Mario Livio, author of *The Golden Ratio*, credits Pythagoras (born around 570 B.C.E.) with coining the word “philosophy,” which literally means “love of wisdom.” The love affair is still going strong in the Philosophy Department at Michigan State University. Representing one of the more unique communities on the MSU campus, Philosophy offers a rich array of resources for research and teaching in practical as well as theoretical philosophy. A hallmark of the Department is its collaboration with a wide variety of departments, centers, and colleges throughout the University.

Michigan State University encourages faculty and graduate students from different colleges and departments to engage in interdisciplinary research and explore international issues together. These collaborative efforts contribute to new ways of addressing complex issues that face the world today. Graduate students and faculty who are interested in interdisciplinary studies and international development thrive at Michigan State University, due in part to the many different regional centers and programs of excellence across the campus, such as The Center for Ethics and the Humanities in the Life Sciences; The Center for African Studies; The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS); the Center for Advanced Studies in International Development (CASID); Women in International Development (WID); and the Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change Program. The Department of Philosophy is closely involved with them all.

Through its B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degree programs, Philosophy emphasizes the importance of maintaining the core of the discipline as the foundation for philosophy’s unique contribution to interdisciplinary research and scholarship. Dr. Stephen Esquith, Professor and Chair of the Department, says that in order to carry out practical philosophy well, “it is necessary to have a firm grounding in the traditional areas of philosophy, such as the history of philosophy, logic, and epistemology. This is a difficult balancing act, but we seem to be doing a good job of it at the moment. We would not be able to be as strong as we are in our areas of specialization were it not for faculty like Richard Peterson, Debra Nails, Fred Rauscher, Matt McKeon, Win Wilkinson, Jennifer Susse, and Dan Steel who continue to provide many of the basic necessities and much more for all of our graduate students.”

Dr. Barbara K. Abbott, Professor in the Department of Linguistics and German, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages and the Philosophy Department explains how the atmosphere in the Philosophy Department supports her work and fosters important connections with other colleagues. She says that one of the Department’s strengths is “that it provides a good solid program that covers the important areas of philosophy, and that the people in the department are unusually collegial and cooperative. I’ve always felt very much welcomed, even though my degree is in linguistics, and I’ve always felt I was taken seriously as a colleague. I’ve taken part in a discussion group that includes other philosophy faculty, as well as, at times, current and former graduate students, which has continued for many years. It’s been an important part of my philosophical development.”

The mission of the Department is to provide broad grounding in the discipline, its history, methods, and current major areas and types of inquiry, all of which is inflected by the particular emphases and strengths of the Department. As a result, graduate students in the Philosophy Department receive a solid foundation upon which to develop their intellectual skills and resources to form well-reasoned arguments in a wide range of areas of specialization.

Sonya Charles, a fourth year graduate student whose research is focused on the comparison between autonomy, agency, and feminist theories of socialization and oppression, says that “one of the greatest strengths of the Department is that we have a good working relationship with the faculty. They are interested in graduate students doing well and this translates into practice. For instance, whenever we have had questions or concerns, the administration is open to hearing our viewpoints and tries to take
them into account. Also, faculty are very approachable if you want to discuss research ideas, need help with a project, or just want to share some thoughts on a book you have been reading. In general, it is a very open and friendly department where the faculty has a commitment to graduate student work and professional development.”

Charles, whose current specialization is feminist philosophy, says, “The Philosophy Department has a strong working relationship with faculty in the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences. This is great for anyone working in health-related fields. I originally came to MSU with an interest in bioethics. I chose MSU for the breadth of faculty doing work in this area and the collaboration between the philosophy department and the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences. Bioethics is still my minor area of concentration, but my area of specialization is now feminist philosophy. We have a very supportive community for this sort of work both among the faculty and the graduate students.” After completing her dissertation, she would like to teach philosophy at the university level.

The Philosophy Department is active in all main areas of Western philosophy and is especially strong in philosophy and medicine, philosophy of biology, feminist philosophy, and social and political philosophy. With a variety of research and teaching areas, the 18 full-time, tenure-system faculty members in the Department and the additional 7 tenured faculty with joint appointments offer opportunities for graduate students to investigate topics such as philosophy of the mind, epistemology, ethics, feminist philosophy, continental philosophy, history of philosophy, logic and philosophy of language, metaphysics, the philosophy and ethics of health care, philosophy and race, philosophy of law, philosophy of science, philosophy of technology, cognitive science, and social and political philosophy.

**Ethical Issues in Health Care**

With over nine tenured philosophers in the area of bioethics, the Philosophy Department, in conjunction with the Center for Ethics and the Humanities in the Life Sciences, housed in the College of Human Medicine, has become another well-established center of excellence at MSU. Professor Tom Tomlinson, Director of the Center, is joined by a distinguished set of colleagues with appointments in the Philosophy Department. They include Professor Howard Brody, Professor Judith Andre, and Professor Len Fleck. One of the founders of the Center, Professor Martin Benjamin, has been a central figure in the Department. His research in the field of nursing ethics, in collaboration with retired Professor Joy Curtis, produced the ground-breaking text in that field. A leading figure in medical ethics nationwide, Benjamin has taught numerous graduate students, including three of the faculty in the Center.

The four philosophers in the Center work with graduate students on research involving medical ethics, bioethics, and the philosophy of medicine. In addition, some faculty members from the Philosophy Department teach in the medical schools—for example, a special topics philosophy course on research ethics for the Minority International Research Training Program (MIRT) and contributions to discussion groups relating to ethics in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Examples of research within this arena include community participation in health care policymaking, the ethics of organ transplantation, the importance of narratives for clinical practice, and the use of placebos in medical treatment.

The Philosophy Department also collaborates with the departments of English, History, Anthropology, American Studies, as well as the Lyman Briggs School, with the aim of developing joint research projects in bioethics, philosophy of medicine and the medical humanities. Professors Fred Gifford, James Lindemann Nelson, and Hilde Lindemann Nelson, who all have adjunct appointments in the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences, are actively involved in this work. One of Philosophy’s newest graduate students, for example, is working on research in evolutionary biology with faculty in the Computer Science and Engineering Department and with Rob Pennock, whose primary appointment is in Lyman Briggs. The Department also has long-standing relationships with the Women’s Studies Program and with the Bioethics, Humanities, and Society Program, which offers an M.A. program and an undergraduate specialization.

There are many faculty members involved in research with health care and policymaking. Professor Fleck is a leading expert on health care policymaking, with a special interest in the application of theories of deliberative democracy to actual community dialogues over health care priorities. Professor Judith Andre, a leading feminist bioethicist, is currently writing on the ways of extending the ethics of health care on a global scale. Professor Howard Brody, a former Director of the Center and practicing physician in the Department of Family Practice in the College of Human Medicine, has written extensively on medical ethics, with a special interest in the role of literature and narrative in clinical medical practice.

**Feminist Philosophy**

Among the four faculty members whose research and interests focus on feminist issues and concerns is Assistant Professor Lisa H. Schwartzman, also an active member of the Women’s Studies Advisory Council since 2001. Schwartzman believes that “the Philosophy Department’s strengths in feminist philosophy, social and political theory, and bioethics nicely complement my own interests in feminist political theory.” She really enjoys working in an environment where feminist philosophy is taken seriously, both by faculty colleagues and by the students.
“Graduate students who come to MSU with an interest in feminism find that there are a variety of ways to pursue that interest here, since we have faculty working on feminist issues within a broad range of philosophical areas, including social and political theory, ethics and bioethics, metaphysics, and philosophy of language.”

Some of the feminist issues and concerns explored in the Department consist of epistemological questions about the meaning of power and oppression, the limitations of rights-based theories, and the application of narrative theory and virtue theory to social and political problems, including health care. Schwartzman also enjoys discussing her work with feminist scholars outside the philosophy department, which, she says, she’s been able to do through her involvement with the Women’s Studies Program.

Professor Hilde Lindemann Nelson is a specialist in feminist bioethics, and co-author and coeditor with her husband Professor James Lindemann Nelson of numerous books in this field. Together they embody the combination of core disciplinary strength and practical ethics expertise that have made the Department so much stronger in recent years. Jim Nelson is a fellow of the prestigious Hastings Center and Hilde Nelson has just become the editor of the premier journal in feminist philosophy, “Hypatia,” which has its editorial home in the Department. Finally, the unofficial leader of this outstanding group of feminist philosophers is Professor Marilyn Frye. Associate Chair and Director of the Department’s Graduate Programs, Professor Frye’s work continues to set the pace in feminist philosophy worldwide. Her essays on sexism and oppression are anthologized in textbooks in political science, sociology, and women’s studies, as well as philosophy. She and Professor Howard Brody, whose primary appointment is in the Center for Ethics and the Humanities and the Life Sciences, are the Department’s two University Distinguished Professors.

RACISM AND SOCIAL CHANGE

The Philosophy Department tackles issues involving race and social change by exploring how racism has functioned historically in the United States and the relationship between the West and the rest of the world. Faculty in the Department also examine the interrelations among racism, poverty, sexism, and environmental neglect. Dr. Richard Peterson, Professor and Co-Director of the specialization in Peace and Justice Studies observes that “race issues have only recently become a focus of extensive discussion and here at MSU we have an unusual concentration of interests and work. Using different philosophical approaches, we have worked on understanding the effects and forms of racism as well as on understanding how the idea, experience, and reality of racial distinctions have themselves emerged historically. This has made it easier to recruit minority students at the doctoral level, which is a real accomplishment, given the small pool of available students nationwide. Students who come here can find a range of perspectives and ways of connecting these themes to other strands of social political thought, including democratic theory, ecology, and critical social theory.”

Dr. Peterson’s expertise and teaching areas are in Marx, Hegel, 20th century continental philosophy, and aesthetics. He has written a book on Habermas and also published numerous articles on Marx, Foucault, and Rawls, as well as various topics in political and social theory, including race, human rights, and violence. He too emphasizes the importance of the Department’s collegiality, explaining that “we on the faculty in turn have colleagues both within our own College and across campus whose work and other activities provide a helpful context for philosophical discussions. Similarly, the overlap of interest with Women’s Studies and Peace and Justice Studies has proven to be fruitful.”

Professor Bill E. Lawson is a major national figure in this emerging field in philosophy. He is a core faculty member in the College’s African and African American Studies Graduate Program, and it has been through his efforts and the efforts of Drs. Frye and Peterson that the Department has been able to recruit and retain talented minority graduate students so effectively in recent years. Dr. Lawson notes that the philosophy department at MSU is unique in that it has scholars that specialize in both race and gender issues. The department is also open to allowing students to follow their own muses, while at the same time giving them a strong basic education in philosophy. His research interests include African American social and political philosophy, political obligation theory, urban environmental philosophy, and community-police relations.

THE ETHICS OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Issues of development and globalization are of interest to Philosophy faculty and graduate students as they address specific policy problems, such as the proper use in developing countries of clinical trials in medical research and the use of truth commissions and war crimes tribunals to resolve historical injustices and advance
democratic transitions. The Department has created a very popular study abroad program in Costa Rica, led by Dr. Fred Gifford, that focuses on the ethics of health care and development. This program introduces students to some of the challenges and moral dilemmas that developing nations face in the areas of health care and environmental protection. For additional information on this program, see: http://studyabroad.msu.edu/programs/costaethics.html or e-mail Dr. Gifford at: Gifford@msu.edu. This fall, Gifford also taught a graduate seminar on the ethics of clinical trials with a major focus on the context of carrying out such research in developing countries.

Encouraged by the success of this Study Abroad Program, Dr. Esquith will be offering a new study abroad program in Mali for the summer of 2004 that will focus on ethical issues in development. Graduates and undergraduates will explore the ethical issues raised by the commercialization of traditional arts and crafts, the possible introduction of genetically modified crops, the move toward political decentralization, and recent reforms in the educational system. For further information, see http://studyabroad.msu.edu/programs/maliethics or e-mail Dr. Esquith at: esquith@msu.edu.

Howard Brody, Tom Tomlinson, Martin Benjamin, Len Fleck, and Judith Andre all have been regular contributors to courses involving ethical issues in development as well as clinical medical practice, in the colleges of Human Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Agriculture and Natural Resources. A new graduate-level course on ethics and development is being taught in spring 2004 by Dr. Esquith to twelve students from four different colleges, exemplifying the strong focus on interdisciplinary scholarship and research. Several well-known speakers on environmental ethics are visiting the MSU campus in the 2003-2004 year. The new Environmental Science and Policy Program, the Center for Advanced Study in International Development, and the Women in Development Program have provided funding support for this interdisciplinary teaching and research, and have encouraged the Department to expand its involvement in global development initiatives with an eye on creating a new graduate specialization in ethics and development.

**MORAL, POLITICAL, AND CONCEPTUAL DIMENSIONS OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY**

Closely involved in issues of global development, the Department is increasingly active in the area of agricultural ethics. Research and teaching in this area is concerned with topics such as causal inference in social science, conceptual problems in risk/benefit analysis, the meaning of sustainability, and debates over evolutionary theory and genomics. Also, the Department addresses particular policy problems, such as animal welfare, genetically modified food, terminator genes, land ownership, and intellectual property rights.

A new addition to the Philosophy Department is Professor Paul B. Thompson, the new W.K. Kellogg Endowed Chair in Food, Agricultural, and Community Ethics. He shares appointments with the departments of Philosophy, Agricultural Economics, and Resource Development. Thompson joins several other newly endowed chairs at MSU who enjoy joint appointments, including Michael Hamm, and who are working on issues related to sustainable development. One of the many fronts on which Thompson is already active is a new National Science Foundation grant proposal to study third-party certification in food and agriculture, which he has submitted with several others, including University Distinguished Professor Lawrence Busch in Sociology.

Professor Gifford co-teaches a graduate course on agricultural biotechnology that is cross-listed in the Department of Horticulture, and has written on the ethics of medical research and agricultural biotechnology. As a result of his most recent trip to Mali, Professor Esquith, together with professors Gifford, Thompson, and Steel, and with the assistance of Professor John Staatz and his colleagues in Agricultural Economics, will be working with the new national ethics committee in Mali on the issues of genetically modified crops and other ethical issues in agricultural biotechnology. Professors Gifford, Tomlinson, and other faculty in the medical schools are currently exploring a new initiative through the National Institutes of Health to provide training in clinical research ethics for professionals in Malawi, and possibly in Costa Rica and Mali.

Building on all of this activity, and with funding from MSU’s Center for Advanced Study in International Development, Philosophy faculty are planning a new doctoral specialization in Ethics and Development.

In addition to fostering the love of wisdom in students at MSU, the Philosophy Department has a strong commitment to community outreach and service.
OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE: TAKING THE LOVE OF WISDOM BEYOND MSU

In addition to fostering the love of wisdom in students at MSU, the Philosophy Department has a strong commitment to community outreach and service. For example, Dr. Esquith and now-retired Professor Richard Hall have taught a number of philosophy courses with a service-learning component in which students have had the opportunity to volunteer with nonprofit organizations such as the Autism Society, Greater Lansing Food Bank, Lansing Red Cross, Lansing Refugee Services, and MSU Safe Place. A long term project has been the collaborative partnership with Wardcliff Elementary School. There, fifth grade students have worked with MSU students in a war and morality course over a six-year period on a set of issues including the experiences of children in wartime and in war-torn developing nations. Finally, Dr. Esquith and several graduate students have taught Philosophy for Children in local elementary and middle schools. Esquith also has been joined recently by Professors Scot Yoder and Matt McKeon in teaching the Department’s Introduction to Philosophy course to high school students during the summer, as a part of the MSU Gifted and Talented Program in the Honors College that began in 1991 through the efforts of Martin Benjamin. Professor James Roper was the founder and the long-time director of the nationally ranked MSU Debate Team. He served the University and the wider community in this way for a great many years.

Philosophers in the Center for Ethics in the Humanities and Life Sciences have created the Medical Ethics Resource Network of Michigan (MERN), a state-wide, nationally recognized consortium of hospital and healthcare system ethics committees. It presents an annual state-wide conference, publishes a newsletter five times a year, and maintains a website with a bulletin board, calendar, speakers list and bioethics web links. For more information regarding MERN see: http://www.mern.org/

FOSTERING A COLLEGIATE ATMOSPHERE

The Philosophy Department serves as a model for interdepartmental collegiality for both faculty and graduate students. Alison Crane Reiheld, a Ph.D. candidate whose dissertation research focuses on global justice and agency, says that unlike faculty in other philosophy departments in which “hierarchical dismissive attitudes prevail, the attitude of the professors at MSU toward graduate students helps to make them feel like budding professionals and philosophers-in-training. I have found professors in our department to be completely willing to issue hard criticism, but generally they do so with a transparent aim to help the students improve rather than to put the students in their place. A department that is merely kind may find that it is luck and student character alone that govern whether their grad students become good philosophers. A department that is merely critical may find the same, and worse, that the resulting philosophers are more concerned with avoiding criticism than advancing the discipline. But a department such as Philosophy at MSU that is kind and critical has a good chance of turning out good philosophers who are as concerned with advancing the discipline as advancing their own positions.” Reiheld expects to complete her degree by May of 2005 and hopes to teach at the university level. In addition to her teaching assistantship responsibilities, she is also involved with the Graduate Student Philosophy Conference. This conference is organized entirely by the graduate students in the Department, who acquire funding from the University, take care of food and location arrangements, issue calls for papers, evaluate paper submissions, and arrange for a keynote speaker. You can find out more about the Graduate Student Philosophy Conference at: www.msu.edu/unit/phl/gradconference.  

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2Lyman Briggs is a residential school within the College of Natural Sciences which emphasizes mathematics and basic sciences.
SIX MSU ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENTS RECEIVE FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Department of Anthropology students received six of the eight Fulbrights awarded to Michigan State University students in 2003-04.

Kari Bergstrom, Jennifer Brewer, Natalie Bourdon, Holly Dygert and Jessica Vernieri, all graduate students, and Erick Houle, an undergraduate student in the Anthropology Department, received prestigious Fulbright IIE or Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowships for 2003-04.

All five of the graduate students were supported during their graduate studies at MSU by U.S. Department of Education, Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships from the Women and International Development Program & The Center for Advanced Studies of International Development, the African Studies Center, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Several of these students used their FLAS fellowships to study less commonly taught languages that they will use in their Ph.D. research.

Erick Houle received a Fulbright to travel to South Korea and teach English. Aside from his teaching duties, he plans to use the opportunity to hone his Korean language skills and learn more about Korean history and culture. While overseas, he will identify a research topic to pursue in graduate school next year within an East Asian Studies program.

Jennifer Brewer studied Akan, which she will use in her Ph.D. research, supported by a Fulbright IIE award. Her study, entitled “Gender and STI Prevention Programs for Youth in Ghana,” focuses on how girls in Accra, Ghana, negotiate gender relations and access to healthcare within the context of an increase in STI prevention programs for young people. Rates of STIs, including HIV, have been rising among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. A global trend to expand STI prevention services for youth has created new public spaces for African girls to address existing gender and healthcare inequalities.

Kari Bergstrom received a Fulbright Hays award. She studied Hausa to facilitate her Ph.D. research project, “Foreign Aid and Gender in Niger: A Study of Local Interactions with Gender Policies in Transnational Aid Institutions.” Her research explores how theories about gender from the 1970’s to the present have become important components of CARE International and UNICEF’s policies and programs, and how these theories have been appropriated, rejected, and reformulated on the local level in Niger by the people with whom these organizations work.

Natalie Bourdon, also a Fulbright Hays recipient, mastered KiSwahili to carry out Ph.D. research on feminist development NGOs advocating for women’s land rights in Tanzania. Her dissertation research, entitled “Tanzania Law and Land Rights: Local-Global Developments and Law,” focuses on how NGOs in Dar es Salaam have struggled to integrate international human rights laws into Tanzanian land reform efforts. Her research will explore the ways urban women use these NGOs to secure their access and rights to land.

Holly Dygert, a Fulbright IIE recipient, was supported to study Mixtec and Spanish in Mexico for her Ph.D. dissertation, entitled “Culture and Family Planning in Mexico.” The research project compares two development models in southern Mexico— one implemented by a state agency that works with economically marginalized rural communities, and another that is emerging as indigenous Mixtec activists work to revitalize and revalorize their culture. Holly plans to examine how development practitioners and activists perceive the linkages between Mixtec culture and family within each of these models.

Jessica Vernieri received a Fulbright Hays award to undertake Ph.D. research entitled “The Poorest, the Purists, and the Tourists: A Political Ecology of Reef Conservation in Akumal, Mexico.” This project focuses on the meanings assigned to ecological systems in Akumal, Mexico by different actors. She will study the different perspectives on conservation held by advocates of sustainable development, conservation, and ecotourism development.

Three of these students—Keri Bergstrom, Jennifer Brewer and Natalie Bourdon—were supported by an NSF Ethnographic Training Grant awarded to the Department of Anthropology. This 4-6 week grant permitted them to spend a summer abroad sharpening their ethnographic research skills and identifying a research site.

The Graduate School congratulates these students!
interactive, interdisciplinary environment. It focuses on past human societies and uses the material remains of these societies as the basis of its research. Archaeologists in the Center work with historical materials, archives, and ethnohistorical records as well. Faculty conduct active fieldwork in southern Africa, western Mexico, California, the southeast and southwest United States, and England. MSU’s well-established archaeological field school has operated in recent years in Michigan, Wisconsin, England, and New Mexico.

Patch says she is having an “extraordinary first semester, albeit a challenging one as a new graduate student.” Part of the challenge is no doubt due to the breadth of study offered by the Department. “When researching graduate programs with specific interest in socio-cultural anthropology, MSU continued to surface at the very top of my list. In conjunction with the anthropology department, I considered how the following centers could assist with my research goals (working with issues of Gender and Development in West Africa): The African Studies Center, The Center for Advanced Study in International Development (CASID), and the Women in International Development Center (WID). This combination is proving to be a great resource and I hope to take advantage of all the opportunities these centers have while studying/researching here.” Patch plans to work in the field of applied anthropology and believes that the Anthropology Department is well-equipped to help her pursue this and other professional goals.

**Culture, Resource, and Power: Combining Theory and Practice**

The CRP program involves faculty and graduate students in socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology and is the largest signature program in the Department with a membership of 19 faculty members. Combining theory and practice, CRP faculty work collaboratively with communities, civic organizations, NGOs, and university researchers in the countries where they conduct research. Faculty and graduate students also reflexively examine anthropology’s role in setting the terms of local and international debates and further explore the roles they play in constructing and explaining the issues they study.

As a part of problem-focused research, many CRP faculty work collaboratively with researchers from other disciplines addressing similar problems. Numerous centers on campus facilitate such cross-disciplinary work, including the Center for Great Lakes Culture, the Center for Ethics in the Life Sciences and Humanities, the Julian Samora Research Institute, the American Indian Studies Program, and six federally funded National Resource Centers: the African Studies Center, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), the Asian Studies Center (ASN), the Center for the Advanced Study of International Development (CASID), the Women and International Development Program (WID), and the Center for Language Education and Research (CLEAR).

The CRP program has recently received a prestigious five-year NSF (National Science Foundation) Ethnographic Research Training Grant to both encourage and facilitate graduate students to better prepare for fieldwork. Additionally, many CRP graduate students have received US Department Education Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships and SSRC’s International Pre-dissertation Fellowship Program (IPFP) awards. This past year, five female graduate students—Natalie Bourdon, Kari Bergstom, Jennifer Brewer, Holly Dygert, and Jessica Vernieri—received Fulbright or Fulbright IIE dissertation grants. Professor Lynne Goldstein, Chair of the Department, says this number exceeds that of “any other department of any kind in the country in a single year.” These grants and fellowships reflect Anthropology’s continuing commitment to excellence.

**Great Lakes Anthropology: A Hands-On Approach**

The Great Lakes Anthropology program enjoys a strong national reputation and exposure, and routinely involves its students in valuable fieldwork. For example, in 2002, approximately 15 undergraduate and graduate students conducted field research at the Moccasin Bluff site in Berrien County, Michigan and an archaeological survey of the surrounding St. Joseph River Valley area. Revisiting the Moccasin Bluff site, excavated in 1948, this research is designed to better document the extent and nature of this important Great Lakes site. Students participated in excavation, surveys, laboratory work, classroom study, field trips, guest lectures, and learned survey and excavation methods using GPS, mechanical and laser equipment.

The Great Lakes Anthropology program combines those faculty from cultural anthropology, archaeology, physical anthropology, and linguistic anthropology who focus their work on problems associated with the Great Lakes region. There is no other anthropology program that focuses on such a wide variety of anthropological issues associated with the Great Lakes region.

Other archaeological projects focus on the development of agriculture in the Great Lakes region, the meaning of rock art, the ways in which people use and alter landscapes over time, and how people contribute to and respond to climatic changes.

Cultural anthropologists working in the region have focused on urban Indian women, the development of Indian community schools, the revitalization of Native American languages, the role of sustainable agriculture in Michigan today, and the place of churches in metropolitan communities.
MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: AN ANALYSIS IN HEALTH ISSUES

It is little wonder that the Medical Anthropology program receives a majority of all graduate applications to the Anthropology Department. Medical Anthropology is an internationally recognized research-oriented program and home to the Medical Anthropology Quarterly. Recently, two of the Department’s alumni won prestigious awards for their research at the American Anthropological Association conference. This program is at once unique and cutting-edge.

According to its mission, the Medical Anthropology program “provides training in the analysis of health and illness in the context of culture, social behavior, political and economic systems, and human biology. The program addresses a broad realm of phenomena including cosmology, experiences of suffering, and the dynamics of the life cycle, analysis of medical systems, and health disparity in the U.S. Students are taught to apply some of the major theoretical constructs in the social sciences to the analysis of health issues.”

“Right now I am a second year medical anthropology student studying HIV/AIDS in Tanzania,” Marita Eibel tells the Post. “Next semester, I will travel to Tanzania for six months and attend the University of Dar es Salaam. As a second year student, this is a phenomenal opportunity since few students get to spend this much time in the field before conducting their dissertation work.” This is just one example of how MSU’s international reputation in Medical Anthropology keeps students connected with their research interests and further supports the collaboration between the Department and thematic centers such as CASID, the African Studies Center and WID.

Medical Anthropology faculty and graduate students research a host of healthcare problems and theories: healing; alternative medicine in the U.S. and abroad; medical systems; critical medical anthropology; culture of biomedicine; bioethics; health over the life course; health policy; ethnicity, class, and gender; health inequality; biocultural approaches to disease, nutrition, and population dynamics. The geographical areas in which faculty and graduate students engage in research include: Africa, Asia, Latin America, Northern Europe and the United States.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: SMALL BUT STRONG

The Physical Anthropology program at MSU may be small in size, but it maintains a high international profile in the areas of forensic anthropology and bio-archaeological research. The graduate program in physical anthropology is particularly strong in skeletal biology, osteology, and forensic anthropology. The new laboratory facilities have enabled the program to develop in a number of directions, including forensic anthropology case studies.

The most prestigious physical anthropology award in the United States, the Kerley award, went to an MSU graduate student in 2002, and a recent graduate received an NSF postdoctoral fellowship.

Physical Anthropology faculty and graduate students also work closely with MSU faculty in the Colleges of Medicine (Human and Osteopathic), the School of Criminal Justice, the College of Natural Science and the Department of Entomology. Students and faculty conduct research in the forensic anthropology laboratory in Fee Hall, which also houses the two MSU medical colleges. Graduate students also have access to the autopsy facilities at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing for study, training, and research.

Many graduates in Physical Anthropology have secured careers in both academia and the private sector, mainly with organizations involved in health-related public policy and law enforcement at the local, state, and federal levels.

Faculty and students in Physical Anthropology are actively engaged in research and teaching concerning a variety of issues in human biology, including: the physiology of human bone; dietary changes in prehistoric and historic populations; the effects of disease, nutrition, and trauma; human biology and racial/ethnic classification systems; crime scene investigation, including recovery and treatment of human remains; individual identification; facial reconstruction; and postmortem changes.

STRENGTH THROUGH POSITIVE LEADERSHIP

With its internationally recognized programs in archaeological, sociocultural, medical, and physical anthropology, MSU clearly stands out as a leader in the four sub-fields of anthropology. The many linkages across campus with organizations such as the Center for Great Lakes Culture, the Center for Ethics in the Life Sciences and Humanities, the Julian Samora Research Institute, the American Indian Studies Program, and the six federally funded National Resource Centers (WID, CLACS, CASID, CLEAR, ASR, and African Studies), along with interdisciplinary connections, makes the Anthropology Department multifaceted and strong. The Department also offers technical support for anthropologists, which is a source of strength as well. James Bielo, a third year graduate student in sociocultural anthropology, whose research focuses on mainland Christian congregations in the United States, says that “MSU has offered many opportunities to get acquainted with technological resources which are useful to anthropologists.” “Specifically,” he says, “I am thinking in particular of computer databases for...
handling qualitative (and quantitative) research. I have had the chance to be introduced with several of these, have worked intensively with one, and am aware of other resources on campus where I could go if I wanted to explore these databases further."

Since 1996, Dr. Goldstein, previously of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has been instrumental in forging the reputation that the Anthropology Department enjoys today. The majority of her research has focused on Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region. In 2000, Goldstein completed a term as Editor of *American Antiquity*, the quarterly journal published by the Society for American Archaeology. Goldstein has authored numerous books, monographs, and scientific articles on archaeological topics, and serves on various national advisory committees on behalf of archaeology, some of them the focus of considerable controversy. One of those committees has been the Smithsonian Repatriation Review Committee, which oversees the repatriation of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony from the Smithsonian to Native American tribes. Goldstein has served on the seven member committee since its creation by law in 1990, and is the only member of that committee who was nominated by both the scientific community and Native American tribes. Dr. Goldstein has been especially involved in the hiring of new faculty, which has served to enhance the intellectual resources necessary to address the comprehensively pressing social problems the world faces today.

Among Dr. Goldstein’s strengths is her commitment to graduate students and their research. For the 2000-2003 period, Goldstein has received a National Science Foundation grant for research at the Aztalan site in Wisconsin. Both graduate and undergraduate students have participated in field and lab work associated with this project. Goldstein also has funds for a graduate research assistant to help her with a variety of other research projects.

Bielo sums up the quality of the Anthropology Department this way: “Overall, I think the department is excellent. The professors are both incredibly knowledgeable and accessible. I have worked closely with several of them and have been continually impressed with the encouragement they give and their enthusiasm about the subject matter. I think it is too common of an occurrence in academia for tenured professors to, essentially, ‘give up’ on furthering their own interests and knowledge-base. This is something I have not seen the slightest hint of with MSU Anthropology – the professors are excited to be introduced to new readings and thoughtfully engage new ideas.”

The many linkages across campus . . . along with interdisciplinary connections, makes the Anthropology Department multifaceted and strong.