowles Science Teaching Fellowship, which is given to 35 new math and science teachers across the country each year. It provides support of about \$150,000 over a five-year span.

Jason Blough is working for GE Aviation in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he serves as an Edison Engineer in combustion.

Kyle Burke is employed as a project manager for Epic Systems Corporation in Verona, Wisconsin. He is involved with numerous entrepreneurial side projects involving Eco Unity, a community sustainability platform.



Patricia Cashen has taken the role of project coordinator at 2Seeds Network in Tanzania to implement agricultural development projects.

Matt Durak is a software development engineer for Microsoft.

II UPDATES

J. Matthew Franklin was awarded the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Donald F. & Mildred Topp Othmer National Scholarship and Whitaker Biomedical Engineering Foundation International Fellowship. He is currently working at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Hamburg, Germany.

Chris Heffner has begun graduate studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he is enrolled in the Neuroscience and Cognitive Science (NACS) PhD program.

Sarah Hogarth is currently completing her first year of law school at the University of Notre Dame.

Alicia Johnson has moved to France and is currently serving as an English teacher to secondary students.

Kathryn Mitchell has moved to Freeport, Texas, where she is an improvement engineer at the Dow Chemical Company.



Jenna Parker went on a study abroad research trip to the Masai Mara after being awarded the International Research Experience for Students (IRES) award.

Cameron Paxton has enrolled in the master's in social sciences program at the University of Chicago.

Devan Sayles is working at General Mills as a programmer/analyst in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Hans Schroder received the Association for Psychological Science Student Research Award for his research

work "*Mind Your Errors: Neural Evidence Linking Growth Mindset to Remedial Action.*"

Alexandra Siciliano is an R&D engineer for General Mills in Golden Valley, Minnesota.

Wendy Stein was employed over the summer at Kashi Co., in California, as a member of the Nutrition Marketing department. She is currently studying nutritional sciences, with an emphasis on childhood obesity prevention, and completing a research assistantship at Penn State.

Clinton Steketee has accepted the position of graduate research assistant at the University of Georgia.



Erin Sutton presented a poster titled "*Task-Based Interactions in Simulated Medical Situations:*

Examining Negotiation Surrounding Lexical Items" at the American Association for Applied Linguistics conference in Boston. She recently earned an MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Erika Vivyan was the Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 041 (MSU) selection for the Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship. She was one of 50 nominees who were each awarded \$5000 for graduate studies.

Michael Wright used his Fulbright-Hays Group Abroad scholarship to study international education in New Zealand and Australia in summer 2012.

Chelsea Yondo is fulfilling her Indianapolis Teaching Fellowship as a Spanish teacher. With this fellowship, she is training to become a high-impact teacher in schools serving disadvantaged students.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

ALUMNI

The Honors College Wants YOU!

After reading this magazine, you have an idea of some of the recent opportunities that the Honors College has offered to current students. But did you know that the Honors College has programs and opportunities for alumni as well? There are plenty of ways that you can continue to be a part of the Honors College. Here are just a few:

- **Alumni Speaker Series:** Share your campus memories, your work, your hobbies and your passions with current students.
- **Recruiting:** You can help the Honors College to identify and recruit potential future Honors College students.
- **Service Days:** Join groups of fellow HC alumni in a day of volunteerism in your community. Have an idea of a project we could work on? Let us know!
- **Alumni Association:** Join the Honors College Alumni Association, or volunteer to serve on our board of directors. This is a great way to meet other HC alumni from around the country.
- **Stay Connected:** Join our LinkedIn alumni group (search "Michigan State University Honors College Alumni"), like our Facebook page (facebook.com/msuhc), or follow us on Twitter (@MSUHC). Don't forget to update your contact information on our website (honorscollege.msu.edu) so you continue to receive print and email communications too!

Donor Societies

PLANNED AND CURRENT GIFTS OFFER THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN MSU'S MAJOR DONOR RECOGNITION SOCIETIES

No matter what form your planned gift to Michigan State University takes, your future commitment through your estate plans may qualify you for membership in one of MSU's major donor recognition groups. While the greatest reward will be your personal satisfaction for the significant benefits your planned gift will provide for MSU, the university appreciates the opportunity to thank and recognize those individuals and families who have chosen to remember MSU in this thoughtful and visionary manner.

- **THE WILLIAM J. BEAL SOCIETY** recognizes the generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations, and associations who make a commitment of at least \$10 million to MSU or a documented planned gift of at least \$15 million. Beal was a professor of Botany at Michigan Agricultural College from 1870-1910. He designed the original format for the oldest continuously operated botanical garden in the U.S. and is considered the “father of seed testing in America” and a champion of reforestation. His outdoor laboratory has expanded to six acres and over 5,000 species and is acknowledged as the oldest of North American botanical gardens.
- **THE JOSEPH R. WILLIAMS SOCIETY** recognizes all donors who make a lifetime commitment of \$5 million or more or a documented planned gift of \$7.5 million or more. The Joseph R. Williams Society honors the first president of what was known as “The Agricultural College of the State of Michigan.” Williams, best remembered as a key advocate of a broader curriculum, stressed the importance of providing students with an education in modern science that could be applied to the practical business of life. Membership is open to individuals, corporations, foundations, and associations.
- **THE CLIFTON R. WHARTON SOCIETY** recognizes the generosity of donors who make a commitment of at least \$2,500,000 or a qualifying deferred gift of at least \$3,750,000. After a distinguished career in international affairs, Clifton R. Wharton became MSU's fourteenth president in 1970. It was a tumultuous time on campus with numerous student demonstrations as well as fiscal problems resulting from budget cuts, yet his tenure was marked by successful efforts to maintain the quality of MSU's academic programs, his commitment to the education of the economically and educationally disadvantaged, and the integration of the School of Osteopathic Medicine with the other medical schools. Membership in the Wharton Society is open to individuals, corporations, foundations, and associations.
- **THE FRANK S. KEDZIE SOCIETY**, named for MSU's eighth president, recognizes all donors who make a lifetime commitment of \$1 million or more or a documented planned gift of \$1.5 million or more. The Frank S. Kedzie Society honors the president considered the pioneer for private support to MSU. During Kedzie's tenure, the first private donation toward a campus building was made, and fundraising began for construction of the Union Memorial Building. Membership is open to individuals, corporations, foundations, and associations.
- **THE ROBERT S. SHAW SOCIETY** recognizes all donors above the \$500,000 giving level and those who have made a documented planned gift of \$1 million or more. The Robert S. Shaw Society honors MSU's eleventh president who served in that role from 1928 to 1941. Shaw introduced new courses including hotel administration, public administration, geology, geography and physical education for women, and created an All-College Division of central offices. President Shaw oversaw MSU's first significant expansion of the physical campus and was largely responsible for the development of several new and innovative academic departments and degree programs. Membership in the Shaw Society is open to individuals, corporations, foundations, and associations.
- **THE THEOPHILUS C. ABBOT SOCIETY**, named for MSU's third president, recognizes all donors above the \$250,000 giving level and those who have made a documented planned gift of \$500,000 and above. The Theophilus C. Abbot Society honors the revered scholar who served as MSU president from 1862 to 1885. Abbot taught no fewer than 18 subjects at the college and is credited with making many important and lasting changes in the curriculum. Membership in the Abbot Society is open to individuals, corporations, foundations, and associations.
- **THE JONATHAN L. SNYDER SOCIETY**, named for MSU's seventh president, recognizes all donors above the \$100,000 giving level and those who have made a documented planned gift of \$200,000 and above. The Jonathan L. Snyder Society honors the president credited with many innovations in higher education. Snyder was the first MSU president to actively market the university to prospective students, greatly increasing the number of students and faculty. Membership in the Snyder Society is open to individuals, corporations, foundations, and associations.

SPONSORS

- THE JOHN A. HANNAH SOCIETY** recognizes donors above the \$50,000 giving level and those who have made a documented planned gift of \$100,000 or more. The John A. Hannah Society honors MSU's twelfth president, who served the university for 46 years, 28 of them as president. Hannah is revered by many and credited with guiding the university through its period of greatest physical and philosophical growth. It was during Hannah's tenure that MSU became a member of the Big Ten Athletic Conference. Membership in the Hannah Society is open to individuals only.
- THE BEAUMONT TOWER SOCIETY** recognizes the generosity of individuals who make a commitment between \$25,000 and \$49,999 to MSU. Chartered during the university's first capital campaign, it is named after the one landmark that so thoroughly symbolizes Michigan State University, its history and traditions. Made possible by a gift from Mr. and Mrs. John Wesley Beaumont, the tower embodies both the spirit of the university and the spirit of private philanthropy. Membership in the Beaumont Tower Society is open to individuals only.
- THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB** is named in honor of the presidents who guided the university to its present eminence. It was established in 1963 and recognizes individuals who make a commitment between \$10,000 and \$24,999 to MSU. The President's Club was the first donor recognition group established at Michigan State University and remains the largest. Membership in the President's Club is open to individuals only.
- THE LINDA E. LANDON LEGACY SOCIETY**, named for the first female instructor at Michigan Agricultural College, recognizes and honors all individuals and families who have established and documented a planned gift for the future benefit of Michigan State University. There is no minimum gift amount required for membership in the Landon Legacy Society.

Thank you!

The Honors College is indebted to its many supporters. We are grateful for alumni, friends, and organizations who have committed to fostering our mission as a leader in promoting academic excellence and enrichment through financial contributions.

The generous individuals below are listed by donor society, reflective of their cumulative giving to MSU.

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Cynthia A. Chadwick
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Carl and Margaret Liedholm
David and Mary Anne Marvin
Lyle D. Meier
Ben and Polly Schwendener

(President's Club continued from page 33)

Members of MSU's major donor societies receive a personalized memento or certificate and are recognized in university publications. They also receive special invitations to major donor social events, information about the university's development activities, and notification about university cultural events.

Maureen and Dennis Lefebvre
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 Gail J. Valentine and Richard R. Meinke
 Harold and Marjorie Winters
 Paul and Marcia Woodruff
 Gregory and Pamela J. Zbasnik

Annual gifts to the Honors College are invaluable to support the efforts of our exceptional students. Thank you to the following organizations and individuals for your gifts during the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Organizations

Cook Family Foundation
 Experts in Home Health Management
 Flintoff & Klein, CPA
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First Annual Honors College Photo Challenge Sparks Interest

Last summer the Honors College held a student photo contest for the cover of *HConnections 2012 in Review*. Our Photo Challenge asked students to visually represent how they innovate, pioneer, and engage as members of the Honors College.

Congratulations to winner **Alex Dailey** whose bungee jumping photo from New Zealand was chosen for the front cover. Photos by runners up **Aubrey Owada** (top right) and **Susanne Pohl** (bottom right) are featured here.

***Thank you to all students
who shared their pictures!***



HC students play in the mud in Manu National Park, Peru.



MSU study abroad friends enjoy Rome.