

# HC *Connections*

2013 IN REVIEW

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Honors College



ENGAGING  
JOURNEYS



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Honors College

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## The stories behind the cover— 2013 HConnections Photo Contest Winners



### Jolisa Brooks

In March, Jolisa Brooks, a political theory and constitutional democracy junior in the James Madison College, participated in the Residence Education and Housing Services spring break trip to China.

**“The mission of the trip was to meet professionals from Chinese universities in order to understand how we can best serve our international students,” Brooks said.**

In this picture, Brooks is summiting the Great Wall of China.



### Melissa Seyerle

Before her public health internship this summer with Global Brigades in Panama, physiology senior Melissa Seyerle spent two weeks volunteering in Ecuador. Seyerle is a student in the College of Natural Science.

**“I lived in the city of Quito with volunteers from around the world. During the days, I worked just south of the city in the impoverished Mena Dos neighborhood at the Tierra Nueva day care center,” Seyerle said. “My placement was with the one and two year-olds, and before day one was over, I had a room full of new, little friends. Immediately, the youngest girl, Milena, attached herself to me and the teacher began calling her ‘mi hija,’ which translates to ‘my daughter.’”**

In her picture, Seyerle holds a baby from the day care center.



### Rami Janoudi

During the summer, mechanical engineering senior Rami Janoudi completed his third internship with BP. This opportunity involved working on a subsea equipment inspection vessel in the Gulf of Mexico. Janoudi is a student in the College of Engineering.

**“I first took a helicopter and landed on the vessel, which was already doing work in the Gulf. I then lived and worked on the vessel, assisting the engineers with inspections of subsea oil and gas equipment on the ocean floor. Through this experience, I applied my technical background, but also got a chance to build great relationships with the others on the vessel, who came from diverse backgrounds and were of all different ages,” Janoudi said.**

In his picture, Janoudi is standing on the helideck of the vessel as it pulls into the Port in Louisiana for a brief stop prior to returning to the Gulf of Mexico.

## Dear Honors College students, alumni and friends,



It’s amazing to think another year has gone by and to reflect on the accomplishments fulfilled by the students, staff and alumni of the Michigan State University Honors College.

From the student photographs on the cover of this magazine and accompanying stories to the last page of alumni updates, you will find a treasure trove of narratives that comprised another successful year.

In 2013, students in the Honors College continued the university’s strong tradition of winning major awards, including the Goldwater Scholarship and Fulbright Scholarship.

An Honors College student was also the first place winner for this year’s MLK Jr. Advancing Inclusion Through Research Award. This award recognizes students for sharing the inclusive, out-of-the-box thinking of Martin Luther King Jr.

We welcomed two new co-directors for MSU National/Fellowships & Scholarships (NIFS) office and relocated the suite of offices to Bessey Hall. Ashley Green serves as the NIFS director and coordinator of scholarships and Kristin Janka Millar serves as director of international engagement.

The MSU Debate Team capped off another successful year by qualifying two teams to the National Debate Tournament and holding other major public events. The team hosted its first-ever middle school debate championship for the Capital Area Speech & Debate League.

This year also marked the beginning of the first study abroad program exclusively for Honors College students. Students studied urban sustainability this fall and are taking what they’ve learned and applying it to research being conducted over the winter break in Havana, Cuba. They will continue their experience in 2014 with the goal of presenting their research at the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum in April.

Spartan Minority Access to Research Careers - Undergraduate Student Training for Academic Research (MARC U STAR) also kicked off this past fall. For the next three years, MSU is funded by the National Institute for General Medical Sciences, a division of the National Institutes of Health, to encourage more underrepresented minority students to pursue doctoral study in the biomedical sciences and engineering. The MARC U STAR partnership is modeled after the Honors College’s Professorial Assistantship program.

While the Honors College is proud to speak of these accomplishments, as is in life, we also experienced some sorrow in our year. Two former Honors College directors, Dr. Stan Idzerda and Dr. John Delane Wilson, died. Both left the university, the Honors College and its students in a better place.

As we look forward to 2014, we hope you will continue to stay in contact with the Honors College and tell us about any new experiences you encounter and how the Honors College has touched your life.

Best wishes for a fulfilling 2014.

Warmly,

*Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore*

Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore  
MSU Honors College Dean and Professor

## HONORS COLLEGE

### Office of the Dean

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Honors College Dean
- **Lee June, PhD**  
Professor
- **Justin Micomonaco, PhD**  
Specialist, Research and Assessment
- **Kathy Rogers**  
Administrative Assistant to the Dean,  
Fiscal & Human Resources Officer
- **Tina Withers**  
Office Assistant
- **Daniel Zoumaris**  
Information Technologist
- **Stephanie Cepak**  
Communications Manager

### Admissions and Student Affairs

- **Bess German, PhD**  
Assistant Dean
- **Ryan Arey**  
Admissions Counselor
- **Jessica Mestre**  
Graduate Assistant, Student Affairs

### National/International Fellowships & Scholarships Office

- **Ashley Green**  
Director and Coordinator of Scholarships
- **Kristin Janka Millar**  
Director of International Engagement
- **Shelby Gombosi**  
Administrative Assistant

### Advising

- **Christine Gajda**, Director of Advising
- **Sadiq Mohammed**, Academic Specialist/Adviser
- **Andrew Murray**, Academic Specialist/Adviser

### Honors Professors

- **John Beck**
- **Danielle DeVoss, PhD**
- **Eric Freedman, JD**
- **Devin McCauley, PhD**
- **Matt Zierler, PhD**

### Debate Program

- **Casey Harrigan**, Director
- **Will Repko**, Head Coach
- **David Strauss**, Assistant Coach
- **Carly Watson**, Project/Event Coordinator

### University Scholarships & Fellowships Advancement Office

- **Jennifer Bertram**, Development Director
- **Maura Benton**, Development Associate Director
- **Katie Cable**, Alumni Relations and Development Associate Director
- **Katie Kelly**, Communications Manager
- **Amber Clark-Arthur**  
Development Assistant

# HC

## New Co-Directors Help Students Pursue National/International Fellowships & Scholarships

The NIFS Office helps students produce a competitive application for more than 20 prestigious awards and scholarships.

The process of preparation provides exceptional opportunities for learning and personal development.



Ashley Green



Kristin Janka Millar

**Ashley Green** and **Kristin Janka Millar** have been appointed the new co-directors of Michigan State University's National/International Fellowships & Scholarships (NIFS) Office.

The NIFS Office helps all interested undergraduate and graduate students pursue major national and international opportunities. Providing information and direct support throughout the fellowship application process, the NIFS professional staff assists applicants with over 20 competitive awards, including the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Churchill, Gates Cambridge, Carnegie Jr. Fellows, Beinecke, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, Presidential Fellows Program, Boren, Truman, Goldwater, and Udall competitions.

Green serves as director and coordinator of scholarships. Janka Millar serves as director of international engagement.

"NIFS is a tremendous resource for students at Michigan State University and we are delighted to have Ashley and Kristin in their respective positions," said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the MSU Honors College. "The application process for these prestigious scholarships can be intense; with Ashley and Kristin we are well prepared to shepherd students throughout their journey."

Prior to joining the NIFS office, Green served as program manager for the Center of Advanced Studies in International Development (CASID) at MSU, assistant director of Career Services at Grand Valley State University, as well as career program manager and adjunct career instructor for the Eli Broad College of Business at MSU.

Green is currently pursuing her doctorate in education administration. She obtained her master's degree in higher education from the University of Toledo and her bachelor's degree in psychology from MSU.

"I am really excited about the opportunity to help students achieve their goals. Applying for a prestigious award entails many elements and it is important for the student to embrace the entire process," Green said. "The student learns so much about themselves during the application process and I am happy to be able to assist them in that personal, academic, and professional development."

Prior to joining the NIFS Office, Janka Millar served as associate director for MSU's International Studies and Programs, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS).

Prior to that, she served as outreach and academic coordinator for CLACS, adjunct assistant professor at Siena Heights University, instructor for the College of Education and College of Social Science at MSU, co-director of the Partnership to Prepare Global & International Educators, co-director of Linking All Types of Teachers to International Cross-cultural Education (LATTICE), and was an elementary teacher.

She is co-primary investigator for the Graduate Learning, Experiences, and Outcomes (GLEO) project which involves 14 CIC universities and NYU. Janka Millar serves as a grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Her research focuses on understanding opportunities to learn and outcomes of international professional development, including Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad.

Janka Millar obtained her degree in curriculum, teaching, and educational policy with an emphasis in international education and professional development from MSU. She earned her bachelor's degree in international studies and anthropology, and she has specializations in international development and Latin American Studies.

"I am so pleased to join the Honors College and NIFS team and look forward to helping MSU's undergraduate and graduate students pursue their goals and engage in meaningful ways globally," Janka Millar said. 🌍

The NIFS Office has moved to a new location on campus:

National/International Fellowships & Scholarships  
434 Farm Lane, Room 186  
Bessey Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824

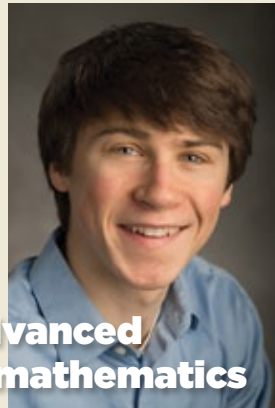
[facebook.com/NIFSatMSU](https://www.facebook.com/NIFSatMSU)

Twitter: @NIFSatMSU



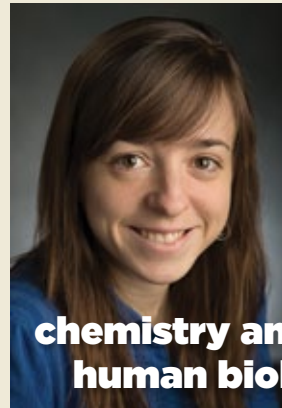
[nifs.msu.edu](https://nifs.msu.edu)

### Research Passions Rewarded



advanced  
mathematics

Erik Bates



chemistry and  
human biology

Kayla Felger

Two Michigan State University students were named **2013-14 Goldwater Scholars**.

Both are in the Honors College and the College of Natural Science.

**Erik Bates** of Ada, Michigan, and **Kayla Felger** of Fort Wayne, Indiana, each received a Goldwater Scholarship for the 2013-14 academic year. **Jacob Ludwig** of Lake Orion, Michigan, received an honorable mention.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program awarded 271 scholarships from a field of 1,107 mathematics, science and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide.

A total of 36 Goldwater Scholarships have been awarded to MSU students throughout the years.

“It is very exciting that these students have been recognized for their excellence in and dedication to research,” said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. “The Goldwater Program plays an important role in helping MSU and other research universities assist students in following their research passions.”

Bates, a graduate of Forest Hills Eastern High School in Ada, is majoring in advanced mathematics. He plans to obtain a doctorate in mathematics and perform research in a pure or applied mathematical discipline while teaching at the collegiate level.

“This award is a reflection of the opportunities I’ve had to work with excellent MSU faculty on interesting and important problems,” Bates said. “I am honored by the personal recognition.”

Felger, a graduate of Carroll High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is majoring in chemistry and human biology. She plans to obtain a doctorate in organic chemistry and design biomedical materials that are both affordable and manufactured from renewable resources.

“I feel honored to have received this scholarship and to have had the opportunity to be a part of the research at Michigan State,” Felger said. “I am grateful to the professors and fellow students who have helped me learn, and I look forward to continuing this work.”

“This award is a reflection of the opportunities I’ve had to work with excellent MSU faculty on interesting and important problems.”

**Eric Bates, advanced mathematics major**

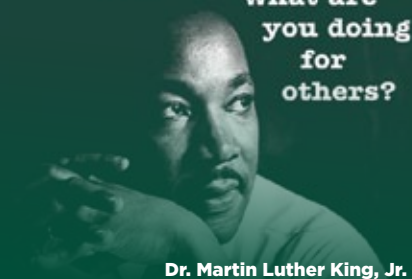
“I am grateful to the professors and fellow students who have helped me learn, and I look forward to continuing this work.”

**Kayla Felger, chemistry and human biology major**

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.

**For more information on the Goldwater Scholarship, visit [nifs.msu.edu/awards](http://nifs.msu.edu/awards).**

\* Life's most persistent and urgent question is, **what are you doing for others?**



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### STUDENTS AWARDED FOR CREATIVE, INCLUSIVE THINKING

Eight Michigan State University students have been recognized for sharing the inclusive, out-of-the-box thinking of Martin Luther King Jr.

The **MLK Jr. Advancing Inclusion Through Research Award** was created in 2010 to highlight the ways in which MSU students follow King Jr.'s legacy, using their critical and creative skills to understand and re-envision the world. It continues to showcase student research that supports the MSU and MLK Jr. ideals of inclusive excellence.

The \$500 first prize was awarded to **Natalie Lyon**, an Honors College member and a junior in James Madison College, for her paper, “Domestic Violence in Korean-American Communities: The Role of Culturally Sensitive Feminist Reform.”

A collaborative video project, “Islamica,” produced by Lyman Briggs College students **Corey Brown, Rachna Pannu, Lauren Pavlik, John Cody Roedel, and Christine Rygiel**, received the \$250 second prize. Pavlik, Roedel and Rygiel are also members of the Honors College.

Residential College in the Arts and Humanities students **Emily Nott** and **Haley Carr** received the \$100 third prize for their creative civic engagement project, “Whitehills Elementary Drama Club Spring 2012: Transformative Theatre on Race, Power, and Privilege.” Carr is a member of the Honors College.

This year’s competition followed the original principles of eligibility, requiring students to be members of James Madison College, Lyman Briggs College, the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, or the Honors College and to submit research papers and creative projects completed during 2012 that were on topics of inclusion, diversity and marginalized populations. Faculty, staff, and students from the sponsoring colleges comprised the selection committee.

**For more information on the MLK Jr. Award, visit [honorscollege.msu.edu/researchthedream](http://honorscollege.msu.edu/researchthedream).**

# MSU National/International Fellowship & Scholarship Winners



Allison Szatkiewicz

## MSU-HC Fulbright Winner Teaching in Taiwan

**Allison Szatkiewicz**, a graduate of the Michigan State University College of Education and an Honors College student, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Taiwan.

Szatkiewicz is a member of the Global Educators Cohort Program (GECF), a globally-focused cohort program within the Department of Teacher Education. She earned minors in Arabic and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

Szatkiewicz plans to complete her teaching internship upon returning to the United States in 2014. While in Taiwan, she will teach in an elementary classroom.

Fulbright Scholarships are highly competitive, and Szatkiewicz was chosen based on a variety of criteria, from teaching ability and pedagogical approach to quality of accomplishments. The scholarship covers food, housing and transportation, as well as travel and moving expenses.

"Allison is an outstanding student who understands the role of international and global understanding in teaching," said Margo Glew, GECF coordinator. "She is going to be an even more outstanding future teacher." 🌟

*Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the **Fulbright Program** is the U.S. government's flagship international exchange program.*

*Reprinted with permission from the MSU College of Education.*

**The National/International Fellowships & Scholarships Office** at MSU, administered by the Honors College, helps interested students pursue prestigious awards and scholarship opportunities.

*See page 2.*

## National Science Foundation Honors

The following Michigan State University graduates were awarded 2013 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships to continue their study at the institution listed below. This generous award supports graduates in their educational goals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Graduate Research Fellowship Program recipients earn three years of support, a \$30,000 annual stipend, a \$10,500 cost-of-education allowance, international professional development opportunities and TeraGrid Supercomputer access.

**Kenji Aono** (MSU-HC)  
Engineering/Electrical  
Michigan State University

**Jeffrey Cain**  
Materials Research/Electronic Material  
Northwestern University

**Robin Jeffrey Green** (MSU-HC)  
Life Sciences/Molecular Biology  
University of Washington

**Christopher Cullen Heffner** (MSU-HC)  
Psychology/Psycholinguistics  
University of Maryland

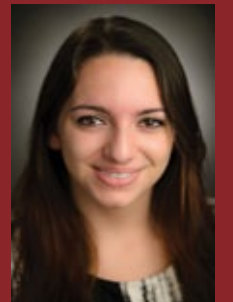
**Nathan Joseph Parker**  
Life Sciences/Neurosciences  
Princeton University

**Hans Stuart Schroder** (MSU-HC)  
Psychology/Clinical  
Michigan State University

**Sandra Troxell-Smith**  
Life Sciences/Ecology  
University of Illinois at Chicago

## Academics and Arabic in Amman

Michigan State University senior **Elena Herfi** won a Boren Scholarship to study Arabic in Amman, Jordan, during the 2013-2014 academic year.



Elena Herfi

Established by the National Security Education Program, the Boren awards are designed to build a broader and more qualified pool of U.S. citizens with foreign language and international skills. This year, 947 students applied for the Boren Scholarship and 161 students were chosen as recipients.

Herfi, a graduate of Grosse Ile Township High School in Michigan, is dual majoring in comparative cultures and politics in the James Madison College and Arabic in the College of Arts and Letters. She plans to study cultural anthropology in graduate school and pursue a career in the foreign service.

In addition to studying Arabic in her classes, Herfi studied abroad in Morocco and participated in the Arabic Flagship Programs at MSU and the University of Texas at Austin. 🌟

*Boren Scholarships provide up to \$20,000 to U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East.*

**For more information on the Boren Scholarship, visit [nifs.msu.edu/awards](http://nifs.msu.edu/awards).**

# MSU DEBATE REMAINS STRONG



The MSU Debate Team continued their streak of success and accomplishment inside and outside the competitive realm.

A part of the Honors College, the 2013 MSU Debate Team's competitive success included qualifying two teams to the prestigious National Debate Tournament in Ogden, Utah.

Kaavya Ramesh, an Honors College international relations, comparative cultures and politics, and Chinese student from Alpharetta, Georgia, and Evan Hebert, an international relations student from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, advanced to the elimination rounds, extending MSU's streak of placing teams among debate's elite to 18 consecutive years. The pairing of Hebert and Ramesh also finished the season with a 9th place individual ranking, an impressive accomplishment out of a field of hundreds of teams.

Also representing MSU at the tournament were Pablo Gannon (psychology, Rancho Cucamonga, California) and Tyler Thur (Honors College, international relations, Milwaukee, Wisconsin). Those two teams and a third pairing of Aniela Butler (international relations,

Draper, Utah) and Jack Caporal (international relations, Lexington, Massachusetts), frequently compete in the elimination rounds of major national tournaments, demonstrating the team's depth and strong prospects for future success.

Hebert, Thur, Butler and Caporal are students in James Madison College. Ramesh is a student in James Madison College and the College of Arts and Letters. Gannon is a student in the College of Social Science.

In addition, the team held several major public events. Timed with each of last fall's Presidential and Vice Presidential debates, the team hosted the Spartan Presidential Debate Series in four cities around the country (Atlanta, Georgia; Dallas, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; and East Lansing, Michigan). The series included a public viewing and discussion of each debate, along with expert commentary from MSU coaches, debaters, and alumni.

In the spring, team members Hebert, Butler, Caporal and Quinn Zemel (international relations, Hollywood, Florida) headed to Scottsdale, Arizona,



*"More than anything, the Spartan Debate Camps strive to teach the value of competing perspectives. Learning both sides of an argument, even if one does not initially agree, improves understanding."*

**Will Repko, head coach, Spartan Debate Team**

## Debate Team Recent Results

GEORGIA STATE  
**Hebert/Ramesh - Octafinals**  
**Gannon/Thur - Double Octafinals**

KENTUCKY ROUND ROBIN  
**Hebert/Ramesh - 3rd Place**

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
**Hebert/Ramesh - Quarterfinals**  
**Gannon/Thur - Double Octafinals**

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
**Hebert/Ramesh - Octafinals**

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY  
**Hebert/Ramesh - Double Octafinals**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**Hebert/Ramesh - Octafinals**  
**Butler/Caporal - Double Octafinals**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON  
**Hebert/Ramesh - Quarterfinals,**  
**Butler/Caporal - Double Octafinals**

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY  
**Hebert/Ramesh - Quarterfinals,**  
**Butler/Caporal - Double Octafinals**

NATIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENT  
**Hebert/Ramesh - Double Octafinals**

for a debate about nuclear power for MSU's Winter University. The event drew local alumni and paired a public debate with a presentation by Dr. Bradley Sherrill, chief scientist at the MSU Cyclotron, about nuclear physics and radiation.

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 2013. The SDI continued its Hoya-Spartan Scholars program in conjunction with Georgetown University, which brings together two summer programs in Washington, D.C. and East Lansing for an outstanding seven week experience. Over 250 students from 26 states attended the Spartan Debate Institute.

"More than anything, the Spartan Debate Camps strive to teach the value of competing perspectives. Learning both sides of an argument, even if one does not initially agree, improves understanding," said Head Coach Will Repko.

"Our summer camp programs hope to introduce these students to a range of viewpoints on public policy controversies."

Finally, continuing the team's focus on outreach and community engagement, the MSU Debate Team led two new initiatives. In April, the team hosted the first middle school debate championship for the Capital Area Speech & Debate League, which was attended by 60 students from six area middle schools. Also, in conjunction with the SDI and the Detroit Urban Debate League, the team ran a training clinic for new coaches, which was well-attended and should help keep forensic activities strong in Michigan.

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. 🏆

# SERVICE LEARNING (WITH HONORS)

When first-year students arrive at Michigan State University, they might not expect to begin nurturing their leadership skills; however, the **First Year Council (FYC)** provides a group of Honors College students with just that opportunity. Established in 2011, the FYC creates an enhanced leadership experience through self-reflection, professional development, and connections with Honors College peers. Through this involvement in a smaller learning community, the group thereby seeks to support students in their transition to MSU.



FYC students volunteered to cook a meal for the homeless in Lansing.

In the first weeks of the year, Honors College staff, student organization leaders, and residential advisers in the Honors floors nominate students to the FYC who have already made an impression as potential future leaders in the Honors College. The students attend bi-weekly meetings addressing a variety of topics, ranging from personal values and goal-setting to résumé critiques and effective ways to work with diverse groups. Two of the most popular components have been a leadership panel—including the Dean of the Honors College, University administrators, and leaders of the Honors College student organizations—as well as local service learning experiences. Additionally, FYC members choose an Honors College student organization in which to get involved.

The first two groups of First Year Council members are second- and third-year students, and many of the students now hold leadership roles in the various Honors College student organizations. Deanna Christy, for example, is a member of the leadership team for H-STAR, whose members connect with high school seniors who are considering MSU and interested in being a part of the Honors College. She recalled, “First Year Council was a way for me to feel significant as a freshman coming into a (big) school. Through leadership development, outreach events, and volunteer opportunities, I was able to form relationships that made me feel like I belonged at MSU. Thanks to FYC, I began to see that I really could make a difference.”

Florence Otaigbe, now a student leader in the HC Dean’s Advisory Council, stated, “Being on the First Year Council really added to my first year experience as an MSU and HC student by connecting me with tools and resources that are beneficial now and will be in the future.” As suggested by these students’ paths and reflections, the FYC is already creating a sustainable system of leadership.

As the third group of First Year Council members enters, the organization is piloting new components. At the request of past students, each new member will be matched with an FYC “alumna/us” for informal mentoring. Additionally, in the second semester, committees of FYC members will take responsibility to plan and run several of the regular meetings in an effort to gain first-hand insights into leadership of a college group. 🌱

## HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS NURTURE LEADERS

### HC Dean’s Advisory Council (HCDAC) • [www.msu.edu/~hcsac](http://www.msu.edu/~hcsac)

“The Honors College Dean’s Advisory Council (HCDAC) serves as a liaison between the HC student body and the dean in order to help make the HC experience better for students,” said Florence Otaigbe, an international relations sophomore. “We meet periodically with the dean to get a sense of where she wants to take things, and we aim to get as much feedback as possible regularly from the student body so she can know what the students want. We seek to improve the Honors College day by day in order to make it better and stronger.”

### HC Programming Board (HCPB) • [www.msu.edu/~hcpb](http://www.msu.edu/~hcpb)

“The Honors College Programming Board (HCPB) is a great way for students to get involved with the Honors College and to meet other honors students,” said Kiran Samra, a hospitality business senior. “HCPB is dedicated to bringing events to the Honors College, such as Broomball, Euchre tournaments, and the Honors College Ball, in order to enhance the honors experience.”

### MOSAIC • [mosaic@msu.edu](mailto:mosaic@msu.edu)

“MOSAIC is a student organization dedicated to promoting diversity and building a multicultural community within the Honors College,” said Karishma Chopra, a human biology senior.

### H-STAR (Honors Students Actively Recruiting) • [honors@msu.edu](mailto:honors@msu.edu)

“H-STAR (Honors Students Actively Recruiting) reaches out to prospective students and incoming high school students who have been accepted to the Honors College, hosting overnight visits and student and parent panels, mentoring through emails and phone calls, offering tours of the campus, and more. We also facilitate the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship competition in the spring semester. There are no weekly meetings, giving you more flexibility to make your H-STAR experience exactly what you want,” said Jesse Sun, a supply chain management junior.

### Honors Times Two • [honorstimestwo@gmail.com](mailto:honorstimestwo@gmail.com)

“Honors Times Two gives Honors College students an opportunity to be mentors for local gifted elementary students. Together, the mentors and students work on projects in subjects the students are interested in. Honors Times Two helps keep bright young minds engaged and challenged through a positive mentoring experience,” said Valerie Morel, an earth science senior.

### HC Student Service Council (HSCC) • [honorscollegessc@gmail.com](mailto:honorscollegessc@gmail.com)

“The Honors College Student Service Council is a student-run organization devoted to providing Honors College students with numerous community service opportunities throughout the year both on and off campus,” said Alex Parker, a human biology junior. “We work in a variety of different settings from food banks to urban areas, but are also very flexible and open to suggestions from members.”

→ **smart connections**

→ **new opportunities**

→ **self-reflection**

# Honors Study Abroad Takes Off



## What do Havana and Detroit have in common?

The new Honors Research Seminar and Freshmen Seminar Abroad program concerning urban sustainability asks this question—and at first, it’s hard to see the similarities. This means envisioning Detroit’s potential for urban farming and redevelopment, as well as discovering what it means to be a conscious citizen in a big city.

The study abroad portion of the program allows students to interact with the unfamiliar city of Havana in these same ways, combining research skills learned on campus with research in the field. Havana, Cuba’s capital, has a thriving urban farming atmosphere which provides a rich produce source for the city.

Havana can be seen as a model for the potential in urban sustainability. Over 50 percent of Havana’s fresh produce is grown within the city limits. In contrast, over 25 percent of the land within Detroit’s city limits is vacant due to population decline. There are more than 26,600 garden plots in Havana, compared to fewer than 2,000 in Detroit. The creation of urban farms and gardens in Detroit has the potential to provide residents with more than three quarters of their vegetables and almost half of their fruit.

For over 50 years, Cuba has been all but closed off to American visitors. Students participating in this seminar have a chance to help break down the barriers between the two countries by engaging in meaningful research about urban sustainability: an important topic as cities and the world’s population expands. 🌱

**The Honors College is committed to developing programs which promote international engagement. This combination of research, exploration, and study abroad creates an interdisciplinary experience uniquely for Honors students. Such an approach to problem solving and global citizenship allows Michigan State University students to explore and pioneer global solutions.**

**Students are focusing on a variety of research areas for the HC program, including:**

- Urban agriculture systems
- Societal perceptions about personal well-being
- Food security
- Classism
- Resource management
- Nutrition and life span
- Health care systems for the elderly
- Fresh drinking water
- Food production
- Animal feed
- Sustainable agriculture
- Neighborhood and community organizations

HC



“My MARC training represents the continuation of my lab experience spanning the past two years. My current project focuses on understanding the regulation of specific transcription factors on the activity of the insulin receptor gene in *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit flies). Thus far, through seminars, scientific meetings and lab experiences, involvement in the MARC program has advanced my knowledge and skill set in the biomedical sciences, creating in me a deepened passion for benefiting others through scientific innovations.”

Kelly Montgomery, human biology, junior, MARC U STAR Fellow

## Creating a more diverse future for biomedicine

Some minority groups are underrepresented in the biomedical sciences, but a new federally-funded program at Michigan State University—the first of its kind in Michigan—could help boost those numbers.

The National Institute for General Medical Sciences, a division of the National Institutes of Health, has awarded MSU a three-year \$500,000 grant to encourage more minority students to pursue doctoral study in the biomedical sciences and engineering.

NIH is targeting underrepresented minority students, which it defines as African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and U.S. Pacific Islanders.

Modeled after the Honors College’s Professorial Assistantship program, Spartan Minority Access to Research Careers - Undergraduate Student Training for Academic Research (MARC U STAR) launched this fall, eventually providing four undergraduates per year with tuition, fees, and a stipend.

“MARC scholars will have a unique preparatory experience for graduate school,” said psychology professor Cheryl Sisk, program director of the Interdisciplinary Pre-doctoral Training Program in Neuroscience in the College of Natural Science. “It provides not only intensive research experience and training in the scientific process, but also the honing of critical communication skills that are predictors of success in graduate school.”

There are two phases of the program: pre-MARC and MARC. As part of the grant, MSU will develop a pipeline of potential MARC fellows through the pre-MARC program, which focuses on exposure to research through seminars, courses and workshops, said Justin Micomonaco, academic specialist for the Honors College.

In the spring of a student’s sophomore year, they can apply to be a MARC fellow. MARC fellows are placed in a research position working for a faculty member during their junior and senior years. Micomonaco will focus on programming and evaluation, and Jerry Caldwell, director of the Charles Drew Science Scholars program, will lead student support efforts, helping to link MARC U STAR to MSU’s research community.

“We have the faculty and facilities to provide quality research opportunities to students; combining these resources with the MARC grant will position MSU to make long-term change,” said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. “Equally important is that MARC is consistent with MSU’s overall goal of providing a steady pipeline of STEM Ph.D.’s in biomedical sciences.”

## Honors College Senior-Year Stats BY THE NUMBERS



Sources: Honors College Annual Report and MSU Destination Survey

## Leading through design, research, invention

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



The 4th volume of the MSU Honors College academic journal, *ReCUR (Red Cedar Undergraduate Research)*, is now available.

Check out [recur.msu.edu](http://recur.msu.edu) to learn more.

**Kara Brewer, Mairin Chesney, Audrey Mabiza, Craig Pearson, Jessica Pederson, and Lexis Zeidan** were selected as members of the 2013-2014 Homecoming Court.

**Alec Dutch** worked as a mechanical engineering intern for a Nestle food research plant in Fremont, Michigan. He was responsible for designing and assembling an “acoustic mixer,” allowing for extremely fast and efficient mixing.



Jesus Vega working on an alternative spring break service trip in Mexico

**Brianne Feldpausch, Kristen Kelsay, Christian Roehmer, Mike Sadler, Jana Sedlacek, and David Zoltowski** were awarded the Big Ten Distinguished Scholar Award, which recognizes student athletes with a 3.7 or higher grade point average. MSU has the 4th most honorees among conference schools.

**John Groetsch** volunteered over the summer at a hockey school for low-income children.

**Karin Hanisch** conducted research for the Trichrome Project ([trichrome.msu.edu](http://trichrome.msu.edu)) in the Robert Last Lab in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department over the summer.

Several Honors College students presented at the 2nd Annual Learning Abroad Conference. Presentation themes included advocacy, cultural awareness, personal growth, professional growth and overcoming obstacles. The Honors College presenters were: **Jessica Hernandez, Ali Sanchez, and Jesus Vega (Mexico); Annette Lundberg (Uganda); Audrey Mabiza (United States); Julia Miller (Malaysia); Melissa Motz (United Kingdom); Humphrey Petersen-Jones (United Kingdom); Caitlin Riddle (South Africa); Hiu See (Cecilia) Tang (United States); Melissa Vader (South Africa); and Caroline Williams (Nepal).**

**Jessica Hernandez, Ali Sanchez, and Jesus Vega (Mexico); Annette Lundberg (Uganda); Audrey Mabiza (United States); Julia Miller (Malaysia); Melissa Motz (United Kingdom); Humphrey Petersen-Jones (United Kingdom); Caitlin Riddle (South Africa); Hiu See (Cecilia) Tang (United States); Melissa Vader (South Africa); and Caroline Williams (Nepal).**

**Sam Herzing** was a program assistant for a marketing and international business European study abroad program. She also interned at Netvantage Marketing, a search engine optimization firm.

**Erin Hoffman** worked as a software engineering intern at Facebook in Menlo Park, California.



Morgan Hoxsie researches in India

**Morgan Hoxsie** traveled to Chennai, India, where she performed research at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT). She also had the opportunity to travel through Europe over the summer.

**Barbara Kotei** was selected as one of the first recipients of the MasterCard Foundation scholarship at MSU for the 2012-2013 academic year. She is currently majoring in biochemistry and, after college, hopes to improve the public health system in her home country of Ghana.

**Shan Kothari** was involved in a research project at the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest in central Oregon, in which he compared different methods of restoring montane meadows.

**Adam Liter** was awarded the Genevieve Gillette Fellowship from the Honors College, which he used to begin working on his senior thesis in linguistics—an investigation into children’s acquisition of passive constructions.

**Mike Malloy** interned for Chicago’s Department of Innovation and Technology as a Roosevelt Institute Summer Academy Fellow. He also studied the development of Cuban music on a summer study abroad trip.

**Sarah Miller, Eileen Stefansky, and Maxwell Winkler** presented their Honors projects in the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) Symposium, held at MSU in April. Each project was a visual narrative outlining a short story written by Gabriel García Márquez and was part of a course taught by Rocio Quispe-Agnoli, associate professor of Latin studies.

**Joe Nutter** participated in a Department of Energy program at Fermilab in Batavia, Illinois, where he helped with the design and construction of a prototype for a new type of calorimeter.

**Aaron Oom** spent his summer researching the role of androgen receptor and integrins in prostate cancer cell survival at the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Steve Price** was a quarterfinalist on *America’s Got Talent*. He built Rube Goldberg machines that performed a simple task.

**Irina Pushel** was awarded the DAAD RISE fellowship, which she used to travel to Dusseldorf, Germany, on a study abroad that included research on gene regulation in plant development in the Schubert lab at Heinrich-Heine Universität Dusseldorf.

**Kellie Rowe** was hired full-time as an enrollment clerk in the House of Representatives in Michigan. She is also interning at *USA Today*, where she writes for the newspaper’s college section.

**Brady Ryan and Caroline Hron Weigle** studied intensive Arabic at the University of Texas Arabic Summer Institute.

**Adam Scarchilli** researched the mathematical and graphical game of cops and robbers in his professorial assistantship with Dr. Robert Bell from the Lyman Briggs College math department.

**Marty Scherr** interned in the Department of Defense in the High Performance Computing Modernization Program Office, where he assessed the capabilities of a miniature Beowulf computing cluster.

**John Suddard-Bangsund** researched organic photovoltaics in Dr. Linda Lunt’s lab through the EnSURE program.

**Eric Vasko** worked as an engineering/manufacturing intern with ConAgra Foods, Inc. in St. Paul, Minnesota.

### Honors College students selected to appear in the 2013 MSU President’s Report include:

**Peter Burroughs**—Freshman; Mowbray Scholars Program; intends to major in media and information and computer science (College of Communication Arts and Sciences)

**Claire Babala**—Sophomore; arts and humanities major (Residential College in the Arts and Humanities)

**Jolisa Brooks**—Junior; Black Caucus President for two years; studying political theory and constitutional democracy (James Madison College)

**Kristen Kelsay**—Senior; captain of the MSU varsity volleyball team; psychology major (College of Social Science)

**Craig Pearson**—Senior; Goldwater Scholar 2012; neuroscience, biochemistry and molecular biology and English (College of Natural Science/College of Arts and Letters)

**Audrey Mabiza**—Senior; international student from Zimbabwe; chemical engineering major (College of Engineering)

## 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.

### New HC Staff



**Ryan Arey** joined the Honors College as the admissions counselor in October. Prior to that, Ryan was a Recent Graduate Trustee for the Albion College Board of Trustees. Ryan earned her MS in education and higher education administration from the University of Pennsylvania and her BA in communications studies and management from Albion College.



**Stephanie Cepak** joined the Honors College as the new communications manager in August. Previously, she worked as an account executive at Byrum & Fisk Communications. Prior to that, Stephanie covered Michigan politics as a reporter for Gongwer News Service in Lansing. Stephanie earned her BA in journalism from Michigan State University.



**Christine Gajda** recently joined the Honors College as the new director of advising. Previously, Chris worked as an academic specialist in MSU's College of Education and the Eli Broad College of Business. She earned her MA in college and university administration from Michigan State University and her BA in psychology from the University of Michigan.



**Sadiq Mohammed** joined the Honors College as an academic specialist/adviser in November 2012. He previously served as academic adviser at Central Missouri State University. Sadiq earned his MS in higher education/higher education administration and BS in mathematics from the University of Central Missouri.



**Andrew Murray** joined the Honors College as an academic specialist/adviser in February. Andrew has been a part of the MSU community since 2006, serving in various roles on campus. He earned his MA in student affairs administration, as well as a BA in English and teaching certification in secondary education English and history, all from Michigan State University.

### HC Staff News

**Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore** served on the planning committee for the inaugural conference on Honors Education at Research Universities. The conference was held in State College, Pennsylvania, in May 2013.

**Dr. Bess German** earned the Patricia Enos Mentoring Award from the Student Affairs Administration (SAA) department in the College of Education. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to master's students in the SAA program.

Bess was named assistant dean for the Honors College in the summer. She has worked for the Honors College since 1997.

**Dr. Bess German** and **Dr. Justin Micomonaco** presented their research at the Honors Education at Research Universities conference held at Pennsylvania State University in the spring of 2013. Bess' presentation focused on high achieving first-generation college students while Justin's focused on group vs. individual research program models.

### Book Chapters



**Jackson-Elmoore, C.** (2013). The Challenge of Scholarship. In Fitzgerald, H. E. and Primavera, J. (eds).

*Going Public: Civic and Community Engagement, The Scholarship of Practice.* East Lansing, Michigan: MSU Press, pages 13-32.

**Jackson-Elmoore, C.,** Steinke-Wawrzynski, K., Luchini-Colbry, K. and Boucher-Niemi, J. (2013). Undergraduate Research: Blending the Scholarship of Discovery, Teaching, Application and Integration. In Fitzgerald, H. E. and Primavera, J. (eds). *Going Public: Civic and Community Engagement, The Scholarship of Practice.* East Lansing, Michigan: MSU Press, pages 33-49.

### Conference Presentations

**Jackson-Elmoore, C.** (2013). How Gender Impacts Who Gets to Influence Public Policy. Presented at the 1st International Conference on Public Policy. Grenoble, France, June 28.

**Jackson-Elmoore, C.,** Dell, Kent, Creed, Elayna and Desmond, Kearsley (2013). The Role of Women in Creating Access to the Public Policy Process. Presented at the 2013 European Political Science Association Meeting, Barcelona, Spain, June 20.

**Jackson-Elmoore, C.** (2013). Politics Matters, Do Regions? Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Orlando, Florida, January 5.

**Jackson-Elmoore, C.** (2013). Descriptive Representation and Legislative Access. Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Orlando, Florida, January 3.

## HC FACULTY AWARD Honoring a Mentor

**Cristina Schmitt**, associate professor of linguistics in the College of Arts and Letters at Michigan State University, has been honored with the **2013 Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students.**



Christina Schmitt speaks at the 2013 Honors College Convocation

The award was established by the Honors College Dean's Advisory Council 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. Schmitt received a certificate, recognition at the Honors College Convocation in the fall, and an honorarium of \$1,000.

Serving as an adviser and mentor for the Undergraduate Association for Linguistics at Michigan State (qUALMS), Schmitt has been instrumental in contributing to the growth, development and advancement of Honors College students. Her service as qUALMS mentor has resulted in two undergraduate research conferences being hosted annually, drawing participants from around the world. This opportunity has provided Honors College students with the chance to present their own research in a more competitive academic setting.

Schmitt also received the Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor of the Year Award at the 2013 University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum awards ceremony. This honor recognizes faculty members who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to mentoring undergraduate researchers. She has supervised more than 30 UURAF presentations since 2007, taught numerous honors courses and has mentored several professorial assistants. 🌟

### Dr. Schmitt offered insights and advice to first-year students at the Fall Convocation:

*"This is the moment of your life where you can actually try things and do things that you have never done before. Allow yourself to find the best fit. And maybe the best fit for you is actually something you don't know exists yet. A university of this size has people doing things you have never imagined."*

*"Innovation in technology—in everything—comes from our admission of ignorance. Permit yourself to be puzzled and to seek explanations for things you don't understand. What seems useless to you now may be a source of innovation somewhere, and a source of new jobs."*

# A Legacy of Leadership



**Stanley Idzerda**  
 Founding Director  
 Michigan State University  
 Honors College  
 1956 to 1965

**Dr. Stanley Idzerda**, who served as the founding director of Michigan State University's Honors College from 1956 to 1965, died in August at the age of 93.

Born in New York, he joined MSU in 1952 as assistant professor of humanities.

Idzerda was well-known for doing whatever it took to help students be successful. He opened his home for Sunday brunch, loaned students money, and helped them find jobs.

"He's always been one of my heroes because he's the one who really got the Honors College started," said Bill Kelly, a former colleague of Idzerda's, who served as director of the Honors College from 1968-1969.

Along with former director John Delane Wilson, Kelly said of the Honors College, "They just made it very competitive on the one hand and very attractive on the other. Students really worked hard to get it."

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon said, "Establishment of the Honors College in 1956 by visionary people such as Stan Idzerda and John Hannah signaled that Michigan State was ready to step out as a world-class university.

Stan helped instill that culture of confidence and achievement not just among his students, but into the very fabric of the university."

Idzerda worked with Hannah, the MSU President at the time, to create the Honors College at a very critical time for the university and the country as a whole. The Vietnam War had begun and the nation was in the midst of the civil rights movement.

While these were challenging times, Idzerda never wavered from his commitment to see to it that exceptional students succeeded.

Dr. Paul Rockey, a former Honors College student, said Idzerda took an individual interest in all Honors College students. Rockey participated in the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship competition, reflecting, "We're all high school seniors and feeling like guinea pigs for two days. They selected 12 of us. We called ourselves the dirty dozen in 1962."

Idzerda came to Rockey's graduation in Jonesville, Michigan, to present him with the ADS award.

"He personalized it; he wanted to make sure everybody did succeed," Rockey said. "I started out in these advanced classes I wasn't prepared for; he smoothed a rough start for me. After that, I graduated with my honors and went on to a great medical school."

Former Honors College student Marquita Hill met Idzerda as a student in the fall of 1957 after speaking with the vice president's office.

"I was literally a penny-less student, working part-time jobs to support myself," she said.

Idzerda connected Hill with the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship, found her jobs in between quarters to help pay for school, and eventually opened his home to her.

"Stan and Geri asked me to come live with them the following year, for some babysitting," Hill said, noting the couple moved out of their bedroom to ensure Hill had enough space to study for her classes.

Hill said the Idzerda was incredibly generous and hospitable.

Charles Butterworth, a former Honors College student, said he always found Idzerda to be "remarkably inspiring... awe-inspiring" and a man of "great drive, intellectual warmth, and human warmth."

Idzerda's office was filled with books and he would ask students who stopped by whether they had read certain titles, Butterworth reflected. If the student hadn't read a particular book, it would be sent home with the student to be borrowed for a while.



Stanley Idzerda (far right) works with colleagues at MSU.

"(Idzerda) wasn't sure how it was going to work (the honors program). He was there to help us make sure that whatever it implied, we benefited," Butterworth said of the inaugural class. "Here was a man who expected a great deal of his students. He showed us that it didn't matter where you started; what you *did* was important."

In addition to his time at MSU, Idzerda was a professor of French history and American literature at Western Michigan University, Wesleyan University, and Yale University. He served as dean of the College at Wesleyan University before his post as the eighth president of the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota.

Idzerda received his Ph.D. and master's degrees from Western Reserve University. He earned his bachelor's degrees from the University of Notre Dame and Baldwin-Wallace College.

In 1962, Idzerda was appointed to the Committee on Advanced Placement of the College Entrance Examination Board, and he served as president of the Society for French Historical Studies. He was a member of the Committee on Teaching of the American Historical Association and was a trustee of the American Society for Aesthetics and Art Criticism.

"Many Honors College alumni credit their successes in life to Dr. Idzerda's commitment to the whole person, which he displayed on top of his keen insight," said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. "His students knew he cared about them and admired how he encouraged them to stretch in their academic pursuits. We are fortunate to have Dr. Idzerda among the great legacies here at MSU and we send our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and students." 🌱



**John Delane Wilson**  
 Director  
 Michigan State University  
 Honors College  
 1965 to 1968

Former Honors College Director **Dr. John Delane Wilson**, Michigan State University alumnus and MSU's third Rhodes Scholar, died in March in Lexington, Kentucky. He was 81.

Wilson was born in Lapeer, Michigan. While attending Michigan State, Wilson played defensive back as a member of the national champion team of 1951 and 1952. He was also a member of the Academic All-American football team, and was elected to the GTE Academic All-America Hall of Fame in 1989. He received the Duffy Daugherty Award in 1987 for his college athletic career, and was inducted into the Michigan State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001.

After earning his master's degree in English literature as a Rhodes Scholar from Exeter College at Oxford University and serving in the U.S. Air Force, Wilson returned to Michigan State to serve as assistant to the vice president of academic affairs and at the State University of New York as assistant to the president. In 1965, Wilson was named director of the MSU Honors College. Wilson also taught as an assistant professor of English after earning his Ph.D. in English literature.



John Delane Wilson was a defensive back for MSU and a Rhodes Scholar.

In 1968, Wilson left Michigan State University to become president of Wells College. He was then appointed the first provost and executive vice president of Virginia Tech in 1975. In 1982, Washington and Lee University elected Wilson as president, where he served until his retirement in 1996.

Wilson received numerous awards and recognitions. He was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa in 1983, and Washington and Lee University awarded him an honorary doctorate of letters in 1996. In 2000, he received Virginia Tech's Ruffner Medal, its highest honor, for service and dedication to Virginia Tech. In 2007, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Lapeer (Michigan) Community Schools.

Wilson belonged to Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta, the Association of American Rhodes Scholars and the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges. He served on the boards of the Virginia Tech Library Systems, the Roanoke Electric Steel Corp., Hollins College, and Mercersburg (Pennsylvania) Academy. He was chairman of the board of the Virginia Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy. 🌱

## Shared Experiences in Honors

The experience cultivated for students at the Michigan State University Honors College is different for everyone, but in the case of one family, the transformation of this college over time is pretty clear.



**Chuck Stavoe** and his wife, **Laurie Horiszny**, reflect fondly on their years at MSU, but when asked whether their Honors College experience differed from that of their children, Andrea and Ross, the answer was an affirmative yes.

“When we came to Michigan State, we were automatically granted the initial (entrance) into the Honors College,” said Chuck, who was valedictorian of his high school class while Laurie, a 1977 alumna, was salutatorian for her high school class.

The Honors College for Chuck and Laurie was limited to honors classes, said Chuck, a 1976 alumnus.

“We didn’t have the option of making a non-honors class into an honors class. Now it’s quite encompassing. Students can take a whole lot of classes by expanding the academic rigor,” he said. “The way it is now...people are very aware of (the Honors College) before they get to Michigan State but when I was coming into Michigan State it was very low-key.”

Chuck said the transformation of the Honors College made Michigan State “a more selective school.”

**Andrea Stavoe**, a 2008 alumna, said she was weighing going to Northwestern University outside of Chicago over MSU because that’s where the family was living at the time.

*“Having ownership of your career path within the Honors College and Michigan State is definitely helpful when you’re out in the real world and you’re determining your own path.”*

**Ross Stavoe**

“My parents were always talking about how much they loved their time there (at MSU) and how nice it would be to carry on the tradition,” she said, recalling vague memories of MSU hockey and football games taken in as a child. “I wasn’t familiar with campus until I got there.”

Eventually, she was swayed to head to East Lansing.

**For Ross Stavoe**, a 2012 alumnus, the choice was clearer.

“The Honors College is what made me come to Michigan State...the opportunities it afforded its members,” he said.

While both were Honors College students, Laurie and Chuck didn’t actually meet at MSU. Instead they met in Jackson, Michigan, after both had finished their respective law schools and were working in the private sector.

As a parent, it’s comforting to know your children are in the same environment you’ve experienced, Laurie said.

“It was wonderful to be on campus with them when they were in school,” Laurie added. “We don’t miss a trip to the dairy.”

Chuck said the hands-on opportunities afforded to Andrea and Ross made an impression on him as a parent and alumnus.



“These new opportunities, they have are just fabulous,” Chuck said. “First week (Andrea) was there she started working with professors at a research

lab. All four years she was there doing stuff, and this is what the Honors College means now, that it didn’t mean then. You can be hands-on, learning, doing things so intimate and necessary to your career...those are things you can’t buy. They are truly priceless.”

Ross, who is in the finance leadership development training program for GE Aviation now, said the flexibility of the Honors College appealed to him.

“You can design your own curriculum and have more of an opportunity to be a double major or (achieve) what you want to accomplish in terms of your academic goals,” said Ross, who majored in supply chain management and psychology. “Having ownership of your career path within the Honors College and Michigan State is definitely helpful when you’re out in the real world and you’re determining your own path.”

Andrea, who majored in biochemistry, molecular biology, and biotechnology and is now in graduate school at Yale University, said she expected her experience as a science student to be different than her parents, who were both in the business school.

But the ability to engage and interact with professors is something that appears to have continued throughout the generations of Honors College students.

“The honors professors took it very seriously, creating the additional rigor,” Chuck said. “They were noticeably more in-depth and challenging classes. Professors were engaging with students both inside of lecture and outside of lecture.”

Both Andrea and Ross worked as professorial assistants. Members of the family also participated in various student organizations, including H-STAR (Honors Students Actively Recruiting).

“We’re very pleased and proud both of them did so well at MSU and launched into their different interests,” Laurie said.

Besides shared MSU appreciation, the family also enjoys scuba diving around the world. Chuck runs Motor City Scuba and Snorkel in Novi, Michigan, and serves on the Honors College Alumni Association Executive Board; Laurie is an attorney. 🌍

## 2013 Graduates

**Brandon Alberts, Jill Behrman, Megan Courtley, Ashley Hall, Andrew Paulsen, Travis Saari, Brittany Sims, and Qingue Wu** were recognized as Outstanding Seniors for their academic excellence and engagement in the MSU community.

**Denis Bogatov** and **Christian Roehmer** finished their college careers as members of the Men's Tennis Team, the athletic program with the highest GPA at Michigan State. In addition, Roehmer received the Scholar Athlete Award for having the highest cumulative GPA on the team.

**Ryan Groendyk** presented his master's thesis project, an "art car" that runs on waste vegetable oil, at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. He will be driving his creation to the ArtCar Museum in Texas and will document his journey through blogging.

**Brenda Halloran** was awarded a scholarship from the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

**Logan Matthews** won first prize in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers 2013 Student Design Competition. His project involved the design of a chemical plant to produce bio-oil and liquid fuels.

## 2010s

**Christopher Fan (2010)** is currently in St. Louis, Missouri, pursuing a master's of social work and master's of public health from Washington University.

**Sarah Hogarth (2012)** is currently attending law school at Notre Dame.

**Ashley Kulczycki (2011)** is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Notre Dame.

**Amber Markey (2012)** is currently pursuing an Educational Specialist degree in School Psychology at Michigan State University.

**Alyssa Meyer (2011)** worked in the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's Russian and Eurasia program, where she assisted in the creation of the al-Farabi Carnegie in Kazakhstan, Uzbek language editing for a new book on Islam in Uzbekistan, and general editing for a publication on the Tajik political economy. She accepted a 2012-2013 Fulbright scholarship in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and is planning to begin graduate studies.

**Cameron Paxton (2012)** is currently pursuing a Master of Arts program in the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago.

**Peter Schultz (2012)** is participating in the Ford College Graduate Program in Ford Transmission & Driveline Engineering. This program includes rotations in multiple departments of the corporation.



**Rashad Simmons (2010)** is on track to receive a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School in May 2014.

**Wendy Stein (2012)** worked for Kashi Co. before returning to school to study nutritional sciences with an emphasis on childhood obesity prevention at Pennsylvania State University.

**Evan Stewart (2012)** is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in sociology with an Edelstein Fellowship at the University of Minnesota and is conducting research with the American Mosaic Project.

**Geng Wang (2011)** is attending Harvard Business School. He currently serves as a board member for two startup companies he cofounded while at MSU: RentJungle.com and CommunityElf.com.

## 2000s

**Jenna Heitchue (2007)** is dean of academics at Chicago Jesuit Academy in Chicago, an all-boys middle school, after teaching mathematics at the same school and participating in Teach for America in North Carolina.

**Wanda Lau (2002)** was recently promoted to senior editor of technology at *Architect*, the official magazine of the American Institute of Architects.

**Jana LoBello (2007)** recently completed her M.Ed in Learning, Diversity and Urban Studies at Vanderbilt University and is currently working on her doctorate at the University of Minnesota.

**Stephanie Mills (2008)** will be joining Mayer Brown LLP as an associate attorney in October 2013 after graduating with a JD-MBA from the University of Illinois.

**Kristen Pratt (2008)** recently completed a Master's degree in Urban Environmental Leadership from Lesley University and currently coordinates the Chicago Conservations Corps, which supports grassroots environmental leaders.

**Dianna Robinson (2008)** worked with AmeriCorps for two years in Montana and West Virginia after completing a graduate program in environmental sustainability at the University of Edinburgh.

**Shalene Walker (2008)** moved to Dubai, UAE, where she works at an advertising agency developing media strategies for Johnson & Johnson baby products.

## 1990s

**Judith Katz (1994)** is the co-founder of the Connection Action Project, which stimulates civic engagement and empathy through deep listening.

**Michelle Kimple (1998)** is an assistant professor in the Division of Endocrinology, Department of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin.

**Randy Kimple (1998)** is an assistant professor and radiation oncologist in the Department of Human Oncology at the University of Wisconsin.



**Janelle Simmons (1998)** is pursuing an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Liberty University and concurrently teaching psychology at Plaza College in New York.

**Henry Ng (1996)** became the president of GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality in September.

**Ruju Bhatt Srivastava (1993)** became the executive director of product development at BioMarin Pharmaceutical in San Francisco in 2012.



**Aimee Vieira (1993)** was promoted to associate professor and received tenure in May 2013 in the School of Justice Studies & Sociology at Norwich University in Vermont.

## 1980s

**Anil K. Lalwani (1981)** recently joined the faculty of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was also elected president of the American Neurology Society.

**Debra N. McGuire (1983)** director of communications and education of the Michigan Townships Association, has been named CEO of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP)—the state's largest specialty physician association. She will also serve as executive vice president of the MAFP Foundation. McGuire has served the Michigan Townships Association for the past 13 years.

**Aryc Mosher (1989)** works at the Carter Center, focusing on eliminating blinding trachoma in Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

## 1970s

**Mary Ann Cooper (1971)** has retired from patient care at the University of Illinois, but is still active in raising awareness about lightning injury prevention.

**Christina DeMoore (1974)** practices law in Petoskey, Michigan, with a focus on mediation. She also coaches the Petoskey High School policy debate team that, under her tutelage, earned two back-to-back Tier 1 varsity state championships in 2012 and 2013.

**Amy Hietapelto (1978)** has been named dean of the Labovitz School of Business and Economics at University of Minnesota Duluth.

**Richard Mancino (1978)** has been recognized by Law360 for pro bono work as a partner at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP in New York City

**Michael C. Sack (1976)** invented a universal testing language—a quantified market research system of visual semiotics that allows manufacturers such as Kraft, Unilever and Microsoft to test strategies, ads, and designs without words, thereby avoiding language barriers.

**Jane Schultz (1975)** recently began working as the director of financial management for the Michigan Department of Education.

Send your alumni news electronically!

Just complete the form at [msu.edu/unit/honcoll/grads/alumupdate.html](http://msu.edu/unit/honcoll/grads/alumupdate.html)

We look forward to hearing from you!

## 2014 Honors College Alumni Association Executive Board

The Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA) Executive Board is gearing up for some exciting projects in 2014! Current board members include:

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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 Cable: [Katie@msu.edu](mailto:Katie@msu.edu) or call 517-355-2326 by February 1, 2014.



## 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, a 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.

- **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.

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.

# 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.

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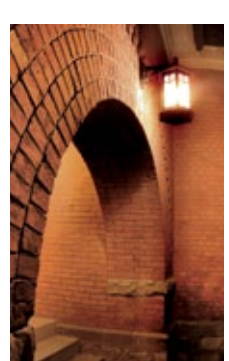
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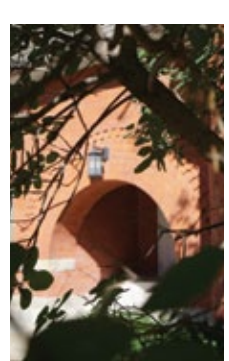
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Matt and Janet Trethewey  
Mary B. and Dwayne Trivax  
Lee D. and Nancy J. Trowbridge  
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Lisa M. Tyler  
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David W. and Marilyn K. Vaillancourt  
Kathy L. Van Houwelingen  
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James A. and Verna D. VanDevelde  
Jack C. VanKuiken  
Merlin A. and Bette A. Vannice  
Christin R. Vasilenko Fawcett  
Guadalupe Velazquez  
Salvatore M. and M. V. Viviano  
Donna J. and Ronald H. Vogt  
Ralph J. Volino  
Douglas A. Wagner  
Shelly J. and Charles E. Wagnitz  
Ryan D. Wagoner  
Diane E. Wall  
Cheryl M. Walsh  
Thomas E. Walsh  
William E. and Elizabeth A. Walsh  
Christine A. and Michael F. Waltz  
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Stevens F. Wandmacher  
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Michael Wittenbach  
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Julie Woods-Harris  
Kathleen J. Worst  
George T. and Doris Worthington  
April F. Wyncott  
Maryann M. Wzorek Rossi  
Michael R. Yales and Nancy T. Sabal  
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Ronald H. and Claire Yogman  
Daniel W. and Jill A. Youngberg  
Dean G. and Kimberley A. Yurgens  
Mary I. Zeerip  
Thomas M. and April Y. Zelinski  
Robert and Marianne (Merrick) Ziegler  
Brian P. Zimmermann  
Terry A. Zitek and Margaret J. Diaz

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[honorscollege.msu.edu](http://honorscollege.msu.edu)

**January 3-5**

MSU Debate Team tournament at the University of Southern California

**January 7-14**

MSU Debate Team tournament at CSU Fullerton

**January 17-20**

MSU Debate Team tournament at Indiana University

**January 24-28**

MSU Debate Team Pittsburgh Round Robin

**January 24**

National/International Fellowships & Scholarships (NIFS) internal application deadline for Pickering Fellowship

**January 31 - February 1 and February 7-8**

The 59th Annual Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Competition

**February 3**

Sharper Focus/Wider Lens Forum: Questioning Technology

**February 7-22**

MSU Debate Team tournament at the University of Texas

**February 15**

Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas application deadline

**February 25-26**

MSU Debate Team D5 Districts

**February 28 - March 3**

MSU Debate Team Freshman/Sophomore Nationals

**March 1**

HC Study Abroad Scholarships application deadline

**March TBD**

National/International Fellowships & Scholarships (NIFS) internal application deadline for Presidential Fellows

**March 13**

Honors College First-Year Forum

**March 26 - April 1**

MSU Debate Team National Debate Tournament

**April 4**

University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum

**April 8**

Sharper Focus/Wider Lens Forum: What Divides Us/What Unites Us

**April 11-12**

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

**May 2**

MSU Undergraduate Convocation and Honors College Graduation Reception

**June 20, June 27, and July 11**

Green Carpet Days recruitment program for high achieving students considering MSU

**August 1**

National/International Fellowships & Scholarships (NIFS) internal application deadline for UK scholarships

**September 5**

Honors College Annual Picnic

**October 15**

HC Study Abroad Scholarship application deadline (for spring semester programs)

**November (TBD)**

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

**November 1**

National/International Fellowships & Scholarships (NIFS) internal application deadline for Goldwater Scholarship, Truman Scholarship, Carnegie Jr. Fellows Program

**December 1**

National/International Fellowships & Scholarships (NIFS) internal application deadline for the NSEP David L. Boren Fellowship and Graduate Fellowship and the Beinecke Scholarship program

**December 15**

National/International Fellowships & Scholarships (NIFS) internal application deadline for the Udall Scholarship

**December 17**

Deadline to submit student work for the 2015 MLK, Jr. Advancing Inclusion through Research Award (a partnership with MSU's Residential Colleges)

The Honors College  
Michigan State University  
Eustace-Cole Hall  
468 E. Circle Drive, Room 105  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1041

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