

# HC *Connections*

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Honors College



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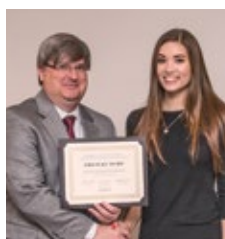
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## 2014 HIGHLIGHTS


**International  
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Student's love of language shaped by international experience


**Research**
**PAGE 10**

Research endeavors featured at University Undergraduate Research & Arts Forum





## Dear Students and Friends,

Throughout the pages of this magazine you will read about our students, our faculty, our staff, and our alumni who embody the spirit of the Honors College to pioneer, innovate, and

engage. I hope you enjoy reading their stories, whether you are considering Michigan State University, or are currently a member of the Honors College.

As one of the oldest and most prestigious honors colleges in the nation, we boast an alumni network that spans the globe. We offer uncommon academic flexibility that lets students chart their own path. Further, the Honors College is an inclusive community nestled into one of the best research institutions in the country.

Through our stories you'll see the Honors College's philosophy and goals in action; whether by strengthening undergraduate research opportunities, supporting outstanding national and international fellowship and scholarship talent, or fostering civic engagement in East Lansing or around the world.

The Honors College exists to cultivate exceptional students; highlighting their accomplishments in this annual magazine is always a pleasure.

Sincerely,

**Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, PhD**  
**Dean and Professor**  
**Michigan State University Honors College**



### Faculty Engagement

PAGE 14

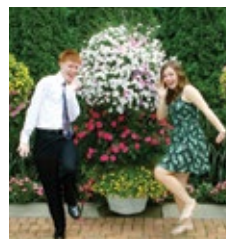
Fireside Chats—the Campfire of the Honors Community



### Civic Engagement

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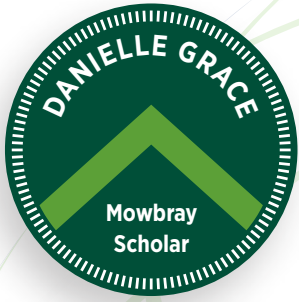
Honors College students lend a hand to quality of life projects in Cambodia and Tanzania



### RA Profiles

PAGE IV

Honors floors spell lasting memories for RAs



# Student's **love of language** shaped by international experience

**F**or **Danielle Grace**, visiting Japan was not just one more thing to cross off her bucket list—it was a cross-cultural experience that broadened her career scope and expanded her love of language.

Grace, a junior majoring in comparative culture and politics in the James Madison College, as well as French in the College of Arts & Letters, traveled to Japan in the summer of 2013 as a Mowbray Scholar through the Honors College. The scholarship funds an upperclassman's international study, or other academic projects, in two unique terms.

With a minor in Japanese, Grace chose to visit Japan for her first Mowbray experience, to get a taste of a place she'd like to live someday.

"Being there really opened my eyes to the culture and way of life I had never known before," she said.

She took part in the Summer Intensive Language & Culture Program at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities. Her experience, she said, was a mix of education, culture, and community, which is exactly why she was drawn to apply for Mowbray in the first place.

"Mowbray is about diversity, cross-cultural interactions and understanding, and international experiences, which interested me," Grace said.

Originally from Auburn Hills, Michigan, Grace says she would have found a way to study abroad without the scholarship, but financially it helped her (and her mom) a lot.

She describes Mowbray as a type of "community." Past and current scholars, as well as faculty and staff, meet regularly, and Grace can always count on them for support.

"We'll talk about classes and deciding majors and where to go for our Mowbray experience," Grace said.

"Having this network freshman year was great because I didn't know anyone, but continuing to be a part of it and getting to know everyone involved is even better."

Grace describes herself as a lover of language and is always looking for opportunities to learn about other cultures and evolve her communication skills.

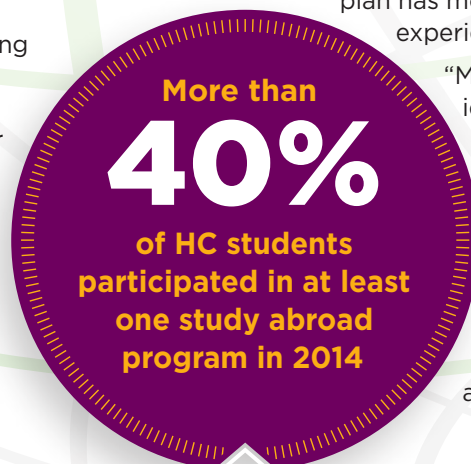


*Danielle Grace (center) with friends.*

"[As a member of the James Madison College], learning how to communicate has been a plus for me, especially because I'm kind of shy. I was never one to start conversations or always share what I'm thinking. Having class-led discussions has been extremely beneficial in helping me come out of my shell."

She also appreciates how well her education plan has molded together, an overall experience she feels is enriching.

"My major has a lot to do with culture, identity, power, and how people define themselves in relation to others in their own community," Grace said. "Language has a lot to do with understanding how people communicate and how people think of themselves, so that ties nicely into my major because that's pretty much all we talk about—how people see the world around them and how people identify themselves."





**“The biggest thing my internship taught me was that people are just people, and you don’t need to be afraid of interacting with people with whom you think you have nothing in common.”**

**Danielle Grace**

Grace further used her academic work to tie into an internship at the Refugee Development Center in Lansing. There she learned how to communicate and connect with people despite language barriers.

“The biggest thing my internship taught me was that people are just people, and you don’t need to be afraid of interacting with people with whom you think you have nothing in common,” Grace said.

Although Grace is still contemplating her career path, she sees multiple options in the distance.

“I haven’t really decided ‘I want to be this’ or ‘I want to be that,’” Grace said. “Interpreting and translation is always an option for me, but I’ve

always wanted to try working in an NGO (non-governmental organization) having to do with human rights or activist education. Lately I’ve been thinking about applying to work for TED. They seem to be really interested in helping people think differently about the way they live and conceptualize all different topics, including relationships and communication. Their motto is ‘Ideas worth sharing’—I think that applies to me perfectly.”

Grace volunteers at the Capital Area Humane Society and is a member of Asian-Christian IntersVarsity at MSU. She had an internship in France this past summer as the second part of her Mowbray experience. 🇫🇷

Learn more about the Mowbray Scholars Program at [honorscollege.msu.edu/mowbray-scholars-program](https://honorscollege.msu.edu/mowbray-scholars-program).

## EuroScholars Research Abroad Program

### Honors College sponsors EuroScholars

This year, the Honors College expanded the number of study abroad opportunities available exclusively to its members by sponsoring the EuroScholars Research Abroad Program.

The program allows students to conduct research at a leading European university for one semester, up to a year. Countries include: Belgium, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

The EuroScholars program offers a flexible curriculum individually built around each student’s academic needs.

This program is currently available to students with junior or senior status.

Learn more about EuroScholars at [honorscollege.msu.edu/euroscholars-research-abroad-program](https://honorscollege.msu.edu/euroscholars-research-abroad-program).



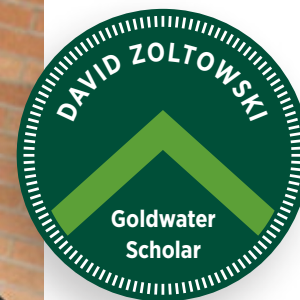
## Honors Research Seminar/Freshman Seminar Abroad in Cuba

Take a look inside the Honors Research Seminar/Freshman Seminar Abroad in Cuba, as told by Honors College member Renee O’Connell, on the Honors College YouTube channel ([youtube.com/HonorsCollegeMSU](https://youtube.com/HonorsCollegeMSU)). Students conduct research on urban sustainability in Detroit and Lansing, and abroad in Cuba, presenting their findings at the annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF).



Learn about what is gained from Honors Research Seminars at [honorscollege.msu.edu/honors-research-seminars](https://honorscollege.msu.edu/honors-research-seminars).

*Renee O’Connell was one of the first Honors College members to participate in the Cuba program.*



## Two HC student researchers named **Goldwater Scholars**

**T**wo Michigan State University Honors College students pursuing STEM-related degrees won the 2014 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship.

**John Suddard-Bangsund** and **David Zoltowski** became the 39th and 40th Goldwater Scholars from Michigan State University since the scholarship program was established by Congress in 1986.

Both are students in the College of Engineering. Suddard-Bangsund is majoring in materials science (as well as interdisciplinary humanities in the College of Arts and Letters) and Zoltowski is majoring in electrical engineering.

Suddard-Bangsund is a research assistant in the Molecular Organic Excitonics Lab, developing new electron donor materials for organic photovoltaics.

He's from Monticello, Minnesota, and graduated from Monticello High School.

"I'm honored to be recognized as a Goldwater Scholar but I couldn't have gotten to this point without the mentorship I've received," he said. "I've had the opportunity to work with people who are really excited and passionate about their work, and their energy has been contagious. I look forward to continuing my research and seeing where it takes me."

Suddard-Bangsund is an Honors Times Two mentor, and fundraising chair for Engineers Without Borders. He also participated in the Michigan State Solar Car team.

Zoltowski is a research assistant, applying advanced signal processing tools to study the functional brain networks.

He's from West Lafayette, Indiana, and graduated from West Lafayette High School.

"I am very excited to be a Goldwater Scholar," Zoltowski said. "It feels great to be recognized for my hard work and I am motivated to live up to the standards of past Goldwater Scholars. The award is a testament to the quality of Michigan State University's College of Engineering, Honors College, and Student-Athlete Support Services."

Zoltowski is captain of the MSU Varsity Swimming and Diving team, a Distinguished Big Ten Scholar, and Academic All-Big Ten. He is also a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, Eta Kappa Nu, and an Honors Times Two mentor. 🏊‍♂️

*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](https://nifs.msu.edu/awards).**

## Presidential Fellows Program

# Iraq War veteran to study presidents' military decisions



**A**s a veteran of the Iraq War, **Kent Dell** is keenly aware of what it means when the president of the United States decides it's time to send in the troops.

It's that decision-making process that Dell will study through the Presidential Fellows Program. Dell is MSU's 8th Presidential Fellows winner.

Dell is a recent Honors College graduate who is pursuing his master's degree in public policy in the Department of Political Science in the College of Social Science. He is from Fowler, Michigan.

Tapping into his experience as a veteran, Dell completed an honors thesis regarding the use and non-use of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Dell has also worked as a research assistant for MSU Honors College Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, most recently on a project examining the influence of institutions and demographics on legislators' use of information sources when making policy decisions.

The Presidential Fellows Program offers up to 75 top undergraduate and graduate students from leading colleges and universities across the country a year-long opportunity to study the U.S. presidency, the public policymaking process, and our Chief Executive's relations with Congress, allies, the media, and the American public.

"My area of research would involve exploring the decision calculus of the modern president when deciding whether or not to use military force," Dell said. "As a veteran of the Iraq War, a parachute infantryman who served a total of 17 months in country, this unique role of the president is of great interest to me."

Dell is interning at the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development. A recipient of the Purple Heart, he's also an instructor for the U.S. Army Reserves. 🇺🇸



## National Science Foundation Honors

# Largest class of National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows named at MSU

Eighteen National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows from Michigan State University were selected in 2014—the largest class of fellows at MSU since the program began in 1952.

There are 31 fellows active on the East Lansing campus, which is also a record-setting number for the university.

The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program is the country's oldest graduate fellowship program that directly supports graduate students in various STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields.

### 2014 HONORS COLLEGE RECIPIENTS:

- **ERIK BATES** received his degree in advanced mathematics from the College of Natural Science
- **KAYLA FELGER** received her degrees in chemistry and human biology from the College of Natural Science
- **SHAN KOTHARI** received his degrees in zoology from Lyman Briggs College and in anthropology from the College of Social Science

*NSF Graduate Research Fellows benefit from a three-year annual stipend of \$32,000 along with a \$12,000 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees (paid to the institution), opportunities for international research and professional development, and the freedom to conduct their own research at any accredited U.S. institution of graduate education they choose.*

For more information, visit [nifs.msu.edu/award/national-science-foundation-graduate-research-fellowships](http://nifs.msu.edu/award/national-science-foundation-graduate-research-fellowships).

# Students see pathway to Ph.D. through federally funded program

**A**s a first-generation college student, **Guillermo Moreno** says he soaks up any information he can get about the college experience and where it can take him.

“I’m the first one to go to college, so any advice I can get from anybody who’s been through it is the best thing for me,” he said. “Anything I learn today is new knowledge.”

Moreno is pursuing his bachelor’s degree in human biology from the College of Natural Science and has been conducting research with faculty—from entomology and genetics to pharmacology and now, neuroscience. He is also on a pathway to his doctorate as part of the Spartan Maximizing Access to Research Careers – Undergraduate Student Training for Academic Research (MARC U STAR) program.

Modeled after the Honors College’s Professorial Assistantship (PA) program, four students are paired with faculty mentors to conduct research and learn first-hand how to prepare for graduate school and beyond.

Michigan State University is in the first year of a three-year grant for the program from the



*Kelly Montgomery at work.*

National Institute for General Medical Sciences, which is a division of the National Institutes of Health. The grant supports undergraduate students who are underrepresented in the biomedical sciences to improve their preparation for high-caliber graduate training at the PhD level.

Moreno and his counterparts receive funding to cover tuition and fees, along with a stipend, but the professional development aspect of the program has meant the most, the students say.

**Dajashinair Howard**, who is studying chemistry in the College of Natural Science, said the program strengthened her interest in research and made her more knowledgeable about graduate school.

“I love hearing what the grad(uate) students are working on,” she said.

**Leena Babiker**, a genomics and molecular genetics major in the College of Natural Science, said she was already involved in research on campus, but the opportunity to participate in the program came at a pivotal point.

“I was at a point where I didn’t know what I was doing. Maybe this program would help me determine if I wanted to get a PhD,” she said. “I wanted the support.”

Along with College of Natural Science human biology major **Kelly Montgomery**, the first cohort of MARC students have met one-on-one with faculty mentors, attended seminars, and realized they’re part of a broader scholarly community. The group traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, for the annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students.

Montgomery, a member of the Honors College, said the conference was “a chance to see other students just as active in research across the country.”







# MSU students awarded Boren Scholarships to study language abroad

Because the program requires students to work with faculty at universities other than MSU, two of the students worked on research at the University of Michigan, while the other two headed to the University of Illinois-Chicago.

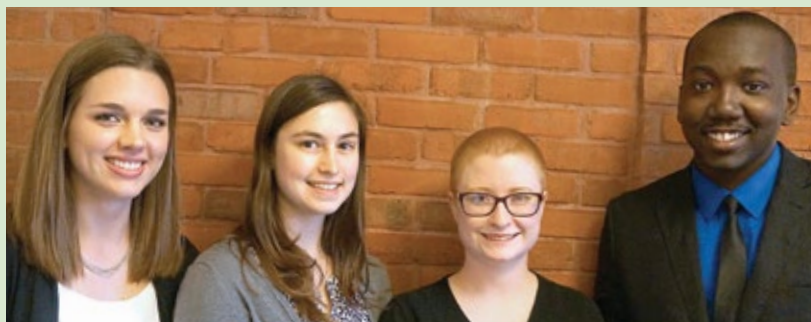
Jerry Caldwell, director of the Charles Drew Science Scholars program, is one of the leaders for the MARC program and says there was somewhat of a learning curve to recruit and get the students placed with the right faculty mentor. But since last year, the program has truly built a community of students with similar goals.

All of the students are preparing to take the entrance exam for graduate school as they will earn their diplomas in 2015; Caldwell and his colleagues, Justin Micomonaco and principal investigator Cheryl Sisk, are already planning for the second cohort.

This pipeline will “give students the ability to rally around each other,” said Micomonaco, director of assessment and research for the Honors College. 🌱

**All four MARC U STAR students** are involved in different aspects of research on campus:

- **Moreno** works with faculty on stroke therapy research.
- **Montgomery** works in a biochemistry lab studying the gene regulation of insulin receptors in fruit flies.
- **Babiker** studies the molecular mechanisms of allergies and asthma in animal models.
- **Howard** works on compounds in a chemistry lab.



*Alexis Pierce, Mykala Ford, Elizabeth Dunham and Christopher Murphy are the 2014 Boren Scholarship recipients.*

Arabic, Mandarin and Korean are the languages four Michigan State University students will study abroad as 2014 recipients of a Boren Scholarship.

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. MSU has produced 31 Boren scholarship or fellowship winners since 1991.

- **ELIZABETH DUNHAM** is majoring in international relations in James Madison College and Arabic in the College of Arts and Letters. Originally from Kalkaska, Michigan, Dunham is studying Arabic in Morocco for the 2014-15 academic year. She wants to work in international development with USAID.
- **MYKALA FORD** is an Honors College member majoring in international relations in James Madison College and Arabic in the College of Arts and Letters. Originally from Traverse City, Michigan, Ford is studying Arabic in Morocco for the summer and 2014-15 academic year. She would like to be a foreign service officer for the federal government after graduation.
- **CHRISTOPHER MURPHY** is majoring in Chinese and French in the College of Arts and Letters. Originally from Monroe, Michigan, Murphy is studying Mandarin in China for the 2014-2015 academic year. Murphy hopes to be a political officer in the foreign service branch of the federal government.
- **ALEXIS PIERCE** is an Honors College member majoring in international relations and comparative cultures and politics in James Madison College. Originally from Brighton, Michigan, Pierce is studying Korean in South Korea for the 2014-2015 academic year. She intends to work for the Central Intelligence Agency or U.S. Department of State. 🌱

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



# HC Marshall Scholar seeks a cure for blindness



**“I am thrilled to have been selected as a Marshall Scholar. It’s an enormous honor as well as a validation of all the hard work I’ve put in during my time at Michigan State, and I couldn’t be more excited to begin my studies in the UK. I look forward to pursuing my doctorate in clinical neuroscience and researching new treatments for glaucoma and other conditions affecting the eye.”**

**Craig Pearson  
Marshall Scholar  
HC Class of 2014**

**A**s a volunteer in high school, **Craig Pearson** worked with students who had visual impairments.

“In the past, going from blindness to sight has seemed practically unthinkable,” said Pearson. “But in today’s climate of groundbreaking scientific research, this phenomenon is not merely possible, but a realistic goal. With dedication and rigorous research, we can restore vision and change lives.”

Pearson wants to be part of that phenomenon. A recipient of a Marshall Scholarship, and accepted into the National Institutes of Health Oxford-Cambridge Scholars program, Pearson began his doctorate studies in the United Kingdom in the fall. The scholarships cover his tuition, as well as additional travel and living expenses for the duration of his doctorate studies.

He is the 16th Marshall Scholar from Michigan State University.

This past spring, Pearson graduated from MSU with three degrees—neuroscience and biochemistry/molecular biology from the College of Natural Science and English from the College of Arts and Letters. He was a member of the Honors College and won an award for his service to the college.

Pearson is originally from Bloomfield Hills and graduated from University of Detroit Jesuit High School.

During his time at MSU, Pearson served as an undergraduate research assistant in the MSU Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences and an undergraduate lab manager and lead undergraduate researcher for the MSU Digital Humanities and Literary Cognition Lab.

He was a clinical volunteer at the MSU Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology, as well as student managing editor for the *Red Cedar Undergraduate Research* journal (*ReCUR*).

He also founded and served as managing editor of *Exceptions: The Art and Literary Journal for Students with Visual Disabilities*.

“I am thrilled to have been selected as a Marshall Scholar. It’s an enormous honor as well as a validation of all the hard work I’ve put in during my time at Michigan State, and I couldn’t be more excited to begin my studies in the UK,” said Pearson. “I look forward to pursuing my doctorate in clinical neuroscience and researching new treatments for glaucoma and other conditions affecting the eye.”

The Marshall Commission provides support to approximately 40 of the most outstanding undergraduates in the United States to study at any university in the United Kingdom.

Through the NIH program, Pearson will spend his final two years of study working with a mentor at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland.

Pearson was also one of the 2014 recipients of the Richard Lee Featherstone Endowed Prize. This \$2,000 prize seeks to identify the most outstanding graduating senior and to grant an award, without limit or bounds, to be used for future growth and development, travel, graduate study or meditation.

“I’m humbled and grateful for all the opportunities I’ve had at MSU and all the people who have helped me along the way—and I can’t wait to see what comes next,” Pearson said. 🌈



*Craig Pearson near the University of Cambridge, England.*



*Craig was one of nine students selected for the 2013-2014 MSU President's Report "Inside Out." See page 24.*

## Learn more about NIFS

### MSU National/International Fellowships & Scholarships (NIFS)

Administered by the Honors College, the NIFS office helps interested students pursue major national and international opportunities by providing information and direct support throughout the competitive application processes.

Learn about NIFS information sessions held throughout the academic year at [nifs.msu.edu](http://nifs.msu.edu), and follow NIFS on social media:

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

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

**Twitter:** @NIFSatMSU



College of Social Science Associate Dean Steven Kautz presents Mari Isa with her UURAF Grand Prize certificate.



College of Engineering Associate Dean Thomas Wolf presents Joshua Drost with his UURAF Grand Prize certificate.

## Scholarly endeavors featured at University Undergraduate Research & Arts Forum

The research endeavors of more than 300 Honors College students were on display during the annual University Undergraduate Research & Arts Forum (UURAF) in April.

Of those, 44 HC members were awarded first place in their category and section.

Two recent graduates who worked with faculty mentors on research that could help doctors and forensic scientists were awarded the Grand Prize of UURAF.

Working with Associate Professor Todd Fenton, **Mari Isa** studied the mechanics of cranial fractures in infants, providing critical knowledge to the forensic community who assess these types of traumas.

Isa graduated in May with degrees in human biology from the College of Natural Science and anthropology from the College of Social Science. She's originally from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Joshua Drost** worked with Assistant Professor Tamara Reid Bush to study the maximum force an index finger can exert over a range of motion. The research model could assist doctors as they determine the extent of reduced hand function in a person suffering from arthritis.

Drost graduated in May with a degree in materials science from the College of Engineering. He's originally from Marne, Michigan.

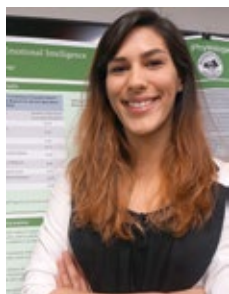
### Congratulations to first place HC winners:

*Benjamin Bailey, Laura Bailey, Justine Brunett, Peter Burroughs, Stephen Buskirk, Rebecca Carlson, Kyla Cools, Monique Daignault, Katherine Demeuse, Amanda DePelsMaeker, Joshua Drost, Jennifer Ellis, Sarah Fagerman, Elaine Foster, Heather Hartmann, Benedict Hilado, Mari Isa, Emily LaPlante, Clare Laut, Irene Li, Heidi Little, Kelsey Longe, Michaelyn Lux, Karalyn Kiessling, Annette Kim, Lauren Kustasz, Patrick Mulrenin, Anna Myers, Bethany Myers, Keenan Noyes, Craig Pearson, Tyler Powers, Kasey Pryg, Alexandra Sanchez, Cody Schulz, Ian Siporin, Shaurya Srivastava, Levi Storks, Julianne Streukens, Jane Sylvester, Sarah Thorwall, Kathryn Verplanck, Michelle Wormser, and Rachel Yales.*



More information about UURAF is available at [urca.msu.edu/uuraf](http://urca.msu.edu/uuraf).

Thinking bigger... becoming bolder. Meet a few of our HC student researchers—



**Maria Accavitti**

**Hometown:** Fraser, Michigan  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Research:** Parental Relationship Quality and Child Emotional Intelligence  
**Advice to other students:** Getting involved in research has been my favorite experience here at State. Get involved, explore your interests and do it early!  
**Favorite East Lansing food:** Crunchy's pizza nuggets



**Irene Li**

**Hometown:** Canton, Michigan  
**Majors:** Genetics and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences  
**Research:** Free Fatty Acids and Liver Cancer Metastasis  
**Favorite campus/community activity:** Biking and dancing (not simultaneously!)  
**Favorite online resources:** Google Scholar



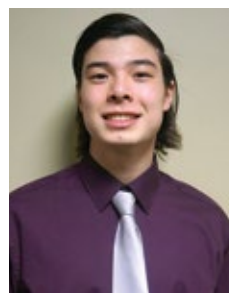
**Adia Alli**

**Hometown:** Warren, Michigan  
**Major:** Theatre  
**Research:** Visibility Representation and Opportunity Challenges of the Black Disabled within Entertainment  
**Advice to other students:** Explore! Be adventurous in your social and academic pursuits in college. Don't limit yourself.  
**Favorite book:** *The Bluest Eye*



**Amy Murphy**

**Hometown:** Tuscola, Illinois  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Research:** Soil Analysis for UGS 200 Honors Research Seminar  
**Game changing course:** CEM 152: Principles of Chemistry  
**Favorite book:** *Divergent* series



**Peter Burroughs**

**Hometown:** Bowling Green, Ohio  
**Major:** Media and Information  
**Research:** Video game design/video games and gender studies/race studies  
**Why choose MSU/HC:** When I came here, I fell in love with MSU and its beautiful campus and wonderful people. I knew I belonged here!  
**Game changing course:** LIN 401: Intro to Linguistics



**Brad Seegert**

**Hometown:** Farmington, Michigan  
**Majors:** Mechanical Engineering and Chinese  
**Research:** Psychology (Timing, Attention, Perception)  
**Favorite campus/community activity:** Izzone/JM Sports  
**Why choose MSU/HC:** My parents both went to MSU and I grew up a huge fan, so when I saw all of the opportunities available to me at MSU, it was an easy choice.



**Bradley Disbrow**

**Hometown:** Wheaton, Illinois  
**Majors:** International Relations and Microbiology  
**Research:** Microalgal biofuels in the Department of Plant Biology  
**If I could solve one world problem, it would be:** AIDS  
**Game changing course:** BS 182: Honors Organismal and Population Biology



**Kim Vi**

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
**Majors:** Biomedical laboratory science and jazz studies  
**Research:** Environmental toxicants on cell-to-cell communication  
**If I could solve one world problem, it would be:** The disparity in both access and quality of healthcare between here and developing countries. I'm planning on becoming a physician and devoting a lot of my career working on this issue.



**Francoise Gagnier**

**Hometown:** Birmingham, Michigan  
**Major:** Studio Art: Graphic Design and Painting  
**Research:** Handyman: The Do-It-Yourself App  
**Why choose MSU/HC:** Great flexibility in courses allowed me to study human biology with my art.  
**Favorite social media site & handle:** Facebook and Twitter (@frannygagnier)



**Reema Al-Dhaneem**

**Hometown:** Qatif, Saudi Arabia  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering,  
**Research:** Silicon nano particles in a gas phase reactor  
**Favorite online resource:** lib.msu.edu  
**If I could solve one world problem, it would be:** Equality for all.

To check out more Honors College profiles, visit [honorscollege.msu.edu/hc\\_profiles](http://honorscollege.msu.edu/hc_profiles).



## Students honored for embracing MLK's inclusive thinking through research

Six students were honored for following in the footsteps of Martin Luther King, Jr., by using research to advance the culture of inclusivity and community at Michigan State University.

The students receiving the 2014 MLK Jr. Advancing Inclusion Through Research Award were: **Kristiane Schmidt, Mary Connolly, Christopher Horn, Margeaux LaCavera, Levi Storks** and **Jenny Crakes**.

Schmidt, an Honors College member majoring in social relations and public policy in the James Madison College, tied for first place for her work, "Research v. Reality: Examining the School-to-Prison Pipeline in Detroit Public Schools."

Connolly, a nutritional sciences major; Horn, a human biology graduate; LaCavera, a physiology major; and Storks, a zoology major, tied for first place for their project, "Islamerica." All four students are or were members of Lyman Briggs College.

The third place winner was Jenny Crakes, an Honors College member double-majoring in arts and humanities in the Residential College of Arts and Humanities and professional writing in the College of Arts and Letters. She won for her project, "The Runaways: A One-Act Play about the Indian Boarding Schools."

The MLK award was created in 2010 to highlight the ways in which Michigan State University students follow Dr. King'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.



Kristiane Schmidt receives her certificate as a first place winner from President Lou Anna Simon and Provost June Youatt.



2014 MLK Jr. Advancing Inclusion Through Research Award winners from Lyman Briggs College.



The annual competition is open to all students in the Honors College, James Madison College, Lyman Briggs College and Residential College in the Arts and Humanities.

The 2015 award competition will also honor MSU's Project 60/50 by requesting projects with the same theme. Project 60/50 is a year-long initiative linking academic exploration and study, public commemoration and remembrance, laced with a multitude of cultural expressions related to the 60th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* and the 50th anniversary of the passage and signing into law of the Civil Rights Act. 🌈

**More information about the award is available at [honorscollege.msu.edu/researchingthedream](http://honorscollege.msu.edu/researchingthedream).**

**More information about Project 60/50 is available at [inclusion.msu.edu/Project6050](http://inclusion.msu.edu/Project6050).**



*Jenny Crakes receives her third place certificate in the MLK contest.*

## **ReCUR** celebrates fourth year publishing undergrad research and creative works

The *Red Cedar Undergraduate Research* journal (*ReCUR*) marks a milestone this year as the publication celebrates its fourth anniversary.

Started in 2010, the journal is an avenue for undergraduate Honors College students and participants in the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) to be published before graduation.

"*ReCUR* went from vision to fruition thanks to the work and dedication of several faculty members bolstered by the support of members of the Honors College staff," said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. "Over time, the day-to-day management has shifted from a staff responsibility to that of a group of committed faculty and students."

Jackson-Elmoore serves as the editor-in-chief of *ReCUR*. She, along with managing editor Professor Devin McAuley and Professor Danielle DeVoss form the editorial staff of the journal. A student editorial board also works closely with faculty to manage the review and publishing process.

*ReCUR* is unique in that it encourages students to publish across the spectrum of fields, disciplines, and professions. All submissions to *ReCUR* undergo review by faculty and/or graduate students, and students are given the opportunity to participate in each step of the publishing process. 🌈



**"A lot of institutions situate professors and graduate students as the people who 'do research.' MSU situates all of its students as researchers, including undergraduates. Undergraduates are asking tough questions, posing interesting areas of research, and offering us knowledge to advance who we are as an institution."**

**Danielle DeVoss, Honors Professor for *ReCUR***

For more information about *ReCUR*, visit [www.recur.msu.edu](http://www.recur.msu.edu).

**H**enry Brimmer could see the sparks in the eyes and the fire in the hearts of the group of students he had invited to his home that Sunday afternoon. As they walked in one by one, they were thoughtful and reserved, but also filled with glimmers of excitement and creativity which he was hoping would soon break free.

“When I signed up to do the Fireside Chat, my intention was to pull the creativity out of each student that walked through my door,” said Brimmer, a professor of advertising and public relations in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences. “I didn’t have a topic

in mind nor did I want to plan anything exhausting. My hope was that I would tell them what inspires me, and they would tell me what inspires them.”

Fireside Chats have been the “campfires” of the Honors College community since their inception. Throughout the fall semester, first-year students have the chance to interact with faculty members outside of the classroom. Professors will typically invite students to their homes or meet them at a campus location for dinner and informal conversation on a topic of their choosing.

For Brimmer, it was obvious his home would be a great conversation starter for a topic he feels passionately about—art.

“My house is like a mini, disorderly, chaotic museum of all sorts of creative stuff: painting, and photography, and sculpture, and knick knacks. I thought students could see something different, and I could talk to them about anything on the walls and why it appealed to me.”

The “campfire” in Brimmer’s home was a large wooden library table glossed with graffiti, or as Brimmer says, “personal expressions.”

“When I bought it, I thought I would sand and polish it, but my kids started to draw on it, and now everybody who comes to the house draws on it,” Brimmer said.





# of the Honors Community

Personal expression became the topic of his chat. He spoke about the things he enjoys doing, such as teaching, and also the things he has tackled in his life. To Brimmer, however, the best part of the experience was seeing the diversity light up his home.

“The fun of being around people is that everybody is different,” Brimmer said. “There were students from business and engineering, a couple from music, all coming together to share [their] experiences and learn from mine.”

Brimmer compared the session to a theory developed by Howard Gardner and shared this with the students.

“Gardner postulated this idea that there were multiple intelligences. Some of us are very good at technical [things], and others are poetic. I felt the group of students that came to visit was a cross-section of a Gardner book.”

Brimmer’s chat was one of several that were held in the last school year.

New Honors first-year students are encouraged to sign up for a Fireside Chat. The gatherings provide the opportunity for esteemed faculty members to welcome new students to the community and, according

to Brimmer, interact on a level that is hard to do in a classroom or other formal setting.

They also provide students an outlet to make connections and learn in a unique way.

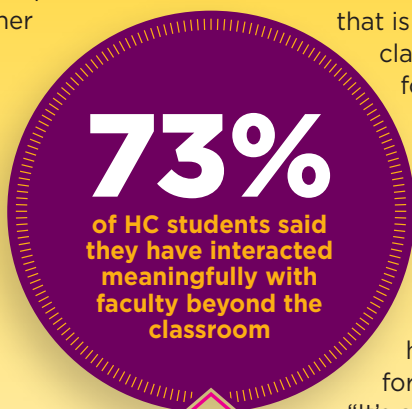
“Learning can happen in so many forms,” Brimmer said.

“It’s a delight to see students take advantage of the environment that surrounds them.”

He has had the chance to work with Honors students over the years and says he hopes to have many more opportunities to interact with the Honors community.

“There’s always a strong work ethic and will to learn from students who come to me in the Honors College,” Brimmer said. “I see that in these students; I have the opportunity to go deeper and find out where their true passion lies.

“When everybody was introducing themselves [at the Fireside Chat], I could tell they were nervous, but they started to bring out more and more little things about themselves that made them become their own pieces of art.” 🌟



## Other Fireside Chats held this year included:

- ***Making a Difference: Perspectives on Human Rights, Justice, and Activism*** with Dr. Elizabeth Drexler
- ***Interdisciplinary Bio-nano-science, Nutrition, and Medicine and Other Such Buzzword Worthy Conversation*** with Dr. Matt Comstock and Dr. Sarah Comstock
- ***Careers in Pediatrics and Pediatric Research*** with Dr. Renuka Gera and Dr. Keith English
- ***Viewing Change from a Diffusion Perspective*** with Dr. Jim Dearing and Dr. Sam Larson
- ***Reflections on Leadership*** with Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Keith Keana and Army Lieutenant Colonel Bill Parker
- ***From Nuclei to Stars: Visit to the Cyclotron Lab*** with Dr. Artemis Spyrou, Dr. Zach Kohley, Dr. Remco Zegers, and Alex Brown
- ***Europe, Africa, Latin America: Making the Most of Study Abroad*** with Dr. Howard Bossen and Kathy Bossen
- ***Crossing Disciplines and Diverse Opportunities...From Aquatic and Forensic Sciences to Disease and Pediatric Medicine*** with Dr. Eric Benbow and his lab
- ***Critical Analysis in Medicine*** with Dr. Michael Brown (MD) and Dr. Mat Reeves (PhD)
- ***Stories and Dreams*** with Dr. George Bird, Dr. Zsofia Szendrei, and Dr. Jared Ali

**T**wice each semester, faculty from diverse disciplines come together to share their research and take part in a lively discussion on a fascinating and important topic. Students, faculty, and community members are exposed to a wealth of knowledge they cannot find anywhere else. Members of the campus community are connected in ways that often extend far beyond the forum.

These descriptors scratch the surface of Sharper Focus/Wider Lens, a series of forums established in 2011 by Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College, and John Beck, associate professor in the School of Human Resources and Labor Relations. Since the first lecture was held in March 2011, the program has been met with enthusiasm from the community.

“We now have a dedicated audience of community members who come out to every [talk],” Beck said. “They’re not coming because of the topic as much as they like the interaction.”

With topics ranging from sports to technology, upheaval in the Middle East to human interactions with nature, Beck says the goal is always to find a broad, transdisciplinary topic that can lend itself to a wide variety of viewpoints.

“I’m always looking for diversity—people who have very different takes on a topic,” Beck said. “What you’re trying to do is to build a panel in such a way that when their conversation happens, some of the later speakers can build on what the earlier speakers said or say something completely different.”

For Beck, the planning meeting is often the most interesting part because it is the first time many faculty members are introduced to one another. In this meeting and during the lecture, he says it is fascinating to see faculty discuss their research with such passion and begin to connect the dots.

Four forums are held each year, two in the fall and two in the spring.

Beck often chooses topics and faculty to participate based on his campus connections and suggestions given by others.

“Each professor brings something to the table no one would have thought of in relation to the topic,” Beck said.

A forum on genocide, for example, saw Associate Professor Laura Apol sharing her poetry about the Rwandan genocide, Associate Professor Elizabeth Drexler presenting her research on genocide



*John Beck moderates the panel discussion for the Questioning Technology talk in February.*



*An audience member asks a question during the Detroit: Past, Present, and Future talk in October.*

# to bring MSU and the community together

in Asia and Central America, Associate Professor Christina DeJong discussing rape as a terrorist tool, and Professor Ken Waltzer talking about his work on Holocaust concentration camps.

“Even though genocide is not an easy topic, suddenly you have four very different takes on the whole notion of genocide,” Beck said. “But as different as they are, they also have a lot in common because it’s a topic they’re all interested in.”

Waltzer, professor of social relations and policy in the James Madison College, has not only served on a panel—he regularly attends the forums as an active audience member.

“For faculty attending these sessions, they are often the sources of new insights,” Waltzer said. “I can still hear Rodney Whitaker talking about the role of education in inner city youth development in Detroit.”

Waltzer exemplifies making new connections across campus.

“For faculty on these panels, it often creates new linkages by people across units on campus,” Waltzer said. “I have worked on new collaborations and discussions with Beth Drexler in anthropology and Laura Apol in education as a consequence.”

“We’ve had students find people to sit on their dissertation committees by coming to Sharper Focus/Wider Lens. We’ve had faculty members who realize that they could and should be working together. Several faculty members are now working with the Honors College in different capacities by first engaging with us through this program,” Jackson-Elmoore said.

Serving as moderator for most of the forums, Jackson-Elmoore says she is constantly listening for the connections between what different people are saying and thinking of questions to ask that can challenge their assumptions or engage the audience.

“I like that we are cross-disciplinary,” she said. “We might have a physicist and a social scientist and someone in humanities coming together to create such extraordinary synergy. I like when the audience gets animated and faculty draw their students in.”

“Everyone who comes to present has something vested in it, and these lectures would not be what they are without the interaction and positive reception we’ve had from the entire community.” 🌱

**“Each professor brings something to the table no one would have thought of in relation to the topic.”**

**John Beck**



The panel for September's talk, *Looking at Sports*, reacts to a comment from the audience.



An audience member asks faculty speakers a question at the *Looking at Sports* talk.



## Honors Faculty Award winner challenges students by tackling brain scans and Jane Austen literature

**“One of my goals is to actually have them leave with a real sense of their ability to move between these sort of disciplines and be able to make these connections.”**

**Natalie Phillips**  
Assistant Professor

The syllabus for Natalie Phillips’ honors interdisciplinary course “Cognitive Science and the Literary History of Mind” (ENG 492H) includes an 18th Century novel, modern neuroscience articles from PubMed, and an anatomical engraving of the brain from the 1680s.

It’s a mix of coursework inspired by a conference Phillips attended as a postdoc.

Phillips is the 2014 recipient of the Honors College’s Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students Award. She’s an assistant professor of English, specializing in 18th-century literature, the history of mind, and cognitive approaches to narrative.

“One of my goals is to actually have them leave with a real sense of their ability to move between these sort of disciplines and be able to make these connections,” she said.

After joining the Michigan State University faculty three years ago, Phillips quickly learned students in her honors English course were interested in her research pursuits.

In conjunction with faculty at Stanford University, Phillips had research participants reading Jane Austen in an fMRI machine, tracking their close reading and pleasure reading techniques. The research also used compatible eye tracking to see what parts of Austen’s “Mansfield Park” the reader focused on intently, or skimmed.

“We’re actually looking at how these different levels of attention, or study, influence brain activity,” she said.

The data analysis is all being done at MSU through the Digital Humanities and Literary Cognition Lab. Several of Phillips’ current and former Honors College students have contributed to the research, including **Craig Pearson**, **Shan Kothari**, and **Paige Fouty**.

Phillips also participates as a research mentor in the Honors College’s Professorial Assistantship (PA) program, with Honors College members **Katie Grimes** and **Savannah Smith**, who helped research, organize, and edit Phillips’ first book, *Distraction: Problems of Attention in Eighteenth-Century Literature*.

“As undergraduates, they can really dig in and do something that’s going to be lasting,” she said.

Phillips said her Honors students display an “unusual sense of creativity, leadership, and a willingness to tackle really difficult and intellectual questions head on.”

She was delighted when they worked together to nominate her for the Honors College award.

“When they got together and did this in secret... I couldn’t have been happier,” she said. “They are so important to this work and made it possible.”

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 members. Phillips received a certificate, recognition at the Honors College Convocation in August, and an honorarium of \$1,000. 🌟

## Faculty Perspectives

### Christina Chan

**Title:** Professor

**Department:** Chemical Engineering and Materials Science

**College:** Engineering

**Type of undergraduate mentorship:** Professorial Assistantship

**Quotable:** “I think [the Professorial Assistantship is] a great program to attract students who are interested in research and would like some experience to help them decide whether they want to go to grad school, medical school, or both, or even industry.”

### Rabindra (Robby) Ratan

**Title:** Assistant Professor and member of the University Committee on Honors Programs

**Department:** Media and Information

**College:** Communication Arts & Sciences

**Type of undergraduate mentorship:** Honors Research Seminar

**Quotable:** “That research experience for me, though it didn’t happen until my junior year, was really transformative in my own college career and so I kind of dove in head first. I just want to work with as many honors students as possible.”

### Antoinette Tessmer

**Title:** Professor of Practice

**Department:** Finance

**College:** Eli Broad College of Business

**Type of undergraduate mentorship:** Honors Research Seminar

**Quotable:** “[Honors students] are motivated; they want to choose an interesting path to reach their academic objectives... academic goals and they are good communicators. I just like their point of view... doing the best they can to take advantage of all the resources on campus.”

## HC Staff News

**Dr. Bess German** traveled to South Africa in August to teach an MSU Freshman Seminar Abroad (FSA) titled “From Every day to Epic: South African Leaders and Legends.” The FSA program is a chance to explore intriguing topics in small, active learning environments. More than 30 percent of the participants from all FSAs are Honors College students.

**Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore** served as a panelist in March for “Celebrating Women as Community Builders; Perspectives from Three Women Leaders,” sponsored by the Niagara Foundation. She also served on the site selection committee for the 2015 Honors Education at Research Universities (HERU) conference, which will be held at Oregon State University in May 2015. She also presented her research “Who Gets to Inform Sub-national Legislative Policy?” in Bristol, United Kingdom, in September. Additionally, she presented her research “Diversity, Information Sources and Sub-National Legislative Processes” and “The Gender Influence: Creating Access to the Public Policy Process” at the annual meeting of the Australian Political Studies Association in Sydney, Australia, from September 29-October 1. In November, she presented at the MSU Faculty and Organizational Development Study Abroad Seminar on “Enhancing the Student Experience:

Adding an Experiential Component to your Study Abroad Program,” as well as “Leadership Resiliency: Leadership for the Long Haul” at the MSU Graduate Leadership Institute.

**Dr. Kristin Janka Millar** published “Graduate Learning Abroad: An Emerging Trend or a Flash in the Pan? International Higher Education.” She also presented at the 70th annual meeting of the Midwest Association of Graduate Studies (MAGS), Council of Graduate Schools; the Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association; and the Annual Conference of the Forum on Education Abroad. Millar served on the Distinguished Thesis Award Committee, Midwest Association of Graduate Studies (MAGS), Council of Graduate Schools; and the Boren Graduate Fellowship Program, National Security Education Program/Institute of International Education. She is the recipient of the Gill-Chin Lim Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in Global Studies, International Studies and Programs at Michigan State University.

**Katie Kelly** presented “SXSW 2014 Highlights: What Mid-Michigan PR Pros Need to Know,” to the Central Michigan Public Relations Society of America in May. She was also appointed to the NextGen@Wharton committee for Wharton Center.

## New Staff Hires



**Amanda Ritter** joined the Honors College as an academic specialist/adviser in 2014. Prior to that, Amanda worked at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, in various aspects of student academic services.

Before she began her career in higher education, Amanda lived and worked in Colorado Springs,

Colorado, at Target and Enterprise Rent A Car, as part of their management teams. Amanda earned her master’s degree in higher education from Loyola University Chicago and her bachelor’s degree in merchandising management from Michigan State University.



**Edward Wangler** joined the Honors College as an academic specialist/adviser in 2014. He previously served as a senior undergraduate studies adviser at Penn State University.

Edward earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology at Grand Valley State University and a juris doctor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Edward is a member of the National Academic Advising Association.

# MSU Debate Team

## caps off season with Sweet Sixteen finish



Members of the 2013-14 MSU Debate team pose for a photo at the National Debate Tournament in Bloomington, Indiana.

The Michigan State University Debate team made it to the Sweet Sixteen of the National Debate Tournament (NDT) during the 2013-14 season, led by Honors College members Kaavya Ramesh and Tyler Thur.

MSU was one of only six schools in the country to qualify three teams to the national competition. It was the first time since 2008 that MSU qualified three teams.

Ramesh and Thur lost to Northwestern University on a 5-2 decision in the octafinals. It was the final debate for Ramesh, who graduated in May with degrees in international relations, and comparative cultures and politics from James Madison College, and Chinese from the College of Arts and Letters. Thur is a junior pursuing a degree in international relations.

International relations seniors Jack Caporal and Quinn Zemel finished in the top 32 at the NDT. International relations senior Aniela Butler and math junior Margaret Strong also competed in the NDT, but did not qualify for the elimination rounds.

Butler and Strong were one of nine, two-woman teams competing at nationals. A total of 80 teams competed in the tournament.

“After a hard-fought season, MSU Debate put it all on the line and competed with the best,” Debate Head Coach Will Repko said after the NDT. “This was an emotional end to the season because Kaavya is a senior and this is her last year of debate. We’re proud of our team and the hard work and dedication they demonstrated all year to debate.”

In addition to its tournament commitments, the Debate program hosted the annual Spartan Classic Debate tournament in December, collaborating with Okemos High School. The tournament hosted 65 teams from across the United States.

Several public debates across campus and at Michigan high schools were also held, including one related to Project 60/50.

Debate continues to run the Spartan Debate Institute (SDI) each year in July. More than 200 students from around the country attended the month-long summer program in East Lansing. This year also marked the fourth anniversary of the Hoya Spartan Scholar program, which is run jointly with Georgetown University. The program brings top senior debaters to East Lansing.

The 2014-15 debate season began September 19 and will run through early April. 🌟

**Keep up with Debate and the Spartan Debate Institute by visiting the website and following Debate on social media.**

[facebook.com/SpartanDebateInstitute](https://facebook.com/SpartanDebateInstitute)

[facebook.com/MSUDebateTeam](https://facebook.com/MSUDebateTeam)

**Twitter: @msudebate**

**“After a hard-fought season, MSU Debate put it all on the line and competed with the best.”**

**Will Repko**  
Debate Head Coach

**3**

**MSU Debate teams qualified for the National Debate Tournament for the first time since 2008**

The debate season was punctuated by top placements at major tournaments, including Ramesh and Thur earning 5th at the Franklin R. Shirley Classic Tournament—the largest tournament of the fall semester. That debate was held on the campus of Wake Forest University.

Caporal and Zemel won first place at a tournament hosted by Indiana University, and Butler and Strong were runner-up at the Weber Round Robin, which was held in Utah. The Weber Round Robin invites 16 of the top two-person teams in the country.

Over the course of the season, the MSU Debate team recorded wins against Harvard University, Cornell University, Emory University, the University of California-Berkeley, New York University, the University of Kansas, the University of Kentucky, the University of Michigan, the University of Oklahoma, and Wake Forest University.

**debate.msu.edu**

**MORE THAN HALF**  
of Honors College students reported participating in regular community service while enrolled at MSU in 2014

**“Volunteering in college does not have to be very time-consuming, but it can be extremely worthwhile.”**

Valerie Morel

## Why I Volunteer

By Valerie Morel



The first few weeks of a semester provide many opportunities to make friends, try out new clubs, and see how you are going to fit into the greater Michigan State community. For some, it can be difficult to see how there will be time for

anything besides school. For others, free time seems more abundant than ever. The best thing a student can do is make time for activities outside of class, whether it is intramural sports, a foreign language club, or being active in your hall government.

If you ask me, one of the best ways to get involved is to join a service organization.

There is a wide variety of student groups that are committed to community service with focus on everything from education to health care.

There are service fraternities, religious organizations, and student-run clubs that offer regular volunteer opportunities. Some groups do community service in the local community while others raise funds or travel to impoverished communities around the world.

Service organizations can allow you to give back while also meeting new friends. Volunteering at a hospital, school, government agency, or nonprofit organization can also give you insight into future career paths.

The Honors College has a variety of student organizations, each with a different focus. One group in particular is Honors Times Two, a mentoring program that pairs Honors College students with gifted elementary school students. The college mentors work one-on-one with their mentee for an hour each week with the intention of keeping advanced learners interested and engaged in their schoolwork.

Many Honors College students know what it was like to be bored in class or feel that the material was simply too easy for them. Honors Times Two gives them an opportunity to help another generation of students that may face the same circumstances.

Honors Times Two mentors come from a variety of backgrounds, from chemistry to education to anthropology. Mentors love sharing their knowledge with students and the students look forward to learning from their mentor. Even though an hour each week may seem small, the elementary students gain a great amount from the mentor-mentee relationship and the mentors truly enjoy working with their students.

Volunteering in college does not have to be very time-consuming, but can be extremely worthwhile. 🌱



*Honors Times Two mentor Joshua Lucksom and his mentee enjoy their time together.*



# Honors College students lend a hand to quality of life projects in Cambodia and Tanzania

**T**wo Honors College students received grants to pursue projects in Cambodia and Tanzania that aim to improve the quality of life for people in those countries.

The Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grants for Dire Needs Overseas is awarded to the most outstanding projects proposed by members of the Honors College that serve dire human needs in the United States and abroad. The grants are sponsored by Professor William Schoenl and Linda Schoenl.



Currently a senior, **Elizabeth Brajevich** is working with the Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia on the “Pass Swine On” project in which 16 farmers will

be given two female pigs each. The farmers are asked to give one or two piglets back once those females have reproduced, as well as use new techniques for waste management and attend meetings where they can share their experiences with other farmers.

Brajevich is majoring in fisheries and wildlife and environmental economics and policy in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. She took the lead and applied for a grant to get the first-ever vermicomposting outreach system in the MSU Bailey hoophouse, leading a small team that composts food scraps from the Brody Cafeteria. She is also participated in undergraduate research through the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources by studying the decision making process for Michigan dam removals.

**“Since farmers’ knowledge is still limited, support and help from outsiders such as experts, researchers, organizations, and other relevant institutions to sustain smallholder farm operations is very important.”**

*Elizabeth Brajevich speaks about her project in Cambodia.*

Brajevich is from Los Angeles, California, and graduated from Beverly Hills High School.

“Although raising swine is common practice with Cambodian farmers, there are still a lot of constraints on their farms, such as: technical problems, feed price, fluctuation of Vietnamese swine production, and disease outbreak,” Brajevich said. “Since farmers’ knowledge is still limited, support and help from outsiders such as experts, researchers, organizations, and other relevant institutions to sustain smallholder farm operations is very important.”



**Laura Bailey**, who graduated in May, worked with Spartans Without Borders, which is constructing a rainwater harvesting system and a well for the Mabibo External Lutheran Church and

the Mabibo-Makuburi community in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Bailey majored in environmental engineering in the College of Engineering. She was a research assistant in the Hydrogeology Lab and previously interned with the Ingham County Drain Commission.



Bailey was the president of the Environmental Engineering Student Society and secretary/design team member for Engineers Without Borders.

Bailey is from Elk Rapids, Michigan, and graduated from Elk Rapids High School.

“Due to varying quality and quantity of water, the community suffers from a variety of health problems related to drinking water,” Bailey said. “In addition, the leaders in the church and Spartans Without Borders believe the community would benefit from education on sanitation, water quality, and health.” 🌍

## Honors College Students Embrace Leadership Roles

- **64%** reported leading in a teaching/instructional position
- **63%** led a student organization
- **29%** worked as a manager/supervisor in an employment setting
- **19%** identified as a leader of an athletic, musical, or performance group
- **11%** served in a residential life staff position

**Kevin Adams, Jolisa Brooks, Jason Murray** and **Sarah Noffze** were selected as members of the 2014 Homecoming Court.

**Aaron Barto, Eric Bates, Taylor Birman, Karishma Chopra, Joshua Corteville, Nicholas Dziadosz, Jennifer Ellis, Kayla Felger, Tracie Green, Bradley Hull, Nathan Langolf, Ariel Lessens, Adam Liter, Heidi Little, Michaelyn Lux, Jason Meldau, Jodi Meyer, Sarah Miller, Andrew Morton, Michelle Orlando, Craig Pearson, Hunter Piegols, Zachary Reed, Joshua Reside, Michelle Rizor, Alexandra Rodebach, Devon Rossman, Andrew Stone, Paul Van Gilder, Kelly Warsinske** and **Ranee Wiley** received Board of Trustees' awards for having the highest grade point average at the close of their last semester at MSU.

**Claire Babala, Jolisa Brooks, Peter Burroughs, Kristen Kelsay, Audrey Mabiza** and **Craig Pearson** were selected for the 2013-2014 MSU President's Report "Inside Out." More information is available at [report.president.msu.edu/insideout](http://report.president.msu.edu/insideout).

**David Bondra, Dan Chapman, Joe Johnson, Zach Juchartz, Brock Krygier, Kelsey Mazur, Alison Menzies, Jill Stoneburg, Carson Tabiolo, Colby Wollenman, Garth Yenter** and **David Zoltowski** were honored as recipients of the 2013-14 Winter Academic All-Big Ten award. Zoltowski and Johnson were two of 10 recipients with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

**Rebecca Cass Benjamin, Jacob Gibson** and **Sarah MacLachlan** were selected as 2014 Beckman Scholars for their achievements in chemistry, biochemistry, and the biological and medical sciences. Benjamin's research will focus on understanding mechanisms of post-traumatic stress disorder; Gibson's research will focus on cell signaling and biofilm formation; MacLachlan will study hyena and lion interactions.

**Elayna Creed** and **Desmund Kearsley** presented and discussed their poster on information sources for state legislators at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in April. It was based on research they conducted with Honors College Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore.

**Kent Dell** presented and discussed his poster at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in April. It was based on his Honors Thesis that he successfully defended this academic year.

**Sara Dykowski, Karin Hanisch, Sydney Moroney, Craig Pearson,** and **Andy Stone** were awarded the 2014 Honors College Service Award for their outstanding contributions to the Honors College.

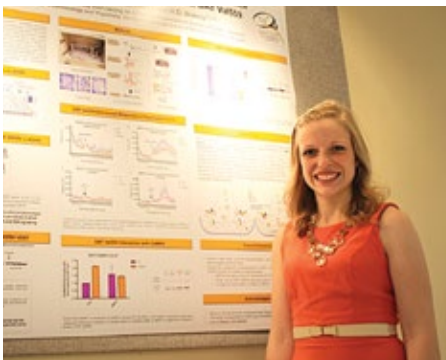


2014 Honors College Service Award winners.



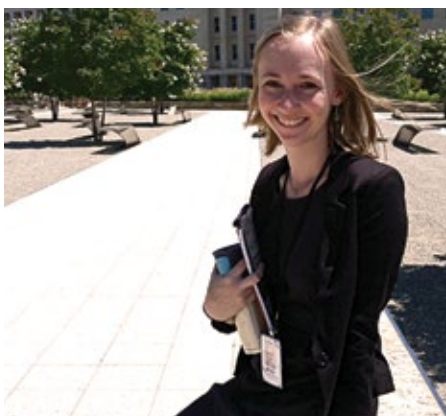
**Veronica Greve** and **Veronica Hapman** were named recipients of the S.C. Lee Best Paper Prize by the MSU Asian Studies Center in April 2014. Hapman comparatively analyzed two films (*Paprika* and *Inception*), in which characters can enter people’s dreams; Greve explored shifts in the perception and treatment of child abuse in Japan.

**Olivia Jamrog** took fourth place at the Under-23 Lightweight National Team trials in Princeton, New Jersey, and was named Academic All-American by the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association. She also won the Martin Benjamin and Bruce Miller Award for the most promising student at an early stage in philosophy.



**Megan Kechner** attended the Society for Neuroscience conference held in Washington, D.C. Her presentation focused on her work in the Mazei-Robison lab at MSU, where she’s investigating the effect of chronic social stress on morphine reward and the role of the ventral tegmental area.

**Kristen Kelsay** earned the 2014 Detroit Athletic Club (DAC) Athlete of the Year award. Kelsay, a three-year captain of the volleyball team, also earned MSU’s prestigious Gwendolyn Norrell Community Service and Leadership Award in 2014 and was featured in the “Faces of the Big Ten” commercial campaign.



**Anna Perrin** had a summer internship at the Pentagon with Operations Research with Air Force. She plans to have two articles related to the internship published; one is titled, “Alternative Strategies: A Systematic Approach to Strategy Formulation,” while the other deals with the creation of a graphical representation of force-shaping for the military.

**Jacob Santangelo** was awarded the 2013 Daniel Rosenthal Legislative Intern award for his internship in the Michigan Legislature, in which he wrote, directed, and edited a series of biweekly legislative updates.

**Vincent Szczerowski** was a recent recipient of the Ehlers Intern Award for his internship in the Michigan Legislature, in which he researched a new law allowing breweries to sell products at farmers’ markets.

## Freshman Class of 2014 Notable Numbers

Approximately **600 students** joined us this fall—the largest class in Honors College history

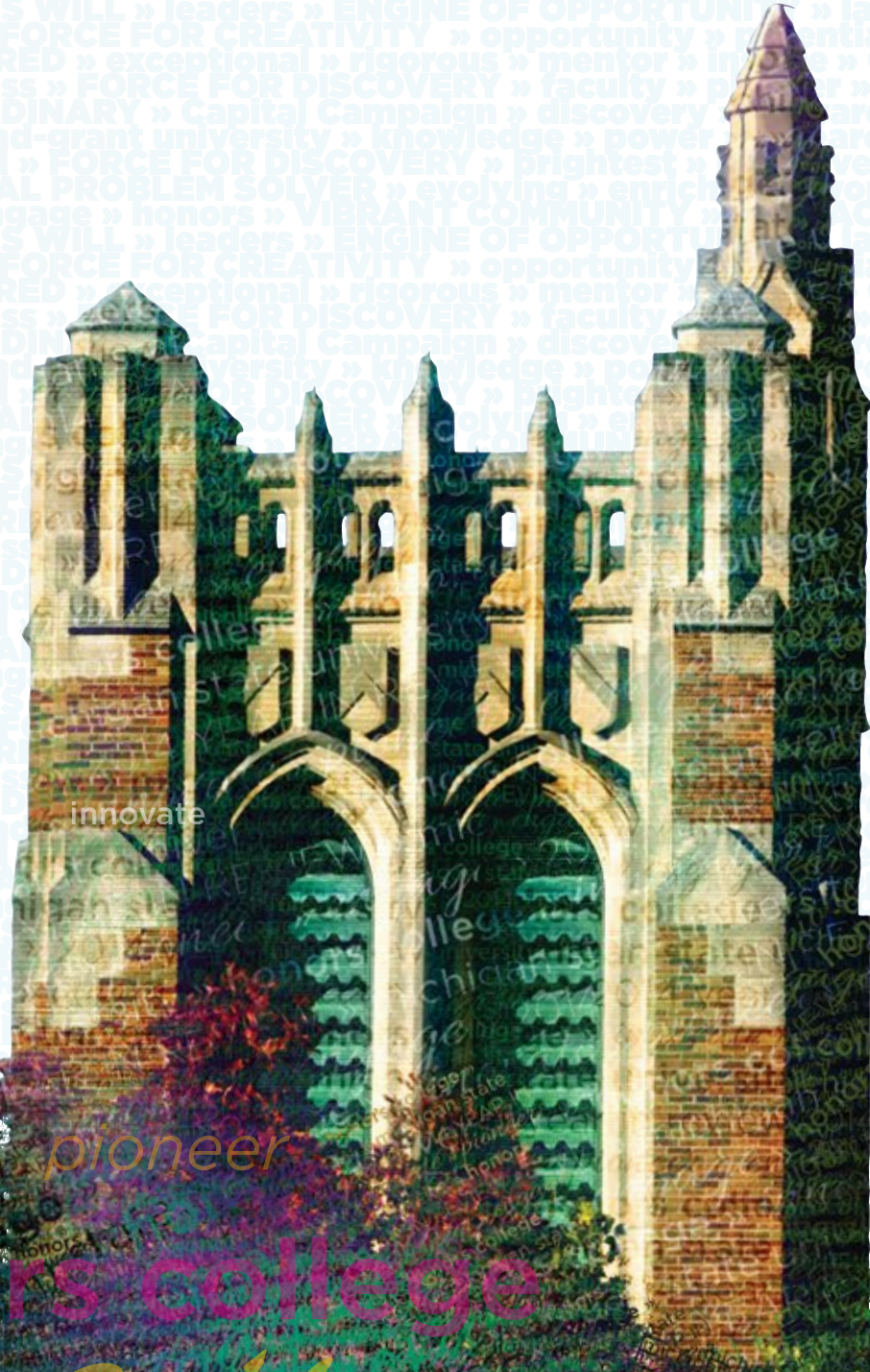
- Out-of-state students: **25%**
- Average GPA: **4.13**
- Average ACT: **31.7**
- Average SAT: **1390** (critical reading and math)
- Valedictorians: **64**



# H*Connections*

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Honors College



innovate

pioneer

mentor

honors college

*inspire*

engage

exceptional

potential

## Dear Honors College Alumni, Donors and Friends,



Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore (second from left) stands with Katie McMurray, associate director of alumni relations and development (left), along with donors Gwen and Jerry Paulson and Gwen's two daughters.

As 2014 comes to a close, we at the Honors College would like to reflect on what's been achieved and plan for the years ahead. Of course, all we have accomplished over the nearly 60 years of the Honors College's existence could not have been done without our tremendous base of alumni, donors, and friends.

This year we witnessed alumni engage with the Honors College in ways never before seen—something we hope will continue in the years to come.

We are extremely grateful to Gwen and Jerry Paulson, who you will read about in the following pages. The Paulsons generously donated some of their contemporary craft artwork for a permanent display in the lounge of Eustace-Cole Hall. In addition to the artwork, the Paulsons set up an endowed scholarship fund to support incoming Honors College members.

Throughout the years, the Honors College has always strived to provide challenging, rewarding classes for its talented students and create a sense of community and belonging on our beautiful campus. We are pleased to now be able to offer Honors international experiences to our students in partnership with institutions near and far.

Over the past year, we have also improved our communications with you by updating our website, engaging through social media and creating a monthly e-newsletter to keep you informed of the latest happenings from the Honors College and Michigan State University.

To sustain one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honors colleges and help us embark on a new chapter of providing challenges and rewards for our members, the Honors College is participating in the university-wide capital campaign launched by MSU this fall. As part of this campaign, the Honors College has established our first-ever giving societies.

Membership in the Honors College Circle Society will be granted to those who donate \$1,000 or more to Honors College programming and endowments over the course of one calendar year. Membership in the Honors College Dean's Club will be granted to those who donate \$5,000 or more to Honors College programming and endowments over the course of a year. Giving at levels beyond these can be recognized through university level giving societies.

Membership at these levels will come with special benefits, including invitation to exclusive events.

As you read through this magazine and see what our alumni, our faculty, our staff, and our students are doing to embody the Honors College spirit to pioneer, innovate, and engage, I hope you will consider what you can do to help ensure the future Honors College experience is even better than our past.

Sincerely,

**Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, PhD**  
Dean and Professor  
Michigan State University Honors College

For information on how to give, visit [empower.msu.edu](http://empower.msu.edu).

## 2014 HIGHLIGHTS



### Grandparents University

PAGE III

Grandparents University brings back memories



### HC to M.D.: Vinay Prasad

PAGE VII

M.D. alumna digs into why doctors do what they do



### Alumni Board President Reetz Speaks Out

PAGE X

"...I want to remind you that the more than 15,000 HC alumni are a global network for us all."

# PREVIEW OF 2015 HONORS COLLEGE EVENTS

## January 3-9

MSU Debate team tournaments at University of Southern California and CSU-Fullerton.

## January 5

Udall Scholarship internal application deadline for the National/International Fellowships & Scholarships Office

## January 16-20

MSU Debate team tournament at Navy

## January 24

Pickering Fellowship internal application deadline for the National/International Fellowships & Scholarships Office

## January 30-February 1

MSU Debate team tournament at Indiana University

## February 6-7 and February 13-14

The 60th Annual Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Competition

## February 6-10

MSU Debate team tournament at Northwestern University

## February 20

Open House for newly-admitted Honors College first-year members

## February 25

Application deadline for Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grants for Dire Needs Overseas

## March 1

Study abroad scholarship application deadline for current Honors College students

## March 27

Presidential Fellows Program internal application deadline for the National/International Fellowships & Scholarships Office

## April 1-6

National Debate Tournament in Iowa City

## April 10

University Undergraduate Research & Arts Forum

## April 17-18

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

## May 8

MSU Undergraduate Convocation and Honors College Graduation Reception

## June 19, June 26, July 10

Green Carpet Days recruitment program for high-achieving high school students

## August 1

UK scholarships internal application deadline (Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Gates Cambridge, Churchill) for the National/International Fellowships & Scholarships Office

## September 1

Honors College Convocation

## September 11

Honors College Annual Picnic

## October 15

Study abroad application deadline for current Honors College students (for spring semester programs)

## November 1

Goldwater Scholarship, Truman Scholarship, and Carnegie Jr. Fellows Program internal application deadline for the National/International Fellowships & Scholarships Office

## December 1

NSEP David L. Boren Scholarship and Beinecke Scholarship internal application deadline for the National/International Fellowships & Scholarships Office

## December 15

MLK, Jr. Advancing Inclusion Through Research Award deadline to submit student work (in partnership with James Madison College, Lyman Briggs College, and the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities)

Stay informed about MSUHC happenings by visiting [honorscollege.msu.edu](http://honorscollege.msu.edu).



### Marshall Scholar: Craig Pearson

PAGE 8

HC Marshall Scholar seeks a cure for blindness



### Sharper Focus/Wider Lens

PAGE 16

Sharper Focus/Wider Lens continues to bring MSU and the community together



Gwen and Jerry Paulson greet students at a reception honoring the donation of their art collection.

## HC Alumna pays it forward

After receiving a full-ride scholarship to MSU, **Gwen (nee Victor) Paulson**, '66, had hoped one day she'd be able to fund a four-year scholarship for others.

"Now, you know I thought it was a pipe dream in my 30s and 40s and (it) wasn't going to happen," she said. "Fortunately, I was very successful in government relations consulting, and as a result I've been able to realize the dream that I had walking around Michigan State."

But Paulson didn't stop there.

Along with husband **Jerry**, Gwen Paulson donated more than 25 pieces of glass and wood artwork to the Honors College. The displays of contemporary craft in Eustace-Cole Hall were unveiled during a reception for the Paulsons in April.

"I did a lot of studying in the Honors College lounge. At that time it was in the Library, and it was a lovely room, but it was pretty sterile," Gwen Paulson said. "I thought, 'Wouldn't it be nice to introduce college kids to contemporary craft, because museums are just beginning to incorporate contemporary American craft.'"

The donation is the first of its kind for the Honors College.

"We are immensely grateful to Gwen and Jerry for sharing their passion for art with the students of the Honors College and the community at large," said Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College. "As our building is steps away from the Broad Art Museum, we welcome the public to view the fine glass and wood pieces in our student lounge."

Gwen Paulson is originally from Detroit, Michigan—just down the road from the birthplace of contemporary American craft in Toledo, Ohio.

Jerry Paulson was already collecting craft artwork in the late 1970s before he met Gwen. The couple joke that Jerry inherited Gwen's two daughters and Gwen inherited Jerry's art collection.

"And I got the better end of the deal," Jerry Paulson said.

The artwork on display at the Honors College is a mix of Jerry's first pieces and items they've collected as a couple over the years.

"Everything in our entire collection is one of a kind and we've either commissioned it, or bought it that way," said Gwen Paulson.

The couple's personal collection marks important birthdays and anniversaries and reflects the couple's travels as well, with pieces from artists around the globe.

Jerry Paulson said the collection has been a focal point for family, friends, and other visitors to the couple's home in Alexandria, Virginia.

"We are extremely proud and very happy to have this work in a place where other people can enjoy it," Jerry Paulson said

of some of the collection finding a home in the Honors College lounge. "[We hope it will] bring some pleasure to their lives as it has brought pleasure to our lives."

Gwen Paulson graduated with a bachelor's degree in history. She later received her master's degree from Wayne State

University and was a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Michigan.

As a congressional professional staff member, Gwen Paulson worked on Medicare and private health insurance

**"We are immensely grateful to Gwen and Jerry for sharing their passion for art with the students of the Honors College and the community at large."**

*Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore*



# Grandparents University brings back memories

**Beryl (Benschop) Johnson ('64)** and husband **Edward** spent their 49th anniversary at the same place they had their first kiss—Michigan State University.

The two traveled to East Lansing in late June to participate in Grandparents University with their eldest grandson, **Charlie**.

While Charlie wowed his grandparents with his computer skills during a programming class, Beryl Johnson impressed her grandson with how fast she typed for the newspaper journalism class. Beryl said the class was a far cry from the days she had to learn typesetting.

In between the engineering and a cultural engagement classes, the Johnsons showed Charlie where “Grammy” and “Poppy” lived on campus while they dated, Van Hoosen and Owen halls, respectively, and where they lived during their first year of marriage, Spartan Village.

They also showed Charlie where they had their first kiss—Beaumont Tower—but the nine year-old, unsurprisingly, was not interested in the kissing part.

The couple said they were most amazed at the growth of campus, but added it has maintained its beauty.

“It’s still a gorgeous campus,” she said.

Beryl Johnson fondly remembered walks along the Red Cedar River to and from class, and Edward Johnson recalled finishing his doctorate and teaching business classes in the Eppley Center.

They strolled by Cowles House and Beryl Johnson told her grandson how she was invited to a reception for the 50 outstanding senior women by President John Hannah.

Charlie had his eyes on an MSU jacket as a souvenir of the trip.

Grandparents University began in 2006 as a program for alumni and grandchildren aged 8-12. Families stay in a residence hall for three days while attending classes and visiting different parts of campus. More than 1,000 people participated in this year’s Grandparents University.

This is the first year the Johnsons participated, flying from Florida with a stop-over in California to pick up Charlie. They visited with family in Holland before the trip to East Lansing, and then were headed up north for a bit.

Traveling is a passion for the Johnsons and was the reason they established a scholarship for Honors College students studying abroad.

Beryl Johnson took a French class in Switzerland while a student at MSU, and the Johnsons have led student trips abroad while Edward worked as faculty for the University of North Florida.

The John A. and Irma L. Benschop International Award, which is offered to members of the Honors College studying abroad, is made possible by a donation from the Johnsons.

The Johnsons hope the trip nudges Charlie to enroll at MSU down the road, but either way the experience was worthwhile.

“This was just an extra special bonding experience,” Beryl Johnson said. 🍀

legislation, including COBRA health insurance, and later opened her own health care government relations company. After working in Washington, D.C., for many years, she is now a professional certified career and leadership coach.

Jerry Paulson graduated from Duke University with a medical degree and is a pediatrician, children’s environmental health advocate, and has dual full professor status in the George Washington University School of Public Health and School of Medicine. Jerry Paulson received his undergraduate degree with honors and with general honors from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Attending land-grant institutions was transformative for the couple, Jerry Paulson said.

“If people hadn’t had that forethought, then we wouldn’t have been able to achieve what we’ve been able to achieve,” he said. 🍀



# Honors floors spell **lasting memories** for RAs



*Devin Schindler*

When **Devin Schindler** was a resident assistant (RA) in Bryan Hall, students had handmade computers. The highlight of technology was an Apple II.

## **Teresa Scollon**

said one student communicated with his parents back home via ham radio.

“Technology has changed so much since I was at State,” she said.



*Teresa Scollon*

While smartphones may be in the hands of many students these days, Scollon and Schindler share something in common with 2014 graduates

**Andy Stone** and **Sara Dykowski**—strong friendships and a sense of community among those who serve as RAs on an Honors floor.

“As a freshman, I saw how RAs were able to make a difference in their residents’ lives and thought it would be something I would really enjoy,” Dykowski said. “The experience was so rewarding and one of the best decisions I made during my undergraduate education. The job allowed me to constantly meet

new people, form relationships, undergo personal growth, and learn valuable life lessons, such as the importance of time management. Some of my residents and colleagues became some of the best friends I made during college.”

Scollon echoed that sentiment, adding, “People had really solid friendships.”

When Scollon served as an RA in 1982-83, her “brother” RA was Schindler. He recalls the RAs were given program topics to go over with students on the floor each semester.

One of the topics was social.

“[You] couldn’t get away with this now, but many of these folks hadn’t had a lot of experience going to parties. [I thought] when these folks get out of college they will be going into jobs which will require them to socialize in large group settings with members of the opposite sex,” Schindler said. “What these folks really need is to go to a big, fun college party.”

Schindler convinced the resident director the party could fit their social program.

“My resident director approved it; that was my social thing. They were doing fine on the academics,” he said.

One of the students on his floor was related to an MSU professor who willingly let students come over for the gathering.

“We took 100 people [to the] outskirts of Lansing,” he said. “...And just had the best party ever. We had music, dancing, and the full college party experience. There was no destruction. I had people come to me two-three years later [saying]...‘that party you threw was the best party I’ve ever been to until this day!’”

Schindler adds, “I saw students blossom that year. It was a safe environment to let your wings out.”



*Andy Stone and Sara Dykowski.*

More than  
**1/3**  
of students reported  
living on an Honors  
floor while at MSU

Scollon says she doesn't recall the party, but trusts her brother RA got the story right.

She did recall fond memories of the women creating stories on a bulletin board in the hall. One student would write a line, followed by another, and so on, until the board was complete.

Stone said some fun activities he and sister RA Dykowski did together in Holmes Hall included: a beginning of the year ice cream social, Euchre tournament, Super Smash Bros. tournament, playing sports, and having TV watch parties.

"Andy and I had a great sibling RA relationship so we always tried to plan our weekly events together," Dykowski said, recalling weekly floor dinners, movie nights at Insomnia Cookies, board game night, a "Pie Your RA" event, and "Periodic Pumpkins" carving night with all of Holmes Hall.

All four alumni said the dynamic on the Honors floor is mostly centered on academics, and that can spark great conversations.

"There were a lot of really smart people with diverse academic interests," Schindler said. "The esprit de corps was very high."

"When you're hanging around smart people, you're having a different conversation," Scollon said.

Stone said, "Honors housing typically is a more academic environment. One thing everyone, myself included, worries about with the Honors floor is that it is full of people who stay inside and never talk to anyone. Happily, I can say that unless there is a big exam that is rarely the case. My floors were always social, but never lost that academic drive." 🍌

**"There were a lot of really smart people with diverse academic interests."**

**Devin Schindler**

## Where are they now?

**Devin Schindler** is a professor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Before joining Cooley, Schindler was a partner with the law firm of Warner, Norcross & Judd, in Grand Rapids.

**Teresa Scollon** is a published poet and National Endowment for the Arts fellow. She's a poetry and creative writing instructor at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City.

**Andy Stone** is a product surveillance quality associate at Baxter Healthcare in Illinois and preparing for pharmacy school.

**Sara Dykowski** works as a medical scribe in an emergency room and a prosecutor in the cadaver lab at MSU. She's also applying to medical school.



# Research assistantship leads to career in finance

**1/3**  
of the HC incoming class had a paid research opportunity through the Professorial Assistantship program in 2014

**Roger Rama** came to Michigan State University knowing he wanted to do something with business, but he wasn't exactly sure what.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Rama said he saw MSU as an opportunity to "branch out and do something a little bit different."

Because of his high ACT score, Rama was offered a Tuition Grant, giving him a scholarship to pay the difference between in- and out-of-state tuition.

The money and the flexibility of classes through the Honors College solidified MSU over Indiana University for Rama, but little did he know his experience with the Professorial Assistantship (PA) program as a freshman would ultimately lead him to launch a career in finance.

During his PA freshman year, Rama was teamed up with Elizabeth Booth, a finance professor and academic director of the Financial Markets Institute (FMI).

If you're not from an Ivy League school, it can be difficult to land a job on Wall Street, but the FMI is shifting that culture by creating networking opportunities for Spartans. As a research assistant, Rama was tasked with studying other faculty-run programs that were geared toward high-achieving students.

Looking at the programs at the University of Iowa, University of Wisconsin, and University of Michigan, and comparing those and MSU's to the Ivy League was all part of Rama's research.

"Doing that as my PA project helped me to understand what the FMI did and figure out this is something I'd like to pursue," he said.

It took three attempts, but as the saying goes, the third time was the charm for Rama to be accepted into the FMI.

During the first three weeks of his sophomore year, Rama traveled to New York City to meet with some Spartan alumni working on Wall Street.

He began to see first-hand the career opportunities and diversity of paths he could take, including investment banking, research, sales, trading, and private equity.

"Over time, I started to realize the most helpful thing from FMI was establishing a tight-knit relationship with all the other students," he said.

During his time at MSU, Rama also participated in Students Consulting for Non-Profit Organizations, the Student Investment Association, and was a teaching assistant for Booth's Finance 311 class.

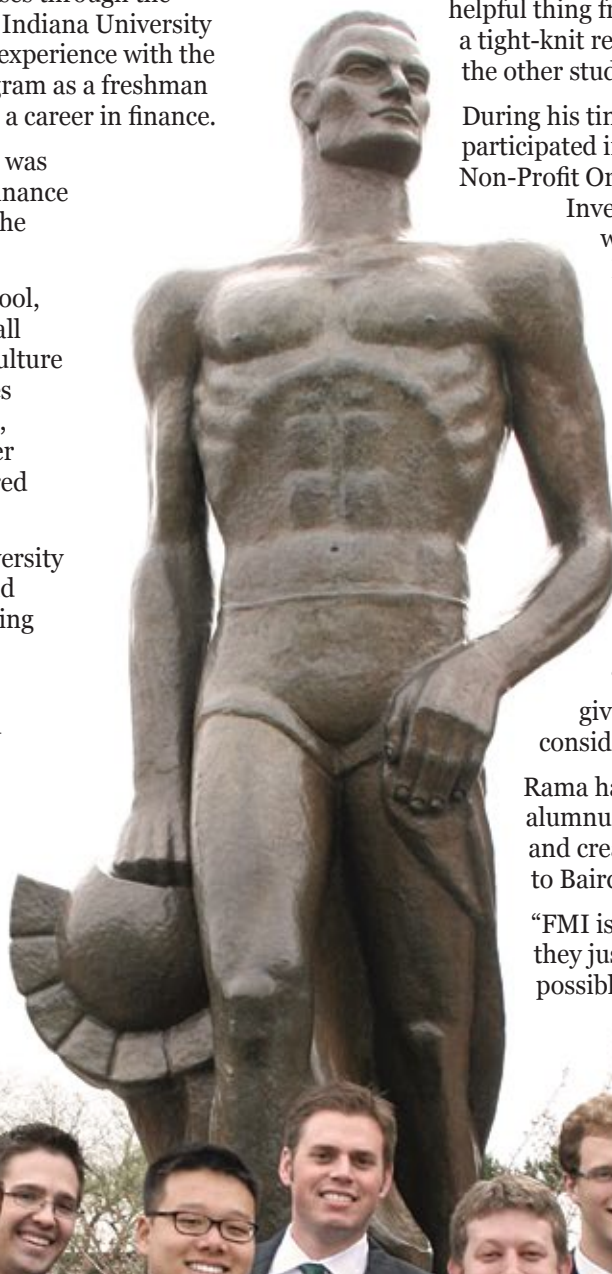
After graduating in 2011 with a finance degree from the Eli Broad College of Business, Rama is now doing equity research for Robert W. Baird in Milwaukee.

Rama is responsible for providing analysis and insight on 20 industrial company stocks and equipping portfolio managers with the information they need to invest wisely.

"At such a young age I'm able to give advice," he said. "It's nice to be considered an expert in something."

Rama has also given back as an alumnus by talking to FMI participants and creating a pipeline from MSU to Baird through recruitment.

"FMI is full of really talented students; they just never looked at Baird as a possible destination," he said. 🌟



Roger Rama stands in front of the Spartan Statue with his Financial Markets Institute cohorts.

# M.D. alumnus digs into why doctors do what they do



Doctors have to make a lot of important decisions every day.

They recommend a certain type of hormone therapy for patients, a costly treatment cycle for breast cancer, or even recommend withholding certain drugs.

**Vinay Prasad** studies the evidence behind what doctors recommend.

“Doctors make a lot of decisions, and some of those surely help patients, other decisions are based on weak evidence, and some recommendations run counter to the best studies,” said Prasad, ’05. “I study the big picture of why the health care field works the way it does and how so many of us can fall prey to biases.”

Prasad is the chief oncology fellow for the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute. He graduated from Michigan State University with degrees from the College of Arts and Letters (philosophy) and College of Natural Science (physiology) before moving on to the University of Chicago for his medical degree and Johns Hopkins University for a master’s in public health.

He credits his dual degrees at MSU with helping prepare him for his role at the NIH.

“I’m a medical oncologist who does research on policy and the evidence base of medicine. What I do directly follows from the classes I took in college,” he said. “Studying the sciences and philosophy was the ideal preparation for what I do today.”

Prasad said he was first drawn to the Honors College because of the flexibility to take classes in different fields and because he was able to get started on research early on. He was the recipient of an Alumni Distinguished Scholarship and a professorial assistant.

“I met some of my closest friends in the Honors College and MSU, and we have stayed in touch over the years,” he said. “But, beyond this the experiences I remember most from MSU were the study abroad opportunities. I went to Nicaragua with Dr. (Gerald) Urquhart, and I spent a summer in Costa Rica taking a class from Dr. Fred Gifford. Both of these courses changed the way I think, and have stayed with me.”

Prasad also credits Bess German, now the assistant dean for the Honors College, with helping him during his time at MSU.

“(She) was a trusted adviser for most of my college, and I still appreciate all the help she gave me.”

Prasad has been published more than 65 times and has interviewed with U.S. and international media regarding his work deciphering whether what doctors do is good, bad, or useless.

“Through the Honors College, I met a lot of interesting people,” he said. “I had dinner with Dr. Brian Greene, the theoretical physicist. I had lunch with Norman Borlaug, the Nobel Laureate. And, during my senior year, I met Maya Angelou when she was our commencement speaker.”

**“I’m a medical oncologist who does research on policy and the evidence base of medicine. What I do directly follows from the classes I took in college.”**

**Vinay Prasad**

## Donor Societies

Planned and current gifts offer the benefits of membership in MSU's major donor recognition societies

### Honors College establishes first giving societies

In recognition of the many of our alumni who have supported students and programs throughout the year, the Honors College has established its first giving societies.

Membership in the **Honors College Circle Society** will be granted to those who donate \$1,000 or more to Honors College programming and endowments over the course of one calendar year.

Membership in the **Honors College Dean's Club** will be granted to those who donate \$5,000 or more to Honors College programming and endowments over the course of a year.

Membership at these levels will come with special benefits, including invitation to exclusive events.

For more information, visit [empower.msu.edu](http://empower.msu.edu).

### PRESIDENTIAL SOCIETIES

#### WILLIAM J. BEAL SOCIETY

*\$10,000,000 and above cumulative giving or, documented planned gift of at least \$15,000,000*

Named in honor of the famed botanist, William J. Beal, at Michigan Agriculture College from 1870 - 1910. Just as Professor Beal sowed seeds and created experiments that would take generations to complete and left MSU a better and more beautiful place for generations to come, donors in this society create a better Michigan State that will last and continue to improve.

#### JOSEPH R. WILLIAMS SOCIETY

*\$5,000,000 - \$9,999,999 cumulative giving or, documented planned gift of at least \$7,500,000*

Named in honor of Joseph R. Williams, the first president of the Agricultural College of the State of Michigan, now known as Michigan State University. Williams is best remembered as a key advocate of the distinctly innovative educational philosophy that took root in East Lansing. He understood the importance of the land-grant system to education and displayed a dedication to the college's success. He made MSU the pioneer land grant university.

#### CLIFTON R. WHARTON SOCIETY

*\$2,500,000 - \$4,999,999 cumulative giving or, documented planned gift of at least \$3,750,000*

After a distinguished career in international affairs, Clifton R. Wharton became Michigan State University's 14th president in 1970. This society honors his leadership and ability to remain calm in spite of the tumultuous time on U.S. campuses rising from antiwar sentiments as well as fiscal problems resulting from budget cuts. Notably, his tenure was marked by successful efforts to maintain the quality of MSU's academic programs and his commitment to the education of the economically and educationally disadvantaged.

#### FRANK S. KEDZIE SOCIETY

*\$1,000,000 - \$2,499,999 cumulative giving or, documented planned gift of at least \$1,500,000*

Named for the eighth president of Michigan State University, the Frank S. Kedzie Society is one of the university's most prestigious donor recognition groups. Kedzie served as president from 1915 - 1922 and is considered a pioneer for bringing private support to the university. In addition, Kedzie is recognized as the driving force behind early alumni involvement.

#### ROBERT S. SHAW SOCIETY

*\$500,000 - \$999,999 cumulative giving or, documented planned gift of at least \$1,000,000*

Honors the memory of President Robert S. Shaw, who served as acting president on three separate occasions before officially being named president in 1928 - 1941. He introduced new courses including hotel administration, public administration, geology, geography, and physical education for women. Contributions at the Shaw Society level allow significant expansion of existing quality programs as well as the initiation of new programs, endowments and scholarships in much the way Shaw did during his time at MSU.



*Benefactors Plaza, dedicated in 2007, commemorates the contributions of Michigan State University's most generous donors.*

## GIVING CLUBS

### THEOPHILUS C. ABBOT SOCIETY

*\$250,000 - \$499,999 cumulative giving or, documented planned gift of at least \$500,000*

Honors the memory of MSU's president from 1862 - 1885, Theophilus C. Abbot. When he assumed the presidency, the future of the college was anything but certain. Abbot, however, was able to maintain the prestige of the nation's first agricultural college by firmly establishing a curriculum of "scientific agriculture." Abbot Society donors reflect the steadfast loyalty and versatility exhibited by President Abbot.

### JONATHAN L. SNYDER SOCIETY

*\$100,000 - \$249,000 cumulative giving or, documented planned gift of at least \$200,000*

Honors the memory of Jonathan L. Snyder, who served as president of MSU from 1886 - 1915. He was the first MSU president to actively market the university to prospective students through promotional literature, correspondence, and invitations to visit campus. He also advocated training women at MSU. Snyder Society donors help Michigan State achieve the level of innovation and ingenuity that President Snyder embraced.

### JOHN HANNAH SOCIETY

*\$50,000 - \$99,999 or, documented planned gift of at least \$100,000*

Honoring the memory of President John A. Hannah, who served the university for 46 years, 28 of them as MSU's 12th president. President Hannah was noted for expanding MSU from a respected regional undergraduate-oriented university to a nationally recognized research university.

### BEAUMONT TOWER SOCIETY

*\$25,000 - \$49,999*

Chartered during the university's first capital campaign and named for the one landmark that so thoroughly symbolizes Michigan State University, its history and traditions. Beaumont Tower was made possible by a gift from Mr. and Mrs. John Wesley Beaumont and embodies both the spirit of our university and the spirit of private philanthropy.

### PRESIDENT'S CLUB

*\$10,000 - \$24,999*

Established in 1963, named to honor the presidents who have guided Michigan State to its present eminence.

## ESTATE GIVING

Linda E. Landon was an MSU librarian, a beloved resource for students and faculty from 1891 - 1932. She also was the first female instructor on campus. The **Landon Society** honors individuals and families who have remembered Michigan State University through charitable estate and gift planning.

To qualify for membership in the Landon Society, donors may select any of the following gift plans:

- Charitable bequest through a will/revocable living trust
- Charitable gift annuity
- Charitable remainder trust
- Charitable lead trust

Donors also qualify for membership in the Landon Society when they name MSU as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement plan, or deed of a personal residence or vacation home with retained life estate to Michigan State University.

*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.*



## Greetings Honors College alumni and supporters!

Representing the MSU HC Alumni Association Executive Board, I want to remind you that the more than 15,000 HC alumni are a global network for us all. The Board, along with the Honors College, is excited to begin early preparations for our 60th anniversary (not so far away, in the 2016 academic year).

*HConnections*, which you are reading now, reaches you, but how do you reach back? You have a variety of choices:

- Stay connected to the HC through email, or social media, such as LinkedIn.
- Designate the HC as one of your colleges as an MSUAA member, which supports current students with a direct contribution to the HC as part of your dues. And, if you are already an MSUAA Life Member and have not done so, you can designate annual support to the HC (no additional cost to you) by sending a letter to the MSU Alumni Association and telling them the HC is one of your two preferred colleges.

Today's students do amazing work every day at Michigan State, with enthusiastic help from Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore and her outstanding staff. Please join them and us in our continuing efforts to be a world-leading Honors College at our world-renowned university.

Go Green!

**Barb Stone Reetz**

**President, Honors College Alumni Association Executive Board**

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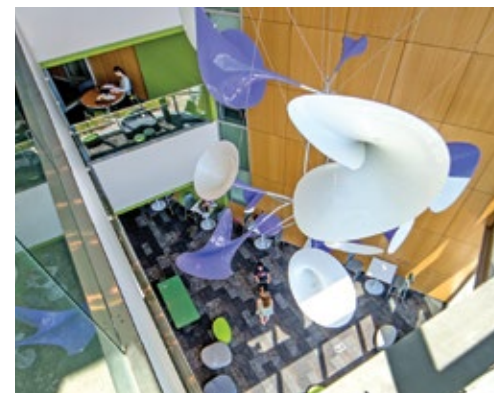


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# HONORS COLLEGE ALUMNI



## 2014

### Honors College Alumni Association Executive Board

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We are currently accepting nominations and self-nominations for the Honors College Alumni Association Executive Board through February 1, 2015. Interest can be directed to Katie McMurray at [katie@msu.edu](mailto:katie@msu.edu) or 517-432-7345.

## Recent Graduates



**Megan Hart (2010)** covers business news for *The Topeka Capital-Journal*. After graduation, she worked at the *Muskegon Chronicle*, where she received a Michigan Press Association award for best columnist in the largest circulation category.



**Rebecca Farnum (2012)**, (second from the right) Michigan State University's 15th Marshall Scholar, recently celebrated the program's 60th anniversary at a reception attended by the Prince of Wales. The event was held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, United Kingdom.



**Steven Kapeles (2012)** worked in a bone marrow transplant lab at the University of Michigan Cancer Center after graduation and is now attending medical school at the University of Michigan.

**Monika Kothari (2013)** is a student at Yale Law School.

**Kerri Molitor (2011)** is writing for Liquid Web, a Lansing tech company.

**Samantha Oliver (2012)** is pursuing her doctorate in communications at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.



**Amy Pochodylo (2011)** was the 2013 Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar Award recipient by the Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity. She also received her master's degree in environmental toxicology, with a specialization in ecotoxicology and environmental chemistry, from Cornell University. She was named a 2014 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow.

**Sarah Scott (2014)** moved to Bigodi, Uganda, in October to help with construction of a school and teach English. The school project is in memory of a guide who worked on an MSU study abroad trip through the Department of Zoology.

**Janine Yorimoto (2011)** graduated with her master's degree in American Studies from The College of William & Mary. She is continuing her studies in the American Studies doctorate program. For the 2013-2014 academic year, she worked as the Mellon Foundation curatorial intern at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, serving a joint appointment in the Paintings and Prints & Maps collections.

# UPDATES

## 2000s



**Thomas Bellsky (2003)** accepted a tenure-track professor position in mathematics at the University of Maine.



**Emily (Blanco) Dunkelberger (2007)** earned a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Abigail Cloud (2001)** became the editor-in-chief of *Mid-American Review*, a literary journal distributed nationally. Her collection of poems, *Sylph*, was published by Pleiades Press and won the Lena-Miles Wever Todd Prize.

**Allan Evans (2005)** invented a new personal video display that was shown in Las Vegas for an international conference, *CBS Detroit* reported.



**Dana Galbreath's (2009)** master's thesis from Keio University was published in *Landscape Ecology*. The title of the article is "Urbanization and its implications for avian aggression: a case study

of urban black kites (*Milvus migrans*) along Sagami Bay in Japan."



**Brian Goral (2000)** returned to Michigan after working in Washinton, D.C., for 15 years. He is senior advisor to Bobby McKenzie's 11th congressional campaign.

**Jenna (Heitchue) Boyle (2007)** married Brian Boyle. They met as Teach For America corps members in rural Eastern North Carolina in 2008.



**Julianne (Kalmar) Fischer (2008)** is part of the 2014 class of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's

Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship. Each fellow will receive a \$30,000 stipend while completing an intensive master's-level teacher education program at a participating Michigan university, which will prepare her to teach math and/or science in a high-need Michigan school.

**Jessica (Kingston) Greenia (2007)** started at Oakland Law Group, PLLC, as associate counsel in their litigation group.

**Matt Monday (2007)** started his own company, KARMA. He worked at Apple after graduating from MSU.

**Kelly Noyes (2004)** was promoted to shareholder at von Briesen & Roper, s.c., in the firm's Litigation and Risk Management Practice Group and practices in the firm's Milwaukee office.

## 1990s



**Robin (Aronson) Carr (1991)** most recently taught Lessac voice workshops at Center Stage Theatre, Carnegie

Mellon University's School of Drama, and at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland. She also has taught at the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney, Australia. While at Southern Mississippi, she has directed such shows as *Rent*, *Assassins*, *Talley's Folly*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Ragtime*, *Almost Maine*, and *Urinetown The Musical*. Carr has served on the American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) regional selection team and has won three excellence in directing awards. As a member of Actors' Equity Association and a Lessac Certified Trainer, Carr is currently serving as president-elect for the Lessac Training and Research Institute.



**Marta Chou (1999)** was appointed by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton to a judgeship on the Fourth

Judicial District Bench in the State of Minnesota.

(continued)

# HC ALUMNI

(1990s continued)



**Katrina Esch (1997)** is part of the 2014 class of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship. Each fellow will receive a \$30,000 stipend while completing an intensive master's-level teacher education program at a participating Michigan university, which will prepare her to teach math and/or science in a high-need Michigan school.

**Marissa Orlowski (1998)** is enrolled in the doctorate program at the Rosen College of Hospitality Management at the University of Central Florida. She is taking classes and teaching restaurant and hospitality brand management.



**Kim Reome (1991)**, vice president of The Kenrich Group LLC, was elected to the board for the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. The council is the largest in the nation.

**Michelle Scott's (1995)** business, Voices For Health, Inc., launched VoicesACADEMY.com. This will be the first subscription-based website available for medical interpreters and translators to receive on-demand video training, network with peers, and access medical terminology.

## 1980s

**Gail (Haus) Rogers (1988)** has been the dietetic internship director at MSU since 2003. She credits her mentor, Sharon Hoerr, who was her professor for Honors College option classes.



**Cheryl Walsh's (1985)** short story "My Mother's Atlas" was published in the anthology *Imagination & Place: Cartography* (Lawrence, Kansas: Imagination & Place Press).

## 1970s



**Mike Bauer (1973)** earned a juris doctor from the University of Michigan Law School in 1976, and a master's of law degree from the University of Tuebingen (Germany) Law School in 2001.

**Myron Lick (1970)** retired. He volunteers at Faith Lutheran Church in Troy, Michigan, and is a General Motors mentor to Hamtramck High School students.

**Samuel Matthews (1977)** serves as the section head of toxicology and serves as responsible person for one of 34 federally-certified toxicology laboratories in North America.

**Ira Robbin (1973)** has been working as a property and casualty actuary. She has written several actuarial math papers.

More than

**15,000**

HC alumni are part of our incredible global network of talent and influence



# UPDATES



**Cynthia Truhan (1971)** received her master's degree in public health from UCLA in 2009 and works at The InterGroup Corporation in Los Angeles. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and on the Board of the Fisher House Foundation Los Angeles, serving veterans receiving care at the Veteran's Hospital in Los Angeles.



**Julian Donahue (1962)** retired in 1992 and has explored the natural world (mostly birding, with 4,399 species to date), maintained his historic house, landscaped his quarter acre of property, worked on the family history, and volunteered for the beautification and land use committees of his homeowner's association. He also holds leadership roles in The Lepidopterists' Society.

## 1960s



**Suzanne Burgoyne (1968)** published a co-authored textbook *Thinking Through Script Analysis* (Focus, 2012); *teaching critical, analytical, creative thinking and metacognition along with the subject matter*. She's teaching creative thinking courses at the University of Missouri Honors College and is producing director of the Mizzou Interactive Theatre Troupe.

**Kenneth Drake (1961)** retired. He earned his master's degree from the University of New Mexico and a doctorate from the University of New York after graduating from MSU.

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## Ways to stay engaged with your Honors College

The Honors College has many programs and opportunities for alumni, including:

- **Alumni Speaker Series:** Share your campus memories, your work, your hobbies, and your passions with current Honors College students.
- **Recruiting:** You can help the Honors College identify and recruit potential Honors College students.
- **Service Days:** Join groups of HC alumni in a day of volunteerism in your community. Have an idea for a project we could work on? Let us know!
- **Alumni Association:** Join the Honors College Alumni Association, or volunteer to serve on our executive board. This is a great way to meet other HC alumni from around the globe.
- **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) or Instagram (MSUHonorsCollege). Sign up for the Honors College Alumni monthly e-newsletter by visiting the Alumni News section of our website (honorscollege.msu.edu).