

HConnections

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE | 2016

INCLUSIVE
EXCELLENCE



Honors College

SIXTY YEARS

PIONEER | INNOVATE | ENGAGE

LETTER FROM **THE DEAN**



Since our founding in 1956, the Honors College has brought the best and brightest minds together.

The college's history is on display in this edition of HConnections, because from now until the end of 2017, we will mark our 60th anniversary. Talent and motivation have been and always will be our essential ingredients. I invite you to read the stories about our talented and motivated students, staff and alumni. They demonstrate what a flexible and enriched academic and social experience can do for high-achieving individuals.

We also highlight the college's ongoing efforts to foster diversity and inclusion. The Honors College values opportunities for personal and intellectual growth and recognizes the importance of engaging in the sometimes difficult, yet vitally important, discussions about who we are as individuals and how together we can build a bridge to a better tomorrow.

The honors experiences available to today's students are the catalyst to empower opportunity and create extraordinary impact for a better world. What opportunities and impact can we make over the course of the *next* 60 years? We hope you will take part in that conversation.

Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, PhD
Dean and Professor, Honors College

CONTENTS

FEATURES:

- 02**..... 60th Anniversary timeline
- 05**..... HC Student Success Statistics
- 12**..... Cover Story: Diversity & Inclusion
- 24**..... Will Repko: Longest Serving Debate Coach

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- 06**..... National and International Fellowships and Scholarships Recipients
- 08**..... Faculty Award Profile
- 18**..... Honors

HConnections Magazine 2016 Year in Review

Magazine Staff

HConnections Managing Editor
Stephanie Cepak

HConnections Contributing Editor
Bess German

HConnections Contributing Writers
Stephanie Cepak

Mike Jenkins

Design
Blohm Creative Partners

Photography
Aran Kessler

Department of History
MSU Archival and Historical Collections

MSU Communications and Brand Strategy

Stephanie Cepak

The MasterCard Foundation

University Athletics
Communications

Illustration
Adi Shankara with disciples:
public domain from Wikipedia

Contact us

Michigan State University
Honors College
Eustace-Cole Hall
468 E. Circle Drive, Room 105
East Lansing, MI, 48824
Phone: (517) 355-2326
Email: honors@msu.edu



MSU is an affirmative-action
equal-opportunity employer

The Honors College at Michigan State University is one of the oldest honors programs at a large public university, having been established in 1956. The Honors College is celebrating its 60th Anniversary from now through the end of 2017. More information is available at honorscollege.msu.edu/60 or follow the social media conversation using #msuhonors.

1956

November - The Honors College is established at Michigan State University.



1968

The Honors College moves offices from the Library to Eustace Hall.



MSU Main Library



1975-1976

The foundation of the Academic Progress Plan is created.

1980-1981

First Honors housing floor established in Bryan Hall.



1995

The Committee to Review the Honors College endorses the original model and offers recommendations for strengthening the college, including increased scholarships, an updated mission statement, assessment of student satisfaction and retention, improved linkages with other academic colleges and faculty advisers, university-wide assessment of Honors research opportunities, expansion of Honors classes, and other opportunities for students, as well as more visibility for the Honors College within the university.

2000

Academic Scholars Program is established in the Honors College.

2006

Honors Research Seminars are offered for the first time to first- and second-year Honors College students. Small classes led by selected professors enabled 150 new students outside of the Professorial Assistantship (PA) Program to be involved in a structured research program early in their college careers.

2007

Cynthia Jackson-Elmore appointed as dean of the Honors College. She is the first female and first African-American to serve as dean for the college.

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

1957-1958

First class of Honors College members.

1969

The University Honors Programs Committee for Revision of the Legislation Governing the Honors College expanded the criteria used to evaluate students applying for admission. Emphasis went toward formalizing the role of academic advising for Honors College students, and an annual review of student academic performance became a requirement.

1979

Honors College Director becomes member of the Council of Deans.

1973

The Academic Council formally approved the admission of entering freshmen students, a practice that began as a trial program for the Honors College in 1970.

1984

The Professorial Assistantship (PA) Program was established to offer a structured and paid scholarly opportunity in any discipline for exceptional first- and second-year Honors College students.

1999

Eustace Hall is renovated with a donation from alumnus Jeffrey Cole. The building is re-named Eustace-Cole Hall.

Debate Program becomes part of the Honors College.



2009

Honors professors begin cross-disciplinary engagement with the Honors College.

2005

Title of academic administrator for the Honors College changed from director to dean.

2010s / PRESENT

2010

The Honors College establishes its first academic journal publishing student work, the Red Cedar Undergraduate Research Journal (ReCUR).



2011

The Honors College established a trans-disciplinary faculty forum called Sharper Focus/ Wider Lens.

2013

The Honors College establishes its first international engagement opportunity, the Freshmen Seminar Abroad/Honors Research Seminar in Cuba.

2010s / PRESENT

2014

The Honors College establishes the EuroScholars Research Abroad Program for students.

2015

The Honors College offers the South Africa Scholars: Research and Community Engagement Program for students.

2016

The Honors College welcomes its largest incoming class.

INDIVIDUALIZED

HC STUDENT SUCCESS PATH

CHALLENGING

The Honors College strives to ensure an enriched academic and social experience for its members and to create an environment that fosters active, innovative learning.

HELPFUL

FLEXIBLE

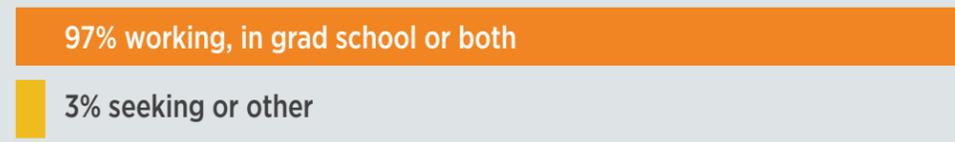
SUPPORTIVE

COMMUNITY ORIENTED

SUCCESS

HC STUDENT SUCCESS STATISTICS

Career Placement:



Sample graduate universities attended include:



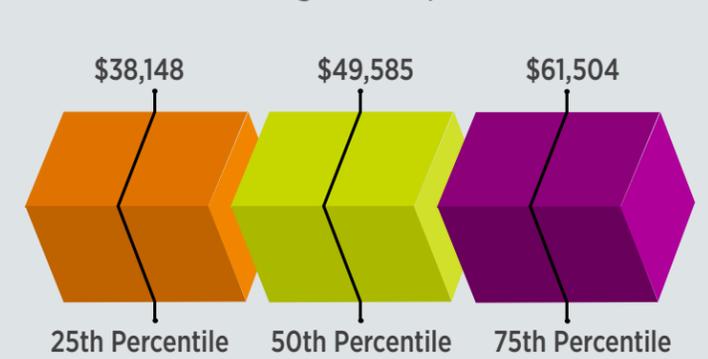
Participation at college:



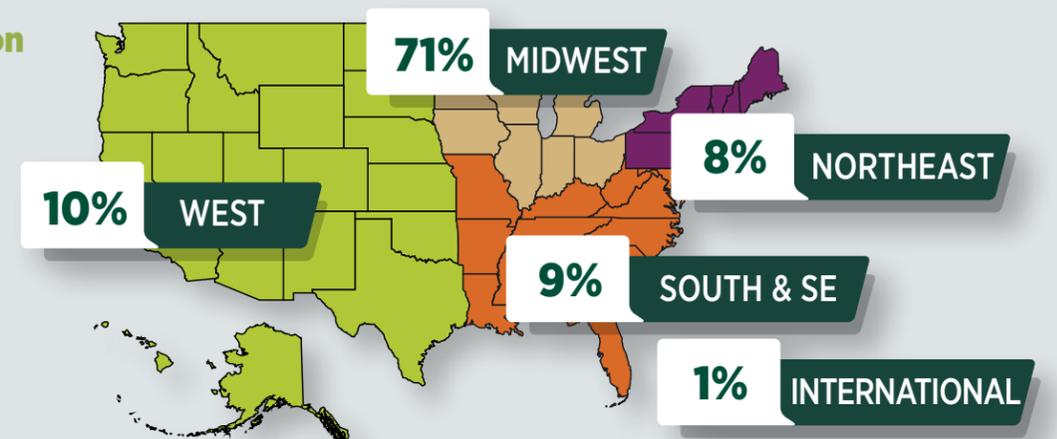
Sample employers include:



Starting Salaries:



Post-graduation location:





MSU's 17th Rhodes Scholar selected

Sarah Kovan, a 2016 graduate of the Honors College with degrees in comparative cultures and politics from James Madison College and human biology from the College of Natural Science, is MSU's 17th Rhodes Scholar since the award began in 1904.

The Rhodes Trust, the oldest of the major international competitive award foundations, provides 32 of the most outstanding undergraduates in the United States an opportunity to study at the University of Oxford in England.

"Being named a Rhodes Scholar is an incredibly amazing and humbling experience, and I couldn't have gained this recognition without the unending support from the MSU community," Kovan said. "As a scholar-athlete, I'm most proud of the accomplishments I have achieved in collaboration with my teammates, like our most exciting wins. It is in these successes, and in the camaraderie created in those moments, that make me proud to be a Spartan athlete."

Kovan was a starting midfielder and honorary captain of the MSU women's soccer team, earning Academic All Big-Ten Awards in 2012, 2013, and 2014, along with the 2015 Big Ten Distinguished Scholar Award and MSU Scholar-Athlete Award.

During her time at MSU, Kovan participated in study abroad experiences in Israel and Spain and in the Michigan State University Osteopathic Medical Scholars Program. She earned a James Madison College fellowship to conduct independent research exploring the need for and sustainability of interest-free loans for poor women in Sri Lanka and worked as a research assistant under Professor Andrea Freidus, conducting an ethnographic study on the consequences of undergraduate medical volunteerism. Kovan was chapter coordinator for Michigan State Students Today Leaders Forever, an organization that fosters leadership through service, relationships and actions.

Kovan is from Okemos, Michigan and graduated from Okemos High School.

Undergraduate STEM researcher earns national Goldwater Scholarship

Thomas Grubb, an Honors College junior majoring in advanced mathematics in the College of Natural Science and economics in the College of Social Science, was named a Goldwater Scholar in 2016, making him MSU's 43rd Goldwater Scholar since the scholarship program was established by Congress in 1986.

The Goldwater Foundation 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.

Grubb worked as a research assistant for the National Superconducting Cyclotron

Laboratory as a freshman. In 2014, he performed research on mathematic patterns and statistics as part of the MSU Undergraduate Research Institute in Experimental Mathematics. Most recently, he conducted research in probabilistic methods at East Tennessee State University.

Grubb is from Haslett, Michigan and graduated from Haslett High School. Two MSU students received honorable mentions for the award: Honors College junior Laura Azouz, a chemical engineering major in the College of Engineering; and Honors College junior Hananiel Setiawan, a physics major in the College of Natural Science.



Sophomore earns nationally competitive Udall award

Ashley Archer, an Honors College sophomore majoring in fisheries and wildlife in Lyman Briggs College, earned the nationally competitive Udall Scholarship in 2016. She is the 12th Udall Scholar from MSU.

The Udall Foundation awards scholarships to college sophomores and juniors for leadership, public service, and commitment

to issues related to American Indian nations or to the environment.

Archer interned for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service in Wisconsin and is a member of the MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club.

She is from Howell, Michigan and a graduate of Brighton High School.

Student earns Hollings Scholarship from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Hannah MacDonald, an Honors College sophomore majoring in environmental geosciences in the College of Natural Science, earned a competitive scholarship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

NOAA's Hollings Scholarship provides financial support for one year of academic study and a full-time internship position at a NOAA facility during the summer. MacDonald is the 7th MSU student to receive a Hollings Scholarship.

MacDonald is a member of the Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment (RISE), and currently interns at the Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory.

MacDonald is from Alpena, Michigan and is a graduate of Alpena High School. She is an education programmer for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and was named volunteer of the year in 2014. MacDonald also received an honorable mention for the Udall Scholarship.

The National and International Fellowships and Scholarships (NIFS) Office, administered by the Honors College, helps interested undergraduate and graduate students to pursue major national and international opportunities by providing information and direct support throughout the competitive application processes. More information is available at nifs.msu.edu.



ALL IN: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM RECOGNIZED FOR MENTORSHIP WITH HONORS COLLEGE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS TO HONORS STUDENTS

“I’m about to lecture them on the importance of getting a backpack,” Associate Professor John Waller said as he points to a black hiking backpack sitting in the corner of his Berkey Hall office.

In the classroom space just outside of his office, students are noisily assembling for their meeting.

The office is stacked floor to ceiling with books – typical of a faculty office – six of which Waller has authored. But the empty backpack will likely be filled with more basic goods and materials in a few weeks

as Waller heads to England, his home country, for a month-long study abroad program with the first-year cohort of Social Science Scholars.

The journey will first take them to London, to study the River Thames. Then, by riverboat, the group will stop at various communities representing the industrialization and post-industrialization of England. Students will study the slave trade in Liverpool and the abolitionist movement. They’ll also visit the University of Oxford to learn about climate change and policy.

“Demanding but experiential” is how Waller describes it.

Since the Social Science Scholars Program was founded three years ago, 33 of the 37 students have been, or have become, members of the Honors College. The program deeply immerses students in all of the social sciences, challenging their worldview by connecting them with

expert faculty, activists and alumni from across the globe.

A significant research project is developed by students over the course of the first year, culminating in a study abroad journey, followed by creation of a student documentary in the second year and assistance with finding an internship. In all, students earn 23 credits through these experiences and two years of seminars. Juniors and seniors remain connected to the program as mentors to the new scholars.

“Dr. Waller’s mentoring and reassurance have been vital to helping me actualize as the student I had always been and fervently wanted to continue to be in college,” Social Science Scholar Tristyn Walton wrote in her nomination letter for the Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students. “Because of Dr. Waller, this inner city minority student has been able to maintain a 4.0 GPA, excel in the Honors College,

and feel confident that I am preparing myself for life after college.”

Grace Hough, another Social Science Scholar, wrote, “Thanks to Dr. Waller, and the program he directs, I have had amazing opportunities at MSU to research with three different professors, grow a very close connection with both faculty and community mentors, and push myself intellectually.”

“We have just excellent students; very well motivated, smart,” Waller said. “They are serious about learning.”

While all are students in the College of Social Science, their majors and interests vary widely, Waller said. What they share in common is a passion for social and political issues.

Waller beams with pride about the program and its impact on students, saying it not only nurtures students, but gives them an opportunity to excel.

“More than ever, I value the teaching part of the academia role,” Waller said.

This year, he received the Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students.

Waller said he took even greater pride in receiving the recognition knowing that Professor David Bailey, an esteemed member of the Department of History faculty, previously earned the same award.



IN MEMORIAM

Professor David Bailey

David Bailey, a history professor who served as a coordinator of scholarships for the Honors College for many years and a 2008 recipient of the Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students, died of cancer on November 7, 2015.

Former Honors College Dean Ron Fisher said, “With deep personal intellectual curiosity, extensive knowledge, and a devotion to students, David Bailey was a perfect adviser/mentor/friend to Honors College members. I was thrilled that he would join the College. Dave had an uncanny ability to help students ‘see’ the characteristics that made them ‘special’ and then help them discover the related path to success. He was also a master at communicating effectively the essence of a student’s personal and professional story.”

“I took a class in an area I had no interest in just because Professor Bailey was teaching it. That’s the best compliment any teacher can receive,” Adam Stacey (’96) posted on Facebook.

Kurt Burg (’85) posted on Facebook, “Great professor and lecturer. Both my wife and I had him for class. He was very approachable and we had a common talking point due to his background in Buffalo near our hometown.”



HONORS RESEARCH SEMINARS

Honors Research Seminars offer opportunities to do hands-on work for cutting-edge research projects, with the supervision of MSU faculty members. Seminars are small and offer the opportunity to work with interesting students from a wide variety of majors. Additionally, every seminar encourages students to present their research or creative work to their peers, faculty and external audiences at the annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF).



10 years of Honors Research Seminars:
Seminars began in academic year 2006-2007 and have been conducted every year since.

Total number of seminars:

149

Total number of students enrolled:



1,451

Some of the longest running HRS topics and instructors include:



Professor Carl Boehlert

"Introduction to Materials Research using a Scanning Electron Microscope"



Associate Dean Mark Largent

"The State of Science" "Opposition to Compulsory Vaccination" "Birth Control & Birth Choice"



Associate Professor Constantinos Coursaris

"New Media Marketing: Mobile and Social Media Campaigns for Impact"



Professor Michael Velbel

"The Sands of Mars"



Associate Professor Steven Safferman

"Systems Approach for Researching the Water/Energy/Food Nexus"



Associate Professor Alan Munn and Associate Professor Cristina Schmitt:

"Explorations into Syntactic Variation & Acquisition"

VIEWPOINT:

Thank you so much to those who were involved in awarding this honor to me. I feel very appreciative to be recognized for my contributions to the Honors College at Michigan State University.

I have been very fortunate to have taught and mentored many Honors College students over my years at MSU - some have been awarded the highest honors of Rhodes, Marshall, Truman and Udall scholarships and many of whom remain friends since they have graduated. What I have always tried to encourage these students to seek in their education is challenge, inclusion and creativity.

I encourage students to seek the challenge to maximize the options that the Honors College and MSU offer to extend their studies to other areas beyond their specific major. I have had students combine such interesting studies as chemistry and international relations, piano performance and social relations, agriculture economics and political theory, computer science and social relations, biochemistry and international relations, finance and comparative politics and cultures, physics and political theory. These students and others accepted the challenge of resisting the societal pressures to narrow their studies too quickly and crafted their own path of study that brought together myriad interests that were unique to them and not pre-determined by anyone else. In every case it wasn't easy - it wasn't what someone else planned - but it was possible with the proper planning and a lot of hard work. In every case, the students were much the better for accepting the challenge and defying the ordinary, regular plan.

I also encourage students to seek greater inclusion in the world around them. In many cases, this has involved students seeking out engagement with others from different religions, races, ethnicities, nationalities, sexual and gender orientations. These students have been at the forefront of establishing and leading multi-faith organizations on campus, cross-cultural organizations and building bridges on campus and in the broader community between multi-national communities. I am so proud of these students for

Associate Professor Constance Hunt

Recipient of the 2016 Honors College Sustained Commitment to Honors Students Award



resisting the inclination to narrow their circle of friends and associates. Instead these students have been leaders at broadening the circles of inclusion in our community and many have gone on to leadership positions in national and international organizations.

Supporting students to embrace creativity in their education, and frankly in their lives, is another key factor in my teaching and mentoring. As students begin their studies they often think that their chief goal is the mastery of a certain subject matter, which is in part true, but most of the world's real questions and dilemmas do not fit neatly into a specific disciplinary subject matter. Creativity is needed to address the complexity of the world around us. Students who approach their studies with this in mind, or who directly embrace creativity with their pursuit of the arts and other creative pursuits, are at the forefront of problem solvers in this complex world in which we find ourselves. Every leader and innovator in medicine, science and politics recognizes how deeply creativity is needed in our world, yet it is often underappreciated by many people.

Thank you to these many wonderful students whom I have encouraged to seek these facets in their education and who have brought real joy to my life. I would also like to thank my colleagues at James Madison College for their dedication to undergraduate teaching.

Diversity & inclusion

Becoming better and stronger through inclusive excellence

First-generation college student finds support at MSU, blazes new trail for those who will come next



Janice Mendoza applied to 12 universities across the state as a high school senior living in Hazel Park, Michigan.

“I visited other college campuses in Michigan and was discouraged by the lack of diversity that they offered. In high school, I was one of the only Latinos present and I wanted to have a more inclusive experience in college,” she said.

Mendoza sought out a more inclusive experience, finding it at Michigan State University, and has helped more students who, like her, are the first generation in their family to attend college. She now serves on the Honors College’s Inclusive Excellence Strategic Committee, where she has worked with faculty, staff and other students to broaden the language in the admissions criteria so that it can include leadership, research and community service involvement in addition to grade-point average and standardized test scores.

“After my first semester at MSU, I was invited to be an Honors College member because of my excellent academic record,” she said. “The Honors Options/Courses that I was once so scared to participate in have been a source of excitement; they have given me the opportunity to work closely with my professors and immerse myself in several topics of interest.

“In high school, I had high academic aspirations but did not reach my potential due to a lack of guidance as well as socio-economic pressures. I joined the Inclusive Excellence Strategic Committee because I wanted to be a voice for those that come from underserved neighborhoods and desire excellence. I believe an incoming freshman should not be defined by their ACT scores and should be able to reach high academic pursuits if they wish to do so.

I was very pleased that the Committee looked into non-traditional ways of measuring a student’s potential to succeed in the Honors College.”

10 percent of the Honors College students identify as first-generation college students

As a sophomore studying social relations and policy in James Madison College, in addition to minors in political economy and Chicano and Latino studies, Mendoza is interested in pursuing a career where she can promote the advancement of marginalized communities.

“My main foci include poverty reduction, access to education, and immigration,” she said. “(My older brother and I) were raised by a single-mother from Mexico who instilled in us an appreciation for education.”

Mendoza credits the Spartan Success Scholars and Spartan Advantage Program for getting her started at MSU, as well as a summer bridge program through the Office of Supportive Services’ TRiO initiative. While at MSU, Mendoza has served as an academic tutor and an intercultural aide through TRiO.

When asked what advice she has for other first-generation college students, she said, “Seek organizations and mentors that will be able to guide you through your endeavors. At MSU, there are so many opportunities to ensure that your needs are being met. The Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions as well as the Office of Supportive Services are a couple of branches dedicated to this. Talk to your intercultural aide. Please do not feel embarrassed if you do not know things that may seem like ‘common knowledge’ and instead seek answers. Furthermore, meeting older students at MSU with interests similar to your’s will be very helpful.”

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Becoming better and stronger through inclusive excellence



The Honors College values opportunities for personal and intellectual growth. Acknowledging similarities is as important as embracing the differences that make life interesting and fulfilling. We recognize the importance of engaging in the sometimes difficult, yet vitally important, discussions about who we are as individuals and how together we have the power and potential to make each other stronger.

Inclusivity is a part of many important and ongoing conversations in today's society. Having sincere and authentic discussions and interactions with one another around issues of diversity and inclusion requires deep and reflective thought. In the Honors College, we believe that it is important to encourage open and honest conversations on the things that bring us together, as well as those ideals, philosophies and strongholds that could separate us if we are not attentive to our relationships with one another.

One way in which we encourage ongoing dialogue is through the Sharper Focus/Wider Lens forums, which tackle cross-cutting issues and invite the audience into the discussion. Faculty, staff, students, alumni and a dedicated following of community members continue to come together to discuss an array of issues that have implications for how we interact with, understand and appreciate one another.

Examples of recent Sharper Focus/Wider Lens discussions include:

- Upheaval in the Middle East and North Africa: Context, Consequences and Implications
- Understanding Genocide over Time and Place
- At the End: Death and Dying in Perspective
- Food and the City
- The Evolving Nature of Rights

- Detroit: The Past, Present and Future of the City
- What Divides Us/What Unites Us
- The Nature of Inequality
- What's UP: The Past, Present and Future of Michigan's Upper Peninsula
- Looking at Flint: The Past, Present and Future of the City
- A World On The Move: Refugees, Migrants and Immigrants (scheduled for Spring 2017)

We recognize that communication addresses only one part of our shared commitment to diversity and inclusion. Because of that, the Honors College takes an active approach to ensure that the college closely mirrors Michigan State University's commitment to diversity and inclusion. The phrase "inclusive excellence" is a great way to describe the value we hold true: we are a better and stronger Honors College the more diverse we are in experience and composition.

A philosophy of inclusive excellence means that we think about issues of inclusion in everything that we do; that we are necessarily and intentionally thinking about how our actions with regard to academic policy and programs, student services, and admissions are inclusive. We are not resting on the college's strong history of inclusion, but continually challenging ourselves to grow to meet the needs of our

The Honors College takes an active approach to ensure that the college closely mirrors Michigan State University's commitment to diversity and inclusion. The phrase "inclusive excellence" is a great way to describe the value we hold true: we are a better and stronger Honors College the more diverse we are in experience and composition.

Visit honorscollege.msu.edu/diversityandinclusion

students and celebrate the diversity of their experiences and backgrounds.

Whatever stake or role you have in the Honors College, know that you are welcome to join us in our commitment to inclusive excellence.

The Inclusive Excellence Strategic Committee works with the dean and staff of the Honors College to identify and implement strategies to encourage diversity and foster a climate of inclusivity within the Honors College. The committee's charge is to identify and address opportunities for improvement in access, climate and experiences of multiple constituencies within and associated with the college including students (current and prospective), faculty, staff, alumni, and campus partners.

The committee assists with proposal development and implementation

for any initiatives or programs related to inclusive excellence and inclusive practices. Additionally, the committee disseminates and discusses best practices and research related to issues of inclusion and diversity.

Students, faculty, staff, and administrators from a diverse range of programs around campus make up the Inclusive Excellence Strategic Committee, which meets monthly.

Our philosophy of inclusive excellence is shared by many other units and individuals on campus. We encourage you to learn more about diversity and inclusion at Michigan State University (inclusion.msu.edu).

Pictured to the left are Honors College students Kasey Pham, Malik Hall, Jeff Hall, Karalyn Kiessling, Isaiah Walker, Audrey Koutney, Clare Bratzel and Linda Lay.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Bridging the divide between disparate communities is alumna Nada Zohdy's passion.

It began for Nada Zohdy ('11) at Michigan State University when she worked with people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds to form the Peace Over Prejudice campaign.

"I spent more time student organizing than I did studying," she said. "There was a lot of bigotry faced by minority groups. It was the extreme opposite of the campus environment I wanted and so many others wanted. That extreme environment propelled my activism."

That experience eventually led to co-founding the Campus Interfaith Council, which continues today.

But the burgeoning of her passion for civic engagement truly took hold after she moved to Egypt to live for a year as part of MSU's former Arabic Language Flagship Program. Halfway through her stay, the Arab Spring erupted and Zohdy, an Egyptian-American, saw history play out before her eyes.

"We were there for the first week of protests," she said. "It was amazing to see history being made. You could feel it in the air."

While she and the other students eventually had to re-locate to Morocco to finish out the program, Zohdy had gained

experience working with an Egyptian non-governmental organization (NGO). When she returned to the United States, she found a job with the Project on Middle East Democracy.

"We were there for the first week of protests. It was amazing to see history being made. You could feel it in the air."

"A big part of my job was translating and helping local Arab activists (understand) how U.S. foreign policy was being made toward their country and translating and sharing the experience of local partners to colleagues in Washington, (D.C.)," Zohdy said. "I learned more than I could even describe."

Two months into her post, Zohdy went back to Egypt to meet with more NGOs. She visited Tahrir Square



and was sprayed with tear gas. It was a profound experience – one she only shared with her mother after the fact – but working with people living in the conflict took its toll and Zohdy found herself burned out heading into 2013.

Having previously earned a Truman Scholarship for her civic engagement efforts at MSU and commitment to public service, Zohdy then began to attend Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

While pursuing her master's degree in public policy, Zohdy focused on democracy and governance, as well as social innovation. She describes that as, "thinking about how to create healthy organizations working for social change so they can do things more efficiently and effectively."

Zohdy returned to Washington, D.C., and for more than a year she has managed OpenGov Hub, which is a co-working space and network of 40 NGOs promoting more transparency and accountability all around the world.

"There are real challenges to promoting democracy in the Middle East these days," she said. "I wanted to take a step back...and get a global perspective."

The NGOs work in approximately 70 different countries and Zohdy hopes the experience will provide her with lessons she can eventually apply locally and to the region she cares the most about.

Since the five years since she left MSU, Zohdy said, "I've been able to definitely work on the issues I'm most passionate about."



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM **ALUMNI & STUDENTS!**

For 60 years, students and graduates of the Honors College have made an extraordinary impact on the world and their communities through their service. In our 60th year, we want to capture just how much and what kind of an impact our students and alumni are making.

Please visit honorscollege.msu.edu/60 and fill out the Race to 60 Service Projects form.

HONORS

DEDICATED TO RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS, STAFF AND ALUMNI OVER THE PAST YEAR.

Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas

Theresa Abalo, Arhin Acheampong and Sarah Tresedder received the Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas. Abalo's project focused on addressing food sustainability in Malawi. In Ghana, Acheampong's project provided free vision screenings for 1,500 children, additionally Tresedder installed a clean drinking water system for a school.



Sarah Tresedder



Theresa Abalo with Honors College Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore



Arhin Acheampong

Matthew Bambach ('11) created an app called Worry Quest, which allows people to discover solutions to their mental-health challenges.



Matthew Bambach

Sally Jo Behrenwald ('05) competed on Jeopardy.

Daniel Bergeson ('78) was featured in *Best Lawyers* for the specialties of intellectual property law, commercial litigation, and corporate law.

Academic All-Big Ten Honors

Earning Academic All-Big Ten Honors for winter and spring season sports were student-athletes: Sierra Bailey, Lexi Baylis, David Bondra, Lauren Chorny, Aslina Chua, Katelyn Daniels, Kara Dean, Brook Edgar, Lea Foerster, Adeline Grier-Welch, Melissa Gutwein, Monica Hessler, Joe Johnson, Max Knoblock, McKenzie Long, Nicole Marek, Kathleen Noblet, Maya Regalado, Mitch Rogaliner, Clark Ruiz, Joe Szczupakiewicz, Michael Sharp, Mitch Strahlman, Heidi Surdyk, Shanin Thomas, Rebecca Uebele, Colby Wollenman and Kristina Zalewski.

Clint Dobrinski worked on enterprise social media through a National Science Foundation grant in the MSU Department of Communication. He's been accepted into the linked bachelor's-master's communication program at MSU.



Peter Burroughs was selected as a TEDxMSU speaker for 2016. He discussed how to create a video game and how to apply the lessons of design and development into everyday life.

Big Ten Postgraduate Scholarships

Maggie Halloran ('16) and Colby Wollenman ('16) were awarded Big Ten Postgraduate Scholarships. Halloran was a volleyball student-athlete and Wollenman was a men's basketball student-athlete. Both are now at Vanderbilt University pursuing advanced degrees.

USAID Fellowship

Jolisa Brooks ('15) was awarded a USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship.



Tonya Frisbey



Kristen McGrath

The Honors College hired Tonya Frisbey and Kristen McGrath this year. Frisbey is director of development for the college and was previously at the American

Red Cross. McGrath is the new alumni relations coordinator after previously working for the American Cancer Society.

Michael Grebner ('72) retired from his position as medical director of Assurant Health in March.

Evan Fowler-Guzzardo ('08) was promoted to senior human resources partner at Aetna.

2016 Homecoming Court

The 2016 MSU Homecoming Court included Honors College students Claire Bratzel, Ellen Hicks, Alexa Ruestman and Julianne Streukens.



G200 Youth Forum

Arhin Acheampong, Teresa Azzam, Louise Steele and Sarah Tresedder were selected as part of the MSU delegation for the G200 Youth Forum – one of the largest international events organized for young leaders from all across the world.

HONORS



University Undergraduate Research & Arts Forum (UURAF) awards

Sixty seven students were awarded first place at the University Undergraduate Research & Arts Forum (UURAF) held in April: Dominic Aluia, Amar Amin, Julie Andary, Abigail Andrejek, Sal Antonucci, Leah Auchter, Christopher Bailey, Sierra Baker, Hannah Batchelor, Michael Bigelow, Harbir Brar, Logan Brissette, Courtney Callahan, Madeline Carino, Garrett Chamberlain, Jill Check, James Chen, Sahithi Chinnam, Kelsey Cross, Linh Dao, Krista De Cooke, Bethany Dickerson, Bradley Doherty, Ryan Duda, Lauren Fish, Kiera Fisher, Jacob Frazier, Chris Frey, Tim Giessner, Amanda Godar, Lindsay Hannah, Johnathan Harrison, Laura Hesse, Marissa Jacks, Andrew Jurasek, Meg Kargul, Amanda Kilgore, Jacob Kitzkin, Sarah Kramer, Linda Lay, Brandon Llewellyn, Elizabeth Lytle, Steven Maier, Abigail Maynard, Ben Miller, Kaitlin Morain, Lindsay Nault, Taylor Norris, Katie Nurenberg, Kelsey Pagorek, Trusha Patel, Kelly Patterson, Matthew Peters, Kasey Pham, Erin Prim, Joshua Schnell, Cody Schulz, Kylie Smith, Max Spampinato, Andrew Stamm, Matthew Suandi, Rachel Sullivan, Julianne Streukens, Branton Toback, Kelly Valentini, Alexander Wolf and Ryan Wujcik.



William Yakah at the CGI annual meeting

Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) annual meeting

Roberta Dankyi, Eamon Devlin, Haley Fulco, Bethany Kogut, Lindsay Mensch and William Yakah attended the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) annual meeting in California. Former President Bill Clinton launched the CGI U to engage a growing network of young leaders who are developing innovative solutions to pressing world challenges.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Advancing Inclusion through Research Award

Ewurama Dankah, Lindsay Dean, Brittany Ladson, and Kairsten Nitsch earned the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advancing Inclusion through Research Award. The award builds the body of work authored by students that supports the ideals of inclusive excellence through topics of inclusion, diversity, and marginalized populations. This year's competition encompassed the themes from the university's Project 60/50.

MSU Office of Study Abroad essay contest



Jackie Guzman won second place in the MSU Office of Study Abroad essay contest for her essay titled, "Thinking Green." Guzman traveled to Costa Rica for a Residential College in the Arts and Humanities program, supported by the Honors College's Mowbray Scholarship.

Celestina Hurst ('16) was named a MillerCoors National Scholar, receiving a scholarship to attend a national leadership conference through the ¡Adelante! U.S. Education Leadership Fund.

Associate Professorship

Laurel Kuxhaus ('01) earned tenure and was promoted to associate professor of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York.

Business success

Nate Hargess ('04) is the 2016 recipient of the Rising Star Award from the Association of Media & Entertainment Counsel (AMEC). Hargess is an attorney for Viacom Media Networks.

Patrick Harrington ('05) founded Paysa, a company that uses data about jobs and salaries to help people make career decisions.



Nate Hargess



Alexa Ruestman was elected president of Delta Gamma at MSU.

HONORS

Editor-in-Chief of *Honors in Higher Education*

Honors College Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore became Editor-in-Chief of *Honors in Higher Education*, the journal of HERU: Honors Education at Research Universities. She also served on the site selection committee for the 2017 HERU conference. Jackson-Elmoore served on the peer-review committees for three educational institutions as part of the accreditation process for the Higher Learning Commission. She presented research on the information sources used by state legislators in the United States at several political science conferences. She also served as a roundtable facilitator for the American Conference of Academic Deans' Fifth Annual Dean's Institute; and presented at the Utrecht Honours Conference.

School of Education dean retires

Alan Lesgold ('67) stepped down as dean of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education after 16 years in that role. He continues to serve as a professor at the university. He and his wife Sharon Lesgold ('67) enjoy living in Pittsburgh.



Wall Street Journal honors law professor



Doug Laycock ('70) was ranked by the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the most influential law professors in the country. He is the Robert E. Scott Distinguished Professor of Law and Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. He also serves on the MSU College of Law Board of Trustees.

MEDLIFE trip to Ecuador

Brittany Ladson participated in a MEDLIFE trip to Ecuador. The group created mobile medical clinics for the sick and injured in rural Esmeraldas.

Council on Undergraduate Research presentation

Justin Micomonaco, director of assessment and research for the Honors College, presented at the Council on Undergraduate Research's Biennial Conference in Tampa, Florida.

Book on leadership skills, strategy and style published

Jane Moyer ('78) released a book, *Leaders Lab: 66 Ways to Develop Your Leadership Skill, Strategy, and Style* in June.

Presentation at MIACADA



Honors College academic specialist/adviser Andrew Murray presented "Screencasting as an Advising Teaching Tool" at the Michigan Academic Advising Association (MIACADA) annual state conference, held on May 20 at Ferris State University in Big Rapids.

Also of note

Abigail Newton took first place at the 2016 National Collegiate Sales Competition (NCSC). Newton competed against 137 fellow students representing 67 universities.

Bailey Paxton started his own medical device company.

Steve Price ('16), together with a team of 18 builders, set a world record for a circle field and an American record for total toppled dominoes.

Robert (Bob) Rietz ('70) was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Actuaries.

Chris Ryan was the juried winner in the first-ever Freep Film Festival Student Documentary Competition for his film, "Gay from Gaylord."

Amanda Ritter, an academic specialist/adviser for the Honors College, helped lead a Freshman Seminar Abroad in Iceland over the summer.

Patricia Stokes ('64), a professor of psychology at Barnard College has published a new book, *Creativity From Constraints in The Performing Arts.*



Tina Stokes retired June 29 from the Honors College after 37 years of service at MSU.

Mitchell Strahlman earned a supply chain management internship with GE Aviation.

Brittney Urich co-created an app called "Conecter," which is the only college-specific mobile application that creates a safe, platonic, on-the-go place for students to meet.

Cheryl Walsh ('85) published a short story "Mount Quandary" in the issue of *The MacGuffin* released in January.



Board of Trustees highest scholastic average awards

Thirty six of the 50 students who were recognized with Board of Trustees' Awards for having the highest scholastic average at the close of their last semester in attendance at Michigan State University were Honors College students: Phillip Baeza, Trenton Bradley, Matthew Charles, Nadia Chupka, Andrea Cohn, Elizabeth DeVeaux, Nicholas Durak, Jacob Gibson, Rachel Griffin, Margaret Halloran, Maxwell Harder, Benedict Hilado, Christine Isaguirre, Diana Jasser, Joseph Johnson, Hannah Laur, Erica Melkonian, Kelly Mortensen, Connor Moul, Ervin Novas Nunez, Chelsea Nowlin, Megan O'Donovan, Emily Oja, Tessa Opalka, Alexander Pouba, Nolan Reichkitzer, Kate Rentschler, Mackenzie Robson, Aaron Schroeder, Andrew Slatin, Lauren Straley, Bowen Tan, Timothy Taviano, Jacqueline Thelen, Chuqiao Xu and Garret Zuk.



No debating it: MSU's Repko is one of college's longest serving debate coaches

Will Repko is entering his 20th season as head coach for the Michigan State University Debate Program, which has earned the title of national champion three times.

Q: Tell us a little bit about your background and what you were doing before you came to MSU.

A: Before the MSU coaching offer came along, I was coaching and teaching debate in high school (in East Lansing). I also was spending my summer working at debate camps at the University of Michigan and at MSU. My enthusiasm towards the activity was growing and I found myself excited by the prospect of making debate a more central portion of my workload.

Q: What initially drew you to debate?

A: Like many high school kids, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my time. So, I followed the inertia of my older sister - who had debated quite successfully in high school. I was not as naturally gifted at it, but I enjoyed the research and was excited to learn about the "issues of the day".

Q: What initially drew you to MSU?

A: In terms of MSU, I had an affiliation with the Spartan Debate Camp - so the bridge was natural... and I adored East Lansing (still do). It was a pretty easy choice.

Q: What is it like to be someone's coach? Any moments that stand out in particular?

A: To be someone's coach is to inherit a certain responsibility. The students that opt to do this in college often have been debating for seven plus years. It may be odd to some, but in this activity they have found their home...and they've grown to be quite invested. You have to be responsible for helping them actualize their goals and manage their expectations. You also have to balance all of this with an eye in keeping this a healthy and educational activity. No single relationship stands out. I will say that it wasn't until I made the invite list for my wedding that I realized how close I had grown to peers and alumni.

Q: Is 20 years as a debate coach for the same school fairly common, or is this unique?

A: Twenty years at the same school is fairly rare. I continue to feel that I belong to something - both on the team and within the Honors College. When you have that, leaving becomes less of a temptation.

Q: How has the debate team/program evolved over the past 20 years?

A: The team wasn't a formal "team" when this all got started. (Then) Provost Lou Anna Simon made a decision to turn the student-run "debate club" into a traveling team. This made everything more stable and allowed the Honors College to hire some staff.

Q: What are your future goals for the team/program?

A: When I was younger, my goals may have been too singular - to win. As I've grown older, the programmatic goals have broadened and that's healthy. We have an enormous debate camp - students from all 50 states and four countries have attended. We are reaching more students - both on the high school circuit and on our campus. That allows us to more powerfully contribute to community research and topic formation. It's all wonderful. Oh, and I still really like to win.



Debate Recap

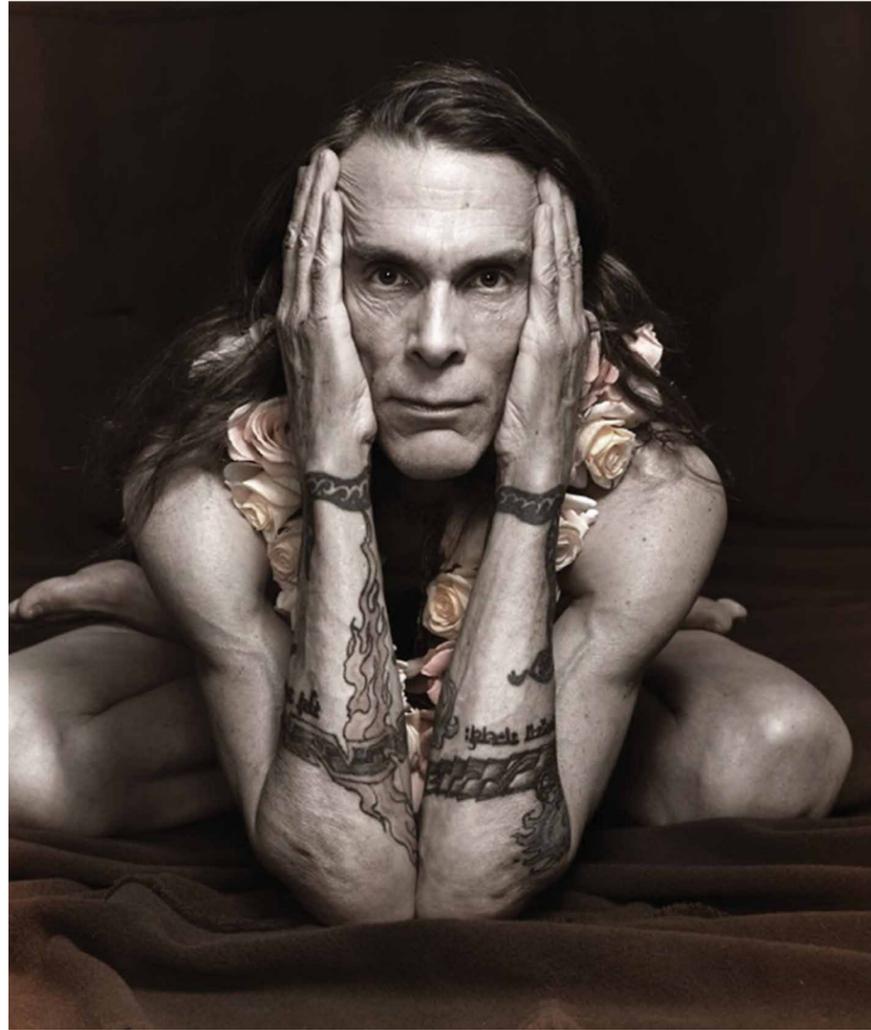
National Debate Tournament

The debate team capped off a successful competitive year with a 4th overall season-long ranking, as voted by a national panel of college debate coaches, and entered the National Debate Tournament as one of the favorites. The team of Tyler Thur and Margaret Strong finished in the Final Four of the tournament, defeating Emory University, Liberty University, and the University of Kentucky to advance to the semifinals of the tournament before losing on a 3-2 decision to the eventual national champions from Harvard University. This was the best finish for MSU at the college national championship since winning the tournament in 2010. Thur graduated from Honors College with a degree in international relations from James Madison College in May 2016.

Spartan Debate Institute

The summer of 2016 was the 25th anniversary of the Spartan Debate Institute, having run continuously since 1992. Over the last quarter century, it has served thousands of students, transforming from a two-week program for local students into one of the largest summer debate camps in the nation, with programs that run for 2-7 weeks of residential learning.

David Life: An artful approach to living



David Life (also known as David Kirkpatrick), a 1972 alumnus of the Honors College, is co-founder of Jivamukti Yoga in New York City. What follows are some of his answers to questions about his life and advice he has for students and recent alumni.

What I currently do: Yoga practices... we also teach Jivamukti yoga classes, workshops, retreats and trainings all over the world. This year we will offer month-long trainings in three countries, and workshops and classes in dozens of other locations including many Jivamukti Yoga Centers and Affiliated Centers worldwide. We have published books on yoga, vegetarianism, political and environmental activism, and continue with other writing projects. We also maintain a wild animal refuge in the Catskills, near New York City, and administrate several small corporations.

How my major helped with my success: Majoring in art was my umbrella, but thanks to Honors College, I was able to design a program that included a broad spectrum of related arts and sciences. From that foundation in psychology, philosophy, poetry, anatomy, materials science, design and studio art, my life has unfolded. In New York City, in the 1980s and 90s, our Life Café brought a disparate group of East Village artists, musicians and poets together in what became a movement. Graffiti and performance art were my media. At the same time though, the study of yoga philosophy and practice became my personal and soulful fulfillment. In 2002, we published our book *The Art of Yoga*. Here is a quote from our Introduction:

“Art is experience. The word art also encompasses the techniques and tools used by the artist to evoke an experience. But art is much more than technique. Art is also a way of life and a way of looking at things – or a philosophy. The word yoga is used in somewhat the same way. It refers to an ineffable goal and the tools and techniques used to attain it. We say we are going to ‘make art’ in much the same way that we say we are going to ‘do Yoga.’”

You could call it an “artful” approach to living. This artful approach to life includes a deep appreciation for signs and symbols; the field of intention; and the alchemy of mood and moment. Learning the “art of living” taught me that good art does not fill any moment with “things,” but rather, with significance.

Why/How I came to MSU: I grew up in Eaton Rapids, a small town near East Lansing. MSU was always my ideal. Ushering at the Spartan football games was a regular fall highlight for me as a young boy scout. My early educational experience had been unchallenging and the multiversity of MSU offered the kind of potential for growth that attracted me.

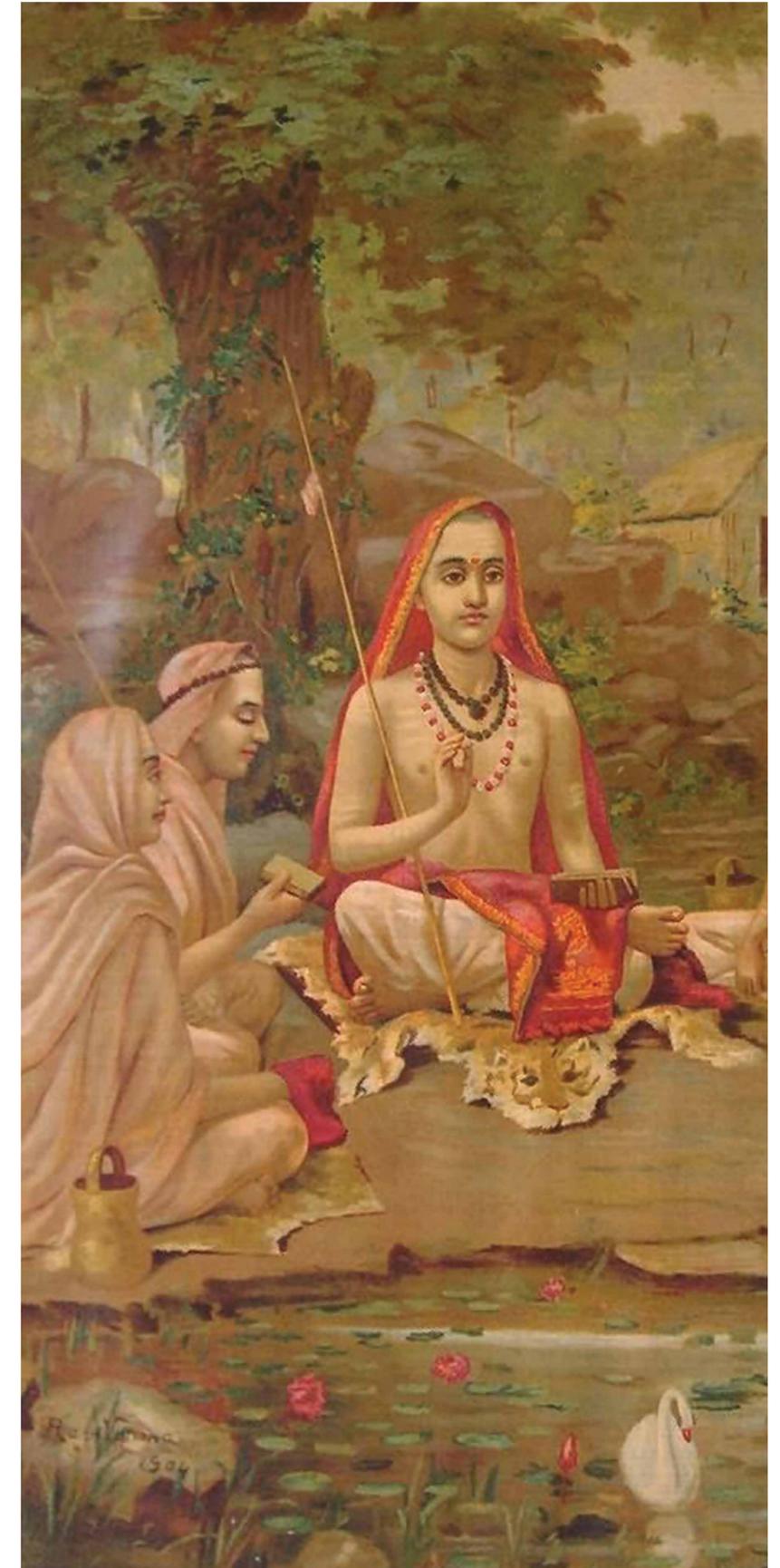
What students should be prepared for: Your education should be visionary, magical, thorough, diverse, empowering, and most importantly - reflect your heart's desire at its core. We live in a world that is constantly changing. How do you prepare yourself to thrive in an atmosphere of change? You must become rooted in the changeless realm through meditation. Develop insight and receptiveness to the subtle indicators of the true nature of any moment in time. Then you become a shape-shifter, an improviser, with the grounding that will allow you to reinvent and renew yourself and your path with ease. You should be prepared to serve others and graduate from self-obsession. The sure path to happiness is to make others happy.

What should a current student take advantage of while at MSU: First: Perfect your studentship. Become like a sponge and take every opportunity to absorb the light of knowledge. Find teachers that you benefit from, and become their student. Second: Explore the limits of possibility. Our true potential is always more than we think or believe. Your time in university should be a fertile ground for growing into infinite possibilities. If adulthood means that growth stops, then you should remain as a child.

How I came to do what I'm currently doing: It seems to me that any life is the sum total of experiences and actions. The person that each of us becomes is the direct result of the karmas, or actions, that we undertake in our life now and in previous lives. What any of us becomes is a direct result of everything that we have done. If any aspect of our lives were changed – it would all look different. What I do is not a different field than my major. All action takes place in the field of time and space, and where we end up is always relative.

My advice to students: Be kind and do what you can to relieve the suffering of others. Go vegan. Live sustainably and artfully.

My advice to new graduates: Be kind and do what you can to relieve the suffering of others. Go vegan. Live sustainably and artfully.





Tiny house tenacity

Alumna Tiffany Pupa took her dream of building a tiny house and made it a reality thanks to more than 150 students, faculty, family members, and even a couple dogs.



Tiffany Pupa was going on break at about 3 a.m. She turned around to the tent she just left to see the dark of the night around her. The glow from the large white tent was spectacular in its contrast to the dark – but more spectacular to Pupa was seeing the shadows cast against the tent of the pack of volunteers she had with her at this insane hour of the day.

What were they doing?

For several weeks, the group of more than 150 students, faculty, their family members, and even some of their pets had assembled at the MSU Recycling Center to build the university's first tiny house.

“Sparty’s Cabin” is the house’s name and the brainchild of Pupa, who graduated in May 2016 from the Honors College with a degree in interior design from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Coming in at 177 square feet, the tiny house features an upstairs sleeping loft, modern kitchen and a composting toilet.

“You don’t have many places to hide things,” Pupa said. “So that brings up conversations about minimalism and living with less. You have to be conscientious of what you are bringing in the house and what you are taking

out. The idea is that the students will be able to learn about alternative living.”

The tiny house made its debut on Earth Day, on April 22, with a ceremony at the Breslin Center. Since then, it has lived at the Recycling Center or been brought out to Spartan Stadium during the fall for home football games. Beyond its educational use, the tiny house is being auctioned off and the proceeds will go toward more student sustainability projects and charities that help with housing for low-income residents.

As president of the MSU’s student organization affiliated with the U.S. Green Building Council, Pupa had attended a conference where she first heard about the rising interest in tiny homes. Knowing the power of the four majors in the School of Planning, Design and Construction, Pupa thought it was a natural fit for MSU students to try their hand at building one.

Planning began in the summer of 2015. Pupa led a team that built a movement of volunteers, made its way through all the various administrative requirements necessary to build a house on campus and gathered donations from local businesses.

“We got to interact with many people throughout this community of Greater

Lansing,” Pupa said. “I learned a lot about project management skills. I’ve gotten to lead a team...lead a real world project and bring it to life.”

While momentum for the project grew, a natural disaster threatened to destroy everything Pupa and her team had built thus far – a fire broke out in the Recycling Center.

“There were a couple of days we had no idea if the house was even standing,” she said.

While some materials were destroyed, the house overall was okay, Pupa said. The team decided to move it outdoors – under the large white tent – for safe keeping.

Pupa gazed at that illuminated tent during the all-nighter the team pulled and thought about how exciting and humbling the experience had been.

“This is really amazing so many people are here right now because they believe in this project and they want to be a part of it with me,” she said.

For more information about the tiny house and to view the auction, visit canr.msu.edu/spartyscabin

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Honors College

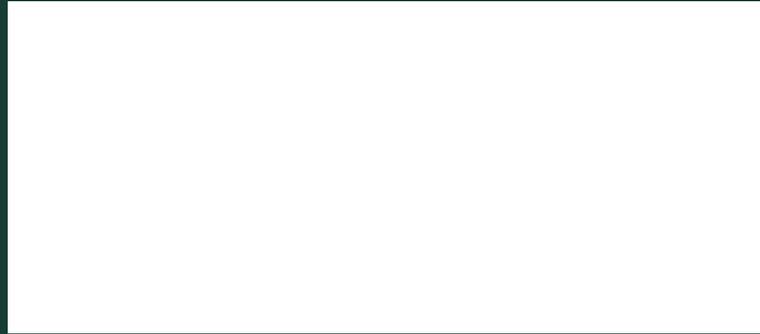
Eustace-Cole Hall
468 E. Circle Drive, Room 105
East Lansing, MI 48824

- Change my name and/or address as indicated.
- I received a duplicate copy.
- Remove my name from your mailing list.

Please check the appropriate box and return this page to the address at left.

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



“ Harnessing the energy, potential and intellectual prowess of the many talented individuals who are a part of the college is no small feat; it is however worth it every single day because we recognize the value and strength of honors education. ”

– Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, PhD,
Dean and Professor, Honors College

Learn more about our efforts to empower extraordinary Honors College students at : givingto.msu.edu/unit/honors-college.cfm