



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE | 2017

HConnections

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Honors College

SIXTY YEARS

LETTER FROM **THE DEAN**



Over the past year, the Honors College has celebrated its 60th Anniversary. I have been fortunate to recognize the anniversary alongside our students, alumni, faculty and staff, all of whom play a role in making the Honors College what it is today and what it will be tomorrow.

In this edition of the magazine, you will see a recap of some of our signature anniversary events in East Lansing and across the country. Our main goal of the anniversary was to provide life-long learning opportunities, so you will see that many of our events were academic in nature or location.

In July of this year, I also marked my 10th year serving as dean of the Honors College. I was asked to write a reflection, which you'll see further into the magazine.

Additionally in this magazine you will see photos from the college's first-ever week of service, HC IMPACT. Twenty-five incoming Honors College students, mentored by our staff and five current Honors College students, came to campus a week before fall classes started to participate in service projects across the greater Lansing community. The students enjoyed the experience and many have continued to serve the community while they took fall semester classes.

Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore

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

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The Honors College celebrated its 60th Anniversary from October 2016-November 2017. Life-long learning was built into every anniversary event. In addition to events held in East Lansing on MSU's campus, regional events were hosted in Chicago, Seattle, Washington D.C., Grand Rapids and Detroit. More information about the anniversary is available at honorscollege.msu.edu/60.

CHICAGO

An Honors College regional anniversary event was held at The Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois on November 16, 2016. Approximately 60 alumni and guests participated in the anniversary program, which featured a private viewing of the Cyrus Tang Hall of China.



JUVENILE ADVOCATE

Bruce Bonecutter ('71) arrives at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center every day to check to see which of the 300 youth at the facility are facing a crisis.

“As the kids tell me, I try to hustle resources for them.”

Bonecutter's official title is director of psychological services for the Isaac Ray Center, located inside the detention facility. He and his staff help “smart kids who have been hurt horribly,” as Bonecutter puts it.

“Hurt people end up hurting other people,” he said.

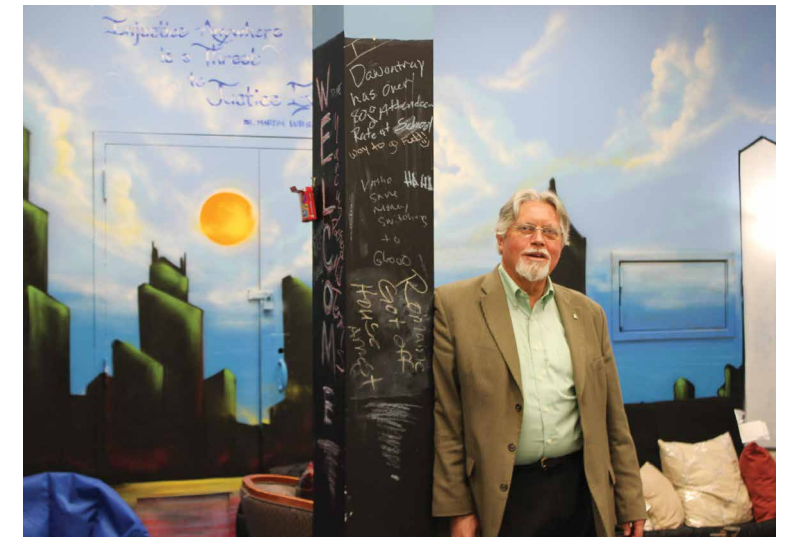
About one-third of the juveniles in the detention center have been locked up for minor crimes, such as stealing food or diapers or selling drugs to, in part, put money into the family budget to help their family. Another one-third face heavier charges related to drugs or violence and another one-third face charges that will send them to prison as an adult if convicted.

“I've always been around public health and adolescents,” Bonecutter said. “It feels good to do good for people in need and double check that what you are doing is from the people. It is vital to listen to those you are seeking to help.”

Advocacy comes naturally to Bonecutter.

While he was a farm kid from Michigan, Bonecutter's parents made sure he was taught about discrimination and how Jim Crow laws of that era affected people of color.

When he came to Michigan State University, he participated in Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship and Students for a Democratic Society.



One of the greatest parts about MSU is its diversity, Bonecutter said, adding he looked for experiences that put him out of his comfort zone.

“Try to listen to the diversity,” he said is his advice to Honors College students.

After graduating from MSU with dual degrees in anthropology and psychology, Bonecutter earned a doctorate in clinical and community psychology from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

He worked for 10 years as chief of psychology at Cook County Hospital, and for 25 years in other public health psychology positions, before transitioning to his work at the juvenile detention center.

In addition, Bonecutter is on the board of the Lawndale Christian Legal Center. The center provides classroom and gymnasium space, after-school tutoring, case managers, a jobs program and legal services to approximately 1,000 youth in the Lawndale neighborhood.

SPIRITUAL LEADER

The second Honors College regional anniversary event was held at Chihuly Garden and Glass in Seattle, Washington on January 19, 2017. Approximately 40 alumni and guests participated in the anniversary program, which featured a tour and glass blowing demonstration.



As a student at Michigan State University, Dana Benson ('10) performed in several theater productions, but one role stood out.

She played a character based on a real-life person living in the Lansing area. This person identified as queer and was raised by a father who was a rabbi and a mother who was helping to desegregate the school system while battling an illness.

Benson was in the middle of re-connecting with her Judaism at the time. In addition to acting, she was participating in social justice programs, serving as a resident assistant and taking the students on her floor to MSU Hillel programs.

As she performed one night, the parents of the character she was playing were in the audience looking on.

“For me that was one of those moments where school and life and theater...everything transcended for a moment,” she said.

After graduating from MSU with a degree in communications, Benson decided to pursue her rabbinic ordination.

“I realized I kind of wanted to be a role model to students and younger individuals who didn’t have the rabbi or the leader to kind of show them what it looked like to be a queer religious individual,” she said. “I wanted to figure out what it looked like to be a different kind of rabbi.”

She attended the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio and spent a year in Israel as part of her education.

After ordination, Benson returned to MSU and worked as a senior Jewish educator for MSU Hillel. She currently serves as rabbi and assistant director of Hillel at the University of Washington in Seattle.



Benson said she continues to learn every day, something she picked up as a student in the Honors College.

Her advice to current Honors College students is “learn things that are going to nourish you.”

“College isn’t just about what you’re actually gaining from the classes — it’s who you are building relationships with and how you are understanding, how you learn and how you grow. For me, having those small intimate class sizes through the Honors College was invaluable,” she said.

ECLECTIC ACTUARY

The Honors College held a regional anniversary event at President Lincoln's Cottage in Washington, D.C. on March 21, 2017. Approximately 60 alumni and guests participated in the anniversary program, which featured a tour of the home.



A stamp of Justin S. Morrill's image hanging in a congressional hearing room was a recent reminder of Chris Bone's ('79) time at Michigan State University.

Walking through the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden, singing with friends in the Music Practice Building, studying English literature and earning a degree in mathematics were some of the experiences he reflected on during an interview at his office in Washington, D.C.

A high school student from Washington state who came to MSU as an Alumni Distinguished Scholar, Bone quickly found friends who also were from outside the state of Michigan.

"The different opportunities to explore areas of study appeared to me as a banquet; I think I took 21 credits my first term," he said. "I even talked my way into a senior level seminar on the Rise of the Novel. (The professor) was pretty skeptical, but because of the Honors College background, he was willing to give me a chance."

Bone said after the seminar was complete, he worked on an independent study with the same professor.

The ability to sample coursework across a variety of fields is something Bone enjoyed – and something he encourages other Honors College students to try.

"The opportunity to take an eclectic course of study, sampling from many fields, I think is one of the things the Honors College gave me," he said. "I loved my time at Michigan State."

For much of his professional career, Bone has worked as an actuary, most recently as director of the Policy, Research and Analytical Department for the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. In that role, he supervised a team running a model of the U.S. private sector pension system, which covers 40 million people.



As someone who has focused much of his career on retirement policy, Bone is concerned about the ability of the country to succeed in keeping retirement promises to the Baby Boomers and later generations. He left his federal post in September 2017 and is exploring new opportunities in the political sphere.

Bone said being an actuary is the type of work that engages a person in "flow" and he's enjoyed it. Prior to his post in the federal government, Bone worked for AT&T and Aon Consulting, running its U.S. retirement practice.

He also has served as a member of several boards, including a post as president of the board for Early Music America. Bone has a collection of shawms – the predecessor to the oboe – as well as other instruments.

"Playing polyphonic music very much focuses the mind," he said.

He has also served on a number of non-profit boards that focus on retirement and outcomes.

ANIMAL AFICIONADO

The Honors College held a regional anniversary event at the John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids, Michigan on July 11, 2017. Approximately 50 alumni and guests participated in the anniversary program, which featured an informational demonstration by a zookeeper.



As a child, the John Ball Zoo was one of Jaime Racalla's ('10) favorite places.

She volunteered there as a teenager.

Then as a student at Michigan State University, she pursued a degree in zoology from Lyman Briggs College. During summer breaks, Racalla, a Grand Rapids-native, worked for the zoo and eventually became an intern the summer after she graduated with her degree.

Then a serendipitous moment occurred.

The zoo was going through its re-accreditation and was required to hire an additional full-time zookeeper to meet safety standards. Racalla was picked for the post.

Racalla says no two days are ever the same working at the zoo.

"That's what I love so much about it," she said.

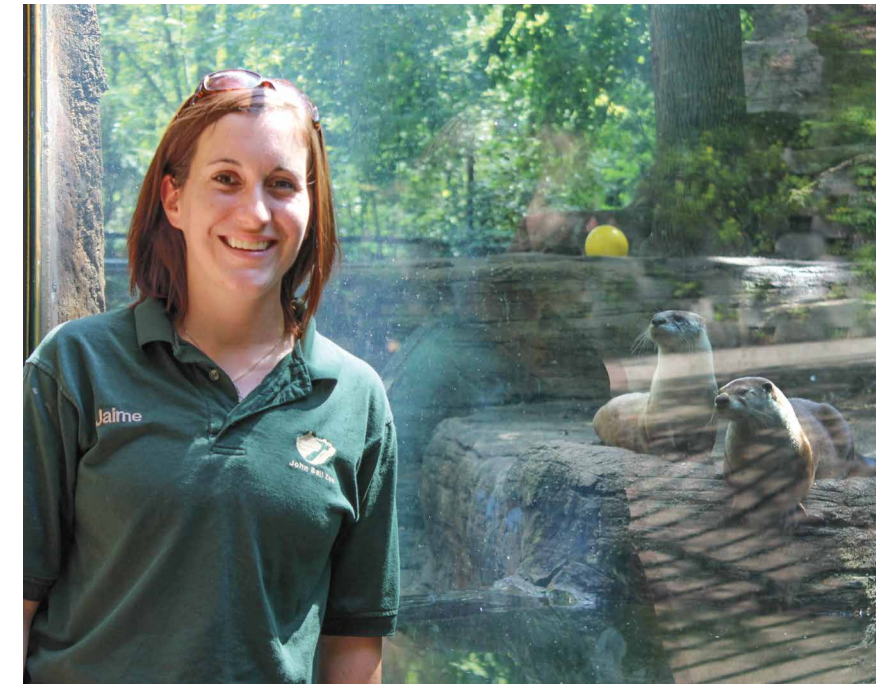
During her first year at the zoo, Racalla was nicknamed "mamma flamingo" as she raised a new flock of the wading bird.

Birds continue to be one of her favorite with which to work, but as head trainer of the otters, her loyalty has shifted in their direction.

In her role as animal care supervisor, Racalla says she works on everything from prepping habitats, administering medication, feeding the animals, conducting animal training and enrichment programming.

The team she oversees is responsible for lions, tigers, animals in the aquarium, and all North American species.

Racalla said the exposure to science classes, and being able as an Honors College student to take more science-oriented classes to meet her general education requirements, set her up for success in her career.



"I think my favorite part was just the freedom (to choose classes)."

During her time at MSU, Racalla worked as a teaching assistant and was a member of the Zoological Student Association.

A flautist by training, Racalla said she couldn't be in the Spartan Marching Band, but enjoyed the band through her now-husband Mark, who was a member of the drumline.

"That sense of community is mostly what I got out of being a Spartan," she said.

ALL-PURPOSE ARTIST

The last Honors College regional anniversary event was held at the Detroit Institute of Arts in Detroit, Michigan on July 27, 2017. Approximately 140 alumni and guests participated in the anniversary program, which featured a private viewing of the Ancient Middle East, Romanesque and Egyptian exhibits.



As a child, Cleveland Thrasher ('09) liked to visit his godfather, John Smith, who at the time was a designer for General Motors. Thrasher often would play around with the design software on Smith's home office computer.

"I was always kind of a self-learner," Thrasher said, remembering how he would go through his older sister's math books and work on the problems.

As a senior in high school, Thrasher decided to attend Michigan State University and study electrical engineering – the same path of study his oldest sister, Jeneace, had taken. But that only lasted a semester.

"Art was kind of calling towards me," he said.

After consulting with an adviser, Thrasher switched his major to telecommunication, information studies and media and never looked back. Karl Gude, now director of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences Media Sandbox, taught him how to use the pen tool in Adobe Illustrator and from there, Thrasher started creating different digital designs by hand.

As a student in the Honors College, Thrasher was able to branch out and take classes that also peaked his interest in audio production, philosophy and entomology. Those Honors experiences helped him become a "deep generalist."

"It's helped to mix the pot of my ideas," he said.

Thrasher started his own design company before graduating from MSU, creating designs and mix tape covers for Sony artists, including Sean Kingston and Mike Posner.

Eventually, he started working for a marketing company, DigitasLBI, and became its senior art director.



Now he is associate creative director for Weber Shandwick, a public relations firm for General Motors with offices in the Renaissance Center.

"When I come into a place like advertising, which is basically where you are being paid to be creative, all those different inputs that kind of came into my life through education and through Honors College definitely come out," he said.

Thrasher recently worked on a new video for the launch of the 2018 Chevy Traverse and also worked on the website for the Buick Regal at his prior job. Having some engineering background helps in his work for the automotive industry, he said.

"I think to be a Spartan is to always be learning. The Honors College is a great place to keep that fire going."

EAST LANSING

The Honors College held several events throughout the anniversary celebration, including a November 16, 2017 finale at the Huntington Club in Spartan Stadium where approximately 150 university administrators, alumni and guests attended. Current Honors College students who serve as Dean’s Ambassadors showcased their research, creative projects, study abroad and service as part of the finale program.



SHARPER FOCUS/WIDER LENS



The Honors College’s faculty speaker series covered a variety of topics during the anniversary celebration, including: “Looking at Flint: The Past, Present and Future of the City”; “A World On The Move: Refugees, Migrants and Immigrants”; “Transforming the World: The Power of Imagination”; “Water Wars: Our H2O Futures”; and “Being Russia: The Past, Present and Future of a Superpower.” All events were held at the MSU Union and livestreamed through the MSU Alumni Association. Videos and podcasts are available on the Honors College website.

HONORS COLLEGE ART CONTEST



In January 2017, Honors College students were encouraged to submit their original artwork for an inaugural contest. The winning pieces were selected by a committee of faculty, staff, and students and are now displayed in Eustace-Cole Hall. Student winners from left to right were: Tabitha Rose, Rachel McKenzie, Rachel Emerick, Annette Kim and Annie Brandicourt. All five students are majoring in neuroscience, food science, mechanical engineering or social work, respectively.

HONORS COLLEGE GIVING BACK COMPETITION AND COLLOQUIUM



In March, 2017, Honors College students were invited to submit a video or other multi-media presentation that told the story of their community engagement. Finalists presented at the inaugural Honors Giving Back Competition and Colloquium. Neuroscience senior Gobi Bah was the grand prize recipient for his presentation “Restore International.” This event was sponsored with the Dean’s Choice Grant from the MSU Federal Credit Union and planned in partnership with the MSU Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement.

PUBLIC DEBATE: BULK DATA COLLECTION



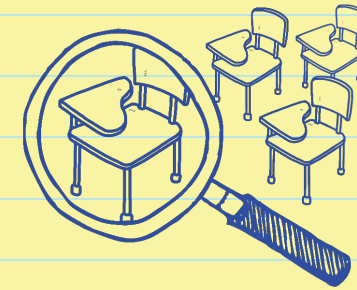
In September 2017, the MSU Debate Team hosted a public debate for the Honors College 60th Anniversary in the MSU Union on the topic of U.S. bulk data collection policies. Students debated whether the United States should continue its current policies or whether they should cease. The event was also livestreamed through the MSU Alumni Association.

10 THINGS WE

Statement of Values: Members of the Honors College community at Michigan State University value integrity, critical thought, and collaboration. We approach learning with an openness and inclusivity that encourages consideration of diverse perspectives. We aspire to excellence - challenging ourselves and crossing boundaries of disciplines, communities, and cultures as we innovate for tomorrow.

ABOUT HC

6. History of winning national and international fellowships and scholarships (like the Rhodes Scholarship)

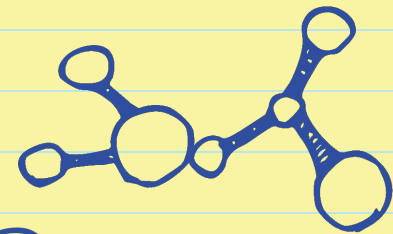


7. More opportunities to interact with MSU faculty through smaller classes or research

1. 60 Years: One of the nation's oldest, most distinctive and extensive honors programs



8. Honors College white collar stole worn at graduation

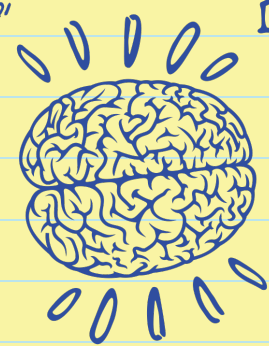


2. Network of nearly 4,000 students and 18,000 alumni



9. Home to the three-time national debate champions!

3. Supports students' thirst for knowledge



10. Variety of student organizations and advisory boards:
Honors College Activities Board, Dean's Advisory Council, MOSAIC, First Year Council, H-STAR (Honors Students Actively Recruiting), Honors College Service Club, Honors X 2, First Generation Honors Association, Inclusive Excellence Strategic Committee, International Scholars Advisory Board



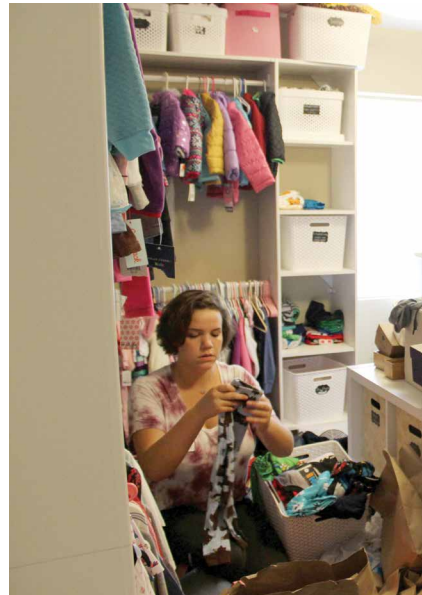
4. Scholarships for research, study abroad, and tuition

5. Early enrollment for courses starting in the second year



HC IMPACT Inaugural Week of Service

August 20-25, 2017



Honors College students volunteered at Haven House, Volunteers of America, Tri-County Office on Aging, Allen Neighborhood Center and Mt. Hope STEAM School



Students were able to significantly extend their service engagement by taking an Honors Freshman Seminar during the fall semester.



MSU faculty and community educators also spoke with the students throughout the week: Professor Patricia Edwards from the College of Education, Professor Ruben Martinez from the Julian Samora Research Institute, Joan Nelson from the Allen Neighborhood Center, Karika Parker from the Michigan Public Health Institute, Michael Roessler from Homeless Angels and Professor Dave Weatherspoon from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



Students participated in a poverty simulation, operating on a fixed income and working together to pay for food, housing, utilities and other necessities.



Students explored inequity in health, education, housing and food



"I loved how we had the opportunity to serve and learn in many different organizations and ways because I got to see so many perspectives."
- Raywa Masti, First-year Honors College student



96%
of HC IMPACT participants said they feel more connected to the greater Lansing community after the week-long service program



Two Mitchell Scholars Chosen from MSU

A 2017 Honors College graduate, Margaret Born, and a 2016 MSU graduate, Joel Arnold, were two of 12 students in the country selected for the Mitchell Scholarship.

The Mitchell Scholarship pays for graduate study in Ireland. Born and Arnold are only the 2nd and 3rd recipients, respectively, from MSU.

Born graduated from the Honors College with degrees in comparative cultures and politics from James Madison College, and Arabic from the College of Arts & Letters.

Arnold graduated with degrees in social relations and policy from James Madison College and urban and regional planning from the College of Social Science.

Born was the founder and president of Project Nur, a student organization devoted to combating Islamophobia through education and cross-cultural interaction. She has also served as caucus chair and leader for inclusion on the James Madison College Student Senate.

"I consider myself impossibly fortunate for this opportunity," Born said. "I believe that understanding conflict requires a holistic approach,

and at Dublin City University I will be able to study the intersection of development, environment, and conflict. I am so grateful to everyone that made this dream a reality."

Arnold grew up in Flint, Michigan and part of his decision for his continued studies was because of the economic collapse of his hometown. Through his roles as blight management analyst and master planning intern for the city of Flint, he came to understand and is committed to helping solve the problems of not only Flint, but also other areas that have fallen on hard times.

"I plan to use the Mitchell to study how communities change and adapt to challenging economic circumstances, and Ireland provides a uniquely enriching environment to study in," Arnold said. "The opportunities that were presented to me as a student at Michigan State helped to sharpen my desire to lead, and I look forward to this opportunity and the potential that it offers."

Honors College graduate earns Hertz Foundation Graduate Fellowship

Rebecca Carlson, a 2017 Honors College graduate, was one of 12 students across the country selected to receive a Hertz Foundation Graduate Fellowship, awarded to students pursuing an advanced degree in the applied physical, biological and engineering sciences.

Carlson earned a degree in chemical engineering from the College of Engineering.

While a student at MSU, she conducted research on and off campus. She worked as a research assistant in Professor S. Patrick Walton's applied bioengineering lab

and was also a student ambassador for the Undergraduate Research Office.

"I know that I could not have received this award without the support of my friends, family, research mentors, and, most importantly, God," Carlson said. "I am honored to receive this award and can't wait to take advantage of the opportunities that are now available to me."

Carlson was a 2015 Goldwater Scholarship recipient, as well as an Evergrande Scholar. The latter gave her the opportunity to assist at Harvard Medical School's Evergrande Center for Immunologic Diseases.



Honors College Junior Earns Beinecke Scholarship



Amber DeJohn, an Honors College junior majoring in political theory and constitutional democracy in James Madison College and economic geography in the College of Social Science, was awarded the Beinecke Scholarship – a nationally competitive award that pays for graduate studies in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

She is MSU's 3rd Beinecke Scholar since 2011, which is when the university was invited to be a nominating institution.

While at MSU, she has conducted research under Professor Bruce Pigozzi regarding the Genesee County's Transport Authority. DeJohn has also held internships with the Michigan Legislature and Michigan Department of Transportation.

"Receiving the Beinecke is beyond anything I could have imagined," DeJohn said. "I want to thank the Spartan professors, staff, and friends who were so encouraging and integral in this process. This scholarship will be instrumental as I continue my education, and I hope the work I do moving forward makes me worthy of this honor."

The National and International Fellowships and Scholarships (NIFS) Office, administered by the Honors College, helps interested undergraduate and graduate students 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.



WEST WING FAN, TEACHER-SCHOLAR EARNS HONORS FACULTY AWARD

For many Honors students majoring in political science, the story begins in PLS 200: Introduction to Political Science.

Associate Professor Ryan Black has taught the course for seven years, and it is often his first encounter with students from the Honors College. While the introductory class is rather large, seating nearly 300 people in Bessey Hall, the Honors section that meets once a week is much smaller.

“One of my favorite hours of the week is getting these students who are really enthusiastic and wickedly smart,” Black said. “Our honors students are among the best students in the country and so it’s a treat to get to work with them.”

During his time at MSU, Black has taught more than 250 Honors students and supervised dozens of Honors theses and Honors Options.

Bridging the gap between research and the classroom is important, Black said, adding that his job as a

professor wouldn’t be as fun if he couldn’t do both.

Black’s research focuses on the judicial branch, including the U.S. Supreme Court. For the past eight years, Honors College professorial assistants have worked alongside him, doing archival and content analysis work, as well as reading court cases and accompanying documents.

Black, who earned the 2017 Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students, is as comfortable quoting the show “The West Wing” during class as he is challenging undergraduate students to take graduate level classes and helping them get into graduate school just a few years later.

“Throughout my academic career, no faculty member has invested more time and effort to further my growth as a student and scholar, nor has had a greater impact on my intellectual advancement, than

Dr. Black,” said Andrew Stone, a 2014 Honors College alumnus who worked with Black on judicial research as a professorial assistant and is now studying at Harvard University. “The fact that Dr. Black allows Honors students to challenge themselves in Ph.D. courses belies his commitment to the academic advancement of his students.”

Stone said the experience led him to his own self-directed research, and eventually applying for graduate school programs in political science. Their encounter and Stone’s trajectory is one Black fondly remembers, and knows is rare. Black himself got his start as an undergraduate honors student at the University of Minnesota.

“I got started with political science and research working alongside a professor,” he said. “It’s fun to see (other students) make that evolution across time.”



Dean Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore: Honors College Dean Reflects on 10 Years at the Helm

Q: When you started as dean in 2007, what were your expectations for the job and the college? How has that changed, if it has, over the past 10 years?

A: I recently looked back at my notes when I started as dean in August 2007. At that time, I envisioned the essence of this deanship involving, among other things:

- Advocating for the Honors College across the university’s colleges and departments, as well as with the broader educational community.
- Advancing diversity and inclusiveness in the student body, curriculum and programming.
- Collaborating with the various colleges and departments, as well as the Office of Admissions and the Office of the Registrar, Residence Education and Housing Services, and other university entities to ensure increasing quality in programmatic thrusts, student representation and student experiences.
- Securing recurring scholarship dollars to recruit and retain the best and brightest students. Similarly, securing funding for programmatic priorities and emerging opportunities.
- Making a broader impact on the university; working with others to leverage the models and successes that have been garnered within the MSU honors experience to create wins for the larger university and surrounding community.

If anything, my expectations of the job responsibilities and their urgency have been solidified over the past 10 years. They remain important components of the work that I do. What is exciting is that the students, alumni, faculty and staff of the Honors College support me in pursuing each of those endeavors: Honors College advocacy, inclusive excellence, collaboration, fundraising, and community impact.

Q: How does your undergraduate Honors experience inform your decisions as dean?

A: I appreciated the opportunity to do research as an undergraduate and having the ability to choose my electives with a great deal of discretion. This was important since the engineering curriculum was so lock step, the honors experience allowed me to explore Shakespeare and logic and the sociology of black experiences in America. Those broadening and disparate experiences helped shape me and helps remind me of the importance of the academic innovation and flexibility that we celebrate at MSU. Perhaps most informative is the role that one particular individual played in my life.

The director of the Honors Program at the University of Delaware was very engaged with the students. He was also our honors chemistry professor, so for those of us in STEM fields this was a particularly unique and important connection. Burnaby Munson took the time to let us know that focusing on academics, even on a Friday evening (before whatever social activities we might be anticipating) was acceptable. I had the opportunity in November 2015 to go back and share with Munson what his leadership meant to me as a student and professional. I even called him upon accepting the appointment of the dean of the MSU Honors College for his advice and words of wisdom.

Many of the fondest memories of my undergraduate experience include my freshman honors housing experience, the intense academic and co-curricular interaction with faculty and classmates, tutoring and teaching assistantships and the ability to participate in faculty research, including a peer-reviewed publication with my faculty supervisor of an original research project.

My goal has always been to instill this same excitement and loyalty in MSU Honors College graduates.

Dean’s Q&A Continued on Page 27



Board of Trustees highest scholastic awards

The following Honors College students received the Board of Trustees' Awards for having the highest scholastic average at the close of their last semester in attendance at MSU: Rachael Acker, Andrew Allmon, Emily Aron, Sydney Barosko, Kristin Brandt, Melissa Bucheli, Miranda Bunker, Nicole Cappello, Rebecca Carlson, James Carlstedt, Rebecca Clancy, Kristyn Crippen, Samuel Decker, Nicole DeLaurence, Eamon Devlin, Timothy Glew, Emily Grobbel, Thomas Grubb, Jeffrey Hall, Erin Hand, Jessica Hengesbach, Danielle Homic, Kaitlyn Horner, Taylor Joseph, Julia Kerwin, Annette Kim, Morgan Kiryakoza, Elissa Klopfer, Jacob Krummrey, David McClendon, Moriah Moore, Michael Morrow, Alana O'Mara, Christina Pastoria, Elise Pearl, Christian Przeslawski, Harrison Quaal, Elana Rasmussen, Rachel Rolinski, Alissa Rowe, Luke Schichtel, Adam Schoonmaker, Brigitte Schwager, Patrick Sedlmayr, Karah Smith, Lindsay Snyder, Milan Spampinato, James Stathakios III, Alina Tamborini, Matthew Vasher, Samantha Ward, John Wenzel IV, John Wondergem and Kristina Zalewski.



Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas

Ayda Alavi created a Women's Safe Space for female refugees from Jordan and Syria and Carly Daiek installed a water filtration system in Belize. These Honors College student projects were funded through the Schoenl Family Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas.

Scholar-Athlete Awards

Alexa Baylis, Katelyn Daniels, Kara Dean, Michelle Dear ('17), Rachel Minarick, Maya Regalado, Mitch Rogaliner, Michael Sharp, Keley Welch and Kristina Zalewski received scholar-athlete awards at the 2017 Spartan Academic Excellence Gala. Garret Zuk ('17) was recipient of the President's Award for having the highest cumulative GPA in the Athletics Department among graduating male seniors.

Additional Awards

Lauren Bernhardt was awarded the Presidential Bronze Service Award for her volunteer work at the Listening Ear Crisis Center. Bernhardt was also awarded the Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Grant for her research in a cognitive psychology lab.

Richard Bryce ('02) was a recipient of the MSU Alumni Association Young Alumni Award.



Erika Trigg Crews

Honors College Academic Advisor/Specialist Erika Trigg Crews was the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding New Advisor Award. Crews presented at the NASPA Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. She also presented at the National Association of Campus Activities Mid-America Regional Conference in Covington, Kentucky.

Research Fellowship

Bethany Dickerson ('17) was awarded the Baggett Fellowship, a one-year post-baccalaureate research fellowship at the University of Maryland, College Park.



Jacob Duckworth was named an outstanding intern by NASA.

Jordan George was selected as a White House intern for the Fall 2017 semester.

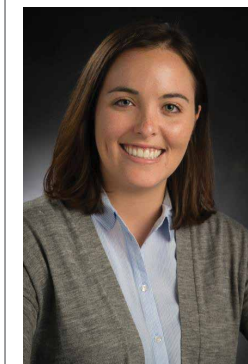
Senior Foreign Service Assignment

Robin Dryfoos Diallo ('82) finished her assignment as public affairs officer in Baghdad, Iraq and moved to Port-au-Prince, Haiti where is currently the chargé d'affaires a.i. and will become the deputy chief of mission. Diallo is a foreign service officer with the Department of State.

Yvette Efevbera ('09) is pursuing her doctorate in public health at Harvard University and spent the month of January collecting data for her research in Guinea, West Africa.

2017 Homecoming Court

Natalie Gotko, Quin Wetzel and Colin White were named members of the 2017-18 MSU Homecoming Court.



HONORS

Honors Education at Research Universities Conference

Bess German, Honors College assistant dean, and Justin Micomonaco, director of assessment and research in the Honors College, presented a session “First Gens in Honors: What Works and What is Next?” at the 2017 Honors Education at Research Universities Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Micomonaco also presented with Graduate Assistant Alex Lishinski on the topic of “Quantifying the Impact of Honors Program Participation on Student Success Outcomes.”

Business Success



David Hanley ('04) was promoted to Senior Director at FTI Consulting.



Nicholas Hill ('74) was awarded a 2017 Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim

Memorial Foundation. Hill is a printmaker and artist-curator. His work has been displayed in the U.S, Germany, Chile, India, France, Denmark, Poland and the Czech Republic.

Urban Politics Section Chair

Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, dean of the Honors College, is serving as the Urban Politics Section Chair on the Program Committee for the 89th Annual Conference of the Southern Political Science Association that will be held in January 2018. Jackson-Elmoore also accepted a nomination by her colleagues in the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Peer Corps for Service as a team chair for accreditation reviews, a position for which she received specialized training.



American Society for Nutrition

Kathryn Kolasa ('70) was named a fellow for the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), which is the highest honor the ASN offers. Kolasa is a professor emeritus in the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and researches the identification and treatment of malnutrition and obesity in adults and children, as well as methods in teaching medical nutritional education.



Harry Potter Book of Essays

Jill Kolongowski ('09) published her first book, a collection of essays titled “Life Lessons Harry Potter Taught Me.” The book analyzes the famous Harry Potter series in relation to themes such as heroism, happiness, racism, power, oppression, love and more.

Undergraduate Research

Brittany Ladson, Lana Gasser, Viktoria Teneqexhi and Karah Smith ('17) presented their research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Memphis, Tennessee in April. Smith was also hired as a manager of the Digital Humanities and Literary Cognition Lab at MSU.

Laura Azouz ('17) and her research team wrote an article that was featured in *Nature Communications*.

Spartan Global Development Fund

Kelsey Blatchford, Nate Caverly and Scott Lyman facilitated a microloan to “As Green as It Gets”, a field partner in Guatemala through the student organization, Spartan Global Development Fund.

National Science Foundation Grant

J. Devin McAuley, honors professor for the Red Cedar Undergraduate Research Journal, received a three-year National Science Foundation Grant in collaboration with MSU Assistant Professor Natalie Phillips.



Featherstone Prize

Bronwen McVeigh was the 2017 recipient of the Richard Lee Featherstone Endowed Prize.

Fountain Challenge

Nicholas Mikelsavage, Caleb Whetstone and Anton Schlegel participated in the MSU Fountain Challenge, a competition in which student teams designed innovative, functional and aesthetically pleasing indoor or outdoor public water fountains that addressed concerns about water quality.

This Is Jeopardy

Tyler Miksanek competed on Jeopardy.

Academic All-American

Rachel Minarick was named a College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) First-Team Academic All-American.



Tower Guard

Sophie Morin was named a 2017-2018 Tower Guard member.

Also of note

Josh Rabinowitz ('06) is the co-founder and CEO of Articulate Labs, which was accepted into the Health Wildcatters medical technology accelerator program.

Working as a professorial assistant to Honors professor Robert LaDuca, Renee Randolph had her first article published in the *Journal of Molecular Structure*.

Mabel Redondo, Benjamin Bland, Reese Haller and Travis Welch won the MSUFCU Internship Opportunity Awards.

Michelle Rogers ('09) and her husband opened a brewery called Dimes Brewhouse in Dimondale, Michigan.

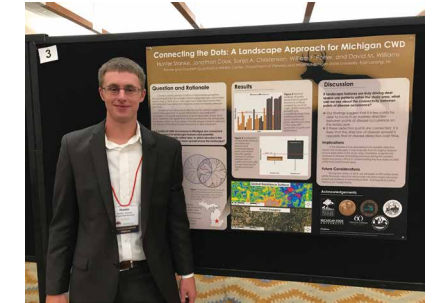


Fate of the Earth Conference

Sydney Salit presented her work on cyanuric acid in swimming pools at the Fate of the Earth Conference at the Kellogg Center.

New Book

Robin Sloan ('02) published “Sourdough,” a novel about a San Francisco software engineer named Lois who discovers a secret market that aims to fuse food and technology.



Wildlife Society Poster

Hunter Stanke was awarded Best Student Poster at the annual conference of The Wildlife Society in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Cell Membrane Research

Stanly Steinberg ('62) is currently researching the motion of proteins in cell membranes and developing mimetic finite difference methods for partial differential equations.

Investment Banking

Ethan Thomas and Christopher Horton took first place honors at William Blair’s Midwest Investment Banking Competition in Chicago.



Multicultural Heroes Hall of Fame Case Competition

Moeka Yamamoto, Imani Cole, Jadel Hughes-Davis ('17) and Raven Jefferson Brinkley were selected as finalists in the 2017 Black History Month Multicultural Heroes Hall of Fame Case Competition. Cole, Davis and Brinkley were all members of the team that ultimately took first place.



Debate Team Finishes in Top 16 Nationally

The Michigan State University Debate Team competed in the 71st annual National Debate Tournament in March 2017, finishing the season ranked in the top 16.

Honors College physics sophomore Evan Runburg and his teammate, social relations and public policy sophomore Luc Walkington, defeated teams from Stanford University, Gonzaga University, Wake Forest University, Wayne State University, the University of Wyoming and the University of Kentucky during the preliminary and elimination rounds. Runburg and Walkington were defeated in the octo-finals by a team from Wake Forest University.

James Madison freshman Lena Grossman and her teammate, accounting sophomore Christian Rodriguez, also competed for MSU at the national tournament.

The 2016-17 debate season focused on the topic of whether the United States should establish a domestic climate policy.

“We debate energy policy often because there are two strong sides to the issue, it intersects with many major issues: economic growth, environmental sustainability, technological innovation, U.S. leadership and has endless literature for research,” said Debate Head Coach Will Repko.

Another highlight of the competitive season was a 2nd place finish at the Wayne State George Ziegelmuller Ziggy Invitational. Rodriguez and his teammate, Alex Brown, a freshman in James Madison College, earned the 2nd place finish after defeating two teams from the University of Michigan.

Spartan Debate Institute

More than 200 high school debaters participated in the 26th year of the Spartan Debate Institute during the summer of 2017.

Programs run for two to seven weeks, depending on the student’s level of debate experience and interest. Hoya Spartan Scholars is the seven-week program where students split their training between Georgetown University and MSU.



WATCH THE SDI VIDEO:

youtube.com/watch?v=qrPN_cr_g2U

Giving to Debate

You don’t have to be a debate alumnus to make a donation to the nationally-competitive MSU Debate Team.

Please consider helping the MSU Debate Team meet its campaign goal of \$1 million, which will fully endow the team, guaranteeing its perpetuity and giving students additional opportunities to compete.

Donations to the MSU Debate Team Endowment Fund can be made online by visiting <https://www.givingto.msu.edu/gift/> and searching for “MSU Debate.”

Dean’s Q&A Continued from Page 21

Q: Are there words of wisdom you impart with Honors College students as you meet them?

A: I encourage students to challenge themselves and us in interesting and appropriate ways. It is important for our students to realize the great advantages they have in obtaining a high caliber education. Therefore, I tell them to make every attempt to maximize the university, to participate in advanced learning opportunities, to take on leadership challenges and to connect with the community around them.

My experience has taught me that our students have a unique opportunity to find their passion. Given that, I urge students to use their talents for the benefit of others. Most importantly, I remind them to develop as whole persons, to have fun while doing it and to cherish the friendships and memories that they make along the way.

I encourage them to give back, early and often through volunteering, mentoring and one day donating money to support the next generation of students. Of course that advice comes later, but the broad theme is instilled from the beginning.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory, or set of memories, that stick out to you?

A: Every year in the college has been different and rewarding. That makes it difficult to land on one or two things that stand out more than any others do.

I remember the excitement at learning that I was going to have the opportunity to work with an amazing team of dedicated professionals and interact with really inquisitive and talented students. To this date, it is more of a reality than a memory. For me, as dean, the truth is that the people matter and they are what makes this experience fun.

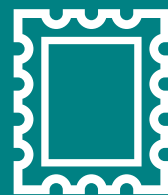
I do have a very fond memory of the first cohort of students that I saw from the recruitment stage onto admission and matriculation to MSU, followed by their graduation. That was bittersweet. I remember the amazing individuals who have interacted with the college whether as a student, alumni, faculty, staff, partner or friend.

What has been of special note is this last year, honoring and recognizing 60 years of the MSU Honors College experience by engaging with our multiple constituencies around the Honors College of the future. The sky and beyond is the limit for us; in other words to truly be unstoppable as an honors collective.

GIVING TO THE HONORS COLLEGE

THANK YOU

2016-2017 fiscal year annual giving:
\$146,540 raised



47% gave through the mail (you opened the envelope)



24% gave through Greenline (you answered the call)



9% gave through an e-mail (you didn't let it go to spam)



20% gave through the web (your click mattered)

7 The average number of consecutive years giving



1,109 DONORS
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honorscollege.msu.edu/giving



Created 26 new Honors College scholarship endowments that have supported 75 students since the start of *Empower Extraordinary*



HONORS COLLEGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN...

\$13,000,000 goal

\$8,580,000 raised

\$13 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL

66% OF GOAL FULFILLED AS OF 12/17

OUR BIGGEST NEED

Our biggest need going forward is for more support toward:



First-generation programming



International engagement / study abroad opportunities



Research opportunities



Experiential learning



Student scholarships

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UNIVERSITY

Honors College

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